

INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS:

PAUL KINKO

[1905-1906] Juggler, strongman, equilibrist Paul Kinko is recorded as being active in Australasian region between 10 June 1905 and late-April 1906. The 23 year-old (whose real surname may have been Smith) first appeared in Wellington, New Zealand with [Percy Dix's](#) Gaieties before making his Australian debut in Hobart with [J.C. Bain's](#) Gaiety Entertainers in September. Between early October and late-December he toured with [Richards' Entertainers](#), playing Broken Hill, Adelaide, regional South Australia, regional Western Australia, Fremantle and Perth. One of his fellow performers was comedian Will Wynand. The company also featured a selection of moving pictures.

In early January 1906 Kinko began playing a series of open-air engagements in Kalgoorlie and elsewhere in the goldfields region, including Trafalgar. Initially assisted only by Professor Bernard, later shows included additional artists like Charles Orr, General Woods and the Kalgoorlie Model Band. For a few weeks from mid-February he also headlined the [World's Star Entertainers](#), a troupe of local and interstate artists that played the city's suburbs and out-laying communities. From 3 March, however, Kinko was largely associated with Perth's Charles Street Markets, where he performed feats of juggling and balancing assisted by Florrie Bates. His last known appearance in Australia was on 26 April 1906 when he organised a variety entertainment benefit at the Perth Town for a Mrs Finkelstein and her family. Several of the artists were from his [World's Star Entertainers](#), including [Ettie Meyers](#), [W. Sinclair](#), [W. Maloney](#), and [Flo Bates](#). Other engaged included [Frank Dobbin](#), [Bert Thomas](#), [C. Ridgway](#), [Aus. Deane](#), [Mrs Powell](#), [Miss L. Asher](#), [F. Edwards](#), [Ettie Rose](#) and the [Boston Brothers](#).

Paul Kinko's routines have been reported as being very much along the lines of [Cinquevalli](#), and indeed at least one reviewer has suggested that he was essentially doing the Prussian's act. The highlight of his performances involved a routine which saw him balance a person sitting on a chair using the bridge of his nose as the only point of contact.



Western Mail (Perth) 9 Dec. 1905, 30.

Historical Notes and Corrections:

1. Kinko's surname is identified as Smith by J.K. in Hobart's *Clipper* newspaper.¹ The writer notes: "Kinko's workaday name is Smith; he is a native of England, but learnt all he knows in Australia, which for a 23 year old is remarkable." As there are no records relating to Kinko prior to June 1905 and after April 1906 the veracity of J.K.'s claims are uncertain.
2. Kinko has also be recorded as being an American in advertising.
3. C. Ridgway, who appeared in the 1906 Perth Town Hall benefit may have been Charles Ridgway, aka [Charlie Vaude](#).

TO-NIGHT! GRAND OPEN-AIR ENTERTAINMENT, TO-NIGHT!
At 8 o'clock, Corner Porter and Hannan streets.
**PAUL KINKO, THE GREAT ENGLISH JUGGLER AND NOSE BAL-
ANCER,**
Assisted by Professor Bernard. Great Success last night of the mar-
vellous PAUL KINKO. Balances a man and a chair on the bridge of his
nose, and other tricks too numerous to mention. Must be seen to be be-
lieved.

Kalgoorlie Miner
(WA) 5 Jan. 1906, 7.

¹ "Footlights." *Clipper* (Hobart) 23 Sept. (1905), 2.

Quotations:

- One of the 'star' turns of the evening was supplied by Paul Kinko, the famous American juggler and equilibrist, who made his initial bow to Hobart audience [on Saturday night]. To say that he is clever but conveys a faint impression of what he is capable doing, and his balancing feats about the best we have yet seen this city, especially so when he piles 16 chairs together and balances them on the bridge of his nose. His juggling and catching of a large cannon ball is likewise marvellous, and his turn is altogether neat and dexterous ("[Bain's Gaiety Entertainers.](#)" *Tasmanian News* 4 Sept. 1905, 4).
- Paul Kinko, the juggler, is described as a wonder in his professional performances, his manipulations of various articles, cannon balls, cigars, billiard balls and cues, belltoppers, etc, being a revelation. One of his fancy acts is the balancing in mid-air of a gentleman from the audience seated in an ordinary chair, the bottom rung at the back resting on the bridge of Kinko's nose ("[Local News.](#)" *Albany Advertiser* 1 Nov. 1905, 3).
- Mr. Paul Kinko, a disciple of Cinquevalli, endeavoured to emulate many of the latter's feats. Indeed, it might be said that all he did was done by Cinquevalli; however, Mr. Kinko, despite one or two blunders, acquitted himself well, especially so in his concluding items, which consisted of first balancing eight chairs on his head and then balancing a ten stone man sitting in a chair ("[Fremantle Town Hall: Richards' Entertainers.](#)" *West Australian* 8 Dec. 1905, 6).

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