THEATRE ROYAL
LEEDS

FRANCIS LAIDLER

FINAL PERFORMANCE
30TH MARCH, 1957

GWLADYS STANLEY LAIDLER
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 the theatreland’s most tumultuous days, the days of swindlers, deal boards and doses of blood and thunder dramas. Even in those early days the theatre-going public had an occasional treat in the appearance of famous Shakespearean actors: Osmond Tearle, Esmond Tearle, Kate Clinton. Mr. Ladder 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 “Baby in the Wood” starring Portia Forrester. 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 Jemmett ran 28 weeks at the Theatre Which is a record which stands today and is unlikely ever 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. Ladder 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 came to mind:—

NORAH BLANEY — CORA GOFFIN — ALBERT MOSELEY
VIOLET BRYTHIE — HEFFIE KING — WILFRID PICKLES
NORA DELANY — GEORGE LACY — SANDY POWELL
ANITA ELSON — MARGERY MANNERS — ELLA REID
NORMAN EVANS — CLARICE MAYNE — 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 Tour. During those years many of our greatest stars came to this theatre.

ELIZABETH ALLAN — GEORGE GROSMITH — MAURIE NEY
YVONNE ARNAUD — BONNIE HALE — IVOR NOVELLO
TALLULAH BANKHEAD — SIR CREICH HARDWICKE — PEGGY O’NEIL
MARIE BIANCHI — LESLIE HENSON — ANNA PAVLOVA
CARL BRISON — SIR SEYMOUR HICKS — ELSIE RANDOLPH
LILIAN BRADWYATT — IRENE HUDSON — ARTHUR RISCOR
JACK BUCHANAN — LESLIE HOWARD — PAMEL ROBSON
JOSE COLLINS — BOBBY HOMES — GEORGE ROSEY
FAY COMPTON — URSULA JEANS — ATTIE SPETER
ANNE COX — RENEE KELLY — MARIE TEMPLE
ZENA DARE — NELSON KEYS — DENNIS NELSON-TERRY
PHYLLIS DARE — NERVO & KNOX — SYRIL THORNDYKE
ALICE DELISHA — FRANK LAVON — VIOLET TREC
HENRY EDWARDS — CHARLES LAUGHTON — NAULTON WAYNE
LILY ELSIE — VIOLET LORAINNE — HARRY WELCHMAN
ISOBEL ELSON — DIANA MANNERS — CHISSE WHITE
GRACE FIELDS — SIR GEORGE DU MAURIER
MAY GLOANE — OWEN NARES

Owen 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 Knightbridge 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 they opened at the Leeds Civic Theatre and we wish them every success in their new home.

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 - KOWLAND HILL
Aacting Manager - S. B. DERRICK
Box Office Manager - GUS DAWSON

FRANCIS LAIDLER PRODUCTIONS

Gwladys Stanley Laidler
presents
AN ORIGINAL AND ULTRA MODERN PANTOMIME

Queen of Hearts

THE PANTOMIME WITH A DIFFERENCE

FINAL PERFORMANCE
Saturday, March 30th, 1957
THEATRE ROYAL
SEASON 1956-57

Queen of Hearts
Programme

Characters

JOKER ------ BUNNY MAY
TWO OF CLUBS ------ SANDRA ALFRED
GIPSY DESTA, Queen of the GIPSYES ------ LIESEL JOHNSON
GEPPO, a Singing Gipsy, Son of Desta ------ JAMES RUDDY
NINA, Desta's Daughter ------ MARY MILLAR
THE YELLOW DWARF ------ GEORGE MALPAS
JACK, the Knave of Hearts ------ JIMMY PAIGE
DAVY CROCKETT ------ CAL M'CORD
LADY BIRD ------ HERSELF
THE VALET TO THE KING ------ FRANK MITCHELL
THE KING OF HEARTS ------ TERRY SOMMerville
THE QUEEN OF HEARTS ------ EDDIE HENDERSON
MARQUIS DE LAUNAY ------ ANN HOWARD
THE WHISTLER ------ SHEILA KAYE

THE GEORGE MITCHELL QUARTET
THE FIVE BARRANI
THE ROSELLI SINGING LADIES
THE 16 JOHN TILLER GIRLS
THE 12 LITTLE SUNBEAMS

STAGE DIRECTOR ------ FRANK MITCHELL
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER ------ GEORGE H. MALPAS
WARDROBE MISTRESS ------ ETHEL NORTHROP
BALLET MISTRESS and SUPERVISOR ------ BETTY ALGAR
AUGMENTED ORCHESTRA under the direction of WILLIAM BRIGHTWELL

CHOREOGRAPHY by DAPHNE KIERNAND

Devised, Written and Produced by
GWLADYS STANLEY LADY
Queen of Hearts

Programme

Scenes

OVERTURE

SCENE 1

A CORNER OF A ROOM

THE FOREST

THE PALACE GATES

THE PALACE OF HEARTS

ON THE WAY TO THE TOURNAMENT

THE TOURNAMENT

OUTSIDE THE INN

INSIDE THE INN

THE GIPSY ENCAMPMENT

THE BETROTHAL

INTERVAL

THE QUEEN'S KITCHEN

THE QUEEN'S HALL

THE VILLAGE OF HEARTS

THE COURTYARD

THE CASTLE OF CARDS

THE WOOD

NEAR THE CASTLE

FINALE

CURTAIN

Scenery by W. W. Cadman
Production Numbers and Choreography by Daphne Kiernander
Original Music and Lyrics by Edwin Bradon, Leslie Sturdy and William Brightwell
Additional Music by kind permission of the Publishers
Special Stage Lighting Effects by The Strand Electric and Eng. Co. Ltd.
Costumes designed by Johnni
Horsey by Kayser Bondor Ltd., Wigs by Nathanwigs Ltd.
Shoes by Gamba and The Doleis Shoe Co. Ltd.
Sunbeams trained by Nora Gray

Devised, Written and Produced by
Lady Stanley Laidler

Choreography by Daphne Kiernander

THE 12 LITTLE SUNBEAMS

According with the requirements of the Watch Committee of the Leeds City Council:

Admittance may close at the end of the performance by all exit and entrance doors must be kept entirely free from all obstructions. The box must be kept entirely free from all obstructions. The box must be kept entirely free from all obstructions.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
FRANCIS LAIDLERS
FIRST LEEDS PANTOMIME.
BABES IN THE WOOD

EVERY EVENING at 7.15
MATINEES: Every Tuesday and Saturday.
POPULAR PRICES: 1d., 6d., 9d., 1s., 2s. 6d. POPULAR PRICES.
Autographs of the Stars.

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

DEISED AND PRODUCED BY GWLADYS STANLEY LAIDLER
1955/1956 ... "THE SLEEPING BEAUTY"
1956/1957 ... "QUEEN OF HEARTS"

THE YORKSHIRE PRESS LTD., THORNTON ROAD, BRADFORD