

ROLLA OF OURS; OR, THE SHAMEFUL GOINGS-ON OF THE SPANIARDS IN

PERU: [burlesque] **Txt Adapt.** W. M. Akhurst; **Mus.** B. Thorn

South Australian General Printing Office (*Mercury and South Australian Sporting Chronicle*), 1851

A burlesque on *Pizarro* by R. B. Sheridan, *Rolla of Ours* ruthlessly exposes the faults and follies of the local government then in power. Shortly after this production the Irish tragedian Gustavus Vaughan Brooke appeared as Rolla at the Queen's Theatre in a dramatic version. The *Argus* made the comment, however, that the burlesque version was still so fresh in the minds of the audience that it was "difficult in looking on the drama, to forget the parody; and to avoid being moved to laughter, instead of tears, at the most touching passages" (27 Apr. 1855, 5).

The burlesque was first made public in 1851 when Adelaide's *Mercury and South Australian Sporting Chronicle* published it in installments (15 February and 8 March). No details of a stage production prior to 1855 have yet been located.

1855: Queen's Theatre, Melbourne; 8-11, 17, 24 Jan., 8 Mar.

- **M Arr.** B. Thom; **S Art.** William Pitt.

- **Cast:** Fanny Young, Mrs C. Young, Harriet Gordon [Hyde], Charles Young, Mr Burford, Mr Webster, J. P. Hydes, G. H. Rogers, Mr Ward, J. Chambers.

1858: Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 19-22 Jan.

- **Cast** incl. Mrs Phillips, Mrs Charles Poole, Miss Morgan, Mr Younge, Mr Lambert, W. H. Stephens, Robert McGowan. NB: Cast for the benefit production incl. George Coppin and Mr Farquharson.

"[Domestic Intelligence: Rolla of Ours.](#)" *Argus* 8 Jan. (1855), 5.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. [Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869.](#) (1995), v. pages.

"[Domestic Intelligence: The Queen's Theatre.](#)" *Age* 9 Jan. (1855), 5.

"[Queen's Theatre – The New Burlesque.](#)" *Argus* 9 Jan. (1855), 5.

"[Theatre Royal.](#)" *Argus* 20 Jan. (1858), 5.

Q U E E N ' S T H E A T R E
 Thursday Evening, 8th March.
Second Week of the Great Tragedian!
 Mr. G. V. Brooke,
 Supported by Miss Fanny Cathcart, and Mr.
 R. Younge, from the Theatre Royal,
 Drury Lane, London.
 On Thursday Evening, 8th March,
 Will be presented the celebrated Play, in 5 Acts,
 entitled,
THE STRANGER.
 The Stranger Mr. G. V. Brooke
 Baron Steinfort Mr. R. Younge
 Mrs. Haller Miss Fanny Cathcart.
 To conclude with the successful Burlesque,
 entitled,
ROLLA OF OURS;
Or, The Shameful Goings on of the Spaniards in
Peru.
 Being a colonial version of Sheridan's "Pizarro,
 revised and previous errors corrected and ex-
 plained, in a lucid manner, by Messrs Young,
 Hydes and Company. Music by Mr. B. Thom.
 3608

Argus 8 Mar. (1855), 8.