

1904

No Australian-written Christmas pantomimes were produced in Sydney during the 1904/05 season. J. C. Williamson did screen over this period a bio-tableaux pantomime called *Submarina; Or, The Old Man of the Sea*, however. The origins of this film have not yet been established.

Lilly Octavia, who in the late 1890s had presented musical sketches with baritone singer Robert Boyd, had by 1904 teamed up with Dave Warne. It is not clear whether all of their sketches were narrative-driven, however. Two sketches known to have been staged by the pair during 1904, but which may possibly have been created as vaudeville-style turns were: *Military Manoeuvres* (aka *Military Maniacs*), *Family Names*, *Duffy's Parade*, and *Masqueraders* (Palace Gardens, Perth ca. Nov/Dec).

QUAINT ODDITIES: [burlesque] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

Described as Moorehouse and Mountford's burlesque extravaganza. Florence Mountford was a popular coon impersonator and mezzo-soprano balladist.

- 1904:** Temperance Hall, Melbourne; 6 Aug.
- **Prod.** Peoples Concerts.
- **Cast** incl. Ferdinand Moorehouse, Florence Mountford.

JUMBLYJOLLITIES: [burlesque] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

Described as Moorehouse and Mountford's burlesque extravaganza. Florence Mountford was a popular coon impersonator and mezzo-soprano balladist.

- 1904:** Temperance Hall, Melbourne; 13 Aug.
- **Prod.** Peoples Concerts.
- **Cast** incl. Ferdinand Moorehouse, Florence Mountford.

OLD WORLD REMINISCENCES: [burlesque] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

Described as Moorehouse and Mountford's burlesque extravaganza. Florence Mountford was a popular coon impersonator and mezzo-soprano balladist.

- 1904:** Temperance Hall, Melbourne; 27 Aug.
- **Prod.** Peoples Concerts.
- **Cast** incl. Ferdinand Moorehouse, Florence Mountford.

SINBAD THE SAILOR; OR, THE FAIRY OF THE DIAMOND VALLEY: [pantomime]

Lib/Lyr. George V. Allen; **Add Lib/Lyr.** Ivan A Rosenblum and Alf Lumsden (Melbourne) and W. T. Goodge (Sydney);
Mus incl. George Leopold

William Anderson's 1904 pantomime spectacular was staged to a libretto by well-known journalist George V. Allen, with "additional numbers by Ivan Rosenblum. Local references in the Melbourne season included the Butter Commission, income tax, Mr Tavenor, the Factories Act, the Metropolitan Board of Works and several local and Australian celebrities. The *Theatre Magazine* notes, however, that *Sinbad* was being thoroughly revised, localised and brought up-to-date... [by] well-known local writer," W. T. Goodge for its Sydney season in 1905/06 ("Christmas Pantomime," 4).

Sinbad was the first Christmas extravaganza mounted by William Anderson in Australia. The 1905 Sydney season also marked the return of pantomime to the Sydney stage "after a lapse of some time." The production, which Anderson promoted as being "pre-eminently of the old-fashioned order of English pantomime, differing in many ways from the ordinary extravaganza of more recent productions" (*Sydney Morning Herald* 23 Dec 1905, 2), starred English burlesque and pantomime actress Marie Campbell. Both the *Age* ("Theatre Royal," 9) and *West Australian* ("Musical and Dramatic," 9) note, however, that *Sinbad* was "a truly Australian product."

The music, largely composed, selected and arranged by George Leopold, included one song "Reina" sung by Celia Mavis, which was originally composed for Reina Belasco by Mr von der Medren, a nephew of the well-known conductor of the same name. Other songs incorporated into the narrative include: "The Lilly of the Valley" and "My Home, Dear" (sung by Elaine Ravensburg) and "What Do They Want to Talk about It For?" (Bert Bailey).

Highlights of the production are said to have included: "The Ballet of Sea Nymphs," "The March of All Nations" and Rege Robbin's spectacular settings: "The Glade of the Fairy Mushrooms," "The Home of Neptune" (showing the wonders of the deep), "The Harem of the King," "The Valley of the Diamonds," "The Golden Wheat Ballet" and the transformation scene "From Flowers to Fairyland."

Minnie Topping, one of the ballerinas in *Sinbad the Sailor*.
Table Talk 16 Feb. (1905), 10.



- 1904:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 24 Dec. 1904 - 16 Feb. 1905
 - **Dir/Chor.** John Wallace; **Prod.** William Anderson; **Lse.** Bland Holt; **Cond.** George Leopold; **S Art.** Rege Robins; **Cost.** Madame Stafford and Lincoln, Stuart and Co; **S Mngr.** W. Ascott; **Add Chor.** Maud Cosham.
 - **Cast** incl. Elaine Ravensburg (Sinbad), May Pollard (Princess Badoura), Bert Bailey (Hinbad), Fred Graham (Mrs Sinbad), Charles Bates (Lonely Tramp), Stella Ranger (Fairy Queen), Nina Rochester (Princess Araminta), Frank Crossley (Ben Bunk), George Dean (Dick Daring), Florrie Barnes (Zoe), Walter Rivers (Hassan), Fred Wentworth (Captain Traffail), Victor Dougall (King Kopax), Tillie Woodlock, Kate Stephens, Joe Morris and Alf Wilson, Ted Lennon, Frank Hyman, Bert Lennon, Rosalie Dodds, Bert Bradley, Dot Montague, Emily Dellamare, Isa Millet, Freda Mahr, Maud Cosham, Master R. Bond, Marle Finlay, Master H. Nathan, Little Stella Dodds.
- 1905:** Theatre Royal, Sydney; 23 Dec. 1905 - ca. Feb. 1906
 - **Prod.** William Anderson; **Lse.** J. C. Williamson; **Cond.** George Leopold; **S Art.** Rege Robins; **Chor.** Maud Cosham; **Cost.** Madame Stafford and Lincoln, Stuart and Co; **S Mngr.** Richard Goodall; **Ast S Mngr.** Walter Rivers; **B Mngr.** Julius Grant.
 - **Cast** incl. Marie Campbell (Sinbad), Alice Pollard (Princess Badoura), Harry Quealy (Mrs Sinbad), Bert Bailey (Hinbad), George Dean, Fred Wentworth, Todd Calloway, Ralph Bicknell, Florrie Johnson, Walter Rivers, Len Hartz, Edward Silveni, D. C. Jenvrin, Ted Lennon, Frank Hyman, Bert Lennon, Joe Morris, Alf Wilson, Maud Thornton, Edith Maitland, Celia Mavis, Lizette Parkes, Nina Rochester, Maud Cosham, Madaline Ashton, Lena Hendrichs, Nellie Huntley, Lilian Sands, Little Lillie Whyte, Master Seaton, Little Louise Carabasse, Max Dent, Power Brothers, the Bicknells.
 - A second edition of the pantomime was staged from late January.
- 1905:** East Coast regional tour (New South Wales/Victoria); ca. Feb/Mar.
 - Itinerary incl. Broken Hill, Ballarat, Geelong and Bendigo.
- 1905:** Theatre Royal, Adelaide; ca. Apr/May [3 week season]
 - Advertising in the *West Australian* indicates that the Adelaide season was attended by over 60,000 people (16 May 1905, 1).
 - Cast and production possibly as for the Perth 1905 season.
- 1905:** Western Australian regional tour; ca. May-June
 - **Dir.** John Wallace; **Prod.** William Anderson; **Cond.** George Leopold; **S Art.** Rege Robbins; **B Mngr.** Julius Grant.
 - **Cast** incl. Elaine Ravensberg (Sinbad), Charles Albert (Mrs Sinbad), Bert Bailey (Hinbad), Charles P. Bates (Lonely Tramp), Morris and Wilson, Lenton Brothers, Minnie Topping, Isa Millet, Maud Cosham, Tily Woodcock.
 - Itinerary incl. Perth (His Majesty's Theatre; 15- 27 May) • Kalgoorlie (31 May -) • Fremantle (Kings Theatre; 14-20 June)
- 1906:** New Zealand Dominion tour, (begins Princess Theatre, Dunedin); ca. Apr. (Easter Saturday)
 - **Prod.** William Anderson; **T Mngr.** Michael Joseph.
 - **Cast** incl. Marie Campbell (Sinbad), Fred Graham (Mrs Sinbad), Harry Quealy (Hinbad), Celia Mavis, Nellie Dent (Princess Araminta), George Dean (Lonely Tramp), the Bicknells.

"Christmas Pantomime: *Sinbad the Sailor*, The." *Theatre Magazine* Nov. (1905), 4.
 "**Musical and Dramatic Notes.**" *West Australian* 31 Dec. (1904), 11.
 "**Musical and Dramatic Notes.**" *West Australian* 9 Jan. (1905), 5.
 "**Music and Drama.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 24 Dec. (1904), 4.
 "New Zealand Notes." *Theatre Magazine* July (1906), 18-19.
 "**Pantomime at His Majesty's Theatre.**" *West Australian* 17 May (1905), 9. [see also advert. - 16 May 1905, 1.]
 "**Pantomime at the Royal.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 25 Dec. (1905), 3.
 "**Royal Theatre Pantomime, The.**" *Age* 27 Dec. (1904), 9. [see also adverts. - 24 Dec. 1904, 16; 31 Dec. 1904, 12]
 "Theatrical Review of the Month." *Theatre Magazine* Jan. (1906), 26.
Theatre Magazine Jan. (1906), v. pags. Photographs.

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