

## EFFTEE ENTERTAINERS

**Year of release: 1931-1933 • Produced and directed by F.W. Thring**

*Efftee Entertainers* is the series title for a collection of approximately fifty short films made between 1931 and 1933. The subject matter comprises music, comedy and vaudeville performance. The films were typically referred to at the time as "revuettes." Most, if not all were shot in His Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne, where Frank Thring had set up the studios for Efftee Film Productions. Most of the performances were filmed on the stage using a static camera. Among the best known performers to appear in the *Efftee Entertainers* series were [George Wallace](#), [Ada Reeve](#), [Jack O'Hagan](#), [George Moon Jnr](#) (with Stan Ray), [Lou Vernon](#), [Minnie Love](#), [The Sundowners](#), [Bryl Walkley](#), and [Marshall Crosby](#).



While most of the revuettes feature artists closely associated with variety theatre, several involve more "legitimate" performers and/or companies - notably Cecil Parkes (with his Strad Trio) and [J.C. Williamson's Imperial Grand Opera Company Orchestra](#).

The revuettes were mostly screened as supports to the Efftee feature films released during the 1931-1933 period. The *Argus* (Melbourne) records in February 1932, for example:

The talking picture, *The Sentimental Bloke*, will be the chief film in the second unit programme of Efftee Films which will begin an extended season at Hoyts De Luxe Theatre on Easter Saturday. There will also be the second of the *Cities of Empire* series, embracing views of Ballarat [and] the first of the 10 minute revuettes by the Efftee Entertainers..." (*"Efftee Films' Second Programme."* *Argus* 22 Feb. 1932, 3).

Arthur Higgins is believed to have been the cinematographer for most of the series, with Alan Mills operating the sound and W. Coleman overseeing the settings.

### SEE ALSO

[F.W. Thring • Efftee Film Productions](#)

### FURTHER REFERENCE

"All Titles produced by Efftee Productions." *Australian Screen* [sighted 4/03/2015]  
[National Film and Sound Archive](#) (List of live performances filmed by Efftee Film Productions)



Source: *Australian Screen*

## Efftee Entertainers Variety Shorts

The following is list of known shorts produced by F.W. Thring and Efftee Film Productions.

Works in bold **blue** indicate that a clip is available online. Click on the title to go to directly to the *Australian Screen* website.

NB: Most of the *Australian Screen* clips are extracts only.

- **Bornstein, Peter**: "Peter Bornstein - Celebrated Violinist" (1932)
- **Cade, Will**: "Will Cade and his Regent Theatre Orchestra" (1931) Perform selections from "*The Desert Song*"
- **Crosby, Marshall**. "Somewhere South of Shanghai." (1932) Marshall Crosby sings Jack Lumsdaine's composition.
- **Desmond, Keith**: "Raconteur" [No. 1] (1931) Recites a poem about kissing a girl on the stairs.
- **Desmond, Keith** : "Raconteur" [No. 2] (1931)
- **Goodall, Kathleen**: "Songs at the Piano - 'Little Mary Fawcett'" (1932)
- **Goodall, Kathleen**: "Songs at the Piano - 'Widows are Wonderful'" (1932)
- **Goodall, Kathleen**: "Songs at the Piano - " (1932)
- **Granforte, Signor Apollo**: "Signor Apollo Granforte and the Williamson Imperial Grand Opera Company Orchestra" (1932) The internationally renowned baritone sings "Largo Al Factotum" from *The Barber of Seville*.
- **J. C. Williamson's Imperial Grand Opera Company Orchestra**: "Overture from Bizet's *Carmen*" (1932)
- **J. C. Williamson's Imperial Grand Opera Company Orchestra**: "Overture from Gounod's *Faust*" (1932)
- **J. C. Williamson's Imperial Grand Opera Company Orchestra**: "Selections from Rossini's *Barber of Seville*" (1932)
- **Kopke, Ern, and Francis Ogilvie**: "Lavender and Lace." (1932) Kopke (tenor) and Francis Ogilvy (solo dancer) perform a routine with the Ostend Trio.
- **Love, Minnie**: "**Miss Minnie Love in Impressions: Maurice Chevalier**" (ca.1931) Love mimics the popular French comedian and singer Maurice Chevalier for Frank Thring's *Efftee Entertainers* series.
- **Love, Minnie**: "Miss Minnie Love in Impressions of Famous Artists: Gracie Fields" (1931) Love does an impression of Gracie Fields singing 'A Couple of Ducks'.
- **Love, Minnie**: "Miss Minnie Love in Impressions of Famous Artists: Randolph Sutton" (1931)
- **Love, Minnie**: "Miss Minnie Love in Impressions of Famous Artists: Lily Morris" (1931)
- **McKay, Neil**: "Neil McKay, Scottish Comedian" (1932)
- **Melbourne's Chinese Orchestra**: "**Melbourne's Chinese Orchestra.**" (1931)
- "**Melody and Terpsichor**" (1931) Women violinists perform dressed in pale full length tulle gowns. The artists make their entrance from beneath the oversized skirt of the solo violinist Hermia Barton. In the second part of the act ballerinas perform a classical dance with ballerina Dorothy Hutchinson
- **Moon, George Jnr and Stan Ray**: "**Stan Ray and George Moon Jnr: Specialty Dancers**" [No 1] (1931) Stan Ray and George Moon Jnr perform a tap dancing routine.
- **Moon, George Jnr and Stan Ray**: "Stan Ray and George Moon Jnr, Speciality Dancers" [No. 2] (1931) Stan Ray and George Moon Jnr perform another tap dancing routine.
- **O'Hagan, Jack**: "**Jack O'Hagan: Vocalist/Composer**" (1931) O'Hagan introduces five of his original compositions - "Carry On," "By the Big Blue Billabong," "In Dreamy Araby." "After the Dawn" (1926) and "Along the Road to Gundagai" (1922).
- **Parkes, Cecil**: "Cecil Parkes' Strad Trio" [No 1] (1931) Presents selections from its repertoire. The line-up is Parkes (violin), May Broderick (piano) and Christine Fraillon (cello).
- **Parkes, Cecil**: "Cecil Parkes' Strad Trio" [No 2] (1931) Presents selections from its repertoire. The line-up is Parkes (violin), May Broderick (piano) and Christine Fraillon (cello).
- **Parkes, Cecil**: "Cecil Parkes" (1931) Parkes is accompanied by May Broderick.
- **Reeve, Ada**: "Miss Ada Reeve - Comedienne" [No. 1] (1932) Reeve performs "I Never Forget I'm a Lady."
- **Reeve, Ada**: "Miss Ada Reeve - Comedienne" [No. 2] (1932)
- **Sundowners, The**: "The Sundowners - Harmony Quartette" [No. 1] (1932) The popular ensemble from radio 3LO, with piano accompanist Cecil Fraser, sing "In Apple Blossom Time" and "I Haven't Told Her, She Hasn't Told Me".
- **Sundowners, The**: "The Sundowners - Harmony Quartette" [No. 2] (1932)
- **Thring, Frank**: "**F.W. Thring Introduces the Stars**" (1931) Frank Thring outlines his hopes for the local industry and the potential for Australians to produce high quality talking pictures. At the conclusion he introduces five Efftee actors - Ray Fisher, Donalda Warne, **Pat Hanna**, George Moon and Cecil Scott.

- **Tier, Athol:** "**Athol Tier as Napoleon**" (ca. 1931) Tier's "Napoleon" routine begins with a short song followed by a meandering comic monologue set in a fictional English club that Napoleon attended before his defeat at Waterloo.
- **Ting-a-Ling and His Rattling Good Din-Copators in their Latest Hot Numbers** (1933) An Oriental band performing on traditional instruments.
- **Vernon, Lou:** "Lou Vernon - Character Songs" [No. 1] (1932) Vernon and a pianist perform character songs.
- **Vernon, Lou:** "Lou Vernon - Character Songs" [No. 2] (1932) Vernon plays an Italian fruit seller who talks to a woman customer then sings about Napoli.
- **Vernon, Lou:** "Lou Vernon - Character Songs" [No. 2] (1932) Vernon sings "That's My Idea of a Lady."
- **Walkley, Bryl:** "Miss Byrl Walkley, Soprano" (1932) Sings 'Love is Best of All' and 'A Poem Lovely as a Tree'.
- **Wallace, George:** "George Wallace, Australia's Premier Comedian" [1] (1931) This Efftee short is in fact Wallace's screen test. Thring was apparently so impressed with the result that he released it for public screening without any embellishment. It was likely presented as support to *The Sentimental Bloke* in 1932.
- **Wallace, George:** "George Wallace, Australia's Premier Comedian" [2] (1933)
- **White, George:** "George White" (1932)
- [Unidentified] (1932) A woman dressed as a child sings "The Little Liver Pill" and "You're The Only Girl For Me."

### Two Reel Shorts:

- **Oh, What a Night!** (1932) 14 minute short starring **George Wallace**. The story is based on one of his revusicals. For further details see entry in [Film and Vaudeville](#) section.
- **In the Future** (1933) 12 minute short. One of the several shorts made with theatrical stars of the day, this sketch employs the idea of male-female role reversal is performed on stage.

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GEORGE WALLACE,  
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Sundowners Quartette. Melbourne Chinese Orchestra.  
Hermia Barton & 10 Girl Violinists. Dorothy Hutchinson & Ballet.

Support to *The Sentimental Bloke*  
Mercury (Hobart) 19 May 1932, 10.

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Brisbane Courier 5 May 1932, 2.