

# 1857

Joseph Simmonds, lessee and manager of Sydney's Royal Victoria Theatre, presented *Beauty and the Beast* as a second part entertainment over the 1857 Christmas and 1858 New Year holiday period. The authorship and/or origins of this pantomime are yet to be determined.

## PONG WONG THE MANDARIN: [burlesque] Txt. H. T. Craven; Mus. [n/e]

Advertised in the *Argus* and *Age* as a "new Chinese extravaganza," this burlesque by Henry Thornton Craven includes music and dances (*Age* 24 Feb. 1857, 1; *Argus* 24 Feb. 1857, 8).

**1857:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 24-26 Feb.

- **Cast** incl. H. T. Craven, Mrs H. T. Craven, Miss Green, Mr Stebinger, Mr McGowan.

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

(1995), v. pags.

"[Theatricals and Music: Theatre Royal](#)." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* 28 Feb. (1857), 2.

**T H E A T R E R O Y A L.**

For the First Time will be produced a New Chinese Extravaganza, entitled  
**PONG WONG THE MANDARIN.**  
Most Positively the Last Two Nights of  
**THE PROPHET.**

On **TUESDAY EVENING,**  
February 24th,  
**T H E P R O P H E T.**  
To conclude with a New Musical Chinese Extravaganza, by Mr. H. T. Craven, entitled  
**P O N G W O N G.**

*Argus* 24 Feb. (1857), 8.

## THE MELBOURNE HUNT; OR, A CLUB NIGHT AT CHELTENHAM: [musical entertainment] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

Advertised in the *Argus* as a "sketch" produced "under the patronage of the Melbourne Hunt Club," this musical entertainment included on-stage equestrian feats, and G. V. Brooke playing two Irish characters, one being a sporting identity, Prince O'Hara.

**1857:** Theatre Royal, Sydney; 28 May

- Prod. George Coppin

- **Cast** incl. George Coppin, George Watson, Thomas Nunn and Members of the Melbourne Hunt.

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

[Argus](#) 23 May (1857), 8. Advert.

## FORTUNIO; OR, THE SEVEN GIFTED SERVANTS: [pantomime] Lib Adapt/Mus. [n/e]

Adapted from James Robinson Planché's extravaganza *Fortunio; Or, The Seven Gifted Servants*, this 'Grand Musical Fairy Extravaganza,' is described in the *Age* as being 'as old as the hills, as old as our grandfathers and grandmothers [and] a chef d'oeuvre of the "Child's Own Book" imprinted indelibly in the memory'. The storyline follows the adventures of three sisters who disguise themselves as men. One of the women, Myrtina, obtains the goodwill and assistance of Fairy Favourable and assumes the name and arms of Fortunio. During the course of the story she battles a dragon and becomes 'confounded by the feats and powers of the seven gifted servants.' The burlesque ends 'in the most approved manner [when Fortunio is] revealed in his true character, as the fair, the chaste, the inexpressive, [and thus] espouses the King Alfourite' (28 Dec. 1857 5-6). The *Argus* theatre critic records that the production contained 'local hits, songs and adaptations' - with the topicalities aimed at subjects such as the Land Bill, the City Council and the Squatters (28 December 1857. 5). In this respect, too, the *Age* review notes that the local hits were occasionally telling. 'There is a song about the Yan Yean,' writes the critic, 'and another about the Land Bill, the latter of which sung, with great point by Miss Joey, was re-demanded. The City Council, the squatters and other celebrities got their share of the wit of the piece, and in turn elicited loud laughter' (6).

**P R I N C E S S ' S T H E A T R E .**

The Sisters  
**ADELAIDE and JOEY GOUGENHEIM**  
In the magnificent Two-Act Burlesque of  
**FORTUNIO ;**  
OR,  
**THE SEVEN GIFTED SERVANTS.**

Princess Vindictu .. .. Miss Adelaide.  
**Myrtina** (assuming the name and  
arms of Fortunio) .. .. Miss Joey.

A beautiful new Drop Curtain has been painted.  
The house has been thoroughly ventilated, and every-  
thing that an earnest desire to please could suggest has  
been done to render the Princess's the most attractive  
and comfortable in Melbourne. 133

*Argus* 28 Dec. (1857), 8.

While the authorship of the localisations remains uncredited, it is likely that George Fawcett had a hand in their creation. Although his name is not mentioned in any reviews for this production, Fawcett was engaged by the Gougenheim's throughout much of their Princess's season, and is known to have adapted and localised material for his own role in their production of *Beauty and the Beast*.

**1857:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1857 - 9 Jan. 1858

- **Lse/Prod.** Josephine [aka Joey] Gougenheim; **Cond.** Mr Megson.

- **Cast** incl. Adelaide Gougenheim (Princess Vindicata), Josephine Gougenheim (Myrtina), Mrs Lachlan McGowan (Pertina), Miss Forrest (Kirtina), Miss Glyndon (Fairy Favourable), Mde Lee (dancer), Josephine Lee (dancer), Mr Rogers (Emperor Matapa the Merciless), Henry Warner (King Alfourite), Mr Downey (Baron Dunover).

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pags.

"[Princess's](#)." *Age* 28 Dec. (1857), 5-6.

"[Princess's](#)." *Argus* 28 Dec. (1857), 5.

"[Theatricals and Music: Princess's Theatre](#)." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* 2 Jan. (1858), 2.

## HARLEQUIN WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT: [pantomime] Lib. W. M. Akhurst; Mus. Frederick Coppin

Comprising many local allusions and operatic parodies, the pantomime begins with Circe who is being imprisoned by the fairy Homogenia until she consents to yield control over the destiny of Australia. Circe is then transformed into Whittington's cat, thus heralding the start of the traditional story. Concerning Akhurst's libretto, the *Age* reviewer writes: "the plot we do not pretend to understand, and probably it is not at all desirable that we should. It is a bustling piece of amusement throughout... full of incident and point, and plentifully seasoned with local hits, though we suppose the author will not fail to introduce many more as [the burlesque] runs its course" (28 Dec. 1857, 5). *Bell's Life in Victoria's* theatre critic was similarly impressed by the production. "The opening is very smartly written, and the episodes are well brought in," he records. "Some of the allusions to current topics are extremely clever; and, as a matter of course, were well received by the audience. In fact, in the present temper of the Melbourne public, anything which hits Peter Davis, or the Australian mail, is sure of a round. *Whittington* is certainly the best pantomime yet written in Melbourne, and we anticipate for it a long run" (2 January 1858, 2).

The Leopold family, who included Frauline Fannie, provided much of the dance specialties. These included imitations of several celebrities, notably Fanny Ellsler, Taglioni and Lucille Grahn. Other highlights of the show were reportedly George Coppin's "The Artful Dodge," Mr Lambert's "My Friend from Leatherhead," and "Uncle John" by W. H. Stephens. Mr McGowan's travesty of Donizetti's principal heroine and Mr Leslie's "nautical and naughty man of the same period" were also roles deemed worthy of note by several reviewers.

**1857:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1857 - 23 Jan. 1858 [21 pfms]

- **Dir.** Richard Younge and Tom Leopold; **Prod.** George Coppin; **M Arr.** Frederick Coppin; **S Art.** William Pitt, Charles Fry and W. J. Wilson; **Chor.** Henry Leopold, **Cost.** Tilly Earl.

- **Cast** incl. Mde Strebinger, Mrs Robert McGowan, Robert McGowan (Lucrezia Bodger) Frau. Fannie [Mrs Tom Leopold] (Columbine), Tilly Earl, Miss Morgan, Miss Mortimer, Miss Green, Henry Leopold (Harlequin), Tom Leopold (Clown), George Leopold (Pantaloon), Mr Leslie, Mr Webster (Monarch of Rattatoo), George Coppin, Mr Lambert, W. H. Stephens.

- The benefit performance, held on 18 January 1858, was presented to William Akhurst.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pags.

"[Theatre Royal](#)." *Age* 28 Dec. (1857), 5.

"[Theatre Royal](#)." *Argus* 18 Jan. (1858), 5. [see also advert. - 26 Dec. 1857, 8.]

"[Theatricals and Music: Theatre Royal](#)." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* 2 Jan. (1858) 2.

## BARON MUNCHAUSEN; OR, HARLEQUIN AND THE GENII OF THE GREEN ISLAND: [pantomime] Lib/Mus. [n/e]

The story begins in the 'Enchanted Land of Refulgent Delight where Ethelinda is in durance vile, and the Green Wizard expresses himself in very strong language about Baron Munchausen, who is endeavouring to obtain her release'. "Several extraordinary events [then] take place, such as the Baron being fired out of a cannon, his horse appearing at the top of a steeple, a flying pig appearing on the stage, and other monstrosities too numerous to mention. The Baron is just about achieving his objective when the Wizard prevents him, and of course the Fairy appears and the fun of the evening commences" (*Bell's Life in Victoria* 2 Jan. 1858, 2).

The chief scenes in the Harlequinade were the Cremorne Gardens (which included a galop dance), the 'Free Trade Hotel', and 'Saltern's Haircutting Salon'.

**1857:** Montezuma Theatre, Ballarat (Victoria), 26 Dec. 1857 - ca. Jan. 1858.

- **Cast** incl. Miss Chambers (Ethelinda/Columbine), Mr Shearcroft (Wizard), Mr Birch (Baron Munchausen), Mrs Ray (Fairy), J. Chambers (Harlequin), Charles Walsh (Clown), D. Golding (Pantaloon).

*Star* (Ballarat) 25 Dec. (1857), 3. Advert.

"[Theatricals and Music: Provincial](#)." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* 2 Jan. (1858), 2. [incl. selections from the libretto and lyrics]

*Star* (Ballarat) 25 Dec. (1857), 3.

**T H E A T R E R O Y A L**  
First Night of a  
New Local Christmas  
P A N T O M I M E !  
First Night of the  
Celebrated Continental Pantomimists,  
THE LEOPOLD FAMILY,  
Engaged by Mr. G. Coppin expressly for this  
Pantomime.  
SATURDAY, 26th DECEMBER,  
Will be presented the Serio-Comic Drama, entitled  
A NIGHT DURING THE REVOLUTION.  
To conclude with a Grand Comic Local Christmas  
Pantomime, entitled,  
**HARLEQUIN WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT.**  
(Written by Mr. W. M. Akhurst)  
Author of the former successful Pantomimes pro-  
duced under Mr. Coppin's Management.  
The Overture, Incidental, and Appropriate Music,  
composed and arranged by Mr. F. Coppin.

*Argus* 28 Dec. (1857), 8.

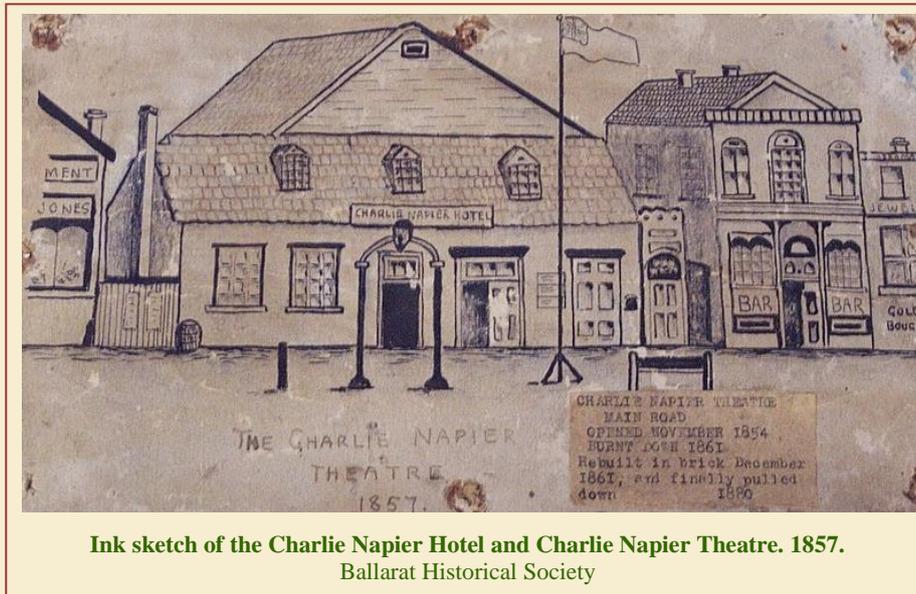
**MONTEZUMA THEATRE.**  
Under the direction of Mr J. P. HYDES.  
SATURDAY EVENING.  
Boxing Night.  
Under the especial patronage of  
**MISS MARY PROVOST.**  
The evening's entertainments will commence  
with a new Pantomime, entitled  
**BARON MUNCHAUSEN;**  
OR,  
**HARLEQUIN AND THE GENII  
OF THE GREEN ISLAND!**  
Supported by the best Pantomimists in  
Australia.  
Harlequin..... Mr J. Chambers, Jun.  
Columbine..... Miss Mina Chambers.  
Clown ..... Mr Charles Walsh.  
Pantaloon..... Mr D. Golding,  
**See the Pantomime, and Ruin the  
Doctors!**  
Dress Circle, 5s. Boxes, 3s. Stalls, 2s Pit, 1s.

# RUMCOONIO AND HIS FOUR COLONIAL SERVANTS; OR THE STARRY HOME OF THE FAIRY OF THE CRYSTAL FOUNTAIN: [burlesque] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

A burlesque-style extravaganza with music.

- 1857:** Charlie Napier Theatre, Ballarat (Victoria); 28 Dec. 1857 - 1 Jan. 1858  
- **Troupe:** Nelson Sisters; **S Art.** Henry Holmes.  
- **Cast** incl. Carry, Marie and Sara Nelson, Alfred Nelson, J. R. Greville.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pags.  
*Star* (Ballarat) 25 Dec. (1857), 3. Advert.  
"Charlie Napier, Ballarat." [sic] *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* 2 Jan. (1858), 2.



**Ink sketch of the Charlie Napier Hotel and Charlie Napier Theatre. 1857.**  
Ballarat Historical Society

Last updated: 25/04/2016

Expanded and updated from Clay Djubal, "What Oh Tonight" (Appendix C), Ph D Diss (2005) U of Qld.

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