

1908

1908 saw the arrival in Australia of composer/music director Victor Champion. Contracted by Clarke, Meynell and Gunn to oversee the musical direction of his 1907 London pantomime *Cinderella* for a season in Melbourne, Champion remained with the company until it merged with J. C. Williamson's in 1911. He was subsequently associated with "the Firm" until his death. The pantomime's co-writer, Stanley Rogers was also linked to Australia, with several of his later works also being staged in the country. [NB: *Cinderella* is not included in the AVTA as there is no evidence that it was localised or updated for Australian audiences]

J. C. Williamson also staged J. Hickory Wood's hit London pantomime *Jack and Jill* (1907) in Melbourne at Christmas. Interestingly, the only pantomime produced in Sydney at Christmas was Edwin Geach's juvenile production of *Robinson Crusoe* (see 1907 entry for details).

A three act grand spectacular pantomime entitled *Fairy Dell; Or, The Enchanted Dell* was produced at the Royal Princess's Theatre, Bendigo (Victoria) beginning 4 December by 200 past and present students of St Killan's Girls' School. The origins of the libretto and music are currently unknown.

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