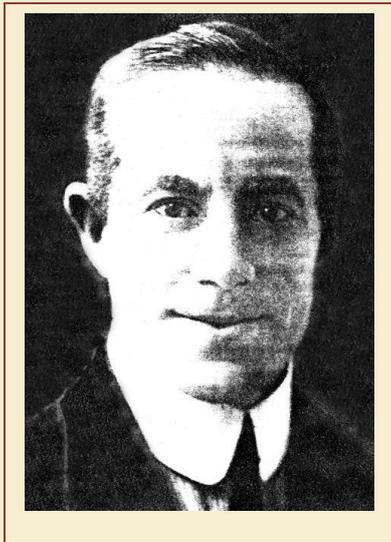


MORRIS AND WILSON

Joe Morris and Alf "Redhead" Wilson teamed up in 1902 as a knockabout comedy act, and over the next ten years played engagements throughout the Antipodes for John F. Sheridan, Harry Rickards, J.C. Bain, the Fullers, F.M. Clark, William Anderson, James Brennan, Holland and St John, and J. C. Williamson among others. They left Australia in 1912 to tour internationally. Wilson returned in 1916 and quickly re-established himself as both a performer and a feature writer for *Australian Variety*.

One of Australia's greatest-ever knockabout acrobatic comedy duos from the early 1900s, Joe Morris and Alf Wilson are thought to have first teamed up together for John F. Sheridan's 1902 Christmas pantomime *Cinderella*. Morris, a former circus clown and acrobat with the Fitzgerald Bros, and Wilson, an eccentric comedian and "Ethiopian" entertainer who had once been a member of Hiscocks' Federal Minstrels, were hired by Sheridan to play Clown and Pantaloon in the Harlequinade. Over the next two years they found engagements with Harry Rickards Tivoli Co, the Gaiety Novelty Entertainers and J. C. Bain before taking roles in William Anderson's 1904 production of *Sinbad the Sailor* (Melb).



Between 1905 and their departure overseas ca. 1912, Morris and Wilson presented their specialist knockabout sketches around Australia and New Zealand on the Tivoli circuit as well as with Frank M. Clark, John Fuller and Sons, James Brennan, Holland and St John and Lucas' Vaudeville Co. They also appeared in a revival of Anderson's *Sinbad the Sailor* (Syd) and two J.C. Williamson pantomimes - *Jack and Jill* (1908) and *Aladdin* (1909). Among their most popular sketch routines were "Scenes in Chinatown," "Troublesome Tramps" and "The Eccentric Cooks."

While Joe Morris' movements after 1912 have not been ascertained, Wilson returned to Australia in 1916, becoming better known as "Redhead" Wilson, entertainer and feature writer for *Australian Variety* and *Show World*. Among the companies he is known to have found engagements with was Harry Clay, touring the manager's Queensland circuit in 1917.

Alf "Redhead" Wilson
Australian Variety 1 Mar. (1918), n. pag.

HISTORICAL NOTES AND CORRECTIONS

1. Although Morris and Wilson were sometimes described as Americans, Wilson in later years was almost always referred to as Australian. Joe Morris' nationality is yet to be determined. While Morris' movements after 1912 have not been ascertained, Wilson returned to Australia in 1916, becoming better known as Redhead Wilson, entertainer and occasional feature writer for *Australian Variety* and *Show World*.

SEE ALSO

- [Alf "Redhead" Wilson](#)

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Sydney Morning Herald 30 Dec. (1902), 2.