

# 1903

*The Lady Barmaid*, which premiered at the Opera House in Southport (England) on 1 July 1895 was produced for the first time in Sydney by John F. Sheridan over twelve nights beginning 31 January. Originally written by F. W. Bowyer and W. E. Sprage to music by John Crook, this two act musical comedy is said to have contained localisations and updated comic material for its Australian revival, along with some additional new songs and music by the production's conductor/music director, Frederick Weierter. Although Australian theatre historian Eric Irvin indicates that it was staged in Australia under an alternate title, *The New Barmaid*. This was not the case for the Sydney season, and a production under that title is yet to be located. [see Eric Irvin *Dictionary of Australian Theatre: 1788-1914*; "Criterion - *The Lady Barmaid*." *Sydney Morning Herald* 2 Feb. 1903, 8; and "Criterion Theatre." *Sydney Morning Herald* 31 Jan. 1903, 15]

## SLEEPING BEAUTY AND THE BEAST; OR, MOTHER GOOSE AND THE SEVEN CHAMPIONS: [pantomime] Lib. Monty Grover; Mus. Alfred Hill

# J. C. Williamson, 1903 (program printed by J. Andrews, Sydney)

The only Christmas pantomime produced in Sydney in 1903, the title *Sleeping Beauty and the Beast* was seen as somewhat misleading as the *Beauty and the Beast* fairy tale was not actually written into the story. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reviewer pondered whether it had anything to do with the scene at the close of the last act when Prince Charming was compelled by the wicked fairy Maligna to wear a lion's head for a few minutes. The same reviewer also questioned the aptness of the term "pantomime," arguing that there was no harlequinade and therefore no dumb show ("Theatre Royal," 3).

**1903:** Theatre Royal, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1903 - 29 Jan. 1904

- **Dir.** Henry Bracy; **Prod.** J. C. Williamson; **Cond.** Alfred Hill; **S Art.** John Gordon, William Little and G. and A. Dixon; **Chor.** Minnie Everett; **Cost.** Emily Nathan; **S Mngr.** T. E. Foster.
- **Cast:** "Terrestria" - Fred Leslie (King Glorioso), Aggie Kelton (Queen Amora), Olive Lenton (Princess Beauty), Frank Crossley (Baron Fussibone), Fred Graham (Mrs H.), May Beatty (Prince Charming), Elsie Moore, Bubba Hammon, Bessie Whyte, Teresa Bourke, Ruby Armfield, Pansy Montague, Ruby Kennedy, Minnie Hooper, A. Hughes, Mr Waldorf, Elsie Baxter, Miss E. Kennedy, Miss B. Armfield, Miss R. Baxter, R. Whitfield, Sydney Ralfe, W. Rosevear, Eileen Boyd. "Cloudland" cast incl. Sara Hyman, Little Teddy McLean, J. Hughes, Maud Sefton, Aggie Thorn, Miss McDonnell, Miss Harvey, Miss Graham, Minnie Hooper, Arthur Crane (Maligna), Will Wynand (Drought), Fred Rivenhall (Dust).

"Theatre Royal - *The Sleeping Beauty and the Beast*." *Sydney Morning Herald* 28 Dec. (1903), 3.

## LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD: [pantomime] Lib. W. J. Lincoln; Orig Mus. C. G. McIntosh.

The *Argus* theatre critics reports that "the old legend of Little Red Riding Hood, revised and enlarged to meet modern requirements, has been pressed into service in an Australian setting," with "the scenery throughout [being] first class ("Bijou Theatre," 7). One of the features of the show is said to have been "the Home of the Fairies." The transformation from autumn to winter snows was seen as particularly effective, providing the backdrop for the fairies high revels concluding with a snow and ice ballet. The same critic goes on to further record: "Representatives of all the states, who attired in glittering costumes, assemble at the Commonwealth fete, bringing with them samples of the principal productions of their respective lands, and the curtain descends on the patriotic finale - 'The Shower of Gold' - the ensemble being a striking one.

**1903:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1903 - 6 Feb.

- **Prod/Lse.** Tom Perman; **Dir.** Will Perman; **S Art.** Harry Grist and John Little; **Chor.** Bella Perman; **Cost.** Lincoln, Stewart and Co; **Ast S Mngrs.** George Bruer, Will Woods and P. J. Perman.
- **Cast** incl. Bella Perman (Red Riding Hood), Maud B. Perman (Boy Blue), Harry Shine (Dame Trot), Tom Dawson (Senator Baron Frost), W. S. Perman (Pete, the Senator's dusky friend), Ted Box (Silly Billy), Johnny Cowan (Johnny Stout), Edith Maitland (Marjery Daw), Minnie Edwards (Queen Hyacinth), Cyril Iredale (Demon Wolf), P. J. Perman (Impy Fox).
- The cast reportedly comprised more than 200 performers.

"Bijou Theatre: *Little Red Riding Hood*." *Argus* 28 Dec. (1903), 7.

*Argus* 16 Dec. (1903), 12.

**B I J O U T H E A T R E .**  
Sole Lessee and Manager . . . Mr. Tom Perman.

**PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.**  
**BOXING NIGHT, DEC. 26.**  
Initial Production of the Magnificent Spectacular  
Comedy Pantomime,  
**LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD,**  
Bring an Up-to-date Version of the Fairy Story,  
adapted, localised, and written by  
W. J. LINCOLN, Esq.  
Sumptuously Costumed, Lavishly Staged,  
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**CHILDREN'S BALLETS and REVELS.**  
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Over 200 PEOPLE on the STAGE.  
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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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