

Arthur Shirley's *The Breaking Of The Drought*, staged at the Lyceum Theatre (Sydney) on 26 December featured a ballet, performed by Miss Constance, Misses M., J., and R. Collins, Violet Gray and Edie Wilson.

MRS GOLDSTEIN: [aka MRS DOOLEY'S JOKE] [musical comedy] **Lib.** John F. Sheridan and P. Finn;

Mus. Frederick W. Weierter; **Add Mus/Lyr.** Charles Kenningham

Described by its authors as an "up-to-date, racial [sic] musical comedy," *Mrs Goldstein* was produced for the first time on any stage at Sydney's Criterion Theatre by John F. Sheridan. The story is set in the Melbourne house of newly-married Arthur Menzies, whose new chief aims in life are to keep from his bride the fact that he owns a racehorse, and keep his mother-in-law, Rachel Mendoza (whom he has never met), from ever entering his house. During the ensuing dinner party the mother-in-law tricks her way into the house, pretending that she is Mrs Goldstein, a friend of the young actress Polly Belcher and in town visiting prior to the running of the Melbourne Cup. Arthur soon finds himself inviting the remarkably go-ahead, good-natured woman, to lunch the next day at a sporting hotel. In professing his love for a Miss Carbine, Arthur unknowingly sets the mother-in-law on the trail of attempting to discover who this "woman" is and to what extent her so-in-law loves her. Eventually, after many misunderstandings, all is worked out, and Mrs Goldstein is relieved to know that Miss Carbine is a thoroughbred racehorse... who just goes on to win the Cup and present Arthur with a handsome return.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* critic records that *Mrs Goldstein* "proved to be a sketchy little piece, buoyed up with constant changes of song and scene, with several ballets in it" and that while "handsomely staged, it is at present a doubtful quantity, and it remains to be seen whether the public will choose to make it a certain success" (22 Sept. 1902, 5). The critic also refers to its strange feature, the fact that John F. Sheridan features so slightly in the narrative. The actor's portrait of the loud and laughter-loving Jewess was said to be carefully drawn from life, but containing (too) much Yiddish slang for the majority of the audience to fully grasp (5).

Two songs introduced into the 1902 production by actor Charles Kenningham, and written by him, were: "I'm Thinking of Thee, Sweet" and the duet with Celia Mavis, "Lovers Always." Other songs written for *Mrs Goldstein*, and described as "intentionally commonplace" and "lively" (SMH: 22 Sept. 1902, 5) include: "At the Races" (sung by Thomas Curran), the part-song "Good Night," "I Love to Smoke" and the Act 1 finale, "The Lady is His Mother."

A second edition of the production was staged from 6 October, the *Sydney Morning Herald* noting in this respect: "all new songs and dances which have been added to the merry piece... the list of new songs now includes the weird "Goblin Man" with moaning chorus" (10 Oct. 1902, 2).

The musical was revived in 1905 under the title *Mrs Dooley's Joke*, with the lead character's dual names being changed to Mary Ann Kelly/Mrs Dooley. The *Sydney Morning Herald* theatre critics writes of this revival, that it went briskly and that the staging of the production is "as a whole, excellent" with the costumes being rich and artistic (21 Aug. 1905, 3). Songs incorporated into the 1905 production included: "Goodnight" (chorus), "Teasing" and "When the Band Begins to Play" (sung by Heba Barlow); "Mrs Dooley," "The Sailorman," "The Soldier," and "Beautiful Music." As an incidental to the first act variety sketch artists Maude Amber and Winfield Blake also rendered their well-known musical scene, "Operatic Spasm." A review in the *Morning Bulletin* indicates that others were: "Lovers Always," "Enjoyment," and "The People You Meet at the Races" (sung by T. Curran); "The Rose of Killarney" and "The Day I Drew the Winner" and (Heba Barlow); "That Stopped Again," "Call Again Next Week" and "A Jockey Song" (Little Gulliver) and "Do You Blame Us?"

1902: Criterion Theatre, Sydney; 20 Sept. - 24 Oct. [30 pfm]

- **Dir/Prod/Lse.** John F. Sheridan; **M Dir/Cond/Arr.** Frederick W. Weierter; **Cost.** Minnie Hooper; **S Art.** George Campbell; **Cost.** Mde M. Rosevear.

- **Cast** incl. John F. Sheridan (Rachel Mendoza, aka Mrs Goldstein), Charles Kenningham (Arthur), Celia Mavis (Mrs Arthur Menzies), Heba Barlow (Polly), Minnie Hooper (Jane, a servant), Fred Wentworth (George Goodwin), Thomas Curran (Reggie Walker, a punter), Jean Drummond (Willie Winn, a jockey), Florrie Lockwood, Ruby Kennedy, Bertha Lewis, Edith Burke, S Grainger, Clyde Cook, H. Roberts, H. Davis, J. Wainwright, Burt Herman, Amy Conroy, Stella Selbourne, Beatrice Gordon, Miss R. Ashbey, Nellie Gallagher, Miss Cameron, Lizzie Walsh, Nella Lyons, Ruth Davies, Neville Lane, Katie Gross, Muriel Williams, Bertha Bursch, Katie Courtice, Edna Leighton, Mary Bradley, Ruby Hurley, Stella Tate, Mary Conn, Harry Davis, Leonard Chessman, Charles Saint, Fred Watson.

- **Musicians** incl. Samuel White (leader).

1903: Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 27 June -

- **Dir/Prod/Lse.** John F. Sheridan; **M Dir/Cond/Arr.** Frederick W. Weierter; **Cost.** Minnie Hooper; **Mngr.** Frank Weatherby

- **Cast** incl. John F. Sheridan (Rachel Mendoza, aka Mrs Goldstein), Thomas Curren (Arthur), Celia Mavis (Mrs

CRITERION THEATRE.

The next matinee of "Mrs. Goldstein" will be at 2.30 on Monday, when holiday-makers will see the racing musical comedy performed with all the new songs and dances which have been added to the merry piece since the first night. Mr. J. F. Sheridan's amusing characterisation as the new type of dashing and good-natured mother-in-law fond of a joke, and Mr. Charles Kenningham as the go-ahead proprietor of "Miss Carbine," keep up the fun merrily, and the list of new songs now includes the weird "Goblin Man" with moaning chorus.

Sydney Morning Herald 4 Oct. (1902), 9.

Arthur Menzies), Heba Barlow (Polly), Minnie Hooper (Jane, a servant), Fred Wentworth (George Goodwin), Sydney Carden (Reggie Walker, a punter), Muriel Williams (Willie Winn, a jockey), Ruby Clare (Gordon Jones), Kitty Doyle (Stanley Collins), Edna Leighton (Percy Saunders), Beatrice Gordon (Dolly Edwards), Edith Burke (Alfred Pomeroy), Amy Conroy (Larrie Champneys), S. Grainger (Thomas Hawkins), Little Gulliver (Buttons/Tommy Heavyweight), J. R. Needham (Proprietor), J. Henderson (Clerk), A. H. Smith (Waiter), Bert Herman (Jim Brierley), Rosie Massey, Lizzie Walsh, Violet Hooper, Muriel Williams, Bertha Burach, Katie Courtrice, Edna Leighton, May Bradley, Stella Tate.

1905: Criterion Theatre, Sydney; 19 Aug. - [as *Mrs Dooley's Joke*]

- **Prod/Lse.** John F. Sheridan; **Chor.** Minnie Hooper.

- **Cast** incl. John F. Sheridan (Mary Ann Kelly/Mrs Dooley), Muriel Williams (Mrs Arthur Menzies), Thomas Curren (Arthur Menzies), Maie Bradley (Jenny Smart), D'Allan Clark (George Goodwin), Frank Crossley (Reggie Walker), Heba Barlow (Polly Blcher), George Burnett (Thomas), Rose Massey (Willie Wynne), Stella Tate (Laura Luscombe), Florence Fanning (Bridget), Little Gulliver (Buttons), Bert Manners (Waiter), Horace Jardine (Stanley Collins), Charles Mettan, Mabel Mitchell, Elsie Wilson, Cissie Hunter, Edna Leighton, Rene Seaton, Ruby Hooper, Georgie White, Stella Selbourne, Beattie Gordon, Elsie Beetham, Amy Conroy.

1905: Theatre Royal, Perth; 16 Oct. - [as *Mrs Dooley's Joke*]

1905: Australian tour: Jan. - ca. Nov.

- **Prod.** William Anderson.

- **Troupe:** John F. Sheridan's Company

- **Cast** incl. John F. Sheridan (Mrs Dooley), Heba Belcher (Polly), Thomas Curran (Arthur Menzies), Muriel Williams (Mrs Menzies), Little Gulliver (Buttons).

- Itinerary incl: Brisbane (His Majesty's Theatre; 9 Feb. -) • Charters Towers (Theatre Royal; 27 Feb. one night only) • Perth (Theatre Royal; 16 Oct. one night only) • Bunbury (ca. 18-20 Oct.) • Broken Hill (Crystal Theatre; 18 Nov. one night only)

- Other productions included: *Naughty Nancy*, *Fun on the Bristol* and *The Lady Slavey*

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE
 Lessee, Mr. Harold Ashton. Sub-Lessee, Mr. John F. Sheridan.
THE SHERIDAN SEASON.
ANOTHER IMPORTANT CHANGE TO-NIGHT.
 The Racing Musical Farical Play.
MRS. DOOLEY'S LITTLE JOKE.
 MR. SHERIDAN as MRS. DOOLEY.
 Presenting another of his amusing woman caricatures—a line of business in which
 he stands—ALONE.
BRIGHT MUSIC, CATCHY SONGS, EXQUISITE COSTUMES.
ACT 1st.—FIVE BUCKS' PARTY, THE SWELL MUSICAL "AT HOME," Arrival of Jolly MRS. DOOLEY. THE MYSTERIOUS LETTER. WHO IS MISS CARBINE?
ACT 2nd.—THE CLARENDON HOTEL. AN IMPROMPTU LUNCH FOR TWO. MRS. SHERLOCK-HOLMES-DOOLEY ON THE JOB.
ACT 3rd.—MELBOURNE CUP DAY. THE LAWN AND GRANDSTAND, FLEMINGTON RACECOURSE. THE START, THE RACE, THE FINISH. YOU ACTUALLY SEE THE RACE RUN. DON'T MISS IT! MRS. DOOLEY WILL DELIGHT YOU.
LADIES, MRS. DOOLEY WEARS SOME DELIGHTFUL COSTUMES BY WORTH, OF PARIS.
SATURDAY, 11th FEBRUARY.
"WIDOW O'BRIEN."
PRICES: 3s., 2s., and 1s. Early Doors, 7 to 7.30 (6d. Extra). Box Plan at Paling's. Day Sales at McGuire's. Early Doors, 7; Ordinary, 7.30; Commence, 8; Carriages, 10.40.

Brisbane Courier 9 Feb. (1905), 2.

1906: New Zealand Dominion tour; ca.

- Itinerary incl. Dunedan (Princess Theatre; 9 Jan. -) • Wellington (Opera House; 10 Feb. -) • Wanganui (Opera House 5 Apr. - one night only)

"*Bijou Theatre: Mrs Goldstein.*" *Argus* 29 June (1903), 9.

"*Criterion Theatre - Mrs Dooley's Joke.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 21 Aug. (1905), 3. [see also advert. - 19 Aug. 1905, 2]

"*Criterion: Mrs Goldstein.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 22 Sept. (1902), 5.

"*Criterion Theatre.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 20 Sept. (1902), 7. [see also adverts. - 20 Sept. 1902, 2; 10 Oct. 1902, 2]

"*Criterion Theatre.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 4 Oct. (1902), 9. [see above]

"*John F. Sheridan Company - Mrs Dooley's Joke.*" *Northern Miner* (Charters Towers, Qld) 1 Mar. (1905), 5.

"*His Majesty's Theatre: Mrs Dooley's Joke.*" *Brisbane Courier* 10 Feb. (1905), 6.

"*Mrs Dooley's Joke.*" *Otago Witness* (Dunedin, NZ) 10 Jan. (1906), 59.

"*Mrs Dooley's Joke.*" *Wanganui Herald* (NZ) 5 Apr. (1906), 2.

"*Opera House: Mrs Dooley's Joke.*" *Wanganui Chronicle* (NZ) 6 Apr. (1906), 5.

"*Theatre Royal - Mrs Dooley's Joke.*" *West Australian* 16 Oct. (1905), 8.

CINDERELLA AND THE CRYSTAL SLIPPER: [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** John F. Sheridan et al; **Mus.** Frederick W. Weirter.

"Mr Sheridan ... and his collaborators have succeeded in introducing an old friend to the public in a new and very pleasing guise... Departing entirely from any traditional form of the story, there are introduced scenes which suggest Meyerbeer's *Robert Le Diable*, Planquette's *Rip Van Winkle* and from that downwards to *A Trip to Chinatown*. Every now and then the action of the plot - if there is a plot - is interrupted by the introduction of some little pleasantry" ("Criterion Theatre," 8).

1902: Criterion Theatre, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1902 - 30 Jan. 1903

- **Dir/Prod.** John F. Sheridan; **Cond.** F. W. Weirter; **Chor.** Minnie Hooper; **Mngr.** Frank Weatherby.
- **Cast** incl. Celia Mavis (Cinderella), Tillie Dunbar, Sydney Carden, Fred Wentworth, John F. Sheridan, Little Tim Howard, Joe Morris (Clown), Alf "Redhead" Wilson (Pantaloon).

1906: His Majesty's Theatre, Perth; 26 Dec. 1906 - 9 Jan. 1907

- **Dir.** John F. Sheridan; **Prod.** William Anderson and John F. Sheridan.
- **Cast** incl. Heba Barlow (Cinderella), Beatrice English (Prince Charming), John F. Sheridan (Baroness McTavish), Jack Hagan (Buttons), Florence Fanning (ugly sister), Gus Franks (ugly sister), Jean de Lacey (Demon), W. Lochrane (Baron McTavish), Joe Morris, Alf Wilson, T. Curran (Lord Chamberlain).

HER MAJESTY'S, **KAL-**
GOORLIE.
 Lessees, Anderson and Sheridan.
 The Great Event, Commencing
MONDAY NEXT, JANUARY 28.
SHERIDAN & ANDERSON'S
PANTOMIME.
FAIRY PANTOMIME. FAIRY
PANTOMIME.
Absolutely the Most Gigantic Attrac-
tion in Australia.
"CINDERELLA,"
"CINDERELLA,"
From the Drury Lane Theatre,
London.
"CINDERELLA,"
"CINDERELLA,"
 And the
"CRYSTAL SLIPPER."
A truly magnificent and spectac-
ular production. Popular Prices:
6/, 4/, 3/, and 2/. The box plan
opens at Nicholson's this morning
at 10 o'clock. Day sale of tickets
will be held at Herman's Arcade.
for further particulars watch future
advertisements. Frank Levy, Re-
presentative.

1907: King's Theatre, Fremantle (WA); 17-21 Jan.

- Cast and production mostly as for previous Perth season.

1907: Regional Western Australian tour; 28 Jan. -

- Cast and production mostly as for previous Perth season.
- Itinerary incl. Kalgoorlie (Her Majesty's Th; 28 Jan. - 5 Feb.)

1907: Theatre Royal, Adelaide; 23 Feb. - 8 Mar.

- Cast and production mostly as for previous Perth season.

1912: New South Wales and Queensland regional tour; ca. Mar.-Dec.

- **Prod.** Philip Lytton
- **Troupe:** Royal Pantomime Company.
- **Cast** incl. Joseph L. Lamphier, Iris Webster, Dora Rogers, Carlotta May, Mr Bertram, Mr Allen, Mr Kelly, John De Lacy, Lily Peters, Selma Messer, Arthur Headington, Fred Forty, The Four Fortescues, Wee Mac.
- Tour itinerary incl. NSW: Albury (Mar.), Tumut (Mar.), Forbes (May), Dungog (July); Queensland: Barcardine (Oct.), Townsville (Oct.), Charters Towers (Oct.), Cairns (Nov.), Townsville (Dec.), Rockhampton (Dec.)

Kalgoorlie Miner 22 Jan. (1907), 7.

1913: New South Wales and Queensland regional tour; ca. Jan. - ca. July.

- **Prod.** Philip Lytton
- **Troupe:** Royal Pantomime Company.
- **Cast** incl. Joseph L. Lamphier, Iris Webster.
- Tour itinerary incl. Queensland: Rockhampton (Jan.); New South Wales: Moss Vale (June), Grafton (July).

NB 1: At some stage during 1913 a number of changes were made to the troupe's lineup. The performers who names have not yet been identified prior to June are: Marjorie Dainton, Sophie Lee, Grace Doran, Ida Barclay, Leslie Keating, Dulcie Scott, Disy Leonard, Reg Hughes, Eric Davies. Charles Belfald, Herbert Shaw, Murray Ross, Mater Leslie Duff.

NB 2: Harry Clay has also been identified as the producer from July (*Clarence and Richmond Examiner* 15 July 1913, 1, 2; and 19 July 1913, 2).

NB 3: The *Scrutineer and Berrima District Press* (NSW) records in June that the troupe was making its way to Melbourne (11 June 191), 2), but no details regarding that engagement or any others after mid-July have yet been identified.

NB 4: The troupe's repertoire also included *Sinbad the Sailor*, *Puss in Boots* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

"**Amusements: Theatre Royal.**" *Advertiser* (Adelaide) 25 Feb. (1907), 8.

"**Amusements: Theatre Royal - Cinderella.**" *Register* (Adelaide) 25 Feb. (1907), 9.

"**Cinderella: Pantomime at His Majesty's - An Elaborate Production.**" *West Australian* 27 Dec. (1906), 3.

"**Criterion Theatre: Cinderella.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. (1902), 8.

"**Royal Pantomime Company.**" *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton) 1 Jan. (1913), 7.

DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT: [pantomime] **Lib.** William Wade; **Add Lib.** Harry Taylor and Barney Fagen; **Lyr.** Harry Taylor; **Orig Mus.** Leon Caron; **Add Mus.** [n/e]

This 1902 version of the *Dick Whittington* fable, produced by the Williamson and Musgrove organisation, was typical of the big budget pantomimes produced in Australia over the previous decade or so. Although the *Age* critic suggests that it fell short of the "remote and unattainable [pantomime] ideal," it was seen as a "more than creditable production of its class" ("Christmas," 10).

The *Age* records, too, that the book contained "some novel and interesting features... [and] served as a useful thread for fixing together the varied portions of an elaborate piece of stage work... Witticisms of well-known origin and jokes of venerable antiquity were ruthlessly cut down, and the result was that both songs and dialogues were original and very slightly reminiscent of anything that had been staged before. There was plenty of topical business, and it was perhaps, inevitable that Mr Bent's railways and Mr Shield's budget and the Prime Minister's "'Six Hatters' should find themselves memorialised before the footlights" (ibid,

10). The music, according to the *Age* critic, was tuneful and inspiring "though not quite as catchy as has been heard in some previous pantomimes.

Highlights of the production were said to be the "Popinjays" and "20th Century Girls" ballets, and a scenic sensation "The Phantom Guards," all which were "invented, written and arranged" by Barney Fagen (ibid, 10).

1902: Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1902 - 6 Feb. 1903

- **Dir.** Barney Fagen; **Prod.** J. C. Williamson and George Musgrove; **M Arr.** Leon Caron; **Cond.** J. B. Conolly;
S Art. Phil Goatcher and W. R. Coleman; **Chor.** Minnie Everett; **Cost.** Mde Beaumont; **Prpt.** Rock Phillips;
S Mngr. Thomas E. Foster.

- **Cast** incl. Maudie Thornton (Dick), Little Gulliver (The Cat), Barney Fagen (Alderman Fitzwarren), Henrietta Byron (Alice Fitzwarren), Frank Crossley (Jack Idle), Edward Lewis (Martha Mixit), Bovis Brothers (Captain Taffrail and Ben Bobstay), Bella Perman (Tommy Turner), Leslie Geeves (The Carrier), Godfrey Elkington (Emperor of Morocco), Maud Harrington (Princess), Lawrence Hanray (The Vizier), Maude Perman (Queen Cat), Irene Wallace (Hafiz), Myrtle Powell (Abdul), Kitty Henningham (Ralph), Mary Somerset (Hugh), Master Eddie McLean (Pussy Kat), Decima McLean (Tommy Kat), Miriam Lewis (Geoffrey), the Little Dartos.

"**Christmas Pantomime, The.**" *Age* 27 Dec. (1902), 10. [see also advert .- 26 Dec. 1902, 8]

"**Her Majesty's Theatre: Dick Whittington and His Cat.**" *Argus* 27 Dec. 1902, 7.

THEATRE ROYAL
Sole Lessee Mr. F. H. Pollock.
Under the management of WILLIAM ANDERSON and JOHN F. SHERIDAN.
STANLEY GRANT, Manager for J. F. Sheridan. Touring Agent, FRANK LEVY.

ATTRACTIONS EXTRAORDINARY.
TO-NIGHT, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

GRAND INITIAL PERFORMANCE.
OF THE DRURY-LANE PANTOMIME.
**CINDERELLA,
CINDERELLA,**

WILLIAM ANDERSON'S PANTOMIME COMPANY The Great Combine JOHN F. SHERIDAN'S MUSICAL COMPANY.

SOME OF THE GEMS.
THE GORGEOUS PORCELAIN MARCH.
THE GORGEOUS PORCELAIN MARCH.
It must be seen to be realised.
THE CHARMING RAINBOW BALLET.
THE CHARMING RAINBOW BALLET.
40 CORYPHEES, 40
THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN BALLET.
THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN BALLET.
20 LITTLE CHILDREN, 20
THE BEAUTIFUL SNOW BALLET.
THE BEAUTIFUL SNOW BALLET.

INTRODUCING MR. FRED NORRIS,
THE CHAMPION AMERICAN SKATER.
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GROTESQUE AND FANCY DANCES.
THE MAGNIFICENT TRANSFORMATION,
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THE FUNNY OLD-FASHIONED HARLEQUINADE, WITH MESSRS. MORRIS AND WILSON, THE FAVORITE PANTOMIMISTS.

Box-plan till 1 o'clock to-day at Marshall's Music Warehouse; after, at Dubat & Biven's, where Day Sale Tickets for all parts of Theatre can be obtained.
Prices—Dress Circle and Orchestral Stalls, 5/; Stalls, 3/; Gallery, 1/; Early Door Gallery, 1/ extra.
Representative for William Anderson JOHN FANNING.

CINDERELLA PANTOMIME.
First Matinee, Wednesday, Next, February 27.
CHILDREN HALF-PRICE TO ALL PARTS.

Advertiser (Adelaide) 23 Feb. (1907), 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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