

THE IDES OF MARCH; OR, THE OPPOSITIONISTS OF MACQUARIE STREET:

[burlesque] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

A "topical Burlesque, written expressly for the Federals by a Local Litterateur, and arranged by W. Horace Bent" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 4 Apr. 1885, 2), *The Ides of March* was originally presented as the concluding section of the evening's entertainment at the Academy of Music, then being run by Frank Hiscocks. In addition to the principle roles the chorus included various characters such as "Noble Rum-uns, Senators, Chicken Thieves, Tramps etc."

The musical element incorporated in the narrative includes several songs and dances.

1885: Academy of Music, Sydney; 4-28 Apr.

- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillade.

- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels and Specialty Union.

- **Cast:** W. Horace Bent (Julius Billico Dallico), W. A. Ball (Cassius Enrico Parco), J. S. Porter (Brutus Angus Committeus), Sam Keenan (Decius Macalonieus Jackus), Alf Moynham (Marc Anthony Pinchback), Millie Collier (Australis, the Belle of the Soudan), plus chorus.

Sydney Morning Herald 4 Apr. (1885), 2. **Advert.**

CHIT CHAT: [musical sketch] **Txt.** Charles W. and Harry P. Cogill; **Mus.** [n/e]

Described as an original and laughable specialty by the Cogill Brothers, the first staging of this musical sketch in Australia found to date was during Billy Emerson's return to Australia in 1885 after some ten years absence. Claimed as "original with the Cogill Brothers, *Chit Chat* was essentially a vehicle through which they introduced "new songs, dances, laughable situations and witticisms." Charles Cogill played Mr Chit, "who has lots of business," while Harry played Mr Chat, "the lover, the actor and the singer" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 2 Apr. 1887, 2). Although the sketch may well have been written and performed prior to the Cogills coming to Australia, it would no doubt have been adapted to local audiences at some stage, including new localisms, topicalities, songs and jokes.

1885: Gaiety Theatre, Sydney; 11 Apr. -

- **Dir/Prod.** William Emerson; **M Dir.** C. W. Reinhart; **B Mngr.** William A. Jenkins; **Lse.** B. A. Jones.

- **Troupe:** Emerson's Minstrel

- **Cast:** Charles W. Cogill (Mr Chit), Harry P. Cogill (Mr Chat).

1887: Gaiety Theatre, Sydney; 2 Apr. -

- **Dir/Mngr.** Charles W. and Harry P. Cogill; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillade; **Lse.** John Solomon; **B Mngr.** F. W. Duval.

- **Troupe:** Cogill Brothers Minstrel and Burlesque Company.

- **Cast:** Charles W. Cogill (Mr Chit), Harry P. Cogill (Mr Chat).

- The sketch was staged frequently up until 2 July, the final night of the troupe's season at the Gaiety.

H. M. S. (HOPPER BARGE) PIN-A-4: [burlesque] **Txt.** W. Horace Bent; **Mus.** [n/e]

A burlesque especially written for the Federal Minstrels, *H. M. S. Hopper Barge Pin-A-4* was advertised as containing new and original costumes, and described in *The Bulletin* as having "a good deal of all-round originality" ("Sundry Shows," 9). It is possible, however, that some material was adapted from one of Bent's previous spoofs on *H.M.S. Pinafore*). *The Evening News* (Sydney) records in its review of the 25 April performance:

The curtain rose on the deck scene from 'Pinafore,' but what a strange contrast with the original. The tars were represented by the typical plantation negro attired in most peculiar naval attire, while Captain 'Cork all o'er 'em' was the bean ideal of a quarter-deck officer, with the exception of his complexion. Considerable licence was taken in localising the opera, but the music incidental to its legitimate rendering was adhered to. The reception of Little Buttertub (Sam Keenan), and the advent of Sir Joseph Hop Bitters, C;M.G., and his sisters and his cousins and his aunts were provocative of much mirth. In the scene where Little Buttertub reveals her secret to the Captain, much amusement was caused by the tragic manner in which she imparted the dread intelligence 'that M'Elbone had purchased the *Evening News*, and was going to run it himself.' The Admiral was great fun in his love-making with Josephine (H. Carroll). The captain rendered 'Fair Moon to Thee I Sing' in a very pleasing manner; but attention was directed from the singer to the strange and erratic behavior of the moon and the efforts of Little Buttertub to capture it. Altogether the performance was most enjoyable, and from beginning to end was thoroughly appreciated by the audience ("Amusements," 3).

1885: Academy of Music, Sydney; 25 Apr. - 22 May [24 pfms]

- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillade.

- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels.

- **Cast** incl. W. Horace Bent, J. S. Porter, Lou Braham, Beaumont Read, W. A. Ball, E. Amery, Harry Carroll, Alf Moynham, Sam Keenan.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC
 Proprietor and Manager - F. E. Hiscocks.

OLD FRIENDS ARE THE BEST FRIENDS.

47th WEEK. 47th.
 Positive and Unequivocal Success.
 Full Houses nightly greet the Princes of Mirth and Melody,
**HISCOCKS'S FEDERAL MINSTRELS AND
 SPECIALTY UNION.**

Acknowledged by the Press and Public to be the Best and
 Most Refined Minstrel Troup ever witnessed in Australia,
WITHOUT A POSSIBLE RIVAL.

All Legitimate Performers, and No Dummies,
 47th WEEK 47th,
 And the attendance as great as ever,
 Visited by the Elite of Sydney.
 Tremendous Reception
 Of the New Programme,
**H.M.S.
 (Hopper Barge)
 PIN-A-4.**

Seats can be Secured at Palling's, George-street,
 Carriages at 10 p.m.

Evening News 27 Apr. (1885), 1.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890*. (1997), v. pages.
"Amusements." *Evening News* (Sydney) 27 Apr. (1885), 3.
"Sundry Shows." *Bulletin* 16 May (1885), 9.

MARY TURNER: [burlesque] **Lib/Mus.** [n/e].

A second part burlesque opera adapted from W. V. Wallace's opera, *Maritana*, possibly by W. Horace Bent.

1885: Academy of Music, Sydney; 5 May -

- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks

- **Cast** incl. Lou Braham, Beaumont Read, Harry Carroll, J.S. Porter, W. Ball, E. Amery, E.C. Dunbar.

BRIC-À-BRAC: [musical entertainment] **Txt.** Garnet Walch; **Mus.** [n/e]

This production was advertised as a "musical and laughable comedy" presented for "the first time in Australasia" (*Brisbane Courier* 17 Aug. 1885, 1). The *Argus* also refers to it as "a comical and musical absurdity" (5 Sept. 1885, 16). The "slender but witty dialogues [which] are framed to connect the various songs" were conceived as a means by which the program could run without pauses that typically occurred with similar entertainments ("Mr Harry Rickards," 5). The loose narrative requires the actors to each impersonate several stage types, with Harry Rickards playing eight characters - Jack Ellis (player/painter etc), Old Dave Crocker (an antiquarian), Sergeant Quibbles, Q.C. (a legal luminary), Gabriel Glum (the 'only one'), 'Arry (a London Gem), Charlie Topper (a swell of the period), Colonel Slashem (a warrior bold), and The Masher King (par excellence). The *Brisbane Courier* also notes that Mr Rickards patriotic songs, and the appearance of the "Five Mashers," in the song of that name were principal features (19 Aug. 1885, 5). See also the *Age* (5 Sept. 1885, 12) for the production's complete Dramatis Personae.

The settings for the production are: Act 1. Wattle Grange Election (the reception room at Old Dave Crocker's); Act 2. The Fete Champetre.

[NB: It is unclear if a similarly titled first part, staged under James Brennan's management at the Gaiety Theatre, Melbourne, beginning 27 December 1909 is related to Walch's entertainment. The scenery for the latter production was painted by Joe Little. It is similarly unclear if he is related to the John Little below - see St George's Hall, 1885]

1885: Academy of Music, Brisbane; 19-27 Aug.

- **Mngr.** George Rignold, F. E. Hiscocks, J. Allison and Buchan Hepburn.

- **Troupe:** Rickards-Leete Combination.

- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Nelly Wilson, Daisy Simpson [Daisy Cremar], Ada Juneen, Harry Phillips, Edgar Austin, Harry Cremar.

1885: St George's Hall, Melbourne; 5 Sept. - 16 Oct. [36 pfms]

- **Mngr.** George Rignold, F. E. Hiscocks, J. Allison and Buchan Hepburn; **M Dir.** T. W. Rhodes; **S Art.** Alexander Habbe and John Little.

- **Troupe:** Rickards-Leete Combination.

- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Nelly Wilson, Daisy Simpson [Daisy Cremar], Ada Juneen, Harry Phillips, Edgar Austin, Harry Cremar.

1885: Academy of Music, Sydney; 31 Oct. - 27 Nov., 19-22 Dec. [28 pfms]

- **Mngr.** George Rignold, F. E. Hiscocks, J. Allison and Buchan Hepburn.

- **Troupe:** Rickards-Leete Combination.

- Cast and production presumed to be the same as the previous Melbourne season.

1886: St George's Hall, Melbourne; 16-22 Jan. [12 pfms]

- Cast and production presumed to be the same as the previous Melbourne season.

1886: Theatre Royal, Hobart; 8 June -

- **Troupe:** Rickards-Leete Combination.

- Cast and production presumed to be the same as the previous Melbourne season.

1886: Academy of Music, Brisbane; 26-31 July, 29 Sept., 1 Oct. [8 pfms]

- **Mngr.** Harry Rickards and Sidney Hall; **Lse.** Fred W. Duvall and J. Smith.

- **Troupe:** Rickards-Leete Combination.

- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Nelly Wilson, Lilly Armstrong, Ada Juneen, Harry Phillips, Harry Cremar.

- Cast for 29 Sept. and 1 Oct. productions incl. Mabel Tracey, Fanny Sarony, and Harry Sullivan. Fred Duvall replaced Sidney Hall as manager.

1886: Academy of Music, Sydney; 16-29 Oct. [12 pfms]

- **Mngr.** Harry Rickards and Phillip Stuart; **Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks and Harry Rickards (sub-lessee).

- **Troupe:** Rickards-Leete Combination.

- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Mabel Tracey, Ada Juneen, Fanny Sarony, Harry Sullivan, Walter Noye.

1888: New Opera House, Sydney; 23-30 June

- **Mngr.** F. E. Hiscocks (theatre), Harry Rickards and John C. Leete (company); **Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks.

- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New Comedy and Specialty Company.

- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Katie St Lawrence, Ada Delroy, Georgie Devoe, Marion Constance, James Bell, Mons. Provo, Fred Terris, William Woodhead, Fred Davys.

1888: Gaiety Theatre, Brisbane; 10-14 Nov.

- **Mngr.** Harry Rickards and John C. Leete; **Lse.** Stewart and Co; **S Mngr.** George Larkin.

- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New Comedy and Specialty Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Katie St Lawrence, Ada Delroy, Georgie Devoe, James Bell, William Woodhead, Fred Davys.
- 1888:** New Haymarket Music Hall, Sydney; 15-24 Dec.
- **Mngr.** Harry Rickards and John C. Leete; **Prop.** George Barr (theatre).
- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New Comedy and Specialty Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Katie St Lawrence, Ada Delroy, Georgie Devoe, James Bell, Marion Constance, William Woodhead, Fred Davys.
- 1889:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 6-19 July [11 pfms]
- **Mngr.** William A. Jinkins; **Lse.** Charles W. and Harry P. Cogill, Harry Rickards (sub-lessee).
- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New English and Irish Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Ada Delroy, Georgie Devoe, Ella Murphy, Marion Constance, James Bell, Fred Davys.
- 1890:** School of Arts, Sydney; 8-14 Feb.
- **Mngr.** William A. Jinkins.
- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New English and Irish Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Ada Delroy, Marion Constance, Ella Murphy, Pat Murphy, Walter Noye, James Bell, Fred Davys,
- 1890:** Gaiety Theatre, Brisbane; 17 Mar. [benefit]
- **Mngr.** John C. Leete; **Lse.** Stewart and Co.
- **Troupe:** Rickards-Leete Combination.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Ada Delroy, Marion Constance, Ella Murphy, Pat Murphy, Walter Noye, James Bell, Fred Davys, Manuel Lopez, Mareano Martin.
- 1890:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 24-30 May [as *Treasures*]
- **Mngr.** John C. Leete; **Lse.** Charles W. and Harry P. Cogill; **S Mngr.** Sidney Hall.
- **Troupe:** Rickards' New English and Irish Comedy Company with Cogill Brothers' Minstrel and Variety Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Ada Delroy, Marion Constance, Ella Murphy, Pat Murphy, Walter Noye, James Bell, Fred Davys.
- 1890:** School of Arts, Sydney; 18-31 Oct. [13 pfms]
- **Mngr.** John C. Leete; **Lse.** Harry Rickards.
- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New Musical Comedy Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Georgie Devoe, Rita Dale, Tilly Lake, Fred Davys, Johnny Gilmore.

"Academy of Music." *Sydney Morning Herald* 2 Nov. (1885), 6.

Editorial. *Argus* 7 Sept. (1885), 5. [see also advert. - 5 Sept. (1885), 16]

Editorial. *Brisbane Courier* 19 Aug. (1885), 5. [see also advert. - 17 Aug. 1885, n. pag.; and Editorial 20 Aug. 1885, 4]

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

"Mr Harry Rickards at St George's Hall." *Age* 7 Sept. (1885), 5. [see also advert. 5 Sept. 1885, 12]

SPOONS: [aka HOOKER'S WILL] [musical entertainment] **Txt.** Garnet Walch; **Mus.** [n/e]

Another Walch "musical absurdity" in the same style as *Bric-a-Brac*, this two act piece is set in Scarborough, England, with the first part set on the beach and the second in a drawing room of the Liberty Hall boarding house. The *Brisbane Courier* records that the story is "a simple peg, upon which is hung a host of ballads, dances, funny anecdotes, and other incidentals, each an attraction in itself" ("Academy," 6).

Spoons concerns an old gentleman's will in which he prohibits love-making between his heirs for a month after his death. Hooker, the brother of the deceased, has been given the job of detecting breaches of then provisions aided by a black servant, Julius Spandyke. The plot allows for various character impersonations by the actors, particularly Harry Rickards.

The production was advertised as *Hooker's Will* for its 1888 Brisbane season.

S T. GEORGE'S HALL
Lemees—Rignold, Allison, and Hiscocks.
Manager—J. Allison.

SEVENTH WEEK. 7th WEEK. SEVENTH WEEK.
RICKARDS-LEETE COMBINATION.

LAST NIGHT BUT ONE. LAST NIGHT BUT ONE.
Greatest Combination Ever Witnessed.
Headed by the Unrivalled and Only
HARRY RICKARDS. HARRY RICKARDS.
THIS (SATURDAY) EVENING,
THIS (SATURDAY) EVENING,
Great and Entire Change Programme.
Great and Entire Change Programme.
First Production in Australia of an Entirely New,
Original, and Musical Absurdity
(Specially Written for Harry Rickards and his Powerful
Combination by Garnet Walch), entitled
SPOONS. SPOONS. SPOONS. SPOONS.
SPOONS. SPOONS. SPOONS. SPOONS.
SPOONS. SPOONS. SPOONS. SPOONS.
In which the Inimitable HARRY RICKARDS
And his Celebrated Combination
OF
LONDON SPECIALTY ARTISTS.

- 1885:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 17-29 Oct. [11 pfms]
- **Mngr.** Buchan Hepburn and J. Allison; **Lse.** George Rignold and J. Allison, F. E. Hiscocks.
- **Troupe:** Rickards-Leete Combination.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Nelly Wilson, Daisy Simpson [Daisy Cremar], Ada Juneen, Kate, Harry Phillips, Edgar Austin, Harry Cremar.
- 1885:** Academy of Music, Sydney; 28 Nov. - 18 Dec. [18 pfms]
- **Mngr.** George Rignold, F. E. Hiscocks, J. Allison and Buchan Hepburn.
- **Troupe:** Rickards-Leete Combination.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Nelly Wilson, Daisy Simpson [Daisy Cremar], Ada Juneen, Harry Phillips, Edgar Austin, Harry Cremar.

Argus 17 Oct. (1885), 20.

- 1886:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 2-15 Jan. [12 pfms]
- Cast and production presumed to be the same as the previous Melbourne season.
- 1886:** Academy of Music (Bris); 2-7 Aug., 25-28 Sept. [10 pfms]
- **Mngr.** Harry Rickards and Sidney Hall; **Lse.** Fred W. Duvall and J. Smith.
- **Troupe:** Rickards-Leete Combination.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Nelly Wilson, Mabel Tracey, Ada Juneen, Harry Phillips, T. W. Rhodes, Harry Cremar.
- Cast for 25-28 September season incl. Harry Sullivan and Fanny Sarony. Fred Duvall replaced Sidney Hall.
- 1886:** Academy of Music, Sydney; 4-15, 30 Oct. - 5 Nov. [17 pfms]
- **Mngr.** Harry Rickards and Phillip Stuart; **Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks and Harry Rickards (sub-lessee).
- **Troupe:** Rickards-Leete Combination.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Nelly Wilson, Mabel Tracey, Ada Juneen, Fanny Sarony, Harry Sullivan, Harry Phillips, T. W. Rhodes.
- Cast for 30 October - 5 November season included Nita Franks and William B. Cadzow.
- 1888:** New Opera House, Sydney; 9-15 June, 3 July
- **Mngr.** F. E. Hiscocks (theatre), Harry Rickards and John Leete (company); **Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks.
- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New Comedy and Specialty Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Katie St Lawrence, Ada Delroy, Georgie Devoe, Marion Constance, James Bell, Mons. Provo, Fred Terris, William Woodhead, Fred Davys.
- 1888:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 1-8 Sept.
- **Mngr.** Charles W. and Harry P. Cogill, John C. Leete and Fred W. Duvall; **Lse.** Charles W. and Harry P. Cogill.
- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New Comedy and Specialty Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Katie St Lawrence, Ada Delroy, Georgie Devoe, Marion Constance, James Bell, Fred Davys.
- 1888:** Gaiety Theatre, Brisbane; 3-9 Nov.
- **Mngr.** Harry Rickards and John C. Leete; **Lse.** Stewart and Co.
- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New Comedy and Specialty Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Katie St Lawrence, Ada Delroy, Georgie Devoe, Marion Constance, James Bell, Fred Davys.
- 1889:** New Haymarket Music Hall, Sydney; 12-18 Jan.
- **Mngr.** Harry Rickards and John C. Leete; **Prop.** George Barr (theatre).
- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New Comedy and Specialty Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Katie St Lawrence, Ada Delroy, Georgie Devoe, James Bell, Fred Davys, Marion Constance.
- 1889:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 6-19 July [11 pfms]
- **Mngr.** William A. Jinkins; **Lse.** Charles W. and Harry P. Cogill, Harry Rickards (sub-lessee).
- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New English and Irish Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Ada Delroy, Georgie Devoe, Marion Constance, James Bell, Fred Davys.
- 1890:** School of Arts, Sydney; 15 Feb.
- **Mngr.** William A. Jinkins.
- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New English and Irish Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Ada Delroy, Marion Constance, Ella Murphy, Pat Murphy, Walter Noye, James Bell, Fred Davys.
- 1890:** Gaiety Theatre, Brisbane; 12-15 Mar.
- **Mngr.** John C. Leete; **Lse.** Stewart and Co.
- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New English and Irish Comedy Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Kate Leete [Mrs Harry Rickards], Ada Delroy, Marion Constance, Ella Murphy, Pat Murphy, Walter Noye, James Bell, Fred Davys, Manuel Lopez, Mareano Martin.
- 1890:** St George's Hall, Melbourne; 31 May - 6 June
- **Mngr.** John C. Leete; **Lse.** Charles W. and Harry P. Cogill; **S Mngr.** Sidney Hall.
- **Troupe:** Harry Rickards' New English and Irish Comedy Company.
- **Cast** incl. Harry Rickards, Ada Delroy, Ella Murphy, James Bell, Marion Constance, Georgie Devoe.

"Academy of Music." *Brisbane Courier* 3 Aug. (1886), 6.

"Academy of Music." *Sydney Morning Herald* 30 Nov. (1885), 10.

Argus 17 Oct. (1885), 20. **Advert.**

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890*. (1997), v. pags.

"News of the Day." *Age* 19 Oct. (1885), 5. [column 2]

THE BRIGANDS MIXED UP BY A PRIVATE SECRETARY: [burlesque] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

Written expressly for the Federal Minstrels, most likely by W. Horace Bent (with the assistance of other members of Hiscocks' Minstrels) it was described in advertising as a "new musical absurdity," and presented as a third part to the minstrel and olio sections of the bill. The idea to burlesque a combination of Offenbach's opera *The Brigands* and the comedy *The Private Secretary*, by C. H. Hawtrej, was no doubt a reaction to the successful staging of both productions of in Sydney and Melbourne in the preceding months.

- 1885:** Victoria Hall, Melbourne; 31 Oct. -
 - **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillade.
 - **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels.
 - **Cast** incl. W. A. Ball (Robberino), W. Horace Bent (Stupido), Beaumont Read (Hag), E. Amery (Swag), Lou Braham (Rag), T. Gall (Clutch), J. S. Porter (Rollindo), Alf Moynham (Rev. Bobby Sprawling), George Turner (Estrella, Queen of the Brigands), plus a chorus of bandits and other auxiliary roles.

Age 31 Oct. (1885), 12. **Advert.**

LONE-GRIN: [burlesque] **Txt.** W. Horace Bent; **Mus.** [n/e]

Although advertised as a burlesque Italian Opera extravaganza ("out-Wagnering Wagner"), there are only minor references to Wagner's *Lonegrin* in the cast list. The major characters introduced by bent are a prima donna, a composer, a stage "Mis-Manager," a "piratical baron," a village tenor, the "Count of Clifton Hill," and a stage assassin.

- 1885:** Victoria Hall, Melbourne; 5, 7 Dec.
 - **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillade.
 - **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels.
 - **Cast** incl. Sam Keenan (Prof. Sheepskin), W. Horace Bent (Slippery Bob, a stage manager), Lou Braham (Edgarde, the village tenor), W. A. Ball (The Piratical Baron), E. Amery (The Baron de Bull), J. S. Porter (Razorini, a stage assassin), George Turner (Mde Squalini, a prima donna).
- 1886:** Academy of Music, Brisbane; 15-19 May
 - **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks.
 - **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels.
 - **Cast** incl. Sam Keenan, W. Horace Bent, Lou Braham, W. A. Ball, E. Amery, J. S. Porter, George Turner.
- 1887:** Victoria Hall, Melbourne; 4-11 June
 - **Mngr.** Harry Friedman; **Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks and Frank M. Clark; **M Dir.** Owen Conduit; **S Mngr.** Thomas R. Gilpin.
 - **Troupe:** Frank M. Clark's Silk Stockings Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Nina Tulloch, W. B. Warner, W. Horace Bent, Thomas R. Gilpin, J. Lindsay, Tom Holland, Charles Fanning.

Age 5 Dec. (1885), 12. **Advert.**

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

ADONIS: [burlesque] **Txt/Mus** [n/e]

In this twisted "burlesque nightmare" version of W.S. Gilbert's *Pygmalion and Galatea* (*Argus* 26 Dec. 1885, 12), the writer has the artist Talmea create a statue of Adonis. He is granted life but prefers to belong to rich Parvenue rather than to his creator. He is later pursued by a large village maiden and several others - all of whom are transformed by the goddess Artea into harlequinade characters.

The *Age* critic suggest that "the production is certainly a novelty to Melbourne, inasmuch as it combines what is usually known as burlesque acting with negro minstrelsy" ("Nugget," 6).

The exact date of the Australian premiere is as yet uncertain.

- 1885:** Nugget Theatre, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1885 - 8 Jan. 1886
 - **Dir.** Leon Francis; **Mngr/Lse.** Frank Weston; **M Dir.** Owen Conduit; **S Art.** Harry Grist; **Com Sc.** Harry Leopold; **S Mngr.** Walter Medus.
 - **Troupe:** Leon and Cushman's Burlesque Opera and Musical Comedy Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Francis "The Only" Leon (Adonis), Walter Medus (Marquis de Baccarat), Blanche Leopold (Talmea), Julia Featherstone, T. N. Ford (Bunion Turke), Mrs T. N. Ford, Daphne De Lee, Lillie Morrison, Marion Norman, Nellie Lovell, Bridget Donohue, John Bryan, Henry Leopold, Frank Cushman.
 - **Dancers:** Thomas Delohery, Ted Holland, James Craydon, Mr Leslie, Mr Walters, Charles York, Mr Wallace, Johnny Gilmore.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890.* (1997), v. pags.

"**Nugget Theatre.**" *Age* 28 Dec. (1885), 6. [see also **advert** - 26 Dec. 1885, 12.]

"**Nugget Theatre.**" *Argus* 28 Dec. (1885), 6.

NUGGET THEATRE,
 Bourke-street East, near Parliament-house.
 Lessee and Manager—Mr. Frank Weston.

TO-NIGHT (SATURDAY, 26th DECEMBER.)
 Messrs.

LEON and CUSHMAN'S
BURLESQUE OPERA and MUSICAL COMEDY
TROUPE.

LEON and CUSHMAN'S
COMBINATION
BURLESQUE OPERA and MUSICAL
COMEDY TROUPE.

Messrs. LEON and CUSHMAN have much pleasure in
 announcing the first
GRAND PRODUCTION of their NEW and ORIGINAL
BURLESQUE NIGHTMARE
 (First time in Australia),
 In two Acts, entitled
ADONIS.
ADONIS.
ADONIS.

ADONIS' **THE ONLY LEON**

Argus 26 Dec. (1885), 16.

KING COCKATOO; OR, THE ENCHANTED ELEPHANT: [musical entertainment]

Txt. Leopold Jordan; **Mus.** [n/e]

Written expressly for the Alhambra Variety Company and Specialty Union, *King Cockatoo* was presented as a second part, following the evening's minstrelsy entertainment. The story concerns King Cockatoo, who throws some gypsies off his selection. They subsequently conspire with Prince Nibbleall and other characters to end his reign by kidnapping the enchanted elephant which is the key to his power.

Incidental music for the work introduced (with kind permission from Williamson, Garner and Musgrove) several airs from *Tambour Major*. The Enchanted Elephant was advertised as being lent to the management (for the Alhambra production only) by his highness the Rajah of Barnumjumbotoun... "imported by instalments ay enormous cost" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 26 Dec. 1885, 2).

Advertising in the *Sydney Morning Herald* proposed a Synopsis or Seen-ery as: "Seen First - The Audience; Seen Second - The Band; Seen Last - The Artistes." The audience was also advised to "remain calm during the Elephant's 'roar' as he is an amateur" (*ibid*, 2).

1885: Alhambra Music Hall, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1885 - 16 Jan. 1886 [19 pfms]

- **Prod.** Frank Smith; **S Mngr.** Harry Barrington.

- **Troupe:** Alhambra Variety Company and Specialty Union.

- **Cast** incl. Edwin Shipp (King Cockatoo), Minnie Hope [aka Shipp] (Prince Nibbleall), Amy Rowe (Princess Prettylips), Walter P. Keen (Lord Chamberlain), Harry Barrington (Bash Bash), George Gardner (Queen Karratte), Hetty Croucher (Villetta), Milly Herbert (Majji), Neillson Family (Imperial Guards).

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890*. (1997), v. pags. *Sydney Morning Herald* 26 Dec. (1885), 2. [Advert.](#)

MOTHER GOOSE AND THE ENCHANTED BEAUTY: [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** 'Whyte Tye' (aka

H. R. Duff); **Mus.** [n/e]

Especially adapted "to the tastes of a Sydney audience" from E. L. Blanchard's original Drury Lane production, writes the *Sydney Morning Herald* theatre critic, "it was necessary to remold the dialogue, and this has been done with a certain amount of skill by some scribe who is content with the nom de plume of 'Whyte Tye' [Duff's pseudonym]. The dialogue now deals with a number of public men, organisations, events, and topics which have recently received a considerable amount of attention, and it is worthy to note that the allusions to these subject are made in such a way as to avoid coarseness, and yet to produce laughter. The change in the ministry is amongst the matters dealt with, and the estimate formed of the members of it, and the prospect of their long enjoying the seats they now occupy is in neither case very favourable. The Post Office carvings also are amongst the subjects which come in for criticism, being characterised as 'a set of hideous caricatures preserved in stone' ("Olympic," 8).

The story, which includes elements of the Sleeping Beauty fairytale, concerns King Kokolurum, whose daughter, Princess Rosebud, is about to be christened. Carabossa, a fairy not invited to the celebration, nevertheless attends with her sole purpose being to avenge the sleight against her. She casts a spell which sentences the princess to death if she "ever should see the light or sun until her twenty years of life be done" (*ibid*, 8). Twenty years later, on the eve of her twentieth birthday, Princess Rosebud falls desperately in love with the Ambassador of Prince Farfarinet, who has been sent to seek out the young princesses hand in marriage. The Ambassador is actually the young prince in disguise. They elope after the rest of the palace falls asleep under Mother Goose's spell. Carbossa then arrives, breaks the spell, and an amusing pursuit follows as the palace attempts to bring back the young couple.

One of the songs incorporated into the production, "Love's Old Sweet Song" (performed by Ida Osbourne), is said to have been written by J. L. Molloy.

1885: Olympic Theatre, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1885 - 21 Jan. 1886 [24 pfms]

- **Dir/S Mngr.** D'Arcy Stanfield; **Mngr/Lse.** M. L. Raphael; **M Arr.** G. Rivers Allpress; **Cost.** Mde. Golding; **Lig.** Prof. Norris (limelight).

- **Cast** incl. Ida Osborne (Mother Goose), Emily Fox (Princess Rosebud), Emily Beaumont (Prince Farfarinet), D'Arcy Stanfield (King Kokolurum), Fanny Sarony (The Queen), Fred Dark (Carabossa), Harry Sullivan (Nurse), Dot Read, F. Golding, H. Trevorah, Brothers Victor.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890*. (1997), v. pags. "[Olympic Theatre.](#)" *Sydney Morning Herald* 28 Dec. (1885), 8.

HARLEQUIN BLACK 'HIDE' SUSAN AND HER PLAIN BILL: [burlesque pantomime]

Txt. W. Horace Bent; **Mus.** [n/e]

Written expressly for the Federal Minstrels, with "new locals, dresses, mechanical effects, music, comic scenes, [and] dances" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 26 Dec. 1885, 2), this burlesque pantomime is a loose adaptation (in blackface) of F. C. Burnand's 1866 burlesque of the Douglas Jerrold play *Black-Eyed Susan* (1829). Unusually, the transformation scene and harlequinade were staged at the start of the production (rather than at the end). The extended harlequinade concerned 'the advent on Australia's shores of Captain James Cook.'

The action takes place aboard the H.M.S. Polypheme, and contains a chorus of mermen, mermaids, marines, and sailors. The various sections in the pantomime are: 1. The Harlequinade; 2. Grand Transformation Scene; 3. Second Comic Scene; 4. Trip - Harlequin and Columbine; 5. The Soudan Donkey; 6. 1,000 Leagues under the Sea; and 7. The Funniest Last Scene You Have Ever Seen.

- 1885:** Academy of Music, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1885 - 22 Jan. 1886 [25 pfms]
- **Prod/Lse.** F. E. Hiscocks; **M Dir.** Nicholas La Feuillade.
- **Troupe:** Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels and Specialty Union.
- **Cast** incl. W. Horace Bent (Plain Bill), Sam Keenan (Black-Hide Susan), J. S. Porter (Captain Crosseye), George Turner (Peter Blue), T. Gall (Jack Blowhard), W. A. Ball (Lord High Admiral), Beaumont Read (Yellow Admiral), Lou Braham (Blue Admiral), E. Amery (Red Admiral), Alf Moynham (Clown, in the harlequinade), Walter Wiseman.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890*. (1997), v. pags.
Sydney Morning Herald 26 Dec. (1885), 2. **Advert.**

SLEEPING BEAUTY; OR HARLEQUIN MOTHER GOOSE AND THE SEVEN CHAMPIONS OF CHRISTENDOM: [pantomime] **Lib.** Garnet Walch; **Mus.** [n/e]

The plot centres on Prince Austral, the Seven Champions and the Seven Sisters of Australasia. At the christening of Princess Beauty, which is attended by the seven fairy godmothers, the evil fairy Maligna curses her. Eighteen years later the curse is realised when the Princess and the entire court fall asleep for one-hundred years. Prince Austral is granted continuous youth throughout that period and hence is able to rescue the Princess. The *Leader* cites the text for this pantomime's good fairy Progressa as advocating imperial federation. The scenery included panoramic views of Adelaide, Hobart, Sydney Harbour and Melbourne (including the Yarra River).

- 1885:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1885 - 19 Feb. 1886 [46 pfms]
- **Dir/S Mngr.** H. H. Vincent; **Prod.** J. C. Williamson, Arthur Garner, George Musgrove; **B Mngr.** Henry R. Harwood (business); **S Art.** John Hennings and George Gordon; **Chor.** Rose and Heloise Duvalli.
- **Cast** incl. Emma Chambers (principal boy), Amy Horton (principal girl), Constance Deorwyn, Fanny Montague, Annie and Kate Martin, Mary Weir, Alice Wooldridge, Bella Russell, Henry R. Harwood (King Glorio), Arthur Redwood, Charles Brown, Sterling Whyte, F. Harcourt, Will Simpson, Boleno Brown, Samuel Nelson, Mr Menden (eccentric musician), Charles and Harry Raynor, Faust Family, Royal Xylophonists.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1870-1890*. (1997), v. pags.
"Theatre Royal - *The Sleeping Beauty*." *Age* 28 Dec. (1885), 6.
"Theatre Royal - *The Sleeping Beauty*." *Argus* 28 Dec. (1885), 6.

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