



Spring 1892

The Music Hall Royale

Programme for this evening:

Opening comments by your Chairman Mr. William Cartwright
immediately followed by
The Music Hall Royale's Premiere Presentation of. . .

~THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD~

Scenes:

Act 1 Prologue

The Situation

Scene 1 The home of John Jasper at Minor Canon Corner in the cathedral city of Cloisterham. A morning in late December.

Scene 2 The conservatory at The Nun's House, a seminary for young women in Cloisterham High Street. Later that morning

Scene 3 The opium den of the Princess Puffer in the East End of London. Dawn, the next day.

Scene 4 Cloisterham High Street. The following afternoon.

Scene 5 The graveyard of Cloisterham Cathedral. Early Christmas Eve.

Scene 6 The home of John Jasper. A short time later.

Scene 7 Minor Canon Corner. Christmas Day. Stage of the Music Hall Royale

Act II Entr'acte

The Sleuths

Scene 1 Cloisterham Station. Six months later,

Scene 2 Cloisterham Station.
Stage of Music Hall Royale

The Voting

Stage of the Music Hall Royale
immediately followed by. . .

The Solution

Cloisterham High Street, near the Cathedral. Dawn.

The Music Hall Royale

Mr. Thomas Purcell, Maestro of The Music Hall Royale Orchestra

Mr. William Cartwright, Chairman

Mr. James Throttle, Stage Manager and Barkeep

Cast

(in order of appearance)

<i>John Jasper</i>	<i>Mr Clive Paget</i>
<i>Edwin Drood</i>	<i>Miss Alice Nutting</i>
<i>Rosa Bud</i>	<i>Miss Deidre Peregrine</i>
<i>Helena Landless</i>	<i>Miss Janet Conover</i>
<i>Neville Landless</i>	<i>Mr. Victor Grinstead</i>
<i>The Reverend Mr. Crisparkle</i>	<i>Mr. Cedric Moncriefe</i>
<i>The Princess Puffer</i>	<i>Miss Angela Prysock</i>
<i>Mayor Thomas Sapsea</i>	<i>Mr. James Hitchens</i>
<i>Durdles</i>	<i>Mr. Nick Cricher</i>
<i>Deputy</i>	<i>Master Nick Cricher</i>
<i>Flo</i>	<i>Florence Gill</i>
<i>Waiter</i>	<i>Phillip Bax</i>
<i>Maid</i>	<i>Miss Florence Gill</i>
<i>Horace</i>	<i>Mr. Nicholas Michael</i>
<i>Bazzard</i>	<i>Mr. Phillip Bax</i>
<i>Dick Datchery</i>	<i>??????</i>
<i>Citizens of Cloisterham</i>	<i>Mr. Philip Bax</i>
	<i>Miss Florence Gill</i>
	<i>Mr. Nicholas Michael</i>
	<i>Mr. James Throttle</i>

Musical Synopsis

Act I

- 1 *There You Are* {Chairman & Company}
- 2 *A Man Could Go Quite Mad* {Jasper}
- 3 *Two Kinsmen* {Drood & Jasper}
- 4 *Moonfall* {Rosa}
- 5 *The Wages Of Sin* {Puffer}
- 6 *Jasper? Vision* {instrumental}
- 7 *A British Subject* {Helena, Neville, Drood, Rosa, Crisparkle,
with ensemble} *
- 8 *Both Sides of The Coin* {Jasper & Chairman, with ensemble}
- 9 *Perfect Strangers* {Drood and Rosa}
- 10 *No Good Can Come From Bad* {Neville, Rosa, Helena, Drood,
Crisparkle, Jasper, & Bazzard}
- 11 *Off To the Races* {Chairman, Durdles & Deputy with Company}

Act II

- 12 *A Private Investigation* {Datchery, & Puffer with Ensemble}
- 13 *The Name of Love and Moonfall* (reprise) {Rosa & Jasper}
- 14 *Don't Quit While You're Ahead* {Puffer & Company}
- 15 *The Garden Path To Hell* {Puffer}
- 16 *Puffer's Revelation* {Puffer}
- 17 *Out On A Limerick* {Helena, or Bazzard, or Neville, or
Crisparkle, or Rosa}
- 18 *Jasper's Confession* {Jasper}
- 19 *Murderer? Confession* {Helena, or Bazzard, or Neville, or Rosa, or
Crisparkle, or Puffer, or Durdles}
- 20 *Perfect Strangers* {Rosa, or Helena, or Puffer with Bazzard, or
(duet-reprise) Neville, or Crisparkle, or Durdles, or Deputy
Sapsea, or Jasper, with Company}
- 21 *The Writing On the Wall* {Drood with Company}
- 22 *Don't Quit While You're Ahead* {Bows - Company}
- 23 *Exit* {Orchestra}

Mr. Phillip Bax (Mr. Bazzard and a Waiter) has been a company member (off and on again) of The Music Hall Royale for 6 years. He debuted in the legitimate theatre in Henry Irving's acclaimed production of Julius Caesar as "a Senator." A prolific and talented playwright (*The Thorn of Anxiety*), and writer of many mellifluous melodies (such as "Never the Luck"); his dream is to play a larger part...any part larger than Bazzard or "a Senator" would do. (In fact, if there are any producers in the audience, please make free to speak directly to me at any time, before, after—or even during the show.) Mr. Bax thanks his deceased Mother, Father, and Wife for their continued prayers from the afterlife.

Mr. William Delaney Cartwright (Chairman) began his run as Chairman of the Music Hall Royale in 1889 upon the retirement of chairman-par-excellance and former owner, Mr. Chives Minogue. Mr. Cartwright was born in Vaux Hall and has gained experience at various music halls and theatres throughout England and Ireland. He has lent his considerable talents to such legitimate theatrical productions as *Taming of the Shrew*, *Hamlet*, *Impressive Pedestrians*, and the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, pantomime--*Ham Beast*; in which he performed the role of "Aunt Agatha" opposite Marie Lloyd as "Little Nell" and Dan Leno as "Sergeant Major McDork". He gratefully acknowledges Mr. Chives, "Tommy" Purcell, Frank McCourt, mum and dad (Margot and Lyman Cartwright), Mr. Dan Majerle and Squire Tom Chambers.

Miss Janet Conover (Miss Helena Landless) is absolutely titillated to join the talented (and fabulously attractive!) Mr. Victor Grinstead as the newest company members of the Music Hall Royale. Miss Conover has recently completed a wonderfully successful 3 day run as "Juliet" in Thomas Purcell's musical rendition of *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Pirate's Daughter* at the Hippodrome, Manchester. Previous experience includes the role of Priscilla Donkey, Bottom's love interest in Martleworth's sequel to Gounod's Opera *A Midsummer Night's Dream* entitled *The Magically Mirthful* and Tragically Comic *Mis-Adventures of Bottom, the Weaver of Athens*. She has also appeared as a "dancing flower" in Ian Fortnight's *Thirteenth Night, or What You Won't*. She thanks her late "mummy" and "pappy" for their dreams; the superb Mr. William Cartwright, for hiring her; Flo for being the little doll baby that she is; and especially the man who is the "hissin my steam" ...Mr. V.G.

Mr. Nick Cricker (Durdles) this Lion Comique is happy to return to the Music Hall Royale in the role of "Durdles, stonemason and handyman". Audiences may remember him as half of the comic team of "Two Nicks in Time" along with Mr. Nicholas Michael. Mr. Cricker, esq. is best known for his comically exquisite musical turns as "Father O'Reilly, the Tippling Priest" and "Bumpers, the Towne Drunkard" in *Pour Another Round About Towne*. He is perhaps best known for his hilarious, and now legendary, rendition of the "Drunken Submarine Captain" singing "Open the Porthole, Matey, *So's We Can 'ave a Bit of a Breeze*", which was said to "sink" audiences all over London. He is also known for his improvisations off of that music hall favorite "Off To The Races". He would like to invite you to see him this spring as "Sherlock Holmes" in Milton Marham's *It's All Elementary* Watson.

Master Nick Cricker, (Deputy) "rumored to be the son of famous stage "drunkard," Nick Cricker, Esq., is happy to be stumbling along in his father's footsteps on the boards of the Music Hall Royale. Master Nick maintains that making his debut as "Deputy" in *Drood* is "abit of alright!"

Miss Florence Gill (Ensemble, various roles) is ecstatic to be making her debut at the Music Hall Royale. Some of her prior work includes her performance as a “dancing Tulip” in Ian Fortnight’s *Thirteenth Night, or What You Won’t* and “Eliza” in the sequel to *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* entitled *Eliza on the Ice, or Slip Slidin’ Away*. She sincerely thanks, from the bottom of her heart, Mr. William Cartwright, Esq., for hiring her into the company; and her new “big sis” Janet, for being there when she needed her. She hopes to see her daddy watching the show, as opposed to spending all of his time buying oranges from the “ladies” in the promenade.

Mr. Victor Grinstead (Mr. Neville Landless) is overjoyed to have been invited to the Music-hall Royale, along with the critically acclaimed (and fabulously attractive!) Miss Janet Conover, after closing in their hugely successful musical production of Thomas Purcell’s *Romeo and Juliet, The Pyrate’s Daughter* at the Hippodrome, Manchester. Victor first walked on stage at age 3, juggling his mother’s kitchen knives and a meat cleaver while dancing an Irish jig. Hundreds of untold stitches later he was assaying the stage in the role of Juliet’s nanny, “Nanny” in *Romeo and Juliet, The Pyrate’s Daughter*; “Lady Macbeth” opposite Dan Leno in his masterful send-up of Shakespeare’s usurping Scottish King; and “Catherine” in The Oxford Stage Society’s “hasty gruel” parody of *The Taming of the Shrew* entitled *The Masterful Manipulation of Mr. Montegue*. Victor is thrilled at the prospect of wearing trousers on stage and understanding the words of the play. He would like to send his special thanks to his mummy, God, and his love truffle of a Juliet, Miss J.C.

Mr. James Hitchins (Mayor Sapsea) came to the Music Hall Royale after enjoying lengthy runs at the Aldgate Beer Gardens as chairman and, still later, at the top of the bill at the Variety Arts, Camden Town, as “Judge Stumbleforth.” Mr. Hitchins rose to music hall fame bellowing out Stumbleforth’s famous and familiar admonition in song, “Shut Up and Drink Your Gin.” Perhaps best noted for his juniper berry jig’, Mr. Hitchins may be found at the bar, at the rear of the house, immediately following his turn as Mayor Sapsea; and is more than willing to drink you under the table—so long as you’re buying.

Mr. Nicholas Micheal (Ensemble, various roles) is a veteran company member at The Music Hall Royale, and is very excited to be playing many roles in *Drood*. Nick is one half (the other half being Mr. Nick Cricker, Esq.) of the well-heeled comic duo formerly known as “Two Nicks in Time”. Nick M. thanks Nick C. for giving him his break in “Two Nicks in Time” in the nick of time—as he was about to put an end to Nick M. Nick M., on the other hand, is quite disappointed in Nick C. that he chose to abandon Nick M. so that Master Nick C. could break into the business. “Bollocks!” (I feel much better now) That being said, Nick M. is now ready to move along...and get on with his life; assuming there is life after “Two Nicks in Time”. He is an active member in the Music Hall Royale Company and enjoys playing female roles, as well as his recurring supporting role of “Horace” (“Man of a Thousand Faces”) in many other Music Hall Royale turns. He often plays characters who carry lanterns. You may recall him as “Moonshine” in Mrs. Kemble’s critically acclaimed production of *The Most Lamentable Comedy and Most Cruel Death of Pyramus and Thisbe*.

Mr. Cedric Moncriefe (Rev. Septimus Chrisparkle) hails from Westminster, and always wanted to pursue acting as a career, but being born into a prominent Royal family and in direct line to the throne, he was denied the opportunity. At the age of 18 Mr. Moncriefe abandoned the relative wealth and comfort his familial status afforded him to tread the boards as a fledgling actor, "...even though my family didn't support it. The only way I could find happiness in my life was through fantasy. As an actor, I could be whomever I wanted and not worry about what the community or my social class thinks." Cedric found his way into the Music Hall Royale via an audition notice he saw posted on the backstage callboard at the Palladium's production of *Singing On A Lark*. He has been with the Music Hall Royale company for seven years now, generally playing elite, upper class characters such as "Sir Algernon Thrumpletoff" in *Just A Prince Selling Flowers* in Eastcheap, and is perhaps best known for creating "Champagne Charlie," the bubbly imbibing swell who warbles "*Tippling My Way To Tillie's Tobacco Shop*". He is grateful for the opportunity to increase his range with such a colorful role as the Rev. Septimus Chrisparkle.

Miss Alice Nutting (Mr. Edwin Drood) is thrilled to be the top-billed guest artiste at the Music Hall Royale for their premier production of Drood. On loan from the Old Mo at Drury Lane, Ms. Nutting is more accustomed to the variety show venue than the legitimate stage. Drood marks Ms. Nutting's debut foray into a full-length musicale with dramatic interludes. As her throngs of adoring fans already know, Alice is London's most popular and acclaimed male impersonator. You may have seen her in numerous London music halls in the guise of the stylish young toff "Young Brantley Bunburry," and performing her famous song and dance routine, "Aren't I Half a Toff?" Alice thanks all of her gentleman admirers for their flowers... and attentions.

Mr. Clive Paget (Mr. John Jasper) a longtime matinee idol and favorite at the Music Hall Royale, Mr. Paget is delighted to take on a change of role in Drood. Best known for playing the "Highwayman King" in the D' Oyley Carte Company's production of Gilbert and Sykes' *The Highwayman at Hyde Park* at the Savoy Theatre. He was then offered the part of "Cox, the Sausage Maker" in Sullivan's *Box and Cox*—but turned it down to begin his successful run at the Music Hall Royale as "Dick Dimwitty," the "handsome but nervous burglar with a heart of gold" who sings "*I May 'ave the Blinks But You 'ave Got the Chinks*". He thanks, in particular, his female fans for their generosity in keeping him in healthy body, spirit, and voice.

Miss Deirdre Peregrine (Miss Rosa Budd) has had an unbelievably successful three year run as the serio-comic ingenue at the Music Hall Royale. Before lending her notable talents to the Music Hall Royale Company, she topped the bill at the Old Mo, Drury Lane, as "Miss Deedee Vanders"; the nom d' guerre she adopted to perform such pieces as "A Rose, a Ring, and a Kiss," as well as her popular rendition of "I'm Letting Down My Curls But Keeping Up My Guard." Miss Peregrine also enjoyed a brief but successful run as the curvaceous Principal Boy "Ali Baba" in the pantomime *Ali Baba and The Fantastical Flying Carpet of Farsii*, at Saddlers Wells.

Miss Angela Prysock (the Princess Puffer) got her break at age 15 when, under the guidance of her mother Tobey, she burst onto the music hall scene. She has been featured at the Falstaff, Old Street, Belmont's Sebright Music Hall, and (her favorite) the Old Mo at Drury Lane where she was best known for such ditties as "My What a Big Sword in that Sheath!", "Candy is Dandy, But Liquor is Quicker", "That Ceiling Needs A Coat Of Paint", and of course those who were there will never forget her performance before the Community Standards Committee of "Born on the Bottom, but I'm Commin' on Top". Having been coaxed out of a brief retirement, she joined Mr. William Cartwright's company in his novel Christmas pantomime, ***A Roasted Ham is Indeed a Roasted Ham By Any Other Name***, in which she premiered her signature number "The Wages of Sin" and the ever-popular "Don't Quit While Yer Ahead"—both of which have been ingeniously woven into ***Drood*** by conductor, Mr. Tommy Purcell. Her incredible success in Mr. Cartwright's pantomime led to an offer to join the regular company at the Music Hall Royale—where she has graced the bill (somewhere near the top) ever since.

Mr. Thomas **Purcell** (conductor) has been the resident conductor at the Music Hall Royale for nearly 10 years. He began under the former owner/manager **Mr. Chives Minogue** and is happy to continue his association with the Music Hall Royale under the management of his close friend, Mr. William Cartwright. Perhaps best known for having composed the music and lyrics for ***Romeo and Juliet, the Pyrates Daughter***, he has also conducted at Saddler's Wells, the Hippodrome, Manchester, the Palladium, Bristol, as well as numerous London music halls. Mr. Purcell is most excited to premier this musicale with dramatic interludes, ***Drood***, for which he has both composed original songs and integrated many long-time music hall favorites.

Mr. James Throttle (Stage Manager) is proud to be stage-managing his first show with the Music Hall Royale. He doesn't even mind that most of the staff has left due to the Music Hall Royale's refusal to abandon its rowdier, bawdier working class origins in favor of middle class variety entertainment. Ever since he began working at the Music Hall Royale under the previous management (Chives Minogue), he has always appreciated Mr. Minogue's well-worn admonition that "...when the working class comes to my establishment that's exactly what they're going to find here--working girls...and, uhm, working boys as well, of course." The rapidly dwindling staff has simply translated into the experience James has always hungered for, that of running the establishment virtually single-handedly on stage, backstage, front of house, in the bar—he does it all. He would like to thank Chairman William Cartwright for foisting this opportunity upon him, and he hopes to maintain his current state of sobriety for years to come. Note: Gentlemen who are lonely and in need of a female "escort" will find James, after the show, in the promenade—where you will find him quoting Mr. Minogue's second most popular phrase, "Gents! We aims to please!"