

# IDA JARVIS

A serio/soubrette who likely began her career in the early 1900s, Ida Jarvis found engagements with most of Australia's second tier vaudeville organisations. It was with Harry Clay that she was perhaps best known, securing regular engagements on his Sydney and South-West N.S.W. circuits between 1911 and 1920, and three Queensland tours.

Ida Jarvis' career as a variety entertainer likely began shortly after the turn of the century. Her name has first been located in connection with Sydney Harbour concert cruises in 1908, performing alongside other soon to be prominent performers like Will Dyson and Harry Rocks. Over the next 12 years the serio/soubrette found engagements with most of Australia's second tier vaudeville organisations, including Holland and St John, Dix-Baker, J. C. Bain, Harry Sadler, Cook and Fowles, C. F. Pugliese, and Frank Reis. She also toured the Fullers Australian and New Zealand circuits for a time.

It was with Harry Clay, however, that she most associated. Between 1911 and 1920 she appeared at each of his city theatres, as well as on his Sydney and South-West N.S.W. circuits. Her name is also linked to three of his Queensland tours (1911, 1913 and 1918). Married to racehorse trainer and owner J. Alward, Jarvis's name was also well-known within the racing industry between 1915 and 1917 owing to one of her husband's horses being named after her.

Thought to have retired from the stage in 1921 due to family commitments, Jarvis was once described by *Australian Variety* as "a young lady of charming personality" who could "show some of the imported acts many points" (21 Oct. 1914).

*Australian Variety* 16 Sept. (1914), n. pag.



## ENGAGEMENTS CHRONOLOGY

**MIDDLE HARBOUR and KILLARNEY, situated in an ideal spot at the Head of Middle Harbour.—S.S. Kookooburra, from No. 4 Jetty, Fort Macquarie, every Sunday, at 9.15, 11 a.m., 3, 7.45 p.m. Return Fare, including admission to Ground and Pavilion, 9d. Children 3d. First-class concert trips at 3 and 7.45 p.m., direct to the extreme head of Middle Harbour. Artists appearing: Miss May Hickey, Will Dyson, Kate Newman, Harry Rocks, and Ida Jarvis. Return Fare, 6d only. Grounds for Hire.**

**H. COLLINS,  
40 Elizabeth-street. Tel., 140 Cen. \_**

*Sydney Morning Herald* 1 Feb. (1908), 3.

1908: H. COLLINS (Sydney Harbour concert excursions; ca. Feb.)  
1909: LUCAS' GRAND TIVOLI VAUDEVILLE Co (Temp Hall, Hobart; 6 Nov. -\* > first appearance)  
1911: HOLLAND & ST JOHN (Empire Th, Bris; ca. Apr.\*)  
▶ HARRY CLAY (Clay's Qld tour; ca. June-Aug. > return leg only) ▶ JAMES BRENNAN (ca. Sept.\*)  
1912: FULLERS THEATRES (Gaiety Th, Melb; ca. May\*)  
1913: BERT HOWARD (ca. Feb.) ▶ J. C. BAIN (Princess Th, Syd; May-June\*) ▶ HARRY CLAY (Clay's Qld tour; ca. June-Aug. > return leg only)

- 1914: COOKE & FOWLES (Palace Th, Bris; ca. Mar.-Apr.\* > with Cooke and Fowles Musical Comedy Stars) ▶ DIX-BAKER (Victoria Th, Newc; ca. June-July\*) ▶ HARRY CLAY (Clay's suburban circuit, Syd; ca. Sept/Oct. -\*) ▶ J. C. BAIN (Princess Th, Syd; ca. Oct/Nov.\*)
- 1915: FULLERS THEATRES (His Majesty's Th, Wellington, NZ; ca. May-June\* > 5 June last night)
- 1917: HARRY SADLER (Princess Th, Syd; ca. Sept.\*) ▶ HARRY CLAY (Bridge Th, Newtown, Syd; ca. 15-31 Dec.)
- 1918: HARRY CLAY (Clay's city/suburban circuit, Syd; ca. Jan. – ca. Apr. > incl. Bridge Theatre and Clay's South-West NSW circuit) • (Clay's Queensland tour; ca. May – Aug.) (Clay's city/suburban circuit, Syd; Aug. -\*)
- 1920: C. F. PUGLIESE (Alhambra, Syd; 5 June -\*) ▶ FRANK REIS (no details)

**ALHAMBRA.—REVUE AND VAUDEVILLE.**  
Opening at 2.30 and at 8 to-day, Mr. C. F. Pugliese will present at the Alhambra Theatre Bert Linden's original musical burlesque, entitled "The Cruise of Captain Kettle." Artists in support will include Misses Rose Rooney, Ida Jarvis, and Grace Quine, the Tuttys (sketch duo), Messrs. Harry M'Donna, Robert Raymond, and Joe Rox, Sadie and Gale, and the "Wilson Pair" (dancers).

*Sydney Morning Herald* 5 June (1920), 14.

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