

THEATRE ROYAL LEEDS



FRANCIS LAIDLER

FINAL PERFORMANCE

30th MARCH, 1957



GWLADYS STANLEY LAIDLER

-18-19-21 -22 -23 -24 -25 -26 -27 -28 -29 -30 -31 -32

The Theatre Royal Story.

The Theatre Royal, Leeds, has without doubt a most distinguished history. It was built in 1878 on the site of the old Amphitheatre which had been burned down 2 years before. It was born in time to go through some of theatreland's most rumbustious days, the days of sawdust, deal boards and doses of blood and thunder drama. Even in those early days the theatre-going public had an occasional treat in the appearance of famous Shakespearean actors; Osmund Tearle, Esmund Tearle, Kate Clinton. Mr. Laidler became the Lessee in 1909 and he began transforming the old melodrama house into a Number One theatre. His first Pantomime production 1909/10 was "Babes in the Wood" starring Florrie Forde. From that date until his death in 1955 his Annual Pantomimes became the most famous in the North of England. Many of these Pantomimes enjoyed record-breaking runs, in particular "Humpty Dumpty" of 1945 with Norman Evans and Betty Jumel ran 22 weeks from December until Whitsuntide, a record which stands today and is unlikely to be broken, but the biggest success financially was the season of Wilfred Pickles in "Cinderella" 1949.

For the last two years the tradition has been continued with "Pantomime at its most brilliant" (vide Press) by his widow, famous Principal Boy, Gwladys Stanley, whose superb production "Queen of Hearts" will take the final curtain. It is interesting to record that Mrs. Laidler made her debut as Principal Boy at the Royal and, in fact, she made more appearances as Principal Boy here than any other artiste. Many other famous Principal Boys and Comedians have appeared in Royal Pantomimes; the following come to mind:—

NORAH BLANEY VIOLET BLYTHE NORA DELANY ANITA ELSON NORMAN EVANS CORA GOFFIN
HETTY KING
GEORGE LACY
MARGERY MANNERS
CLARICE MAYNE

ALBERT MODLEY WILFRED PICKLES SANDY POWELL ELLA RETFORD CISSIE SULLIVAN

The vintage years of the theatre were without doubt the twenties and thirties when the Royal enjoyed being one of the most important dates on the No. 1 Tours. During those years many of our greatest stars came to this theatre.

ELIZABETH ALLAN YVONNE ARNAUD TALLULAH BANKHEAD MARIE BLANCHE CARL BRISSON LILIAN BRAITHWAITE JACK BUCHANAN JOSE COLLINS FAY COMPTON ANNE CROFT ZENA DARE PHYLLIS DARE ALICE DELYSIA HENRY EDWARDS LILY ELSIE ISOBEL ELSOM GRACIE FIELDS

MARY GLYNNE

GEORGE GROSSMITH BINNIE HALE SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE LESLIE HENSON SIR SEYMOUR HICKS IRIS HOEY LESLIE HOWARD BOBBY HOWES URSULA JEANS RENEE KELLY NELSON KEYS NERVO & KNOX FRANK LAWTON CHARLES LAUGHTON VIOLET LORRAINE DIANA MANNERS SIR GERALD DU MAURIER MARIE NEY
IVOR NOVELLO
PEGGY O'NEIL
ANNA PAVLOVA
ELSIE RANDOLPH
ARTHUR RISCOE
PAUL ROBESON
GEORGE ROBEY
ATHENE SEYLER
MARIE TEMPEST
DENNIS NEILSON-TERRY
SYBIL THORNDYKE
VIOLET TREE
NAUNTON WAYNE
HARRY WELCHMAN
CHRISSIE WHITE

Opera too has played a most important part at the Royal—Covent Garden, British National and numerous visits from Carl Rosa have graced the stage of this most intimate theatre. Since 1935 the staple entertainment provided has been Pantomime and Repertory. In the middle thirties touring attractions were difficult to obtain and if theatres were to remain open some type of entertainment other than touring shows had to be introduced; twice-nightly repertory as we know it today was born. The Terence Byron Company, the Arthur Rees London Players, and The Knightsbridge Players blazed the trail for the success of Repertory. It was not however until Arthur Brough came to the Theatre in 1936 that Repertory became really established. For four years the Arthur Brough Players delighted Royal audiences and then in 1939, the blow fell—the outbreak of war—Arthur Brough and his Players disbanded and in 1940 came Harry Hanson's Court Players to a theatre now established as one of the most important Repertory theatres in the Country. For seventeen successive years between Pantomime seasons The Court Players have endeared themselves to Leeds audiences—in June the Players open at the Leeds Civic Theatre and we wish them every success in their new home.

OWEN NARES

Throughout the years the Theatre Royal has had a firm place in the affection of all theatregoers and Pantomime lovers, not only in Leeds, but throughout the North, but now we

" Ring Down the Curtain."

THEATRE ROYAL LEEDS

Managing Director - GWLADYS STANLEY LAIDLER, M.B.E.

Secretary - - - ROWLAND HILL

Acting Manager: S. B. DERRICK Box Office Manager: GUS DAWSON



Gwladys Stanley Laidler

presents

AN ORIGINAL AND ULTRA MODERN PANTOMIME



THE PANTOMIME WITH A DIFFERENCE

FINAL PERFORMANCE

Saturday, March 30th, 1957





JOKER

LADYBIRD

TWO OF CLUBS

NINA, Desta's Daughter

THE YELLOW DWARF

JACK, the Knave of Hearts

DAVY CROCKETT _____

THE VALET TO THE KING

THE KING OF HEARTS

THE IS JOHN TILLER GIRLS

GIPSY DESTA, Queen of the GIPSIES

GEPPO, a Singing Gipsy, Son of Desta

ANN HOWARD



BUNNY MAY



RY MILLA



JAMES RUDDY

THEATRE ROYAL

BUNNY MAY

SANDRA ALFRED

LIESL JOHNSON

GEORGE MALPAS

__ JIMMY PAIGE

CAL McCORD

FRANK MITCHELL

TERRY SOMMERVILLE

HERSELF

JAMES RUDDY

MARY MILLAR

SEASON 1956-57

LEEDS

Scenes

INTERVAL

CURTAIN

WEEM of HEARTS



OVERTURE

11

12

14

15

17

18

SCENE I



.... A CORNER OF A ROOM

THE PALACE OF HEARTS

ON THE WAY TO THE TOURNAMENT

THE TOURNAMENT
OUTSIDE THE INN

___ THE FOREST
THE PALACE GATES

INSIDE THE INN THE GIPSY ENCAMPMENT

__ THE BETROTHAL

THE QUEEN'S HALL THE VILLAGE OF HEARTS

.... THE QUEEN'S KITCHEN

___ THE COURTYARD

__ THE CASTLE OF CARDS

.... THE WOOD
NEAR THE CASTLE





THE FIVE BARRANI





EDDIE HENDERSON THE QUEEN OF HEARTS MARQUIS de LAUNAY ANN HOWARD THE WHISTLER SHEILA KAYE

THE GEORGE MITCHELL QUARTET THE FIVE BARRANI

Characters

THE ROSELLI SINGING LADIES THE 16 JOHN TILLER GIRLS THE 12 LITTLE SUNBEAMS

	STAGE DIRECTOR	1000		FRANK MITCHELL	
	ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	1000		GEORGE H. MALPAS	
	WARDROBE MISTRESS	e011		ETHEL MORTHRON	
	BALLET MISTRESS and SUPERVISOR			BETTY ALGAR	
	AUGMENTED ORCHESTRA under the	direction	of	WILLIAM BRIGHTWELL	
_			110	CHOREGENER	į.

CHOREOGRAPHY by PAPHNE KIERNANDER



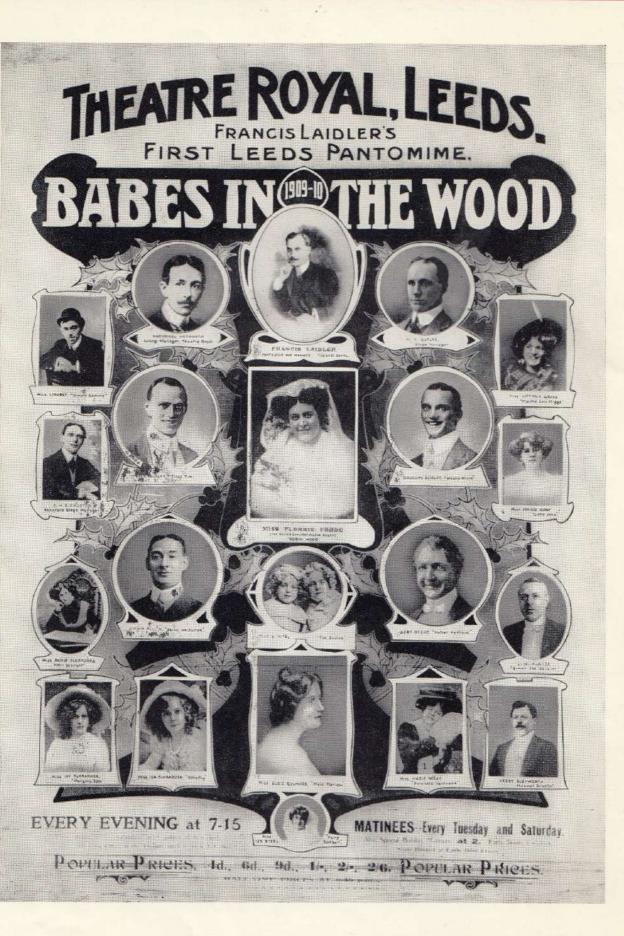
In accordance with the requirement of the Watch Committee of the Leeds Clean Council;



THE 12 LITTLE SUNBEAMS



TERRY SOMMERVILLE



utographs of the Stars. Gwlady Staubry Laidler Y Voue Arwand, Noran Blaney

Theatre Royal, Leeds. Pantomimes.

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FRANCIS LAIDLER
 SEASON.
1909/1910
              "THE BABES IN THE WOOD" with Florrie Forde
              "FORTY THIEVES"
1910/1911
              "CINDERELLA"
1911/1912
1912/1913
              "DICK WHITTINGTON"
              "ALADDIN"
1913/1914
              "CINDERELLA"
1914/1915
              "ROBINSON CRUSOE"
1915/1916
              "CINDERELLA"
1916/1917
              "DICK WHITTINGTON"
1917/1918
              "ROBIN HOOD AND THE BABES IN THE WOOD"
1918/1919
              "ALADDIN"
1919/1920
              "THE BABES IN THE WOOD"
1920/1921
              "ALADDIN"
1921/1922
              "CINDERELLA"
1922/1923
         *****
              "DICK WHITTINGTON"
1923/1924
1924 (Summer)
             "ALADDIN"
              "RED RIDING HOOD"
1924/1925
              "ROBINSON CRUSOE"
1925/1926
              "THE BABES IN THE WOOD"
1926/1927
              "ALADDIN"
1927/1928
              "CINDERELLA"
1928/1929
              "MOTHER GOOSE"
1929/1930
              "JACK AND THE BEANSTALK"
1930/1931
              "DICK WHITTINGTON"
1931/1932
              "Нимрту Димрту"
1932/1933
              "CINDERELLA"
1933/1934
              "MOTHER GOOSE
1934/1935
              "RED RIDING HOOD"
1935/1936
              "THE BABES IN THE WOOD"
1936/1937
              "ALADDIN"
1937/1938
              "CINDERELLA"
1938/1939
              "JACK AND THE BEANSTALK"
1939/1940
1940/1941
              "THE BABES IN THE WOOD"
1941/1942
              "MOTHER GOOSE"
              "ALADDIN
1942/1943
              "CINDERELLA"
1943/1944
              "HUMPTY DUMPTY"
1944/1945
              "MOTHER GOOSE"
1945/1946
              "JACK AND THE BEANSTALK"
1946/1947
              "RED RIDING HOOD"
1947/1948
              "CINDERELLA"
1948/1949
              "ALADDIN"
1949/1950
              "HUMPTY DUMPTY"
1950/1951
              "MOTHER GOOSE"
1951/1952
              "CINDERELLA"
1952/1953
              "RED RIDING HOOD"
1953/1954
              "THE BABES IN THE WOOD"
1954/1955 .....
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DEVISED AND PRODUCED BY GWLADYS STANLEY LAIDLER

1955/1956 "The Sleeping Beauty" 1956/1957 "Queen Of Hearts"