

THE SO AND SO'S [1]

aka **J.C. Williamson's So and So's / So and So's Costume Comedy Company**

Especially organised for a season in Adelaide by J. C. Williamson's Ltd, the So and So Costume Comedy beginning late-November 1920 and ending in late-February the following year. Among the best-known artists engaged for the company were Nell Crane, Alf J. Lawrance, Glanmore Jones, Harry Graham, Dorothy Manning, and George Welch (performer/director).

In response to the success of its *Passing Show of 1920* revue, which had earlier played to good houses in Sydney and Melbourne, J. C. Williamson's put together a company to play an extended season in Adelaide beginning 20 November. The company of 20 artists, which initially comprised several members of the earlier revue, notably Nell Crane, [Alf J. Lawrance](#) and Jack Neale, debuted at the Garden's Theatre (Exhibition Grounds) under the direction of Herbert Myers. Most of the members had been involved in three weeks of rehearsals prior to opening night.

Lawrance and Crane remained only briefly with the company due to their commitments with Williamson's Melbourne pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*. The line-up underwent several line-up changes during the season, which ended on 26 February 1921. Later arrivals included Maude Amery, Maie Baird, Nellie Mackay, and Jackson and Larsson.

NB: This company does not appear to have had any relationship with the George Sharratt-led [So and So's \[2 and 3\]](#) or the Arthur Hemsley-led [So and So's \[3\]](#).

PERSONNEL

- 1. Performers:** Incl. Maude Amery, Maie Baird, Eleanor "Nell" Crane, Kitty Elliot, William Everard, Harry Graham, Glanmore Jones, Phil Kennedy, Robert Jackson, Louise Larsson, Gracie Lavers, Alf J. Lawrance, Nellie Mackay, Percy McKay, Dorothy Manning, Jack Neale, Eddie Perrin, Tom Preston, Lucy Sullivan, George Welch, Robert Chisholm; and the Madcaps Chorus (Alice Jerrems, Del Barnes, Dorothy Ryder, Hilda Kirby).
- 2. Production team:** Incl. George Welch (director), Desmond Kennedy (scenic artist), Mrs Kennedy (costumes), Elford Mack (music director), Herbert Myer (producer), George Welch (director).
- 3. Additional notes and/or historical clarification:**
 - **Maude Amery:** dancer (previously in *The Boy*)
 - **Kitty Elliot:** Described as "a miniature Connie Eddie" she was then aged 13.
 - **William Everard:** Lyric tenor.
 - **Harry Graham:** Singing comedian.
 - **Glanmore Jones:** Operatic tenor.
 - **Phil Kennedy:** comedian.
 - **Jackson and Larsson:** specialty dancers
 - **Lawrance and Crane:** comedy song and patter act.
 - **Dorothy Manning:** Soprano.
 - **Percy McKay:** Basso.
 - **Jack Neale:** Baritone.
 - **George Welch:** Comedian/director.
 - **Tom Preston and Eddie Perrin:** Eccentric dancers. Perrin was formerly in the "You're in Love" company.
 - **Lucy Sullivan:** solo danseuse
 - **Gracie Lavers:** Created the principal part in *Yes Uncle* for its Australian premiere in Adelaide at Easter 1920.
 - **Robert Chisholm:** Baritone.

SEE ALSO

- **J. C. Williamsons Ltd**



Critic (Adelaide) 24 Nov. 1920, 16.

ENGAGEMENTS CHRONOLOGY

1920: J.C. WILLIAMSON'S Ltd Adelaide (Garden's Theatre; 20 Nov. - 31 Dec.)

1921: J.C. WILLIAMSON'S Ltd Adelaide (Garden's Theatre; 1 Jan. - 26 Feb.)



Gracie Lavers and the So & So's "Madcaps" (Misses Alice Jerrens, Del Barnes, Dorothy Ryder, and Hilda Kirby), who open at the Garden Theatre To-night.

Mail (Adelaide) 20 Nov. 1920, 7.



MR. ROBERT JACKSON AND MISS LOUISE LARSSON,
The specialty star dancers appearing with the So and So's.

Critic (Adelaide) 2 Feb. 1921, 13.

FURTHER REFERENCE

- "Garden Theatre: J. C. Williamson's So and Sos, The." *Register* (Adelaide) 6 Nov. 1920, 10.
 "Garden Theatre: A Delightful Entertainment, The." *Register* (Adelaide) 22 Nov. 1920, 9.
 "Interview." *Critic* (Adelaide) 10 Nov. 1920, 21. [with George Welch]
 "Interview." *Critic* (Adelaide) 8 Dec. 1920, 23. [with Robert Chisolm]
 "Interview." *Critic* (Adelaide) 19 Jan. 1921, 12. [with Robert Chisolm]
 "Interview." *Critic* (Adelaide) 2 Feb. 1921, 13. [with Pauline Bindley and Arthur Denton]
 "New Garden Theatre: The So and So's." *Register* (Adelaide) 10 Nov. 1920, 8.
 "So and So's: A Successful Opening, The." *Advertiser* (Adelaide) 22 Nov. 1920, 8.
 "So and So's Entertainment: A Night at the Town Hall." *Mail* (Adelaide) 27 Nov. 1920, 8.
 "So and So's: J.C. Williamson's Open-Air Show." *Register* (Adelaide) 30 Oct. 1920, 11.
 "Successful "So and So's": Popular Open-Air Show." *Mail* (Adelaide) 11 Dec. 1920, 3.



MISS PAULINE BINDLEY,
The operatic soprano, who is
now appearing with the So and
So's, Garden Theatre.

Critic (Adelaide) 19 Jan. 1921, 12.



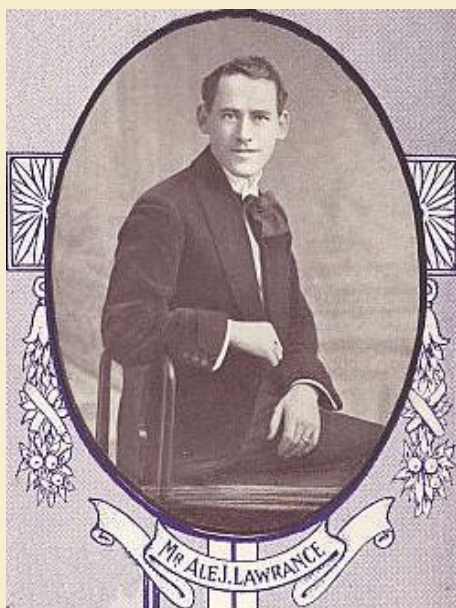
MR. GEORGE WELCH.

Register (Adelaide) 10 Nov. 1920, 8.



MR. ARTHUR DENTON,
Noted London comedian and
vocalist, appearing with the So
and So's, Garden Theatre.

Critic (Adelaide) 19 Jan. 1921, 12.



Source: National Library of Australia



MR. ROBERT CHISHOLM,
Baritone with the "So and So's" at the Garden Theatre.

Critic (Adelaide) 2 Feb. 1921, 13.

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