

GEORGE SORLIE VAUDEVILLE AND REVUE COMPANY

The earliest record of George Sorlie's New Vaudeville and Revue Company found to date is in late 1931. It may have been formed earlier that same year, or even in 1930, however. Under Sorlie's management the troupe served up an entertainment of first part vaudeville and second part revusicals, and at least one pantomime.

Although little information is currently available regarding Sorlie's movements with this company, pre-opening night advertising for its 1931 Brisbane season billed it as George Sorlie's New Vaudeville and Revue Company (BC: 7 Nov. 1931, 2). As the entrepreneur regularly toured Queensland as part of his Australian and New Zealand circuit, this suggests that the troupe may have been formed either earlier that year or sometime towards the end of 1930.

A review following the troupe's Brisbane premiere indicates that although the company had formed only recently, the considerable experience of its performers, notably Arthur Morley, Yvonne Banyard, Addie Lake, and Jewish comedian/ impersonator Sam Stern, provided the actor/manager with the foundations for a quality entertainment. "Scintillating vaudeville, under the direction of George Sorlie drew a large audience on Saturday evening," writes the *Brisbane Courier's* theatre critic. "It was a revival of the days when vaudeville in Australia reached its highest pitch of popularity. An attractive ballet, a bright revue, entrancing orchestra, and vocal music, brightened the success of the performance" (9 Nov. 1913, n. pag.).

While the authorship of several of the troupe's revusicals has not been established, it appears that Sorlie drew on some of his troupe members to provide material. Among the company's repertoire, for example, were two Arthur Morley revusicals from 1915: *On the Sands* and *Not a Word to the Wife*. He is also known to have staged several unidentified revusicals written by Bert Desmond. Other popular productions were *Brown's in Town* and *The Wiggles Family*. In addition to staging its vaudeville and revusical entertainment, the troupe also staged at least one pantomime, Morley's *Mother Grundy*.



Brisbane Courier 7 Nov. (1931), 2.

SEE ALSO

- [George Sorlie](#)
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TROUPE PERSONNEL

1. **Principal troupe members:** Incl. Yvonne Banvard (1931), James Blair (1931), Grace Bromley (1931), Neville Clark (1931), Gerald Connolly (1931), Bert Desmond (1931-1932), Bud de Silva (1931), Alma Jorgenson (1931), Addie Lake (1931), Arthur Morley (1931), Richard Parry (1931), Sam Stern (1931), Hilda Statler (1931), Hilda Waring (1931).

NB: Although Bert Desmond appeared in the Sorlie-produced pantomime *Mother Grundy* in December 1931, it has not yet been established if he was a more permanent member of the vaudeville and revue company prior to that production.

2. **Musicians:** Incl. Tiny Douglas and His Varsity Boys.

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