

INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS: R

JULIAN ROSE:

(1868-1935) American monologist, comedian, actor. [Born: Julius Rosenweig]

[1910-11, 1924] Internationally acclaimed for his comedy monologue "Levinsky at the Wedding," Julian Rose was born in New York on 6 September 1868 and started out his working career as an accountant in Philadelphia before trying his hand at the stage. He initially presented Yiddish characterisations, complete with false beard, before finding success with his famous "Levinsky" act. Rose toured Australia twice, the first time for [Harry Rickards](#) (1910-11) and the second time for [Harry Rickards Tivoli Theatres Ltd](#) (1924). He commenced the first tour at the [Opera House](#), Melbourne on 3 December 1910 and concluded it at [Perth's Palace Gardens](#) in May the following year. His season in Brisbane was under the management of [Holland and St John](#), who leased him from Rickards. The 1924 tour also began in Melbourne, at the [Tivoli Theatre](#), beginning 1 February and concluded ca. May.

Reportedly the brother of Henry Lee, who also toured Australia (with the [World's Entertainers](#)), Rose saw his popularity wane in the US from the late-1910s. He subsequently spent his last decades working in British music hall stage where he remained a favourite. During his time in Britain Rose also appeared in at least three films (including *Money Talks*, 1933). He died in London on 13 September 1935.

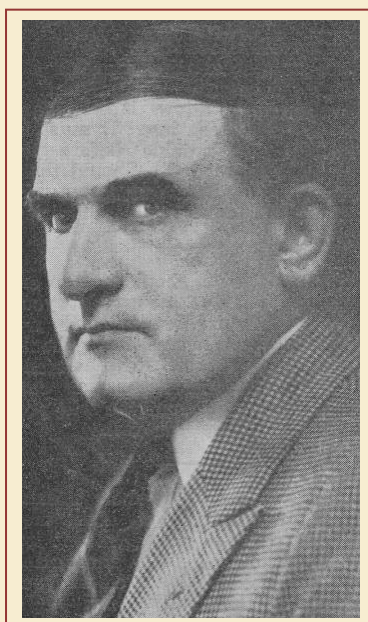
Historical Note: Rose inadvertently played a key role in the emerging career of [Roy Rene](#). In *Mo's Memoirs* (45-48), Rene indicates that until the time he was with [J.C. Bain](#) in Sydney he'd never done a Jewish act at all:

I'd never thought of being a Hebrew comic. It just simply had never occurred to me. After Clay, I was working with Jim Bain at the Princess Theatre, the Sydney one, when the cast kidded me into doing some imitations of Jordan and Harvey, and the famous Julian Rose.... I was working as a cornerman, still black-face, but I had learnt one of their numbers, "Yiddle on your Fiddle, Play Some Ragtime," and did it. Then I did an imitation of Julian Rose in his act "Levinsky at the Wedding." It was supposed to be an imitation of Rose, but I was no more like him than a fly in the air, though somehow with a black-face the act was a riot. What started out as a joke in the first place turned out to be the most important thing that ever happened to me in my career. That piece of black-face fooling led to my eventually developing into a real comic (45-46).



Julian Rose as Levinsky

Green Room (Sydney) Mar. 1924, 33.



Further reference:

"Meet Julian Rose." Film clip at [British Pathe](#) website. [sighted 20/02/2014]

M.J. "Music Hall Stars I Have Met." *Townsville Daily Bulletin* (Qld) 31 July (1934), 9.

"Opera House: 'Levinski at the Wedding'." *Argus* (Melbourne) 5 Dec. (1910), 5.

Green Room (Sydney) Mar. 1924, 33.

Still from "Meet Julian Rose" (1932)

British Pathe.



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