

1900

The Greenwood Family, also operating as the Greenwood Operatic Company, staged a "sparkling up-to-date- farcical musical comedy, *Confusion*, at the Protestant Hall (Bris) on Boxing Night. The origins of the company and this production have not been established.

ALADDIN: [burlesque] **Txt** Adapt. "Wurry Murry"; **Mus** incl. Genge Wilson

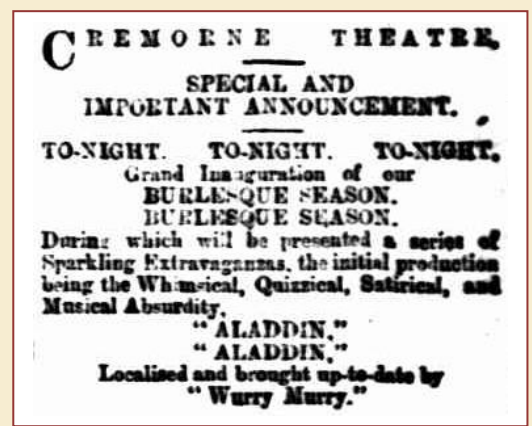
The *West Australian* records that the text of this burlesque on the popular children's story, which "differs little from that of the burlesques under the same name given as seasonable entertainments in the Eastern colonies" was adapted and localised form the Arthur Sturgess and Horace Lennard version by "a gentleman concealing his identity under "Wurry Murry." The paper goes on to indicate, however, that "the bringing up to date has admittedly been accomplished, but the local hits and topical allusions introduced in prose and verse were not over-plentiful" ("Cremorne," 7).

Incidental music for the production was written by Mr Genge Wilson. Introduced into the last scene of Act 1 was a march by 40 boys and girls dressed in the khaki costumes of Australian soldiers. The *West Australian* reviewer notes that while the grouping and marching of these was were most effective... no less so was the singing of the chorus of "Boys of Australia by Masters Harry Hart and Alec Cowan" (ibid, 7). Other songs presented in the burlesque included: "Embarrassment" (sung by Maud Chetwynd), "Show the World What English Boys are Made Of" (Marie Lingard), "Happy Hampton Court" (Elsie Golding) and "Estudiantius" (Alice and Julie Layton).

- 1900:** Cremorne Theatre, Perth; 21 Apr. - 4 May
- **Dir.** Harry Fitzmaurice; **Prod/Lse.** Jones and Lawrence; **M Dir.** Genge Wilson; **Chor.** Miss M. Lingard.
- **Troupe:** Jones and Lawrence Vaudeville Co.
- **Cast** incl. Miss Marie Lingard (Aladdin), Maud Chetwynd (Princess Badroulhabadour), Alice Layton, Julie Layton, Harry Hart, John Coleman, Elsie Golding, Albert Whelan, Harry Fitzmaurice, Sam Rowley, Dick Davis, Alice Platt, Alec Cowan, Harry hart.

"**Cremorne Theatre: The Aladdin Burlesque.**" *West Australian* 23 Apr. (1900), 7. advert. - 21 Apr. 1900, 1.

West Australian 21 Apr. (1900), 1.



DICK WHITTINGTON: [burlesque] **Txt.** "Wurry Murry"; **Mus.** incl. Genge Wilson

One of several burlesques productions staged by the Jones and Lawrence firm during their extended lease of the Cremorne Gardens around the turn of the century.

The musical performances included a round, "Three Blind Mice." The *West Australian's* theatre critic writes that "not a little of the success of the performance was due to the bright and sparkling music composed especially by Mr Gene Wilson, particularly the finales, which went with the energy that made the audience quite enthusiastic" ("Cremorne," 6). The scenes were: Act 1. Sc 1. Alderman's Shop; Sc 2. London from Highgate Hill; Sc 3. London Docks; Act 2. Sc 1. On Board the Manx Fairy; Sc 2. Ant-Chamber Emperor's Palace; Act 3. The Emperor's Palace.

- 1900:** Cremorne Gardens, Perth; 5-11 May
- **Dir.** Harry Fitzmaurice; **Prod/Lse.** Jones and Lawrence; **S Art.** John Campbell; **Chor.** Marie Lingard.
- **Cast** incl. Edie Lingard (Dick), Harry Fitzmaurice (Alderman Callipash), Elsie Golding (Mrs Callipash), Maud Chetwynd (Rose Marie, Dick's love), Sam Rowley, Albert Whelan (Emperor), Dick Davis (Fitzbabbage), Fred Valezie (The Cat), Eva Gillard (Sir Highbury de Barne), Julie Layton, Alice Layton, Leigh Harris, The Macarte Sisters.

"**Cremorne Theatre: Dick Whittington.**" *West Australian* 7 May (1900), 6. [see also advert. - 5 May, 1900, 1]

ALI BABA AND THE THIRTY-NINE THIEVES: [burlesque] **Txt.** [n/e]; **Mus.** incl. Genge Wilson

The characters in this adaptation of the popular Arabian tale, which advertising describes as having been "brought up-to-date and a little beyond" ("Cremorne," 7) include: Ali Baba (an alley who has just gone through the court), Ganam (his son - from his sighs may be scarcely considered fill groan), Cassim Baba (a black sheep), Abdalla (the leader of the brassiest band in the world), Hassarac (his rebellious lieutenant), Miza (penny plain) and Morgiana (a slave of circumstance).

One of several burlesques productions staged by the Jones and Lawrence firm during their extended lease of the Cremorne Gardens around the turn of the century, this production as with the others was possibly written by the local author known as "Wurry Murry."

- 1900:** Cremorne Gardens, Perth; 26 May -
- **Dir.** Harry Fitzmaurice; **Prod/Lse.** Jones and Lawrence; **M Dir.** Genge Wilson; **S Art.** John Campbell; **Chor.** Marie Lingard; **Cost.** Madame Rita.
- **Cast** incl. George A. Jones (Ali Baba), Edie Lingard (Ganem, his son), Denis Carney (Cassim Baba), Elsie Golding (Morgiana), Maud Chetwynd (Cogia Baba), Albert Whelan (Hassarac), Dick Davis (Hassan), Fred Valezie (The Ass of

the Family), Eva Gillard (Abdalla), Leigh Harris (Miza), Miss Montez (Orcobrand), Beattie Gallardi (Zaide), Arthur Black, Dick Hart, Gavin Black, Alex Hart, Jack Wintle, Harry Troy, Barney Bliss, Ted Jacques, Mable Slater, Queenie Fielder, Bella Hunter, Lilly Allen, Elsie Doyle, Dora Coffs, Marie Lingard.

- Corps de Ballet: Miss Montez, Miss Gill, Miss Black, Edie Montez, Rita Black.

"Cremorne Theatre: *Ali Baba and the Thirty-Nine Thieves*." *West Australian* 28 May (1900), 7.

SINBAD IN FIFTEEN MINUTES: [burlesque farce] **Txt.** Percy St John; **Mus.** [n/e]

An abridged version of St John's 1898 *Sinbad* burlesque (Alhambra Music Hall, Syd), which was itself an adaptation of his earlier pantomime (1894). St John's take on the Sinbad story would have been familiar to Brisbane audiences as the 1898 burlesque version had been staged in Brisbane during February 1899 (he soon afterwards toured it through regional Queensland with his Elite Vaudeville Company).

1900: Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 30 June - 6 July

- **Prod/Lse.** Percy St John.

- **Troupe:** Royal Burlesque and Specialty Co.

- **Cast** incl. Les Warton, Arthur Morley, Priscilla Verne, Dave Caston, Sam Gale, Lena Harvey, Eva St Claire, Violet Bertram, Dorothy Lestrangle, Mollie Bentley,

THE YELLOW DWARF: [burlesque] **Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

An adaptation of J. R Planché's fairy extravaganza (1854), the production "served to introduce some pretty costumes and catchy musical items, [with] the finale of the burlesque [was] enhanced by the limelight tableau of "heroes of the War" - Generals French, Roberts and Baden-Powell - the curtain finally descended on a faithful portrait of Her Majesty the Queen, all of which were heartily cheered" ("At the Theatre," 6).

1900: Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 14-20 July

- **Prod/Lse.** Percy St John.

- **Troupe:** Royal Burlesque and Specialty Co.

- **Cast** incl. Les Warton, Arthur Morley, Priscilla Verne, Dave Caston, Sam Rowley, Sam Gale, Lena Harvey, Eva St Claire, Violet Bertram, Dorothy Lestrangle, Mollie Bentley.

"At the Theatre Royal." *Brisbane Courier* 16 July (1900), 6.

BLUE-EYED SUSAN UP-TO-DATE: [burlesque] **Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

The *Brisbane Courier* says of this localised adaptation of F. C. Burnand's burlesque on Douglas Jerrold's original drama that it "served to introduce some very pretty scenes and several novel and taking musical pieces" (23 July 1900, 6).

1900: Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 21-27 July

- **Prod/Lse.** Percy St John.

- **Troupe:** Royal Burlesque and Specialty Co.

- **Cast** incl. Les Warton, Arthur Morley, Priscilla Verne, Dave Caston, Sam Rowley, Sam Gale, Lena Harvey, Eva St Claire, Violet Bertram, Dorothy Lestrangle, Mollie Bentley,

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK; OR, THE HARLEQUIN AND THE MAGIC BEAN:

[pantomime] **Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

TO-NIGHT (WEDNESDAY) TO-NIGHT.

**First Appearance in Perth of the
ROYAL PANTOMIME COMPANY
ROYAL PANTOMIME COMPANY**

**in the Gorgeous Up-to-date Nursery
Rhyme, Successful Pantomime,
JACK and THE BEANSTALK.
JACK and THE BEANSTALK.**

**Including the Superb and Glittering
Transformation Scene, entitled,
THE FESTIVAL OF FLORA,
Eclipsing any Scenic Display previously
seen here,**

**And the Original Absurdly Comic
Harlequinade.**

**Over 60 PERFORMERS engaged in
the PRODUCTION.**

**A Host of NOVELTIES and ATTRAC-
TIONS.**

**Series of Magnificent Stage Pictures.
THE LATEST POPULAR SONGS.**

Comprising of over 60 performers, the Royal Pantomime and Opera Company's 1900 repertoire included the pantomimes *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Robinson Crusoe*, along with operatic productions of *Maritana* (Vincent Wallace) and Balfe's *The Bohemian Girl*. *Jack and the Beanstalk*, the company's favoured opening production, contained a transformation scene entitled "The Festival of Flora."

1900: Theatre Royal, Perth; 15 Aug.

- **Prod/Mngr.** M. L. Raphael.

- **Troupe:** Raphael's Royal Pantomime and Opera Company.

- **Cast** incl. Maud Hewson, William Neilson, James Hughes, Carrie Penny, Gus Gregory, F. M. Hughes, J. J. Lanphier, Elsie Rosser, J. Watts, H. Seymour, Victoria and Beatty Campica, Annie Kinnaird, Lillian Lynton.

1900: Western Australian goldfields circuit; ca. Sept/Oct.

1900: Town Hall, Fremantle (WA); 15 Oct.

1900: Institute Hall, Mount Gambier (SA); 26 Dec. 1900 - ca. Jan. 1901

"Royal Pantomime Company." *West Australian* 11 Aug. (1900), 7. [see also advert. - 11 Aug. 1900, 1]

West Australian 15 Aug. (1900), 1.

ROBINSON CRUSOE AND HIS MAN FRIDAY: [pantomime] **Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

Although the authorship and origins of this pantomime production have not been established, it is believed that unlike the "legitimate" productions staged by Raphael's Royal Pantomime and Opera Company, *Robinson Crusoe* contained a significant amount of the traditional popular culture fare - notably topical hits, localised references and up-to-date comic specialties and songs.

Songs known to have been incorporated into the production were: "Leave Me Not" (sung by Maud Hewson), "Wild Man of the Wide, Wide, Wide, Wide World" (J. Watts) and "The Coon's Confession" (Carrie Penny, Francis Vane and Victoria and Beatty Campica).

1900: Theatre Royal, Perth; 25, 27 Aug.

- **Prod/Mngr.** M. L. Raphael.

- **Troupe:** Raphael's Royal Pantomime and Opera Company.

- **Cast** incl. Maud Hewson (Robinson Crusoe), William Neilson (James Cox, Crusoe's bosom friend), James Hughes (William Atkins), Carrie Penny (Gig), Gus Gregory (David Jones/Man Friday), F. M. Hughes (Captain Scuttleum), J. J. Lanphier (Lang Lang), Elsie Rosser (Frangipani, the Queen's Maid), J. Watts (Wat Ho, the Oracle), H. Seymour (Oppoponax, a young chief), Francis Vane, Victoria and Beatty Campica, Annie Kinnaird, Lillian Lynton.

1900: Western Australian goldfields circuit; ca. Sept/Oct.

"**Theatre Royal: *Robinson Crusoe, The.***" *West Australian* 27 Aug. (1900), 2.

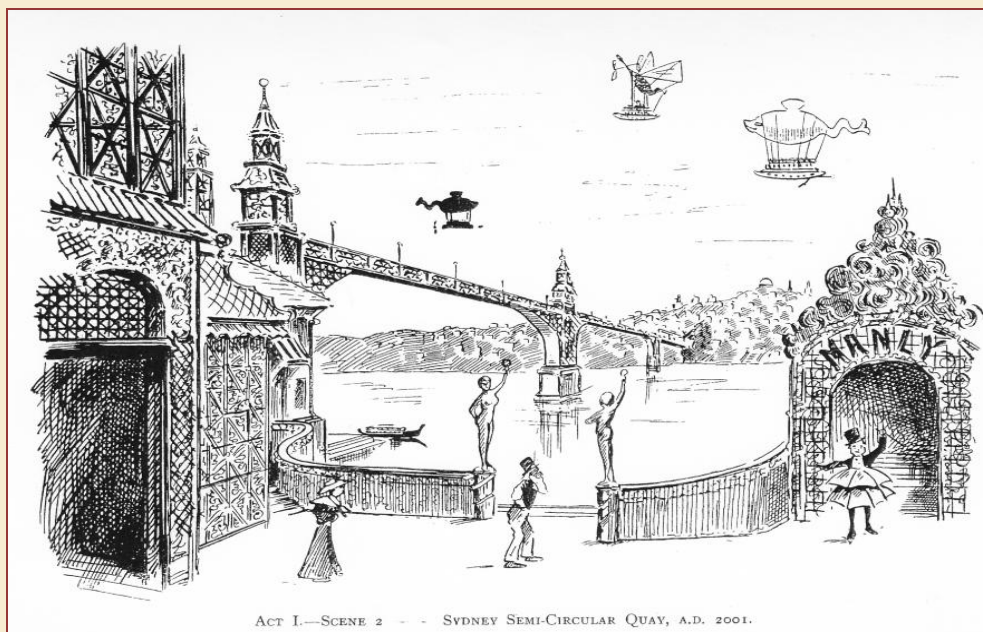
PUSS IN BOOTS: [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** J. A. Philp; **Mus.** [n/e]

A report in the *Brisbane Courier* records: "That enterprising entrepreneur, Mr Harry Rickards, has forestalled his rivals in the Australian theatrical world by staging his pantomime on Saturday last instead of yesterday [Boxing Day]." The paper goes on to note that "the book has been ingeniously localised by Mr J. A. Philp with universal approval in Sydney, and is described as being clever and witty, the jokes and topical hits being fully appreciated by the audience" ("Sydney Tivoli," 6).

1900: Tivoli Theatre, Sydney; 22 Dec 1900 - ca. Jan. 1901

- **Prod.** Harry Rickards.

"**Sydney Tivoli Pantomime, The.**" *Brisbane Courier* 27 Dec. (1900), 6.



Australis; Or, The City of Zero (Act 1, Scene 2)

From production program.

(Courtesy of the Fryer Library, University of Queensland)

AUSTRALIS; OR THE CITY OF ZERO: [extravaganza] **Lib.** J. C. Williamson and Bernard Espinasse; **Mus.**

Leon Caron and Frederick W. Weierter

J. C. Williamson, 1900 (program, printed by J. Andrew and Co)

Written especially for Federation, the story is a fantasy set 100 years in the future - the year 2000 - after a war of the world has wreaked havoc on the planet. Only Australia has escaped the devastation. The country is being run badly by an ex-Trade Union leader, however. The Boss, as he likes to be called, is about to annex the City of Zero, which is located at the South Pole, and ruled by an evil wizard, Azeemath. The play begins as the Queen of Antarctica, Dione, arises from one hundred years sleep in a petrified condition. A legend has foretold that when she loves a mortal that the wizard's powers must forever pass away. The wizard of course has his own plan to counter this.... But this is doomed to fail when Dione drinks from the magic pool, and true to its legend falls in love with the first person she sees - Valentine.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
 Mr. J. C. WILLIAMSON'S
 1900. CHRISTMAS ANNUAL. 1901.
BOXING NIGHT, DECEMBER 26,
 will be presented, for the first time on any stage, an entirely new and original up-to-date
PANTOMIME EXTRAVAGANZA,
 entitled
AUSTRALIS,
 or
THE CITY OF ZERO.

Mr. WILLIAMSON, encouraged by the success attendant upon the production of "DJIN DJIN" and "MATZA," has decided to present once more a distinctly home-made production, which will combine the magnificence of spectacle, humour of extravaganza, the charms of original, bright, and selected music, sterling sensation, splendid costuming, and scenic display, with the fun and jollity of Christmas

PANTOMIME.
 For months past the entire staff of composers, writers, scenic artists, mechanists, costumiers, property makers have been busily engaged upon preparations, with a view of presenting a novel and attractive entertainment suitable to the time, and worthy of the great occasion offered by the coming inauguration of
THE COMMONWEALTH.

AUSTRALIS,
 or
THE CITY OF ZERO.
 Written by BERNARD ESPINASSE,
 invented and constructed by J. C. WILLIAMSON,
 set to music by LEON CARON and F. W. WEIRER,
 illustrated by JOHN GORDON and GEO. DIXON,
 and the principal characters interpreted by
THE LEADING MEMBERS
 of the
POLLARD OPERA COMPANY,
 which will for this occasion return to Australia after an absence of 3 years, devoted to a continuous and immensely successful tour through New Zealand (by special arrangement with Mr. Tom Pollard), in conjunction with several other important artists, and a host of dancers, choristers, and auxiliaries. Will be a representative Australian production.

Produced under the direction of that
 Master of Stage Management,
Mr. GERALD COVENTRY.

Further particulars in future advertisements.

Sydney Morning Herald 8 Dec. (1900), 2.

MUSIC AND DRAMA
HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
EVERY EVENING.
MR. J. C. WILLIAMSON'S
ANNUAL XMAS PANTO.
 The verdict—Just what we said:
 "A grand and glorious success."
AUSTRALIS, OR THE CITY OF ZERO.
 Produced on a Gigantic Scale of Splendour.
 Staged-managed by **Mr. GERALD COVENTRY.**
 Prices as usual. Box plan at Nicholson's.

Sydney Mail 29 Dec. (1900), 1548.

- 1900:** Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1900 – 8 Feb. 1901
 - **Prod.** J. C. Williamson; **M Dir.** George Hall; **S Mngr.** Gerard Coventry; **S Art.** John Gordon and George Dixon;
Cost. Emily Nathan; **Lig.** F. Watts; **Chor.** Minnie Everett.
 - **Cast** incl. Ruby Bowring (Dione), William Wolff (Azeemath), Maud Beatty (Valentine), W. S. Percy (The Boss), H. A. Quealy (Mrs Truck), Alf Stephens (Big Tom Truck), Beatrice Lennox, May Beatty, Little Gulliver, Tilly Woodlock, Dora Wallace, Grace Moore, Miss L. Wilson, Miss N. Wilson, Miss O. Davis, Miss Metcalf, Miss Ericson, Miss Ford, Blanche Wallace, Elsie Moore, Nellie Borthwick, Ada Page, Minnie Hooper, Violet Sylvester, Tottie Bennett, Miss B. Lewis, Fred Sinclair, D. O'Connor, T. Middleton, J. Robinson, Syd Carden, C. Albert, L. Chessman, Mr Spence, Mr Sweeney, Mr Bracy, and Irene Franklin (specialty scenes), Professor Godfrey's Wonderful Troupe of Trained Animals, and The Little McLeans

"Dramatic." *Sydney Mail* 29 Dec. (1900), 1548.

Fantasia, Josephine. "J.C. Williamson's Vision for Australia : *Australis ; Or, The City of Zero* (1900)." *Australasian Drama Studies* 23 (1993): 82-91.

"Her Majesty's Theatre." *Sydney Morning Herald* 8 Dec. (1900), 12.

"Her Majesty's: *Australis*." *Evening News* (Sydney) 27 Dec. (1900), 8.

"Her Majesty's - *Australis*." *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. (1900), 6.

"Her Majesty's: *Australis; Or, The City of Zero*." *Referee* (Sydney) 2 Jan. (1901), 10.

"Her Majesty's: *Australis; Or, The City of Zero*." *Sunday Times* (Sydney) 30 Dec. (1900), 2.

"Sundry Shows." *Bulletin* 5 Jan. (1901), 18.

"Sundry Shows." *Bulletin* 26 Jan. (1901), 8.

Williams, Margaret. *Australia on the Popular Stage*. (1983), 191-2.

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Expanded and updated from Clay Djubal, "What Oh Tonight" (Appendix C), Ph D Diss (2005) U of Qld.

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