

# 1928

Many more variety companies were presenting by 1928 shows that resembled revue rather than revusical. Among the newly formed troupes was The Midnight Frolics, featuring Clem Dawe (aka Clem White, brother of Eric Edgely). One of the company's seasons identified to this date was at the Fullers' Bijou Theatre (Melbourne) beginning 4 June.

Mike Connors and Queenie Paul began staging a series of production on the Fullers Australian and New Zealand (ca. July) circuits under the season title, *The League of Notions*. These were essentially revue rather than plot-driven revusicals. The company also included such performers as Ivy Davis, Bert Rayne, Valerie Rougal, Syd Beck and Leslie Pearce. The musical ensemble was Linn Smith's Jazz Band.

The Stiffy and Mo company continued to tour Australia during the year. Unfortunately few advertisements or revues published in Sydney or Melbourne, where the company played extended seasons, identify which productions were being staged. The few known to have been presented in Melbourne (27 Oct. 1927 - 11 May 1928) for example were: *Lords*, *Mexicans*, *At the Grand* and *Wharfies*.



## **OVER AND UNDER:** [revusical] **Txt.** Charles Delavale; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1928:** Clay's Theatres' Sydney city and circuit; ca. Jan.  
- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Clay's Bridge Theatre Ltd; **Chor.** Elvie Stagpoole.  
- **Troupe:** "Ike" Delavale Revue Company.  
- **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike), Elvie Stagpoole.  
- Seasons incl. Carlton Theatre, Kogarah (24 Jan.).

## **SNIP SNAPS:** [revusical] **Txt.** Charles Delavale; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1928:** Clay's Theatres' Sydney city and circuit; ca. Feb.  
- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Clay's Bridge Theatre Ltd.  
- **Troupe:** "Ike" Delavale Revue Company.  
- **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike), Elvie Stagpoole.  
- Seasons incl. Carlton Theatre, Kogarah (21 Feb.).

**Charles "Ike" Delavle**  
Nat Phillips Collection, Fryer Library, University of Queensland.

## **HIGH UP IN THE HILLS:** [revusical] **Txt.** Charles Delavale; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1928:** Clay's Theatres' Sydney city and circuit; ca. Feb.  
- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Clay's Bridge Theatre Ltd; **Chor.** Elvie Stagpoole.  
- **Troupe:** "Ike" Delavale Revue Company.  
- **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike), Elvie Stagpoole.

## **ON THE RIO GRANDE:** [revusical] **Txt.** George H. Ward; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1928:** Clay's Theatres' Sydney city and circuit; ca. Feb.  
- **Dir.** George H. Ward; **Prod.** Clay's Bridge Theatre Ltd.

## **MARRIED AND SETTLED:** [revusical] **Txt.** Billy Cass; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1928:** Clay's Theatres' Sydney city and circuit; ca. Feb.  
- **Dir.** Billy Cass; **Prod.** Clay's Bridge Theatre Ltd.  
- **Troupe:** Skeeta Cass Revue Company.  
- **Cast** incl. Billy Cass.

## **ON UNCLE:** [revusical] **Txt.** Billy Cass; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1928:** Clay's Theatres' Sydney city and circuit; ca. Feb.  
- **Dir.** Billy Cass. **Prod.** Clay's Bridge Theatre Ltd.  
- **Troupe:** Skeeta Cass Revue Company.  
- **Cast** incl. Billy Cass.

## **EXPLOSIONS:** [revusical] **Txt.** Charles Delavale; **Mus.** [n/e]

NB: It is possible that this work was one of Delavale's earlier revusicals, *Bang Bang* (1927) with a new title.

- 1928:** Clay's Theatres' Sydney city and circuit; ca. Mar.  
- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Clay's Bridge Theatre Ltd; **Chor.** Elvie Stagpoole.

- **Troupe:** "Ike" Delavale Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike), Elvie Stagpoole.
- Seasons incl. Carlton Theatre, Kogarah (20 Mar.).
- This was Ike Delavale's final production for Clay's Bridge Theatre Company.

**GREAT SCOTT:** [musical comedy] **Lib.** Vic Roberts; **Mus.** [n/e]

The *Brisbane Courier* records: A delightful pot-pourri of melody and mirth is how one might appropriately describe the current programme at Cremorne... It is of an entirely different character to the dishes that have been placed before patrons for some time past, the author-producer, Mr Victor Roberts, striking a new and original note, and devoting the whole of the two and a half hours entertainment to the presentation of a musical comedy revue, entitled Great Scott, but which might well be named "You Never Know." There is a strong plot running through the show, and although numerous deviations from the subject matter are made for the purpose of introducing musical numbers, both gay and grave ("Cremorne," 18).

*Brisbane Courier* 24 May (1928), 2.

The storyline revolves around Phil Granger, a heavy punter, and his wife Gladys. Before their marriage Phil promised to give up gambling on horses, with the arrangement being that should he fall by the wayside she will leave him forever. Phil can't resist the urge to have a flutter and this leads to him losing heavily. He becomes so depressed that he enters into a contract with a chance acquaintance, Jake, to escape from his earthly worries for the sum of £10. Jake agrees to wait until his client gives him the word before he kills him. However, soon after the contract has been made Phil discovers that a distant relative has died and left him a fortune. He tries to break the contract but Jake is somewhat unreasonable and Phil finds himself (with the aid of his best mate Abe), having to dodge both his suspicious wife and Jake and his gang of criminals.

**1928:** Cremorne Theatre, Brisbane; 24-30 Mar.

- **Prod.** John N. McCallum; **Dir.** Vic Roberts; **M Dir.** Bill Butland.
- **Cast** incl. George Moon Snr (Phil Granger), Bert Le Blanc (Abe Cohen), Linda Foy (Gladys Granger), Dan Morris (Jake), Nellie Lafferty (Alice), George Moon Jnr (Joe), Vic Roberts (the lawyer), George Brown (Dr Wattle), Paul Daly (Frank Howard), Doreen Carroll (fortune teller), Lilian Gray (Mary).

"**Cremorne.**" *Brisbane Courier* 26 Mar. (1928), 18.

"**Great Scott! Cremorne Show Musical Comedy Revue.**" *Sunday Mail* (Brisbane) 25 Mar. (1928), 11.

**A WILD NIGHT:** [revusical] **Txt.** George Storey; **Mus.** [n/e]

**1928:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 12-18 May

- **Dir.** George Storey; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd.
- **Troupe:** Storeyettes Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Robert Roberts, Arthur Aldridge, Nell Fleming, Phyllis Whisken, Jack Morrison, Dulcie Milner, Patsy Hall, Vernon Sellars, Airline Patterson, May Webster.

**ORANGE PIPS:** [revusical] **Txt.** George Storey; **Mus.** [n/e]

**1928:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 19-25 May

- **Dir.** George Storey; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd.
- **Troupe:** Storeyettes Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Robert Roberts, Arthur Aldridge, Nell Fleming, Phyllis Whisken, Jack Morrison, Dulcie Milner, Patsy Hall, Vernon Sellars, Airline Patterson, May Webster.

**PLEASE GET MARRIED:** [musical comedy] **Txt.** Lewis Allen

Browne; **Add Txt/Lyr.** Frank Neil; **Mus/Lyr.** Jack O'Hagen  
 Director Frank Neil is believed to have adapted portions of the original text (as well as contributing some lyrics) from this three act musical farce by New Yorker Allen Lewis Browne, while the musical score (and lyrics) were written and composed by Australian Jack O'Hagen. The *Age* critic records that despite containing questionable dialogue and embarrassing situations the comedy was "good." Even better, however,

*Argus* 19 May (1928), 36.

were O'Hagen's musical numbers which the critic indicates were "tuneful" and "entertaining" ("*Please*," 14). Indeed, the composer was brought before the audience at the completion of the play's opening night and warmly applauded for his efforts. The story concerns the love making of Muriel Ashley and Ferdinand Oliver Walter who are ultimately married at the hands of a crook.

**1928:** Palace Theatre, Melbourne; 9 June -

- **Dir.** Frank Neil.

- **Troupe:** Frank Neil's Comedians.

- **Cast** incl. Frank Neil (Ferdinand), Mary Gannon (Muriel), Betty Bright, Lily Molloy.

- There is some confusion over how long the season lasted. Although an advertisement in the *Age* (11 June) indicates that matinees are set to be held on the forthcoming Wednesday and Saturday, no more advertisements were published after the 11<sup>th</sup>, nor was there any further mention in the Amusements section of the paper.

**1928:** His Majesty's Theatre, Perth; 15 Sept. -

- Cast and production mostly as for previous Melbourne season.

"Palace Theatre: *Please Get Married - Farce with Music*." *Argus* 11 June (1928), 11.

"*Please Get Married*." *Age* 11 June (1928), 14.

## **THE DINKUM OIL:** [revusical] **Txt** Con Moreni; **Mus.** [n/e]

**1928:** Clay's Theatres' Sydney city and circuit; ca. June

- **Dir.** Con Moreni; **Prod.** Clay's Bridge Theatre Ltd.

- **Troupe:** Con Moreni's "Ideals" Revue Company.

- **Cast** incl. Con Moreni, Harry Moreni.

## **MERRY WHIRL:** [revusical ] **Txt.** Eric Masters; **Mus.** [n/e]

**1928:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 7 July -

- **Dir.** Eric Masters; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd.

- **Troupe:** Eric Masters Revue Company.

- **Cast** incl. Eric Masters, Stud Foley, Nell Fleming, Al Maurice, William Beresford, Winnie Edgerton, Alma Vader, Lance Vane, Nan Taylor, Iris Ackworth.

- **Musicians:** Vasco's Syncopating Seven Jazz.

## **MIDNIGHT FROLICS:** [revusical] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

**1928:** Victoria Theatre, Newcastle (New South Wales); 7 July -

- **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd.

- **Cast** incl. Clem Dawe, Alec Regan, Ronald Stafford, Oscar Beck, Violet Lester, Gertie Cremer, Dorothy White, Phyllis Amery, John Robertson, Eric Edgley, Gregory Ivanoff, Louis Cottam.

## **HORSES FOR COURSES:** [revusical] **Txt.** Bert Le Blanc; **Mus.** [n/e]

Very little is known about this production. Although described in advertising as a review, the *Townsville Daily Bulletin's* limited review of the 30 July production differentiates between the first part of the evenings entertainment (vaudeville) and the second part (revue). It is likely therefore that the revue portion was a revusical rather than revue (31 July 1928, 3). The only other information available at this time is a preview published in the same newspaper a few days earlier. "Horses for Courses contains all the ingredients that the majority of amusement and sport loving public are ever eager to sample" (26 July 1928, 3).

**1928:** North Queensland regional tour; ca. June - Aug.

- **Prod.** Paul Warton (in association with George Melrose, and Birch Carroll and Coyle); **Dir.** Bert Le Blanc; **M Dir.** Doris Pretty.

- **Troupe:** Bert Le Blanc's Travesty Stars (aka Frivolities)

- **Cast** incl. Bert Le Blanc, Jack Story, George Melrose, Roy Jeanette, Venia La Motte, Enid Parker, Iris Weekes, Cora Forrest, Jessie Mackay, Esme Ray, Minna Shelby, Ted Weekes, Gladys Cole, Roy Gennett, Mohmmet Kassim, Stan Iverson, Julius Garcia; The Sparklers (aka The Charming Chickens).

- The only established Queensland tour dates for *Horses for Courses* are: Townsville (Wintergarden; 30-31 July) and Rockhampton (School of Arts; 4 Aug.)

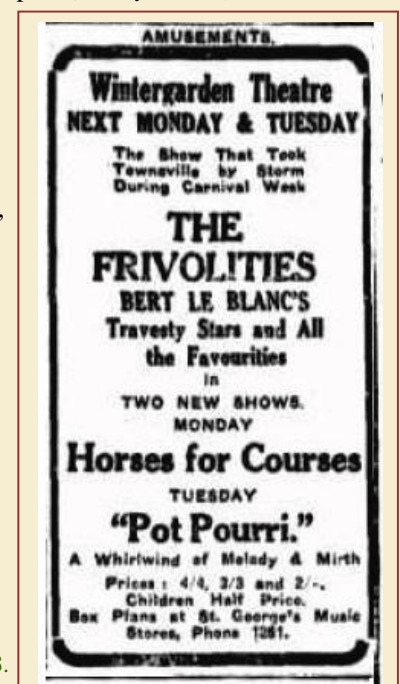
- NB: The Travesty Stars also reportedly toured NSW (including towns such as Wagga and Parkes). Only the November Lismore season has been established todate, and it does not appear to have included this production)

## **EASY MONEY:** [revusical] **Txt.** Bert Le Blanc; **Mus.** [n/e]

**1928:** North Queensland regional tour; ca. June - July.

- **Prod.** Paul Warton (in association with George Melrose, and Birch Carroll and Coyle); **Dir.** Bert Le Blanc; **M Dir.** Doris Pretty.

*Townsville Daily Bulletin* 26 July (1928), 3.



- **Troupe:** Bert Le Blanc's Travesty Stars (aka Frivolities)
- **Cast** incl. Bert Le Blanc, Jack Story, George Melrose, Roy Jeanette, Venia La Motte, Enid Parker, Iris Weekes, Cora Forrest, Jessie Mackay. Winnie Knight; Jessie Mackay, Esme Ray, Minna Shelby, Ted Weekes, Gladys Cole, Roy Gennett, Mohmmet Kassim, Stan Iverson, Julius Garcia; The Sparklers (aka The Charming Chickens).
- Known production dates are: Rockhampton (School of Arts; 26 June-) • Townsville (Olympia Theatre; 11 July-) • Cairns (Hibernian Hall; 24 July).
- NB: The Travesty Stars also reportedly toured NewSouth Wales (including towns such as Wagga and Parkes). Only the November Lismore season has been established todate, and it does not appear to have included this production).

## **IKE'S VACATION:** [revusical] **Txt.** Charles Delavale; **Mus.** [n/e]

"An hilarious hour with Ike during a vacation at Tweed Heads. Full of inimitable fooling and amusing situations" (*Brisbane Courier* 26 May 1928, 2). The *Sunday Mait* critic writes of the storyline:

A considerate wife has permitted her husband to have a holiday and he decides on taking a pal. The mountains are the supposed locale, but the seaside hears the call. The husband and pal find the companionship of the other sex very enjoyable, and the holiday over, the two return to the one home to talk over the joys they have shared. The wife hears the story of big game hunting in the mountains for the holiday makers prefer to keep to the original track, even though it be through thickets of falsehoods ("Empire: Songs," 13).

- 1928:** Empire Theatre, Brisbane; 26 May - 1 June
- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd; **Chor.** Elvie Stagpoole.
  - **Troupe:** Ike Delavale's Laughing Comedy Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike), Reg Hawthorne, Elvie Stagpoole, Tommy Dale, Freda Spry, Bert Dudley, Evelyn Dudley, Mona Thomas, Neva Carr-Glynn, Charlie Megan; and the Tango Six Ballet.
- 1928:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 28 July - 3 Aug.
- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd; **Chor.** Elvie Stagpoole.
  - **Troupe:** Ike Delavale's Laughing Comedy Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike), Reg Hawthorne, Elvie Stagpoole, Tommy Dale, Freda Spry, Lulla Fanning, Mona Thomas, Arline Patterson, Robert Roberts, Charlie Megan; and the Tango Six Ballet.
- 1928:** Fullers' Theatre, Sydney; 3-9 Nov.
- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd; **Chor.** Elvie Stagpoole.
  - **Troupe:** Ike Delavale's Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike), Freda Spry (Ike's wife), Charlie Megan (Horrie Dinkelspiel), Reg Hawthorne (Deacon Jones), Elvie Stagpoole, Tommy Dale, Mona Thomas, Bert Dudley, Lulla Fanning, Evelyn Dudley (an actress, and the cause of Ike's troubles); and the Tango Six Ballet.

NB: Reg Hawthorne, Tommy Dale and Mona Thomas (all members of Jim Gerald's Revue Company) were temporarily with Delavale while Gerald was travelling overseas.

"**Empire Theatre.**" *Brisbane Courier* 28 May (1928), 18.

"**Empire Theatre.**" *Daily Standard* (Brisbane) 28 May (1928), 10.

"**Empire Theatre.**" *Telegraph* (Brisbane) 28 May (1928), 16.

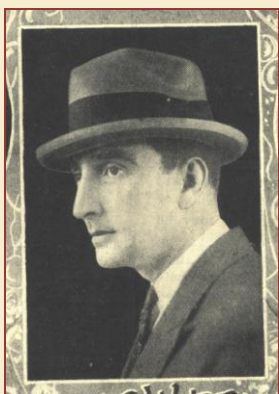
"**Empire Theatre: Songs and Sketches - Ike's Vacation.**" *Sunday Mail* (Brisbane) 27 May (1928), 13.

"**Ike's Vacation: Revue at Fullers.**" *Sun* (Sydney) 4Nov. (1928), 6.

## **SPECIAL MIXTURES:** [revue] **Txt.** Charles Delavale; **Mus.** [n/e]

The title given to the Ike Delavale company's farewell performances, *Special Mixtures* was essentially a "by request" revue, featuring popular pieces from the revusicals and vaudeville entertainments staged during the present season.

- 1928:** Empire Theatre, Brisbane; 7-10 July
- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd; **Chor.** Elvie Stagpoole.
  - **Troupe:** Ike Delavale's Laughing Comedy Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike), Reg Hawthorne, Elvie Stagpoole, Tommy Dale, Freda Spry, Bert Dudley, Evelyn Dudley, Mona Thomas, Neva Carr-Glynn, Charlie Megan; and the Tango Six Ballet.
  - NB: Reg Hawthorne, Tommy Dale and Mona Thomas (all members of Jim Gerald's Revue Company) were temporarily with Delavale while Gerald was travelling overseas.



## **THE COUNTRY BOY:** [revusical] **Txt.** F. Gayle Wyer; **Mus.** [n/e]

The action revolves around the adventures of a country boy who, after a period of extravagance and penury, comes into a fortune.

- 1928:** Majestic Theatre, Sydney; 4-10 Aug.
- **Dir.** F. Gayle Wyer; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd.
  - **Troupe:** F. Gayle Wyer's Band Box Revue Co.
  - **Cast** incl. F. Gayle Wyer, Charles Noman (Bertie Bronson), Harry Gould (Dad), Loris Bingham (Mum), Elsa Scott (Sally, their daughter), Daisy Yates, Dorothy Rudder.

**F. Gayle Wyer**  
*Everyone's* 15 Dec. (1926), 30.

**1928:** Fullers Theatre, Sydney; 18-24 Aug.  
- Cast and production mostly as for previous Majestic Theatre season.

"**Majestic Theatre, Newtown.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 6 Aug. (1928), 8.

**MIXED FATHERS:** [revusical] **Txt.** Charles Delavale; **Mus.** [n/e]

**1928:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 18-24 Aug.  
- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd.  
- **Troupe:** Ike Delavale's Laughing Comedy Revue Company.  
- **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike), Reg Hawthorne, Elvie Stagpoole, Tommy Dale, Freda Spry, Lulla Fanning, Mona Thomas, Arline Patterson, Robert Roberts, Charlie Megan, Jack Settle (specialty act); and the Tango Six Ballet.  
- NB: Reg Hawthorne, Tommy Dale and Mona Thomas (all members of Jim Gerald's Revue Company) were temporarily with Delavale while Gerald was travelling overseas.

**A HAREM MIX-UP:** [revusical] **Txt.** Charles Delavale; **Mus.** [n/e]

"Ike Delavale, as Ike Cohen, gets into more difficulties than any person in Melbourne, and the comedy created by his efforts to extricate himself would compel laughter from a Silent Cop. *A Harem Mix-Up* is a comedy revue that cannot fail to please. The whole produced by Ike Delavale" (*Age* 25 Aug. 1928, 32). The *Sunday Mail* (Brisbane) provides a little more background in 1928:

Two sailors of the English type - or they could be Australian for that matter - go escapading, and in some mysterious way find entrance to the Rajah's harem. Their appearance within the seclusive domain is more an apparition than an actuality to the ladies at the outset, but sailors have the happy knack of knowing others pretty quickly, and the apparition soon materialises in correct form and nature. It is during the transition that the fun commences, and once started does not drag, although as commenced it is only in spasms ("Empire Theatre," 13).

The 1928 Empire Theatre season saw Ike Delavale play a sailor from the Brisbane suburb of Pinkenba. Charlie Mgean's "Sailor Horry," described his occupation as a deckhand on a submarine ("Empire Theatre," 16).

**1928:** Empire Theatre, Brisbane; 23-29 June  
- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd; **Chor.** Elvie Stagpoole.  
- **Troupe:** Ike Delavale's Laughing Comedy Revue Company.  
- **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike), Reg Hawthorne, Elvie Stagpoole, Tommy Dale, Freda Spry, Bert Dudley, Evelyn Dudley, Mona Thomas, Neva Carr-Glynn, Charlie Megan; and the Tango Six Ballet.

**1928:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 25-31 Aug.  
- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd; **Chor.** Elvie Stagpoole.  
- **Troupe:** Ike Delavale's Laughing Comedy Revue Company.  
- **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike), Reg Hawthorne, Elvie Stagpoole, Tommy Dale, Freda Spry, Lulla Fanning, Mona Thomas, Arline Patterson, Robert Roberts, Charlie Megan, and the Tango Six Ballet.

NB: Reg Hawthorne, Tommy Dale and Mona Thomas (all members of Jim Gerald's Revue Company) were temporarily with Delavale while Gerald was travelling overseas.

*Age* 25 Aug. 1928, 32. **Advert.**

"**Empire Theatre.**" *Brisbane Courier* 25 June (1928), 16.

"**Empire Theatre: A Harem Mix-Up - Scenes and Singing.**" *Sunday Mail* (Brisbane) 24 June (1928), 13.

**THE BELL BOY: aka THE BELL HOP** [revusical] **Txt.** Charles Delavale; **Mus.** [n/e]

Advertising for the 1928 Melbourne season announces "Can you imagine Ike as a Bell Boy? Old Man trouble is certainly with the guests when Ike gives them his attention" (*Age* 1 Sept. 1928, 26). For the Brisbane season the Fullers' publicity notes: "Ike Delavale, The Master of Burlesque, and his Revue Co [present] *The Bell Boy*. Making life miserable for all the guests in the hotel, Ike Delavale shows how in a riot of laughter" (*Daily Standard* 9 June 1928, 2).

In relation to the narrative, the *Sunday Mail* records:

When a Jew and an Irishman become partners in a hotel naturally it would be expected that managerial ideas should become at times conflicting. The situations that are evolved in the new piece, *The Bell Hop* (or the bell boy), are so many and often so ludicrous that patrons if not laughing heartily are soberly following out the schemes the proprietors have for popularising the hostelry. The nationalities clash often but a common understanding is reached in time. The array of guests provides proof of the object having been achieved.

A wallet containing £1000 is picked up in the hotel and ownership is claimed by the Jewish partner. A new aspect with fine comedy touches is introduced and in this Ike Delavale as Ike Cohen, one of the proprietors, works out many clever clever quips. Eventually it is found that the 'money' is counterfeit ("Empire Theatre: *The Bell Hop*," 13").

**1928:** Empire Theatre, Brisbane; 9-15 June  
- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd; **Chor.** Elvie Stagpoole.  
- **Troupe:** Ike Delavale's Laughing Comedy Revue Company.  
- **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike), Reg Hawthorne, Elvie Stagpoole, Tommy Dale, Freda Spry, Bert Dudley, Evelyn Dudley, Mona Thomas, Neva Carr-Glynn, Charlie Megan; and the Tango Six Ballet.

**1928:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 1-7 Sept.

- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd; **Chor.** Elvie Stagpoole.
- **Troupe:** Ike Delavale's Laughing Comedy Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike), Reg Hawthorne, Elvie Stagpoole, Tommy Dale, Freda Spry, Lulla Fanning, Mona Thomas, Arline Patterson, Robert Roberts, Charlie Megan, and the Tango Six Ballet.
- *The Bell Boy* was the final production in Charles Delavale's 1928 Bijou Theatre season.

1928: Fullers' Theatre, Sydney; 10-16 Nov.

- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd; **Chor.** Elvie Stagpoole

- **Troupe:** Ike Delavale's Revue Company.

- **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale (Ike Cohen), Charlie Megan (Percy Prune), Reg Hawthorne (Pat Flanagan), Elvie Stagpoole, Tommy Dale (Mr Cheetem, hotel manager), Freda Spry, Mona Thomas, Bert Dudley, Lulla Fanning, Evelyn Dudley; and the Tango Six Ballet.

- *The Bell Boy* was the final production in Charles Delavale's 1928 Fullers' Theatre season.

1929: Luxor Theatre, Perth; 15-21 June

- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **Prod.** C.G. Killick and F.W. Wilson (Luxor Entertainments Ltd); **M Dir.** Winifred Walker; **Chor.** Elvie Stagpoole; **S Art.** Ted Taylor; **Cost.** Madame Grigo.

- **Troupe:** Ike Delavale's Whizz-Bangs.

- **Cast** incl. Ike Delavale (Ike Cohen), Morrie Barling, Bob Raymond, Alex McKinnon, Colleen Hope, Freda Spry, Elsie Hosking, Doris O'Shea, Elvie Stagpoole; and the Whizz-Bang Eight.

- The following week's program (22-28 June) was an all-vaudeville bill.

- NB: Reg Hawthorne, Tommy Dale and Mona Thomas (all members of Jim Gerald's Revue Company) were temporarily with Delavale while Gerald was travelling overseas.

Age 1 Sept. (1928), 26. **Advert.**

"**Bell Boy: Revue at Fullers, The.**" *Sun* (Sydney) 12 Nov. (1928), 7.

"**Empire Theatre, The.**" *Brisbane Courier* 11 June (1928), 9.

"**Empire Theatre, The.**" *Telegraph* (Brisbane) 11 June (1928), 16.

"**Empire Theatre: The Bell Hop - Pleasing Programme.**" *Sunday Mail* (Brisbane) 10 June (1928), 13.

## MARRIED BLISS-TERS: [revusical] **Txt.** George Wallace; **Mus.** [n/e]

1928: Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 10-14 Sept.

- **Dir.** George Wallace; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd.

- **Troupe:** George Wallace Revue Company.

- **Cast** incl. George Wallace, Marshall Crosby, Marie Nyman, Maida Jones, Ada Scaddan, Frank Haining, Tom Lincoln, Jack Scott, Two Dalys; and the Six Rascals.

- **Musicians:** Five Flaming Youths.

- NB: The alternative spelling of Ada Scaddan's surname is Scadden (or also Scaddon).

"**Bijou - George Wallace Today.**" *Argus* 10 Sept. (1928), 10.

"**Bijou Theatre: George Wallace Revue Company.**" *Age* 11 Sept. (1928), 11.

**BIJOU THEATRE.                      BIJOU THEATRE.**

Direction . . . . . Fullers' Theatres Ltd.

TWO PERFORMANCES DAILY    MATINEES, 2.30; NIGHTS, at 8.

LISTEN! ALL MELBOURNE IS WAITING FOR THIS.  
Great, Glorious Welcome News.

**GEORGE WALLACE OPENS**

With His Merry Band of Funmakers, Singers, and Dancers,  
And His First Rib-tickling Revue Will be—

**"MARRIED BLISS-TERS."**                      **"MARRIED BLISS-TERS."**

A-Laugh-a-Minute Show. Girls, Giggles, and Gaiety, Sparkling With Effervescent Wit.

**GEORGE WALLACE — AUSTRALIA'S COMEDY KING.**  
**GEORGE WALLACE — AUSTRALIA'S COMEDY KING.**

With Marie Nyman, Maida Jones, Ada Scaddon, Marshall Crosby, Frank Haining, Tom Lincoln,  
Jack White, Two Dalys, The Six Rascals, and the Five Flaming Youths.

MAKE A VISIT TO THE BIJOU A WEEKLY EVENT, AND LAUGH AT THE ANTICS  
OF GEORGE WALLACE, THE MASTER MIRTH-MAKER.

**AN ADDED ATTRACTION—HAL. BAKER, THE DANCING GENIUS.**  
**AN ADDED ATTRACTION—HAL. BAKER, THE DANCING GENIUS.**

Late of the "Good News" Company.  
The Winner of the **GEORGE WALLACE COMPETITION**  
Will Be Announced at To-night's Performance.

Argus 10 Sept. (1928), 18

**MY PAL GINGER:** [musical comedy] **Txt.** George Sorlie; **Mus.** [n/e]

Described as "a new Australian play" (12 Sept. 1928, 45), and "Australian in sentiment" (19 Sept. 1928, 45) in *Everyone's*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* similarly notes that this "new Australian comedy... [is] Aussie through and through" (21 Sept. 1928, 2), and a "hilarious Australian comedy of sunshine and laughter" (28 Sept. 1928, 3). The *Herald* also provides some insight into the book:

It is a very plain story about a misunderstood hero, with a square jaw, sad blue eyes, and the other characters are those familiar in melodrama. In short, *My Pal Ginger* is the old story in which the hero, after suffering silently the suspicion that he is leading a life of deception, finds his reputation restored at the eleventh hour. The drama has the additional attraction of being about Australia. Mr. George Sorlie played as the hero's pal, Ginger, who, though he has spout most of his life in prison, has a heart of gold ("*My Pal*," 7).

In relation to the lead character, the *Sun* (Sydney) describes Sorlie's portrayal as "something new to this type of play. He was a little of Ginger Mick with much more polish about him - a Don Quixote of Surry Hills, a Robin Hood of the streets, who finds himself suddenly in the bush ("*My Pal*," 6).

The production, which opened George Sorlie's season at the Grand Opera House in September 1928, is said to have also featured the latest song numbers and introduced many novelties (*Everyone's* 19 Sept. 1928, 45). Among the songs were "Broken Hearted," "Blue Heaven," and "Magnolia" (all sung by George Sorlie).

**1928:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 22 Sept. - 2 Nov.

- **Dir.** George Sorlie; **Prod/Lse.** William Russell.

- **Cast** incl. George Sorlie (Ginger), Brian Ewart, Rita Aslin, Mollie Nailon, Maudie Stewart, Gracie Dorran, Mr Stewart.

**1929:** George Sorlie's Queensland regional tour; ca. May - July

"*My Pal Ginger*." *Sydney Morning Herald* 24 Sept. (1928), 7.

"*My Pal Ginger and the Dinkum Oil: George Sorlie's Success*." *Sun* (Sydney) 23 Sept. (1928), 6.

**THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER:** [revusical] **Txt.** F. Gayle Wyer; **Mus.** [n/e]

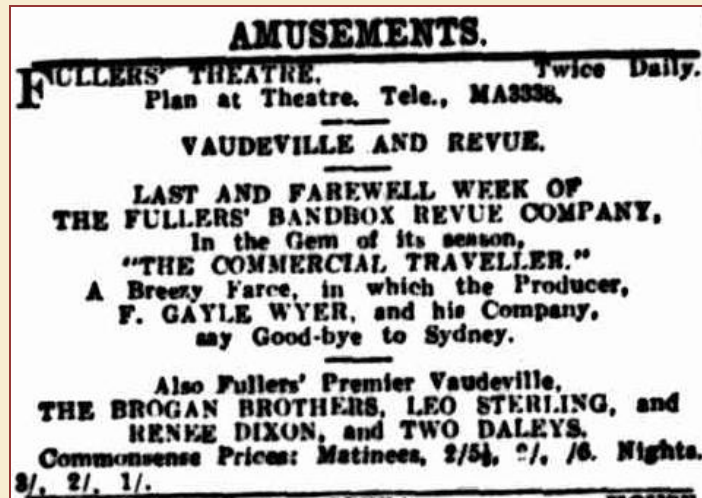
**1928:** Fullers Theatre, Sydney; 2-8 Oct.

- **Dir.** F. Gayle Wyer; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd.

- **Troupe:** F. Gayle Wyer's Band Box Revue Co.

- **Cast** incl. F. Gayle Wyer, Charles Noman, Harry Gould, Loris Bingham, Elsa Scott, Daisy Yates, Dorothy Rudder.

- Final show of the Sydney season.



*Sydney Morning Herald* 2 Oct. (1928), 2.

**A GIRL FOR A BOY:** [revusical] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

**1928:** Clay's Theatres' Sydney city and suburban circuit; ca. Oct.

- **Dir.** D. B. O'Connor; **Prod.** Clay's Bridge Theatres Ltd

**BALD HEADS:** [revusical] **Txt.** George Wallace; **Mus.** [n/e]

George Wallace played the role of a wizard in this revusical about a gang of criminals, the Baldheads, who make a practice of visiting private entertainments and holding up the guests. Much of the action is said to have taken "place on the roof of the rose garden of the Free and Easy Club, where revolver shooting, dancing, singing and comic situations kept the large audience in a constant simmer of laughter" ("*Tivoli Theatre*," 12).

**1928:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 24-30 Nov.

- **Dir.** George Wallace; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd.

- **Troupe:** George Wallace Revue Company.

- **Cast** incl. George Wallace, Marshall Crosby, Marie Nyman, Maida Jones, Ada Scaddan, Frank Haining, Tom Lincoln, Jack Scott; and the Six Rascals.
  - **Musicians:** Five Flaming Youths.
  - *Bald Heads* was advertised as being "presented for the first time on any stage" (*Age* 24 Nov. 1928, 32).
- 1930:** Tivoli Theatre, Melbourne; 22-28 Mar.
- **Dir.** George Wallace; **Prod.** Tivoli Celebrity Vaudeville Pty Ltd; **Chor.** Maurice Diamond.
  - **Troupe:** George Wallace Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. George Wallace, Marshall Crosby, Keith Connelly, Bert Dudley, Tup Dudley, Jim Romaine, Irene Shamrock, Bebe Scott, Leonard Rich, John V. Dobbie, Jack Grant; and the Eight Rascals.
  - **Musicians:** Five Flaming Youths Jazz Band.

- NB: The alternative spelling of Ada Scaddan's surname is Scadden (or also Scaddon).

"**Bijou Theatre.**" *Age* 26 Nov. (1928), 10.

"**Tivoli Theatre.**" *Age* 24 Mar. (1930), 12.

**PUSS IN BOOTS:** [revusical] **Lib/Mus.** Harold Middleton; **Mus.** [n/e]

*Puss in Boots* was produced by the Sandgate community as a means of raising funds for the local Church of England parish.

**1928:** Sandgate Town Hall, Brisbane; 7 Dec. -

- **M Dir.** Harry Evans.
- **Cast** incl. Frank Coaldrake, Garth Dinsdale, William Dews, Stewart Howitt, Ethel Bean, Florence Bassett, Gwen Taylor, P. B.M. Middleton, George Dann, Gordon Amos, Harold Middleton, Reg Swartz.
- The production reportedly comprised more than 60 performers.
- George Dann is best known as the playwright George Landen Dann.

**MONEY TO BURN:** [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

# FHC, n. yr. [manuscript - Nat Phillips Collection, UQFL9, Box 2]

*Money to Burn* is described in an *Age* review as a "musical comedy revuette" ("Bijou Theatre," 12). Phillips again plays his alter ego "Stiffy."

The Nat Phillips Collection manuscript also includes the characters: 'Erb, Pacy, Pom, Girls and Mrs Rock.

**1928:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 10-16 Dec.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Whirligigs.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Jack Kellaway ('Erb), Daisy Merritt, Al Mack Jack Scott, Tom Collins, Dan M. Dunbar, Kitty Stewart, Winnie Edgerton, Grace Savieri, and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys.
- This was the opening production of the 1928 Melbourne season.
- The company's repertoire at this timer comprised mostly new productions, along with at revivals of several Stiffy and Mo/Stiffy and 'Erb revusicals, including *At the Hunt* (aka Huntsmen), *The Mustrad Pot* and *Harem Scarem* (aka *The Porters* and *In a Harem*).

NB: Jack Kellaway's surname is often spelled Kelleway in reviews and advertising.

"**Bijou Theatre.**" *Age* 17 Dec. (1928), 12.

"**Bijou - Nat Phillips Revue Co.**" *Argus* 11 Dec. (1928), 9.

**HOITY TOITY** [revusical] **Txt.** Charles Delavale; **Mus.** [n/e]

**1928:** - Masonic Hall, Bathurst (New South Wales); 10 Dec.

- **Dir.** Charles Delavale;
- **Cast** incl. Ike Delavale.
- Produced in association with Fullers' Theatres. It is presently unclear whether Delavale took his own company to Bathurst or whether he utilised members of the K-Nuts company (which also featured in the programme).

**THE CABARET:** [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

**1928:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 17-23 Dec.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Whirligigs.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Jack Kellaway ('Erb), Daisy Merritt, Al Mack, Jack Scott, Tom Collins, Dan M. Dunbar, Kitty Stewart, Winnie Edgerton, Grace Savieri, and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys.

NB: Jack Kellaway's surname is often spelled Kelleway in reviews and advertising.



**LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD:** [pantomime] **Lib.** Frank Neil; **Mus.** [n/e]

"The exigencies of modern revue have so transformed the immortal characters of the nursery that they are almost unrecognisable. The story of *Little Red Riding Hood* has undergone this treatment. Therefore, at the Empire Theatre it is produced not so much in the spirit of pantomime as in that of revue. Red Riding Hood, witnessing this version of her adventures would have been bewildered. The little girl with the scarlet cloak and hood would never have recognised herself. After leaving the enchanted wood, according to Mr Frank Neil's players, Red Riding Hood, for no ostensible reason, was wicked off to sea. After being shipwrecked, an experience which gave the dame still another opportunity to change her gown, the dainty little heroine next appeared on a treasure island, where Hawaiian maids and ukuleles abounded, in search of a golden key. And then strangest of all, Mr Neil married her to Boy Blue" ("Empire," 3).



**1928:** Empire Theatre, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1928 - 2 Feb. 1929  
- **Dir/Prod.** Frank Neil.  
- **Troupe:** Frank Neil's Comedians.  
- **Cast** incl. Jefferson Taite, Mattie Jansen, Doris Tindall, Gwen Matthews, Bert Desmond, Amy Rochelle, Mary Gannon, Violet Elliott, Field Fisher, Girlie Deacon, Mildred Nelson, Violet Meldrum, Jessie Gilham, Gloria Millett, Mollie Mayne, Zena Fox, Sylvia Gammell, Violet Jagelman, Doreen Adair, Pat Sherringham, Phyllis Culbert, Valda Leach, Olga Christensen, Pat Calwell, Jean Weston, plus various children and \ specialty acts (including Chrissie Royal's juvenile acrobats).

"**Empire: *Little Red Riding Hood, The.***" *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. (1928), 3.

**Amy Rochelle**  
National Library of Australia

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST:** [pantomime] **Lib.** Jack O'Donnell and Bert Ray; **Mus.** [n/e]

*Beauty and the Beast* begins in the traditional pantomime style, with the Demon and Fairy Queen voicing their claims over the destiny of the sleeping Beauty. The second scene, however, sees Fairy Prosperita's powers on the wane. Beauty has returned to the village of Puddlebridge, escorted by Prince Rupert of Kingswood, but things turn nasty shortly afterwards. Demon Malvino enters the palace of the Prince in a cloud of fire and brimstone and turns the noble Prince back into a monstrous beast. Beauty, Baron and Maggie Dooley, Johnny Smart, Trixie and former bailiffs turned servants of the Baron, Flip and Flop, must now battle the evil forces of Malvino in order to save the Prince from his former self.

Songs known to have been incorporated into the production were: "My Mommy and Moonbeams" (sung by Nellie Kolle) and "When the Sun Goes Down" (Rene Dixon).

**PALACE THEATRE.**  
Location—Top Bourke Street, Near Parliament House.  
Sole Proprietors: Fullers' Theatres Ltd.

Commencing at the

**HOLIDAY MATINEE TO-DAY AT 2.15. TWICE DAILY EVERY DAY.**      **TONIGHT AT 8. TWICE DAILY EVERY DAY.**

**O'DONNELL and RAY Present the Gigantic, Beautiful, GORGEOUS, GLITTERING PANTOMIME,**  
**"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."**

With a Cast of Extraordinary Brilliance, Including  
**BERT RAY, the Inimitable Dame Comedian; NELLIE KOLLE, RENEE DIXON, IVY DAVIS, HAZEL NUTT, JACK KEARNS, BERTHA BEAUMONT, WILL INNES, FRANK KARNO, HARRY TAYLOR, LYN ST. LOUIS, VERA NICHOLSON, and POLLY McLAREN.** The Specialty Acts include **ABDY'S PERFORMING CATS, DOGS, MONKEYS, and COCKATOOS, THE GINGER MEGGS TRIO, THE EIGHT ACROBATIC WONDERS, and LEONORA DE VERE, the Act Beautiful.** And a Host of Fairies, Beasts, Giants, Gnomes, Demons, &c. by  
**A BEvy OF BEAUTIFUL AUSTRALIAN GIRLS.**

**PANTOMIME HOLIDAY BOX-PLAN ARRANGEMENTS:**  
Box-plan for To-day's Matinee and Evening Performances will be on view at the Theatre Office from 9 a.m. At Glen's, Thursday morning as usual.

**PANTOMIME PRICES, 3, 2, 1. PANTOMIME PRICES, 3, 2, 1.**  
**PANTOMIME PRICES, 3, 2, 1. PANTOMIME PRICES, 3, 2, 1.**

Booked Seats, 1/ extra. Children Half-price to All Matinees, except to 1/2, and Each Child will receive a Present of a Novelty Beast from *Beauty*.

**'PHONE CENTRAL 8843 FOR RESERVATIONS.**

*Argus* 26 Dec. (1928), 18.

**1928:** Palace Theatre, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1928 - 1 Jan. 1929  
- **Dir.** Jack O'Donnell and Bert Ray; **Prod.** Fullers Theatres Ltd; **S Art.** Rege Robins; **Chor.** Polly McLaren.  
- **Cast** incl. Nellie Kolle (Prince Rupert), Rene Dixon (Beauty), Ivy Davis (Prosperita), Jack Kearns (Baron Dooley), William Innes (Demon Malvino), Bert Ray (Dame Maggie Dooley), Bertha Beaumont (Johnny Smart), Hazel Nutt (Trixie), Vera Nicholson (Kitty), Lynn St Louis (Flip), Harry Taylor (Flop), Frank Karno (The Beast/Dog Tiny), Polly McLaren, Abdy's Performing Animals, the Ginger Megg's Trio, The Eight Acrobat Wonders, Leonora De Vere.

- 1929:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 2-8 Feb. 1929
- Cast and production mostly as for previous Palace Theatre season.
  - The production transferred to the Bijou Theatre for one week due to the Palace Theatre having been leased for another production. Bert Ray remained at the Bijou following the closure of *Beauty and the Beast*, presenting his own revue company there beginning 9 February.

"*Beauty and the Beast* at Melb. Palace." *Everyone's* 16 Jan. (1929), 40.

"*Beauty and the Beast: Beautiful Ballet and Amusing Incidentals*." *Age* 27 Dec. (1928), 9. [see also advert. - 22 Dec. 1928, 20]

"*Palace - Beauty and the Beast*." *Argus* 31 Dec. (1928), 9.

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Expanded and updated from Clay Djubal, "What Oh Tonight" (Appendix C), Ph D Diss (2005) U of Qld.

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