

STELLA LAMOND

Comedian, musician, entertainer, actor. Cast as one of the babes in the Fullers pantomime *Babes in the Wood*, Stella Lamond later toured with the Sunbeam Pantomime Children for six years (billed as "woop woop girl"). After going solo in 1928 she joined Nat Phillips' Whirligigs. After working with comedian Joe Lawman for almost a decade, Lamond and her second husband Max Reddy toured their own Follies company for some 15 years.

Born in Sydney on 12 March 1909 to actress Stella Cofey and Colin Lamond (a one-time mayor of Waterloo), Stella Lamond grew up in the inner city suburb of Zetland (their house was called The Lodge). In later years she recalled that the family owned "a fine coach and lovely black horses." Frank Van Straten records too that Lamond first appeared on the stage at age four, playing Little Eva in a production of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. It is likely that she also undertook occasional child roles alongside her mother over the next few years. In 1918 she and her sister Lyle were cast as Sammy Locks and Bubbles (the babes) in the Fullers *Babes in the Woods* pantomime, playing opposite such stars as Nat Phillips and Roy Rene (Stiffy and Mo). In 1920, and billed as Baby Stella (despite being at least 11 years of age), she appeared in a number of plays staged by Fullers' Dramatic Players – including *Forbidden Marriage* and *East Lynne*.

Sometime during 1921 (most likely towards the end of the year) the Lamond sisters joined the Sunbeam Pantomime Children (aka Sunbeam Panto Kiddies). It was with this troupe that Stella became known as the "woop woop girl." One of her most popular acts, this turn saw her play the character of a "new chum" (or possibly a country bumpkin-type character who's come to Sydney and tells the audience of the wonderful life she is going to have living on her husband's farm in Woolloomooloo. The Hobart *Mercury* records that Lamond's performance created a furore in Sydney when first performed there (31 Mar. 1923, 9). One of the features is also said to have been her rendition of the song "Sydney."

The first Sunbeam troupe engagement identified to date began in January 1922 at the Tivoli Theatre, Brisbane under the direction of Haymarket Theatres Ltd. Within a short period of time Lamond began to attract increasing attention from Brisbane theatre critics, with her name being mentioned often in reviews or promotion. Indeed her popularity in that city was such that when the troupe returned in December 1923 the *Brisbane Courier* simply referred to her as "Woop Woop." A review of her debut performance in Hobart earlier that year is typical of the acclaim that invariably met her performances from that time onwards: "The humorous portion of the programme fell to the lot of Miss Stella



Source: Frank Van Straten *Tivoli* (2003), 91.

Lamond who caused a great deal of laughter both with her vocal numbers and the scarecrow dance" (HM: 3 Apr. 1923, 2). The following night the Hobart *Mercury* went so far as to say that the "hit of the night was the wonderful performance by Miss Stella Lamond, the cleverest child comedienne ever seen in Hobart. She was recalled again and again and received a tremendous ovation" (4 Apr. 1923, 12). Her act is also said to have included a number especially written for hers, "Hot Cross Buns," and an impression of Wish Wynne ("the famous English artist") performing "The School Girl" (HM 5 Apr. 1923, 4). Another specialty turn from 1925 was "Is He Any Good?" Among the songs she performed around this period were: "Wind I Knew," "I Want a Boy," "Sweetie" and "Gimmie Me Hat and Coat."

In 1925 the Sunbeam panto kiddies (as they were sometimes referred to) presented an original stage production called *The Wedding of Desolie Thomas*. As one of the oldest children Lamond was cast the comedic role of "Aunt Stella." An advertisement for the Sunbeam's week in Fortitude Valley in mid-1925 also records that she was presenting an act during the variety shows called Stella Lamond and Her Tin Can Band (BC: 17 June 1925, 2). The following year the children put on another original production called *The Garden Party*. Described in a *Brisbane Courier* review as comprising "novelties, tableaux, ballets, bright melodies and

THE SUNBEAMS ARE IN TOWN AGAIN
PALACE THEATRE
TO-NIGHT, AT 8. TO-NIGHT, AT 8.
MONSTER MATINEE ON FRIDAY
AT 2.30.

THE
SUNBEAM PANTOMIME CHILDREN
ROYAL ACROBATIC WONDERS
SPECIAL PICTORIAL PROGRAMME
"RAILROADED"

Mercury (Hobart) 25 Oct. (1923), 8.

Opera House under the management of George Marlow. By this stage Lamond was often performing on piano as well as ukulele. She also played a feature role in the Marlow's 1930/31 Christmas pantomime *Beauty and the Beast*.

The arrival of comedian Joe Lawman at the start of the Grand Opera House revue season in late January 1931 led to a start of relationship that saw he and Lamond eventually marry sometime the following year. While the couple reportedly had a good on-stage rapport, Lamond's performances during her time with Nat Phillips certainly continued to single her out as one of the troupe's feature artists and by all accounts she was considered Lawman's equal.

It is unclear whether Lamond and Lawman ended their association with Phillips prior to his death in July 1932 or whether they were still members of his company at that time (their last known engagement with the troupe was in late February 1932). The next engagement they are identified with was in 1933 when they began a season at Brisbane's

Theatre Royal billed as part of a Celebrity Vaudeville programme (this was not the former J.C. Williamson's organisation known as Tivoli Celebrity vaudeville, however). Betty Lambert and the Lewola Bros, who were previously associated with the Nat Phillips Revue Company were also engaged for this season. The couple are known to have played an extended season at the Civic Theatre, Sydney in 1935, and later that same year were also associated for a period with the Les Shipp Revue Company.

1936 also saw Lamond and Lawman return to the Luxor Theatre (Perth) in early 1936, joining The Serenaders a little over a week after it began its season in early January. Performing under the direction of Scottish comedian Elton Black, the pair was involved in a variety of entertainments. In addition to their typical vaudeville comedy acts, they appeared in song scenas and burlesques. Other members of the company were George Moon Jr, Norma Hall, Terry Scanlan and Allen Barry. That same year the Joe Lawman Revue Entertainers appeared at the Majestic Theatre (Adelaide) under the management of Sir Benjamin Fuller and Bert Lennon.

CRYSTAL THEATRE
TO-NIGHT—NAT PHILLIPS'S REVUE COMPANY—TO-NIGHT.

First Appearance in Broken Hill of **MISS STELLA LAMOND**
(The Girl with the Uke). Don't Fail to See Miss Lamond To-night.

Complete Change of Programme To-morrow (Saturday), at Matinee.

GRAND FAREWELL GALA PERFORMANCE NEXT MONDAY NIGHT
—Positively the Last Appearance in Broken Hill of **STAN FOLEY, NAT PHILLIPS, and the Rest of the Company.**

RESERVE YOUR SEATS FOR SATURDAY and MONDAY NIGHTS.

Barrier Miner 17 Oct. (1930), 2.

"THE WEST AUSTRALIAN"
BROADCASTS THE WORLD'S NEWS.
Its greatest news is that

"The Serenaders"
are at the
LUXOR THEATRE

The old moon is in eclipse on Thursday, but you can't eclipse the Two MOONS at the Luxor.
See the Stars and Comets and Meteors of the Vaudeville Firmament.

SIXES DUO, THE ALLEGROS (musicians superb), NORMA HALL, of the BIKKY WOP, ISOBEL WARD, ALLAN BARRY, IDA GIACONI, RON, BECORME and TERRY SCANLAN, THE BALLET and the WONDROUS SCENAS and Laughable Farces.
Winnie Walker at the piano and her orchestra in the pit.

PRICES OF ADMISSION: Week Days, 2/-, 1/6, 1/-; Sat. and Holidays, 2/6, 2/-, 1/- - Matinees, 1/-; Children Half Price to all Parts.

BOOKING AT HUSGROVE'S.

Hush! They are coming—JOE LAWMAN and STELLA LAMOND.

West Australian 7 Jan. (1936), 2.

Sometime around the mid-to-late 1930s Lamond and Lawman separated. Their last known engagement together appears to have been a tour with Stanley McKay's Gaieties through Queensland in 1937. The pressure of the industry, which was by then struggling to maintain the same momentum it had previously enjoyed, may well have played a part in the disintegration of the couple's marriage. The couple, who had one child together (the celebrated variety entertainer Toni Lamond) eventually divorced in 1939. The following year Lamond married comedian Max Reddy (with Lawman later marrying Tivoli soubrette Joy Robins). By the time of their marriage Lamond and Reddy had apparently built a popular following as "the Nitwits of Radio" while also maintaining their careers as live performers. After the war the pair ran a touring variety company (The Follies) for some fifteen years. Lamond and Reddy also had one daughter, the internationally renowned singer Helen Reddy.

In addition to her career on the stage and in radio Stella Lamond appeared in the 1971 feature film *Country Town*, and was cast in at least two episodes of the hit TV series *Homicide* (1967 and 1969). She also played the character Molly Wilson in the popular ABC television series *Bellbird*. Lamond in Melbourne on 5 July died 1973, the same year as her second husband.

SEE ALSO

- [Sunbeam Pantomime Children](#)
- [Nat Phillips Whirligigs](#)
- [Joe Lawman](#)

TROUPES

Sunbeam Pantomime Children • Nat Phillips Whirligigs • Bert Howell's Stage Band • Les Shipp Revue Co • Joe Lawman Revue Entertainers • Stanley McKay's Gaieties • Serenaders [1936] • Madge Cloherty's Celebrities • Graham Mitchell's Serenaders

SCHOOL OF ARTS — OPENING FRIDAY NEXT.
The Greatest Variety Show to Visit Rockhampton.

**STANLEY MCKAY'S
GAITIES
INTERNATIONAL
VAUDEVILLE REVUE CO.**

HEADED BY
JOE LAWMAN,
Australia's Cleverest Singing and Whistling Comedian.
STELLA LAMOND, the Charming Personality Grl.
The Remarkable Specialities include:
WARREN BROS (Comedy Tumblers), JAMES (The Cigarette Man), HEATHER WRIGHT (N.Z. Eccentric Dancer),
POPULAR HILO DUO (Geo. and Wehi Greig), Hawaiian Entertainers,
SEVEN FLYING MARTINETTIS, Thrilling Acrobats.
PRICES 4/6, 3/-, 2/- RESERVES 4/7 AT PALING'S.

Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton) 14 June (1937), 2.

HISTORICAL NOTES AND CORRECTIONS

1. It is presently unclear when and where the Sunbeam Pantomime Children first formed. The Hobart *Mercury* records in 1923 that the children had "stormed Sydney and Brisbane for the past three seasons" (2 Apr. 1923, 6). Although the Brisbane season has been confirmed no record of the Sydney engagement has yet been identified.
2. The *Brisbane Courier* notes in 1925 that the Sunbeam Pantomime Children were returning to that city for the first time in three years (27 May 1925, 10).
3. It is not yet known how long Lyle Almond remained with the Sunbeam Pantomime Children. Her name has not been identified with the company after 1923. Interestingly, a *Sydney Morning Herald* review of the Fullers 1918 pantomime, *Babes in the Woods* records her name as Myee (23 Dec. 1918, 10).
4. One of Lamond's ukuleles (right) is held by the Powerhouse museum in Sydney.
5. Toni Lamond, whose son is actor/historian Tony Sheldon, recalls that her mother was "a beautiful blonde angel, a glamorous person who wore lovely clothes and did exotic things but never stayed home" much due to her career as an entertainer.
6. The Hobart *Mercury* records in its 31 March 1923 edition that Lamond's "woop woop" character was "an immigrant" (9). A few days later it described the act in a little more detail: "Stella Lamond, the comedienne of the company will be heard in 'I am looking for Sydney,' an impression of an Englishman's first visit to Australia" (5 Apr. 1923, 4).



Source: Powerhouse Museum



L-R: Max Reddy, Helen Reddy, Stella Lamond, Tony Sheldon, Toni Lamond

Source: Culture Victoria – The Reddy/Lamond family

GOAT RACING.

ACTRESSES AS DRIVERS.

The goat races at the Coo-ee City Carnival attracted another great attendance last night when artists from the Tivoli Theatre were the drivers. The races created much amusement.

Koongal, the champion Capricornian, was the favourite, and Miss Suter had the honour of steering him. The other animals in the first heat were: S. Hull's Iridiglada, driven by Miss Joan Swain; E. Frainey's Kewl King, by Miss Stella Lamond; E. Edmond's Zilcon, by Miss Marta Kay; and J. Tancred's Naos, by Marjorie Arnold. Koongal was the winner, with Zilcon second.

The entrants for the second heat with their drivers were: Ribbonmont (Amelia Degitano), Harvester (Queenie Royal), Valicare (Edna Saunderson), Brownie (Joan Swain), Silver (Marta Kay). Collisions were frequent, and the race ended: Brownie, 1; Harvester, 2; and Ribbonmont, 3.

The third heat was contested by Sir Mattland (Marjorie Arnold), Sapilly (Joan Swain), Heroic (Amelia Degitano), Bimber (Ann Suter), Don Moon (Stella Lamond), and Trivalve (Edna Saunderson). After a highly diverting race Sapilly won, with Don Moon second.

The final created great excitement, the favourite being Koongal, driven by Ann Suter. Don Moon won with Brownie a close second.

Sydney Morning Herald 7 Mar. (1928), 16.

ANTHONY HORDERNS'

FOR EVERYTHING!

KIDDIES!

YOUR OWN WONDERFUL FILM,
"FRECKLES,"

will be shown this week at our

SATURDAY MORNING PARTY!

The film you have made yourself! You and your friends have been turning into Film Stars for a change, and now, the great work is finished, and we are going to see the lovely Picture you have been so busy with! Bring all your friends as well, and let them see what a jolly time we all have every Saturday morning. There will be a Fox Film Comedy, "Galloping Ghosts," and Stella Lamond, a Soubrette from the Tivoli; and, of course, Uncle Bass, Aunt Willa, and Cousin Marjorie are coming along, so come in early, and make sure of a seat!

10-15, Welfare Hall. ADMISSION FREE by Tickets obtainable from Stationery Department, 2nd Floor.

Sydney Morning Herald 6 July (1929), 1.

Direction ... Sir Benjamin Fuller and Bert Lennox.
MATINEES
WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY
Matinee, 2.15; Nightly at 8
EVERYTHING NEW
COMMENCING AT THE
MATINEE TODAY
ANOTHER ALL LAUGH REVUE BY
JOE LAWMAN
AND HIS CLEVER COMPANY OF REVUE ENTERTAINERS.
STELLA LAMOND, BUD MORLEY, CORA WHITWELL, IRENE BYRNE, CY PIER, LOWELLA BROS.
And Another New Speciality of
THE 3 ALEX'S,
SIGO, CLEMO AND BENNO.
A MAGICAL SUCCESS, THE
Great Danzig
The World's Greatest Magician.
PLANS AT MAJESTIC THEATRE PHONE 3366.

Advertiser (Adelaide) 27 June (1936), 2.

WRESTLING BOHEMIA
TO-NIGHT, SAT.
PAUL EGEL (Germany)
versus
LEO. DEMERICAL (Greek American).
"ALL IN" GRUDGE CONTEST.
SPECIAL BOXING CONTESTS.
HARRY MASON v. ERIC WILSON,
TED STEWART v. JOE HANNAL.
ALSO
JOE LAWMAN (comedian) and
STELLA LAMOND (soubrette)
in Vaudeville Offerings.
Prices: 3, 2, 1.
Ladies 1/ to all parts.

Brisbane Courier 12 Aug. (1932), 6.

ENGAGEMENTS CHRONOLOGY

- 1918:** FULLERS THEATRES (Grand Opera House, Syd; 21-31 Dec. > *Babes in the Woods*)
- 1918:** FULLERS THEATRES (Grand Opera House, Syd; 1 Jan. - * > *Babes in the Woods*)
- 1920:** FULLERS DRAMATIC PLAYERS (Grand Op House, Syd; 27 Mar. - * > *Forbidden Marriage*) • (Grand Op House, Syd; 11 Dec. - * > *East Lynne*)
- NB:** For Sunbeam Pantomime Children engagements between 1922 and 1926 see the relevant AVTA entry.
- 1922:** KING'S PICTURE THEATRES (Managing Dir. Dan Carroll – Majestic Th, Bris; 22 June* > Lamond entered the Billy Maloney Singing Competition while in Brisbane with the Sunbeam Pantomime Children)
- 1927:** n/e (His Majesty's Th, Hobart; 30 May - * > Sunbeam Pantomime Children) ► n/e (Tivoli Th, Syd; 15 Oct. - * > The Tivoli Follies of 1927)
- 1928:** TIVOLI CELEBRITY VAUDEVILLE (Tivoli Th, Melb; ca. 10 Mar. - 29 May*) • (Th Royal, Adel; 2 June - *) • (Tivoli Th, Syd; 18 June - *) • (Tivoli Th, Melb; 7 July - *) ► n/e (Regent Theatre, Syd; 20 Aug. - ca. 27 Sept) ► TIVOLI CELEBRITY VAUDEVILLE (Tivoli Th, Syd; ca. 13 Oct. - *)
- 1929:** TIVOLI CELEBRITY VAUDEVILLE (Tivoli Th, Melb; 6 Apr. - *) • Tivoli Th, Syd; 13 June - *) • (Tivoli Th, Melb; 27 July - * > Follies of 1929)
- 1930:** WESTRALIAN VAUDEVILLE Ltd (Luxor Th, Perth; 10 May - 29 Aug. > Nat Phillips Whirligigs) ► n/e (Ambassadors, Perth; 27 Sept. - ca. 10 Oct.* > with Bert Howell's Stage Band) ► n/e (Crystal Th, Broken Hill; 17- 20 Oct. > Nat Phillips' Revue Co) ► GEORGE MARLOWE (Grand Op House, Syd; 1 Nov - 23 Dec. > Nat Phillips' Revue Co) • GEORGE MARLOWE (Grand Op House, Syd; 26-31 Dec. > *Beauty and the Beast*)
- 1931:** GEORGE MARLOWE (Grand Op House, Syd; 1-24 Jan. > *Beauty and the Beast*) • (Grand Op House, Syd; 24 Jan. - 19 July > Nat Phillips' Revue Co) • (Grand Op House, Syd; 22 Aug - 18 Sept. > Nat Phillips Revue Co)
- 1932:** GEORGE MARLOWE (Grand Op House, Syd; 23 Jan. - 26 Feb. > Nat Phillips Revue Co)
- 1933:** CELEBRITY VAUDEVILLE (Th Royal, Bris; 3 June - * ca. Aug.) ► n/e (Bohemia; Bris; 12 Aug. > entertainment on a wrestling programme)
- 1935:** n/e (Civic Theatre, Syd; 26 Apr. - *) ► n/e (Roxy Th, North Syd; ca.28 Sept - * > with Les Shipp Revue Co)
- 1936:** n/e (Luxor Th, Perth; ca. 10 Jan. - *. > Serenaders) BENJAMIN FULLER/BERT LENNON (Majestic Th, Adel; 27 June - * > Joe Lawman Revue Entertainers)
- 1937:** STANLEY McKAY (Queensland regional tour; ca. June > Stanley McKay's Gaieties)
- 1938:** GRAHAM MITCHELL (Th Royal, Bris; 11 Mar. - * > Serenaders Co.)



Courier Mail 11 Mar. (1938), 17.

FUTHER REFERENCE

- Lamond, Stella. "98/34/2 Scrapbook, Stella Lamond, cardboard/ paper/ leatherette, Australia, 1915-1922." *Powerhouse Museum*.
- Van Straten Frank. *Tivoli* (2003), 91.