

**SKIPPED BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON**

**CONTEMPORARY REFERENCES TAKEN FROM THE DATABASES**

**19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY BRITISH LIBRARY NEWSPAPERS**

**AND**

**19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY UK PERIODICALS**

**AMUSEMENTS. THEATRE ROYAL. *The Belfast News-Letter*** (Belfast), Tuesday, August 23, 1898; Issue 25912

This place of entertainment ought to draw well during the present week. The piece running is entitled "Skipped by the Light of the Moon." ... The work produced last night is of the nature of a musical comedy, and it is by Mr George R. Sims. The music is by Messrs. G. Peck, Henry W. May, and A.W. Ketelbey, and special songs have been contributed by Messrs. Ivan Caryll, H. Trotere, H. Carson, H. Darnley, and others. This is the first time the piece has been produced in Ireland. ...[summary of plot]. The piece might more correctly be described as a general variety entertainment, but so might most musical comedies. Although of the genus mentioned, it has a marked individuality. Exceedingly bright, it is full of "go", while it is prettily staged. The music often rises above the general musical comedy level. ... The role of Sarah, the waitress, is presented with much arch sprightliness by Miss Lottie Siegenberg ... The comedy is certain to be highly popular with those who appreciate this class of work.

**THEATRICAL GOSSIP. *The Era*** (London), Saturday, April 8, 1899; Issue 3159

"A GOOD TIME; OR, SKIPPED BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON," by George R. Sims, has been chosen by Mr Arthur Eliot with which to reopen the Opera Comique Theatre, he having disposed of his rights in *Great Caesar*, the long-promised. Mr Sims's piece is many years old, having been toured under the sub-title in the provinces for some years, and previously to that under yet another name. Presumably it has been rewritten, as we notice that new music has been provided by Messrs Ivan Caryll, H.W. May, and A.W. Ketelby [sic]. In this "electrical musical farce" will appear Mr and Mrs Arthur Eliot, Mr Warren Smith, Mr E. Espinosa, Mr Bert Sinden, Mr George William Walton, in his original part evidently; Miss Alice Barth, Miss Amy Farrell, and Miss Kitty Loftus.

***The Era*** (London), Saturday, April 22, 1899; Issue 3161

MR. ALBERT W. KETELBEY, Part Composer and Conductor of "A Good Time", Rehearsing, Opera Comique, Strand, London.

***The Standard*** (London), Tuesday, April 25, 1899; pg. 6; Issue 23346

ROYAL OPERA COMIQUE THEATRE. Lessee and Manager, Mr Arthur Eliot. On THURSDAY NEXT, at 8.15, and Every Evening, An Electrical Musical Farce, entitled, A GOOD TIME, or, Skipped by the Light of the Moon, by G.R. Sims. Music by A.W. Ketelbey, H.W. May, and Claude Nugent .... Seats may now be booked.

**OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENCE. *Glasgow Herald*** (Glasgow), Friday, April 28, 1899; Issue 101

The Opera Comique reopened this evening with Mr G.R. Sims's "A Good Time." This piece, which is now officially described as "an electrical musical farce," is practically identical with the musical comedy "Skipped by the Light of the Moon." which has been for some time past on tour in the provinces. The dialogue has, however, of course been revised and brought up to date; and I understand that many of the dances and songs are likewise new; the music now being from the joint pens of Messrs May, Ketelbey and Claude Nugent. ...

***The Standard*** (London), Saturday, April 29, 1899; pg. 6; Issue 23350

[similar advert to 25<sup>th</sup> April]. "The Standard" says – "The farce should drive away dull care from the doors of the Opera Comique for some time to come."

**The Standard** (London), Tuesday, May 02, 1899; pg. 6; Issue 23352

[similar advert to 25<sup>th</sup> April]. The "Topical Times" says – "We had to wipe the tears from our eyes from laughing." The "Morning Leader" says – "Pretty girls, pretty frocks, pretty music." The "Sporting Times" says – "There is no author whose work is brighter than the genial 'Dragonet's.'"

**THE STAGE. Manchester Times** (Manchester), Friday, June 30, 1899; Issue 2186

A musical farce, "Skipped by the Light of the Moon" (originally produced under the title of "A Good Time"), forms the entertainment at the Comedy this week. It is written by Mr G.R. Sims, and Messrs. A.W. Ketelby [sic], Claude Nugent, and H.W. May are responsible for the music. Most of the humour is provided by the Brothers Walton, who are supported by a company of average merit.

**MUSIC AND THE DRAMA. Nottinghamshire Guardian** (London), Saturday, July 22, 1899; pg. 5; Issue 2826

Mr George Walton, a clever member of a gifted family of comedians, all of whom have won the unqualified favour of Nottingham audiences, this week brought his own company to the Theatre Royal in a musical comedy entitled "Skipped by the Light of the Moon." ... The music has been composed by Messrs. A.W. Ketelby [sic], Claud Nugent, and H.W. May.

**HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE. Aberdeen Weekly Journal** (Aberdeen), Tuesday, October 10, 1899; Issue 13950.

"Skipped by the Light of the Moon" is the joint production of Mr George R. Sims, Mr A.W. Ketelbey, Mr Claud Nugent, and Mr H.W. May, and a very successful piece of stage mechanism it is. It is called a musical comedy. It is certainly musical, and it is also comic, and if that constitutes a musical comedy, then "Skipped by the Light of the Moon" is entitled to the name. However, we do not for a moment suppose that the quartette of authors, one of whom is responsible for the libretto, and three for the music, mean the piece to taken seriously. The audience last night did not take it seriously; yet they got on very well with it, laughed heartily at its absurdities and whimsicalities, seemed to relish the dancing, and enthusiastically encored a number of songs. ...

**"SKIPPED BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON". The Dundee Courier & Argus** (Dundee), Friday, October 13, 1899; pg. 4; Issue 14446

Mr George Walton's Company in the above-named play is announced to appear at Her Majesty's next week direct from the Opera Comique Theatre, London. "Skipped by the Light of the Moon" was produced for the first time on any British stage at the Royal County Theatre, Reading, on 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1896. Prior to that it had a most successful run in the Colonies, and it was called an electric musical farce in two acts, by Mr George R. Sims, with music by Messrs George Pack and Harry W. May. Now the music is announce as being by Messrs Claud Nugent, H.W. May, and A.W. Ketelbey, the last-named of whom is with the coming company, and is not unknown in Dundee. ... other ladies in the company are Misses Lottie Siegenberg....

**HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE – "SKIPPED BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON." The Dundee Courier & Argus** (Dundee), Tuesday, October 17, 1899; pg. 4; Issue 14449

There is certainly a large proportion of pantomime in the musical comedy, "Skipped by the Light of the Moon," which was played at Her Majesty's last night. ... Miss Lottie Siegenberg sang prettily, and contributed a simple but graceful dance...Mr A.W. Ketelby [sic] conducted the rest of the music, and "Skipped by the Light of the Moon" will be played during the week.

**BEFORE THE FOOTLIGHTS. IMPERIAL THEATRE. The Birmingham Pictorial and Dart** (Birmingham), Friday, December 08, 1899; pg. 13; Issue 1,207.

The hundreds who were unable to gain admittance into this theatre last Monday owing to the breakdown of the electric lighting machinery, turned up again on Tuesday in greater numbers to see one of the smartest up-to-date musical comedies of to-day, "Skipped by the Light of the Moon", from the pen of that versatile writer Mr Geo. R. Sims, music by A.W. Ketelbey, Claude Nugent, and H.W. May. This, we imagine, is the first time this piece has been seen in Birmingham, but we also imagine it will not be the last. The music is bright and lively, the dialogue in Mr Sims's best vein, and the dresses and dances are capital. More than this one never looks for in works of this class and more than this is not needed. Mr Geo. Walton has formed the company, which is direct from one of the London theatres, the Opera Comique we believe, and is lacking in nothing. ... Many of the songs and dances had to submit to a repetition, for the music, as we have stated, is of the most tuneful and volatile kind. A word of praise is due to the conductor of this company, Mr Thos. B. Fish, who handles his orchestra well.

**THE LONDON THEATRES. MORTON'S THEATRE, GREENWICH. *The Era*** (London), Saturday, June 2, 1900; Issue 3219  
On Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, the Musical Comedy, by Geo. R. Sims, Music by A.W. Ketelbey, Claud Nugent, and H.W. May,  
entitled "SKIPPED BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON".

Determined to suit all tastes the energetic management of this excellently conducted house, who have of late feasted their patrons on divers rich melodramatic repeats, have this week treated the habitués of Morton's Theatre to an equally palatable bill-of-fare, in the shape of Mr Geo. R. Sims's musical comedy *Skipped by the Light of the Moon*. ... The work also gains in attraction in no slight degree from the bright, catchy, and generally original music with which the piece has been provided by Messrs. A.W. Ketelbey, Claud Nugent, and H.W. May. ...

(Tom McCanna 2012)