

1929

Frank Neil revived the Bert Ray pantomime *Mother Goose* as a matinee presentation at Kings Theatre, Melbourne over the Christmas/New Year period. First produced by O'Connell and Ray in 1927, the 1929 version featured Roy Rene and Sadie Gale among others. Although promoted as a new version, Neil and Ray likely made only cosmetic changes to the libretto, with most of the new material being songs, scenic art and choreography. The cast of professional adult artists was supplemented by juvenile performers.

With Stiffy and Mo (Nat Phillips and Roy Rene) having parted ways for the final time in late-1928, Phillips revived his Whirligigs company, travelling to Melbourne for his final engagement with the Fullers. His initial onstage partner was Jack Kellaway, who reprised his 'Erb character from the 1925-1927 period.

Roy Rene, who had opened at Fullers' Theatre (Sydney) with his Merrymakers company the night after he and Phillips played their last show together (7 Dec. 1928), continued at the same venue well into the new year.

EYES RIGHT: [revusical] Txt. Nat Phillips; Mus. [n/e]

1929: Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 7-13 Jan.

- **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; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

PENSIONS: [revusical] Txt. Nat Phillips; Mus. [n/e]

1929: Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 14-21 Jan.

- **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 - incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

1929: Empire Theatre, Brisbane; 16-22 Mar.

- **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, Cecil Scott, Tom Collins, Kitty Stewart, May Webster, Sylvia Gardner, Paul Daley, Belle Pollard, Eve Fenelly, Marjorie Vause; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

1930: Luxor Theatre, Perth; 9-15 Aug.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Whirligigs.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Stan Foley (Stud), Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Harry Ross, Angela Parselles, Cecil Scott; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).



Nat Phillips - Stiffy
Nat Phillips Collection, Fryer Library,
The University of Queensland

MEET MABEL [aka LULU and OH MABEL: [revusical] Txt. Nat Phillips; Mus. [n/e]

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

Although no reviews of this production have yet been located, the Nat Phillips Collection holds two scripts (*Lulu* and *Oh Mabel*) which appear to be related. In this respect it appears that the work was originally titled *Lulu* but later changed or cribbed by Nat Phillips as *Oh Mabel* before being eventually titled *Meet Mabel*.

The characters who appear in both manuscript versions are: Germaine (aka Germain), Mr Flannigan (aka Pat Flannigan), and The Count (aka Count Boulevarde). The *Lulu* manuscript includes: Thomas Smith, Piquart, Lulu, Mimi, Mrs Cohen and Mr Cohen; while the *Oh Mabel* manuscript includes: Mrs Flannigan, 'Erb, Jack and Clarice. Several of these characters are believed to be the same, just with different names.

1929: Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 21-27 Jan.

- **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, Cecil, Jack, Tom Collins, Kitty Stewart, Winnie Edgerton, Grace Savieri, and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys - incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

- 1929:** Empire Theatre, Brisbane; 2-8 Mar.
 - **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, Cecil Scott, Tom Collins, Kitty Stewart, May Webster, Sylvia Gardner, Paul Daley, Belle Pollard, Eve Fenelly, Marjorie Vause; and the Radio Six.
 - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).
- 1930:** Luxor Theatre, Perth; 10-16 May
 - **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** Westralian Vaudeville Ltd; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
 - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Whirligigs.
 - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Stan Foley (Stud), Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Harry Ross, Angela Parselles, Cecil Scott; and the Radio Six.
 - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).
- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 23-29 May
 - **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
 - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.
 - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).



SAILORS DON'T CARE: [revusical] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

Part one in a series of "Adventures of Mr and Mrs Dooley." The characters include: Mrs Dooley (a dame part), Mr Dooley (a blunt sailor who meets with many dangers as he searches for a buried treasure but nevertheless remains philosophically calm), and Bill Blizzard (the villain of the piece).

NB: It is not clear if there is any relationship between this revusical and Nat Phillips' *The Dooleys*, ca. 1930.

- 1929:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 9-15 Feb.
 - **Dir.** Bert Ray; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd.
 - **Troupe:** Bert Ray Revue Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Bert Ray (Mrs Dooley), Nellie Kolle, Jack Kearns (Mr Dooley), William Innes (Bill Blizzard), Polly McLaren, Hal Bertini, Stan Tilton, Kitty Stewart, Ivy Davis, Bertha Beaumont.

"**Revue at Bijou.**" *Argus* 11 Feb. (1929), 10.

WHO'S WHO: [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1929:** Empire Theatre, Brisbane; 23-29 Feb.
 - **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, Cecil Scott, Tom Collins, Kitty Stewart, May Webster, Sylvia Gardner, Paul Daley, Belle Pollard, Eve Fenelly, Marjorie Vause; and the Radio Six.
 - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

NOT GUILTY: [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1929:** Empire Theatre, Brisbane; 23-29 Mar.
 - **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, Cecil Scott, Tom Collins, Kitty Stewart, May Webster, Sylvia Gardner, Paul Daley, Belle Pollard, Eve Fenelly, Marjorie Vause; and the Radio Six.
 - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

MAMA'S NEW HUSBAND: [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1929:** Empire Theatre, Brisbane; 6-12 Apr.
 - **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, Cecil Scott, Tom Collins, Kitty Stewart, May Webster, Sylvia Gardner, Paul Daley, Belle Pollard, Eve Fenelly, Marjorie Vause; and the Radio Six.
 - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

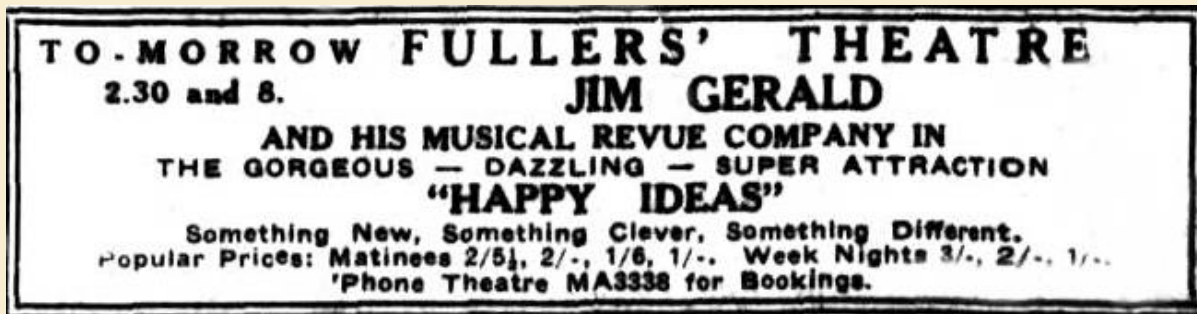
MARRYING MARY: [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

1929: Empire Theatre, Brisbane; 20-26 Apr.

- **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, Cecil Scott, Tom Collins, Kitty Stewart, May Webster, Sylvia Gardner, Paul Daley, Belle Pollard, Eve Fenelly, Marjorie Vause; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

HAPPY IDEAS: [musical revue] **Txt.** Jim Gerald; **Mus.** [n/e]

Shortly after returning to Australia in early 1929 after nine months overseas, Jim Gerald reformed his revue company and put together a repertoire of both old and new productions. *Everyone's* records that the new material moved away from the revusical format – "the stuff that landed him in the front row of local comedy merchants." Although *Happy Ideas*, made a strong impression on the critic, introducing as it did "much in the way of novelty and effective presentation" he or she proposes that it didn't have the scope that the revusical allowed. It is mounted [however] with a suggestion of lavishness, which is emphasized by the stage lighting. Evidently one of the wrinkles picked up by Gerald in America, varied coloured and ever changing lights [were] thrown from the wings on to a gold drop centre paneled by rich figured material" ("Jim Gerald," 49). Gerald returned to staging his traditional entertainment (a vaudeville first half and second half revusical) the following year but retained *Happy Ideas* as a generic title for the vaudeville part of the programme. A review of the second week's edition of *Happy Ideas* as staged during the 1930 Melbourne Tivoli season records, for example: "[It] was well named. In the eight ideas presented the company was in a happy vein, and kept the patrons in a state of laughter from start to finish. Jim Gerald himself displayed remarkable versatility, particularly in the haunted house scene, in company with Reg Hawthorne. The humour was original, and was deservedly appreciated" ("Tivoli Theatre," 12). Each opening week of a season up until at least the mid-1930s also invariably saw the troupe present a week of straight vaudeville-style revue under the same title.



Truth (Sydney) 28 Apr. (1929), 21.

1929: Fullers' Theatre, Sydney; 29 Apr - ca. May

- **Dir.** Jim Gerald; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd.
- **Troupe:** Jim Gerald Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Jim Gerald, Essie Jennings, Reg Hawthorne, Billy Heaton. Tom Dale, Lily Coburn, Ron Shand, Linda Foy, Howard Hall.

1930: Tivoli Theatre, Melbourne; 5 Apr. - 4 July

- **Dir.** Jim Gerald; **Prod.** Tivoli Celebrity Vaudeville Pty Ltd..
- **Troupe:** Jim Gerald Musical Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Jim Gerald, Essie Jennings, Reg Hawthorne, Howard Hall, Jim Foran, Sadie Gale, Tom Dale, Joe Hudson, Ray McLean, Joan Graham, Lily Coburn, Marie Ward, Thelma Duff, Edna Ralston; and the Six Twinklers.

1933: Tivoli Theatre, Sydney; 27 Jan. - 13 Apr.

- **Dir.** Jim Gerald; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres (Mike Connors and Queenie Paul).
- **Cast** incl. Jim Gerald, Lily Coburn, Reg Hawthorne, Howard Hall, Frieda Bohning, Thelma Duff, Heather Jones, Will Perryman, Lou Cottam, Tom Dale, Thelma Bryce, Jess Gillam, Vilma Kaye; and the Twelve Twinklers.
- NB: The season began with *Pantomime Revels* (24 Dec. 1932 - 19 Jan. 1933) followed by *The Honeymoon Girl* (20-26 Jan.). The remainder of the season comprised *Happy Ideas* (first part) and a second part revusical.

1934: Tivoli Theatre, Melbourne; 31 Mar. - 9 Aug.

- **Dir.** Jim Gerald; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres / Tivoli Circuit Australia Pty Ltd (from ca. May onwards).
- **Troupe:** Jim Gerald's Musical Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Jim Gerald, Lou Cottam, Edna Ralston, Lily Coburn, Thelma Duff, Tom Dale, Lance Vane, Frieda Bohning, George Moon Jnr, Vilma Kaye, Robbie Clifton, Will Perryman, Max Reddy; and the Six Twinklers.
- NB: Charles L. Sherman joined the company on 12 May.

NB: Frieda Bohning's surname is sometimes referred to as "Bonning." It is unclear which is the correct spelling.

"Jim Gerald Back at Fullers, Sydney." *Everyone's* 1 May (1929), 49.

"**Tivoli Theatre.**" *Age* 14 Apr. (1930), 12.

TWO LOVELY LIARS: [revusical] **Txt.** Les Shipp; **Mus.** [n/e]

1929: Cremorne Theatre, Brisbane; ca. May/June

- **Dir.** Les Shipp; **Prod.** George Melrose.
- **Troupe:** George Melrose's Original 1929 Frivolities Company.
- **Cast** incl. Les Shipp.

1929: George Melrose's regional Queensland tour; ca. June/July

- **Troupe:** Original 1929 Frivolities Company.
- **Cast** incl. Les Shipp, Levante, Bert Harrow, Jake Mack, Fred Monument, Jessie McKay, Hats McKay, Ivy Gyler, Gladys Cole, Corona, Remona.
- Tour itinerary incl. Mackay (Princess Theatre; 1- 6 July); Charters Towers (18-20 July)

A TRIP TO THE MOUNTAINS: [revusical] **Txt.** Les Shipp; **Mus.** [n/e]

Described in Mackay's *Daily Mercury* as a musical farce interspersed with numbers by the ballet and several specialties occupying the whole second half ("Original Frivolities," 15).

1929: Cremorne Theatre, Brisbane; ca. May/June

- **Dir.** Les Shipp; **Prod.** George Melrose.
- **Troupe:** George Melrose's Original 1929 Frivolities Company.
- **Cast** incl. Les Shipp.

1929: George Melrose's regional Queensland tour; ca. June/July

- **Troupe:** Original 1929 Frivolities Company.
- **Cast** incl. Les Shipp, Levante, Bert Harrow, Jake Mack, Fred Monument, Jessie McKay, Hats McKay, Ivy Gyler, Gladys Cole, Corona, Remona.
- NB: Tour itinerary incl. Mackay (Princess Theatre; 1-6 July); Charters Towers (18-20 July)

"**Original Frivolities.**" *Daily Mercury* (Mackay, Qld) 3 July (1929), 15.

THE JEALOUS HUSBAND: [revusical] **Txt.** Bert Desmond; **Mus.** [n/e]

1929: Coleman's New Pantomime and Revue Company regional Queensland tour; ca. May - July

- **Prod/Dir.** Alf Coleman.
- **Troupe:** Coleman's New Pantomime and Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Bert Desmond, Lily Vockler, Ernie Delavale, Billie Rennie, Mattie Jansen, Marjorie Seymour, Harry Little, Roy Jeanette.
- Itinerary incl. Mackay (Old Star Court site; 1-6 July).

THE HAUNTED HOTEL: [revusical] **Txt.** Bert Desmond; **Mus.** [n/e]

1929: Coleman's New Pantomime and Revue Company regional Queensland regional; ca. May-June

- **Dir/Prod.** Alf Coleman.
- **Troupe:** Coleman's New Pantomime and Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Bert Desmond, Lily Vockler, Ernie Delavale, Billie Rennie, Mattie Jansen, Marjorie Seymour, Harry Little, Roy Jeanette.
- Itinerary incl. Mackay (Old Star Court site; 1-6 July).

OLD KING COLE: [pantomime] **Txt.** Alf Coleman and Bert Desmond; **Mus.** [n/e]

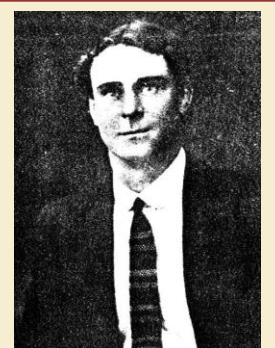
1929: Coleman's New Pantomime and Revue Company regional Queensland tour; ca. May-June

- **Dir/Prod.** Alf Coleman.
- **Troupe:** Coleman's New Pantomime and Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Bert Desmond, Lily Vockler, Ernie Delavale, Billie Rennie, Mattie Jansen, Marjorie Seymour, Harry Little, Roy Jeanette.
- Itinerary incl. Mackay (Old Star Court site; 1-6 July).

THE ENCHANTED FOREST: [revusical] **Txt.** Bert Desmond; **Mus.** [n/e]

1929: Coleman's New Pantomime and Revue Company regional Queensland tour; ca. May-June

- **Dir/Prod.** Alf Coleman.
- **Troupe.** Coleman's New Pantomime and Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Bert Desmond, Lily Vockler, Ernie Delavale, Billie Rennie, Mattie Jansen, Marjorie Seymour, Harry Little, Roy Jeanette.
- Itinerary incl. Mackay (Old Star Court site; 1-6 July).



Bert Desmond
Australian Variety Sept
1914, 7.

MUGSY OUT WEST: [revusical] **Txt.** Bert Desmond; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1929:** Coleman's New Pantomime and Revue Company regional Queensland tour; ca. May-June
- **Dir/Prod.** Alf Coleman.
 - **Troupe:** Coleman's New Pantomime and Revue Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Bert Desmond, Lily Vockler, Ernie Delavale, Billie Rennie, Mattie Jansen, Marjorie Seymour, Harry Little, Roy Jeanette.
 - Itinerary incl. Mackay (Old Star Court site; 1-6 July).

MUGSY IN A CABARET: [revusical] **Txt.** Bert Desmond; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1929:** Coleman's New Pantomime and Revue Company regional Queensland tour; ca. May-June
- **Dir/Prod.** Alf Coleman.
 - **Troupe:** Coleman's New Pantomime and Revue Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Bert Desmond, Lily Vockler, Ernie Delavale, Billie Rennie, Mattie Jansen, Marjorie Seymour, Harry Little, Roy Jeanette.
 - Itinerary incl. Mackay (Old Star Court site; 1-6 July).

IN VERY OLD ARIZONA: [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1929:** Empire Theatre, Brisbane; 15-21 June.
- **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, Cecil Scott, Tom Collins, Kitty Stewart, May Webster, Sylvia Gardner, Paul Daley, Belle Pollard, Eve Fenelly, Marjorie Vause; and the Radio Six.
 - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys - incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

ODD JOBS: [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1929:** Empire Theatre, Brisbane; 22-29 June
- **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, Cecil Scott, Tom Collins, Kitty Stewart, May Webster, Sylvia Gardner, Paul Daley, Belle Pollard, Eve Fenelly, Marjorie Vause; and the Radio Six.
 - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys - incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).



Phil Smith
Green Room Feb. (1920), 5.

OH AUNTIE: [revusical] **Txt.** Phil Smith; **Mus.** [n/e]

Possibly written with additional material contributed by Warton and O'Connor.
NB: It is not clear if there is any relationship between this revusical and Nat Phillips' *Oh Auntie* revusical, ca. 1926.

- 1929:** Warton and D. B. O'Connor's Frivolities Company regional Queensland tour; ca. June/July
- **Dir/Prod.** Paul Warton and D. B. O'Connor (in association with Birch, Carroll and Coyle)
 - **Cast** incl. Phil Smith, D. B. O'Connor, Doris George, Violet Lester, Dorothy Phillips, Louis Garcia.
 - Tour Itinerary incl. Mackay (Britannia Hall; 1-6 July)

BITS AND PIECES: [revusical] **Txt.** Phil Smith; **Mus.** [n/e]

Possibly written with additional material contributed by Warton and O'Connor.

- 1929:** Warton and D.B. O'Connor's Frivolities Company regional Queensland tour; ca. June/July
- **Dir.** Paul Warton and D. B. O'Connor (in association with Birch, Carroll and Coyle);
 - **Cast** incl. Phil Smith, D. B. O'Connor, Doris George, Violet Lester, Dorothy Phillips, Louis Garcia.

MIXED METHODS: [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1929:** Empire Theatre, Brisbane; 6-12 July
- **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, Cecil Scott, Tom Collins, Kitty Stewart, May Webster, Sylvia Gardner, Paul Daley, Belle Pollard, Eve Fenelly, Marjorie Vause; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

THE BABES IN THE WOOD: [pantomime] **Lib.** George H. Wood; **Mus.** [n/e]

Reportedly "told by Mr Ward in a straightforward manner, without undue exaggeration" ("*Babes in the Wood*," 16). Songs and other musical numbers included: "Duck and Drake" (dance), "Breakaway" (sung by Miss THommas), "Wood Nymphs Ballet" (composed by Steve Grice), and the "Flower Ballet."

- 1929:** Cremorne Theatre, Brisbane; 21 Dec. 1929 - 1 Jan.
- **Dir.** George H. Wood; **Prod.** F. Gayle Wyer; **M Arr.** Kathleen Ward; **Chor.** Roy McDonnell.
 - **Cast** incl. Heather Jones (Robin Hood), Phyllis Thomas (Maid Marion), George Ward (Robin Hood), Joe Valli (a robber), Walter Cornock (Dame Bumble), Beryl Manning (a Babe), Joan Forsyth (a Babe), Millie Doris (innkeeper), Dan Niblo (negro porter), Ida Leggett (Fairy Queen), Lou Lambert (Demon King), Mr Gorman (Baron), Miss Thomas (Maid), Ray Thomas (dancer).
 - Additional characters incl. Fairies, imps, elves, sprites, witches.
 - The final show was a benefit for the cast and production team. All had been adversely affected by the forced closure of the Cremorne (*Brisbane Courier* 1 Jan. 1930, 18).

CREMORNE,
2.30 TO-DAY, 2.30 and TO-NIGHT, at 8 p.m.
THE EVENT OF THE YEAR.

**The Magnificent Christmas Pantomime,
THE BABES IN THE WOOD,**
Two Acts and Seventeen Scenes of Sheer Wonderment.
BRING YOUR KIDDIES,

To See Windmill Land, Toyland, The Magic Castle, The Beautiful Sherwood Forest, The Dragon's Palace, and the thousand and one marvellous novelties.

THE BABES IN THE WOOD,
With Bold Robin Hood, Maid Marion and the two Wicked Robbers, Dame Martha Bumble and all the other delightful characters

SPECIAL MATINEE TO-DAY AT 2.30.
When Father Christmas will be present with a surprise present for every kiddie in the audience.

RESERVE YOUR SEATS at Paling's or at Crawford's Book Store, Melbourne-street. PRICES: 1/, 2/, 2/6, 3/3.
Children half-price to all parts at matinees.

Brisbane Courier 21 Dec. (1929), 2.

"*Babes in the Wood*." *Brisbane Courier* 23 Dec. (1929), 16.

ME AND MY GIRL: [revusical] **Txt.** George Wallace; **Mus.** [n/e]

"As with most revues," writes the *Age's* theatre critic, "there is no plot [in *Me and My Girl*], and the entertainment consists of quickly-changing scenes, helped out by musical numbers and dances" ("*Tivoli Theatre*," 8). Because revusicals were generally constructed without the high levels of dramatic organization normally associated with serious works of drama, such views from critics require circumspection. The *Argus* critic's assessment of the same production sees, for example, a somewhat different perspective: 'Me and My Girl, which was chosen for the first production, is a light musical revue, but a successful attempt is made to sustain a semblance of a story throughout the nine episodes' ("Revue," 8). This review suggests that the production was presented in similar fashion to George Wallace's other revusicals - involving both written and improvised sketches (interspersed with song and dance sequences) that were bound together by a loosely fashioned plotline.

According to the *Age*, part of the storyline involved a Girl's school master, who plans to conquer women by inventing a drug for making them feel like a man, and his wife, described as "a screamingly funny, if skillfully cruel, caricature of the school marm at St James College" (ibid, 8). The *Argus* notes, too, that "as Horace, Mr Wallace after having been compelled to pose as a woman, was chosen as the subject for a professor's experiment to show that the sexes could be changed by draughts from a formula prepared by him (ibid, 8).

TIVOLI. TIVOLI.

TO-DAY, At 2.30: TO-NIGHT, At 8.

GEORGE WALLACE And His New **MUSICAL REVUE COMPANY,** with the **FLAMING YOUTHS' JAZZ BAND.**

For the First Time in Melbourne, the Musical Revue "**ME AND MY GAL.**"

In Support, **All-star Vaudeville,** Headed by **KARYL NORMAN,** The Creole Fashion-plate.

THE LAWLERS, IRENE SHAMROCK, THE DUDLEYS, SAM STERN.

Box-plats at Allan's and Tivoli. Prices as usual.

Argus 27 Dec. (1929), 12.

Concerning Wallace's performance the *Age* records: "Telling stories of life down on the farm, the principal comedian was at his best, and his performance throughout - including his deft acrobatics - was characterized by a restraint and sense of proportion which will makes his revues very welcome to a variety of theatre folk. Early in the piece he submits himself to be eclipsed as the man with the drums and the cymbals in the Flaming Youth's Jazz Band, but the audience cannot forget him, and his comedy of facial expressions serves only to draw attention to the band's musical merit' (27 Dec. 1929, 8). The *Argus* review also reports: "The story gave Mr Wallace wide scope to display his gift of comedy. He was restrained in his treatment of some lines, which in the case of another performer might have been vulgar. Whether as a dancer, drummer in a "jazz" band, or singer, Mr Wallace was pleasing" (ibid, 8).

One of the musical highlights of the 1930 production said to have been "a fascinating ballet of Australian girls."

- 1930:** Tivoli Theatre, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1929 - 3 Jan. 1930
- **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 (the School Master), Tup Dudley (the School Marm), Jim Romaine, Irene Shamrock, Bebe Scott, Leonard Rich, John V. Dobbie, Jack Grant; and the Eight Rascals.
 - **Musicians:** Five Flaming Youths Jazz Band.
 - This was the opening production for the 1929/30 Tivoli season.

"**Revue and Vaudeville - Reopening of Tivoli.**" *Argus* 27 Dec. (1929), 8.

"**Tivoli - Popular Revue and Vaudeville, The.**" *Age* 27 Dec. (1929), 8.

TURNED UP: [musical comedy] **Lib.** Arthur Rigby; **Mus.** Jack O'Hagen and Stanley Lupono

A two act musical comedy based on a farce, *Turned Up* is set in an Acacia Villa at Henley-on-Thames on regatta day. The plot concerns the widow of Captain Medway who it is believed has drowned at sea. His "widow" is being "consoled" by a prosperous undertaker named Carraway Bones which causes much consternation for her family and friends and creates a number of comic situations. Further complications arise when Captain Medway returns to find his wife has married the undertaker, and he subsequently confesses that in a moment of physical and mental weakness he was induced to marry the black nurse who saved his life and showed her devotion by following him to England. A number of comic opportunities are said to have been made available to Gus Bluett who played the son of his twice married mother and twice married father, as were the romantic entanglements of some friends and family members.

Songs known to have been written for the production are: "In a Little Place Called Heaven" (sung by Gus Bluett and Mollie Fisher), and "Start the Day off with a Smile" and "Blue Rhythm" (both sung by Mary Lawson). Another musical sequence was the ballet, "The Dance of Fire" which was led by Mollie Fisher.

- 1929:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1929 – ca. Jan. 1930
- **Cast** incl. Frank Fox (Frank Steadley), Gus Bluett (George Medway), Nora McManus (Annie, a maid), Mary Lawson (Bina Medway), Leo Franklin (Carraway Bones), Edwin Brett (General Baltic), Molly Fisher (Mary Baltic), Bertha Belmore (Mrs Medway), John Harper (a constable), Cecil Kellaway (Captain Medway), Madge Aubrey (Lola), June Mills (Cleo), John Dunne (a boatman), Edna Hardy (Ephram), Jock Thompson (Postman), Ray Carey ((Butcher), John Harper (Gardner), Fallow Twins.
 - This was the Australian premiere production.

"**Musical Comedy at Royal.**" *Argus* 27 Dec. (1929), 8.

"**Turned Up: Musical Farcical Comedy at the Royal.**" *Age* 27 Dec. (1929), 8.

THE BABES IN THE WOOD: [pantomime] **Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

According to the *Age* review this version of popular pantomime story worked hard to make even the villainous characters comical. The two robbers, who danced and sang, and said the cutest things, are said to have been different kind of men altogether to the traditional villains, while the wicked uncle was similarly a most comical fellow. The critic goes on to note, too: "And best of all, the pantomime had a most entertaining character that was ever mentioned in the story - Dame Hardup, wife of Baron Hardup, uncle of the babes. The things that the dame said and wore made laughter wherever she went" ("*Babes in the Wood*," 8). The *Argus* also records that "the story of the babes in the wood, together with certain adventures of Robin Hood and Maid Marion, were patched together, and several incidents not included in the traditional tales were imported into the pantomime. Song and dance numbers were also fitted into the piece, making a compromise between musical comedy and pantomime" ("*Babes in the Wood*," 8).

- 1929:** Playhouse Theatre, Melbourne; 24 Dec. 1927 - 3 Feb. 1928
- **Dir.** Joe Brennan; **Prod.** W. J. C. Barr; **Chor.** Alice Uren.
 - **Cast** incl. Ida Newton (Robin Hood), Olive Wallace (Maid Marion, Queen of the May), Joe Brennan (Dame Hardup), Joe Lawman (Ginger Dolittle, one of the robbers), Lynn St Louis (Baron Hardup), Zell Manners (Fairy Earlybird), Vernon Sellars (Demon Diehard), Harry Vernon (a robber), Mae Seaton (Sybil), Little Adele Goll (a babe), Mavis McKenzie (the other Babe), Tivoli Eight.

"**Babes in the Wood.**" *Argus* 27 Dec. (1929), 8.

"**Babes in the Wood: Bright Pantomime at Playhouse.**" *Age* 27 Dec. (1929), 8.

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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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