



**THEATRE ROYAL  
LEEDS**



FRANCIS LAIDLER

**FINAL PERFORMANCE**

**30<sup>TH</sup> 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 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	CORA GOFFIN	ALBERT MODLEY
VIOLET BLYTHE	HETTY KING	WILFRED PICKLES
NORA DELANY	GEORGE LACY	SANDY POWELL
ANITA ELSON	MARGERY MANNERS	ELLA RETFORD
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 Tours. During those years many of our greatest stars came to this theatre.

ELIZABETH ALLAN	GEORGE GROSSMITH	MARIE NEY
YVONNE ARNAUD	BINNIE HALE	IVOR NOVELLO
TALLULAH BANKHEAD	SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE	PEGGY O'NEIL
MARIE BLANCHE	LESLIE HENSON	ANNA PAVLOVA
CARL BRISSON	SIR SEYMOUR HICKS	ELSIE RANDOLPH
LILIAN BRAITHWAITE	IRIS HOEY	ARTHUR RISCOE
JACK BUCHANAN	LESLIE HOWARD	PAUL ROBESON
JOSE COLLINS	BOBBY HOWES	GEORGE ROBEY
FAY COMPTON	URSULA JEANS	ATHENE SEYLER
ANNE CROFT	RENEE KELLY	MARIE TEMPEST
ZENA DARE	NELSON KEYS	DENNIS NELSON-TERRY
PHYLLIS DARE	NERVO & KNOX	SYBIL THORNDYKE
ALICE DELYSIA	FRANK LAWTON	VIOLET TREE
HENRY EDWARDS	CHARLES LAUGHTON	NAUNTON WAYNE
LILY ELSIE	VIOLET LORRAINE	HARRY WELCHMAN
ISOBEL ELSOM	DIANA MANNERS	CHRISSE WHITE
GRACIE FIELDS	SIR GERALD DU MAURIER	
MARY GLYNNE	OWEN NARES	

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.

Throughout the years the Theatre Royal has had a firm place in the affection of all theatre-goers 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

*Queen*  
*of Hearts*

THE PANTOMIME WITH A DIFFERENCE

**FINAL PERFORMANCE**

**Saturday, March 30th, 1957**

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# THEATRE ROYAL

SEASON 1956-57

## Queen of Hearts

### Programme

#### Characters

JOKER	BUNNY MAY
TWO OF CLUBS	SANDRA ALFRED
GIPSY DESTA, Queen of the GIPSIES	LIESL JOHNSON
GEPPPO, 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 McCORD
LADYBIRD	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

OVERTURE	
SCENE 1	
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9
	10
	11
	12
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	14
	15
	16
	17
	18

**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 LAURENCE**

In accordance with the requirements of the Watch Committee  
Leeds City Council:

(a) The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors and such doors must at that time be open. (b) All gangways and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any obstruction. (c) The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before the commencement of each performance so as to ensure its being in proper working order.



**EDDIE HENDERSON**  
"The Queen of Hearts"



**ANN HOWARD**  
"Marquis de Launay"



**BUNNY MAY**  
"Joker"



**MARY MILLAR**  
"Nina"



**JAMES RUDDY**  
"Geppo"



**THE 16 JOHN TILLER GIRLS**

# THE ROYAL - LEEDS

SEASON 1956-57

## Open of Hearts

### Programme

**ANNY MAY**  
**ALFRED**  
**JOHNSON**  
**ES RUDDY**  
**Y MILLAR**  
**E MALPAS**  
**JIMMY PAIGE**  
**L McCORD**  
**HERSELF**  
**MITCHELL**  
**MERMVILLE**  
**ANDERSON**  
**HOWARD**  
**EILA KAYE**

#### OVERTURE

SCENE 1	.....	.....	.....	.....	A CORNER OF A ROOM
2	.....	.....	.....	.....	THE FOREST
3	.....	.....	.....	.....	THE PALACE GATES
4	.....	.....	.....	.....	THE PALACE OF HEARTS
5	.....	.....	.....	ON THE WAY TO THE TOURNAMENT	
6	.....	.....	.....	.....	THE TOURNAMENT
7	.....	.....	.....	.....	OUTSIDE THE INN
8	.....	.....	.....	.....	INSIDE THE INN
9	.....	.....	.....	.....	THE GIPSY ENCAMPMENT
10	.....	.....	.....	.....	THE BETROTHAL
INTERVAL					
11	.....	.....	.....	.....	THE QUEEN'S KITCHEN
12	.....	.....	.....	.....	THE QUEEN'S HALL
13	.....	.....	.....	.....	THE VILLAGE OF HEARTS
14	.....	.....	.....	.....	THE COURTYARD
15	.....	.....	.....	.....	THE CASTLE OF CARDS
16	.....	.....	.....	.....	THE WOOD
17	.....	.....	.....	.....	NEAR THE CASTLE
18	.....	.....	.....	.....	FINALE

#### CURTAIN

Scenery by W. W. Cadman  
 Production Numbers and Choreography by Daphne Kiernander  
 Original Music and Lyrics by Edwin Braden, 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 Juhn  
 Hosiery by Kayser Bondor Ltd.      Wigs by Nathanwigs Ltd.  
 Shoes by Gamba and The Dolcis Shoe Co. Ltd.  
 Sunbeams trained by Nora Bray

**MITCHELL**  
**H. MALPAS**  
**L NORTHROP**  
**BETTY ALGAR**  
**BRIGHTWELL**

CHOREOGRAPHY by DAPHNE KIERNANDER

*Devised, Written and Produced by*  
**LADYS STANLEY LAIDLER**

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 curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before the com-  
 mencement of each performance so as to ensure its being in proper working order



**CAL McCORD**  
"Davy Crockett"



**JIMMY PAIGE**  
"Jack" the Knave of Hearts



**LIESL JOHNSON**  
"Gipsy Desta"



**THE FIVE BARRANI**  
"Gipsies"



**SANDRA ALFRED**  
"Two of Clubs"



**THE 12 LITTLE SUNBEAMS**



**TERRY SOMMERVILLE**  
"The King of Hearts"

# THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.

FRANCIS LAIDLER'S  
FIRST LEEDS PANTOMIME.

## BABES IN THE WOOD



EVERY EVENING at 7-15

MATINEES - Every Tuesday and Saturday.

POPULAR PRICES - 4d., 6d., 9d., 1s., 2s., 26. POPULAR PRICES.

**Autographs of the Stars.**

George Raft

Lyolady Stanley Laidler

Ella Retford

Jan Buchanan

Natalie Allen

Gail Fields

Alma Lee

Bessie Sullivan

Wifed Leeks and Mabel

Patty King

Margery Manners

Yvonne Brand

Sue Davis

Cora Giffin (Little)

Norman Evans

Kora Delany

Leslie Henson

Alfred Modley

Sybil Thimble

Hamilton Wayne

Ray Hooper

Nora Blaney

## *Theatre Royal, Leeds. Pantomimes.*

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	..... "ROBINSON 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	..... "ROBINSON 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"

DEvised AND PRODUCED BY GWLADYS STANLEY LAIDLER

1955/1956	..... "THE SLEEPING BEAUTY"
1956/1957	..... "QUEEN OF HEARTS"