

## GEORGE MOON JNR

George Moon Jnr came to Australia in the late 1920s to tour with his father (including the Moon and Morris Revue Co). He later toured with Jim Gerald's company and worked in musical comedy and revue (notably for J. C. Williamson's and Ernest C. Rolls). One of his more significant musicals *Blue Mountain's Melody* (1934). After returning to England, Moon carved out a successful career in Britain as a film and television actor.<sup>1</sup>

The son of George Moon (of Moon and Morris fame), George Moon Jnr was born in London in 1909. Although it is still unclear when he first performed before an Australian audience, it appears that Moon Jnr was in the country at least by April 1925. The *Sydney Morning Herald* notes in this respect that he was spotted walking down the street with his father and Wee Georgie Wood. "The tallest of the trio," writes the journalist, "is George Moon's hopeful, who can give his dad a head" (18 Apr. 1925, 2). His first recorded stage appearances found to date occurred during the 1927 Moon and Morris Revue Company tour of North Queensland (Mar. - Sept.). Soon after the end of the Rockhampton season in late September he and his father, along with Dan Morris and Nell Fleming, began an extended engagement at Brisbane's Cremorne Theatre with Elton Black's New Follies Company. The season also incorporated a production of Vic Robert's *Aladdin* pantomime during the festive/New Year season.

Moon's movements over the next two or three years seem, not surprisingly, to coincide with his father's. After a season with Vic Roberts' Mirthmakers at the Cremorne (immediately following the New Follies) in early 1928 they travelled to Perth to open with Paul Daly's Supremes (Luxor Theatre). The company, which also included Dan Morris and Nell Fleming, opened on 29 July and continued through until September when it became known as Vic Roberts' Smilestones. Under the direction of Roberts, and boasting a line-up comprising such artists as Durham Marcel, Nellie Lafferty and Gwen Matthews, the Smilestones presented its revue and vaudeville entertainment up until a week or so before Christmas. The company then staged a revival of Roberts *Aladdin* before returning to variety in the New Year.



1944

Source: [www.evelyndall.com](http://www.evelyndall.com)

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NEW BALLET.**  
PLAN RAPIDLY FILLING AT PALING'S.  
DO IT NOW—PHONE 816.

*Townsville Daily Bulletin* 31 Mar. (1927), 3.

Almost two months after ending their Perth engagements, the Moon and Morris Revue Company opened for the Fullers at the Bijou Theatre (Melb). In addition to George Moon Jnr, several other artists from Perth were also in the company - notably Nell Fleming, Durham Marcel, Nellie Lafferty and Gwen Matthews. The company played at least one more season that year - with this being the Majestic Theatre, Adelaide.

George Moon's movements from late 1929 onwards become somewhat difficult to track due in part to some confusion in the billing of the two George Moons. This is because advertisements and reviews do not always distinguish between the father and son, and so it is not always clear which one of the two men is being referred to. It is almost certain, for example, that the George Moon who formed a partnership with Bert Le Blanc at the Gaiety Theatre in Sydney in 1929, under the direction of ex-Travesty Stars/Moon and Morris troupe member Durham Marcel, was

<sup>1</sup> This biography acknowledges that some details attributed to George Moon Jnr may be linked instead to his father. The confusion occurs because production advertisements and reviews published in the early 1930s do not always indicate whether the performer is George Moon Sr or George Moon Jnr.]

Moon Snr. It is unclear, however, if Moon Snr or Moon Jnr appeared in Ernest C. Rolls revue spectacular, *The League of Happiness Revue*, which was staged at the Palace Theatre beginning Boxing Day 1931. The company also included variety veterans Fred Bluett, Gus Bluett, Vernon Sellars, Alf J. Lawrence, Al Mack, Lou Vernon, and Jennie Benson.

George Moon Jnr is known, however, to have been engaged by J. C. Williamson's to appear opposite Gus Bluett and Cecil Kellaway in the musical comedy *Follow Through*, staged the previous year at Melbourne's Theatre Royal (8 Feb. 1930). It has also been confirmed that he joined Jim Gerald's Revue Company sometime in 1933 and subsequently toured Australia and possibly New Zealand on the Tivoli circuit with that troupe through until around May 1934. A little over a month later, he took on a role in the Melbourne production of George M. Cohan's musical comedy *The Merry Malones* (Apollo Theatre, beginning 23 June). The following year, Moon appeared in Ernest C. Rolls's revue extravaganza *Rhapsodies of 1935* (Apollo Theatre, Melbourne, beginning 2 February 1935). The cast for that production included Roy Rene, Alex Kellaway (see Jack Kellaway), and Chic Arnold (see Charles Norman). The George Moon who appeared in *Blue Mountain's Melody* (1934), a musical comedy by J. C. Bancks and Charles Zwar, is also thought to have been George Moon Jnr.

After returning to England, George Moon (he had by then dropped the Junior from his name) carved out a successful career in Britain as a film and television actor. Following *Lightening Conductor* (1938), he appeared in such well-known films as *Carry on Admiral* (1957), *A Matter of Choice* (1963), *Promise Her Anything* (1965), *Half a Sixpence* (1967), *Carry on Camping* (1969), *Carry on Dick* (1974), and *Eskimo Nell* (1975). His television appearances included *Z Cars*, *Doctor in the House*, *Copper's End*, *Doctor at Large*, *Special Branch*, *Doctor on the Go*, *Lord Tramp*, *Dad's Army*, and *The Famous Five*. One of his last roles was in the television series *The Enigma Files* (1980).

The father of English film, television, and theatre actor Georgina Moon, George Moon Jnr died in Westminster, England on 17 December 1981.

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THEATRE ROYAL: COMMENCING SATURDAY WEEK, FEBRUARY 8.**  
J. C. Williamson Ltd. Will Present, for the First Time in Australia, the Musical Comedy Success of 1929-30.

**"FOLLOW THROUGH."**

Book by Laurence Schwab and B. G. de Sylva. Music by de Sylva, Brown, and Henderson. (My arrangement with Laurence Schwab and Frank Mandel, of New York.)  
A snappy and piquant entertainment, sparkling and refreshing. "Follow Through" is a typical summer show. In London and New York it has been drawing packed houses at every performance for over a year. It's crammed with song hits, dancing specialties, and comedy, with plenty of pep and personality.  
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**FRANCES OGILVEY, and Others.**

Together With the Famous Beauty Ballet.  
Ballets and Ensembles, &c., arranged by Al. Fisher. Musical Director: William Quintrell.  
Play Produced by FREDERICK BLACKMAN.  
Booking Opens at Allan's on Monday Next.  
Firstnighters' Seats Must be Claimed and Paid for by Noon Next Wednesday.

*Argus* 29 Jan. (1930), 24.

## **HISTORICAL NOTES AND CORRECTIONS**

1. It has not yet been established which George Moon appeared in *What's Yours?*, a Tivoli Theatre revue staged in Sydney in October 1933. The cast also featured Mike Connors, Queenie Paul, and Lulla Fanning (daughter of Maud Fanning).
2. A number of sources devoted to cinema, including the *Internet Movie Database* (IMDB) and *British Film Institute* website, have inadvertently collapsed the film careers of father and son together, due both to the similarity in names and because they have not been aware of George Moon Snr's career as an internationally renowned vaudeville performer. A photograph of George Moon Jnr (*Green Room* June 1919, 12) and a film clip of him dancing with Stan Ray in 1931 (see below for details) clearly indicates, however, that George Moon Jnr did not play the character Joe Mulga in Pat Hanna's two films *Diggers* (1931) and *Diggers in Blighty* (1933). It is likely, too, that George Moon Snr also appeared in *A Co-Respondent's Course* (1931) and not his son, as the IMDB and other sources currently indicate. Although little is known of that film, it does have the distinction of being the first narrative film to have been released in Australia with sound.

**NB:** Richard Fotheringham indicates in his entry on Hanna's Diggers Company in the *Companion to Theatre in Australia* that George Moon took over the role of Joe Mulga from Joe Valli when Valli decided to develop a new character, Jock McTavish (191).

## **FURTHER REFERENCE**

Djubal, Clay. "[Moon, George Jnr.](#)" *AustLit* (2007).

"[George Moon.](#)" *British Film Institute* – online (sighted 3/05/2011)

"[George Moon.](#)" *IMDB* – online (sighted 3/05/2011)

"[Stan Ray and George Moon Jnr: Specialty Dancers \(1931\)](#)" *Australian Screen* (sighted 3/05/2011).



**Stan Ray and George Moon Jnr**

Efftee Films (1931)

Source: *Australian Screen*



**In *Skyport* (1959-1960)**

Source: [www.whirligig.com](http://www.whirligig.com)

Last updated: 20/09/2012

Expanded and Updated from the 2007 AustLit entry

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