

1930

The Tivoli Follies, featuring Ada Reeve, undertook a national tour during the year, playing Brisbane from early December through to late January 1931. The other feature artists were: George H. Ward, Charles L. Sherman, Alfred Frith, Les Warton, Hector St Clair, Winnie Edgerton, Nell Fleming and a young dancer named Bobbie Helpman. The troupe's opening show was Kenneth Duffield's London revue *Pot Luck* (beginning 6 Dec.). Interestingly, although essentially a revue company, the troupe appears to have reworked Jim Gerald's *A Whirl of Youth* revusical into a sketch format (re-titled "In the Future"). A *Brisbane Courier* review records, for example, that it was "a prophecy of what might happen in 1950 when mere man stays home to cook and sew, while wife goes to the office and the club" (8 Dec. 1930, 14). The troupe also staged such revues as *Happy Days*, *Smiles* and *Odds and Ends*. It is unclear if the latter production (beginning 27 Dec.) is related to several other similarly titled shows included in this chronology - notably the 1921 Humphrey Bishop and Mademoiselle Mimi productions, a 1925 revue staged in Melbourne by the Optimists Revue Company (Bijou Theatre, 17 Oct.), and Ike Delavale's *Odds and Ends* revue (see introduction to 1931).

THE TRIP TO MALACCA [revuette] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

"The main feature of the [Smart Set Diggers'] entertainment, and the one which comprised nearly the whole of the second part of the programme, was a colourful revuette, entitled *A Trip to Malacca*. With an Eastern background to work upon, the [director] did not lose the opportunity of introducing some charming and pretty scenes, while the comedy element and the dialogue were no less good. One of the best performances was that of Charles Holt as the princess, and his song 'Under the Deodar,' also won him sustained applause" ("Luxor Theatre," 18).

- 1930:** Luxor Theatre, Perth; 18-24 Jan.
- **Dir.** Charles Holt; **Prod.** Westralian Vaudeville Ltd; **Mngr.** Percy Doyle
- **Troupe:** Smart Set Diggers.
- **Cast** incl. Fred Aston, Beulah Berson, Tiki Carpenter, Eddie Hill, Charles Holt, Ray Kemble, Tommy Lewola, Jimmy Lewola, Doug Louvie, Fay Penn, Keith Watts, Fred Whitlow.
- **Musicians:** Winifred Walker's Orchestra

- NB: Doug Louvie's name is spelled variously as Louvie, Lourie or Laurie.

"Luxor Theatre: Smart Set Diggers." *West Australian* (Perth) 20 Jan. (1930), 18.

SALVATION SAL [revusical] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

Described in the *Sunday Times* (Perth) as a "revue in two scenes" featuring "the entire company in cleverly written dialogue and musical and dance numbers" (26 Jan. 1930, 9).

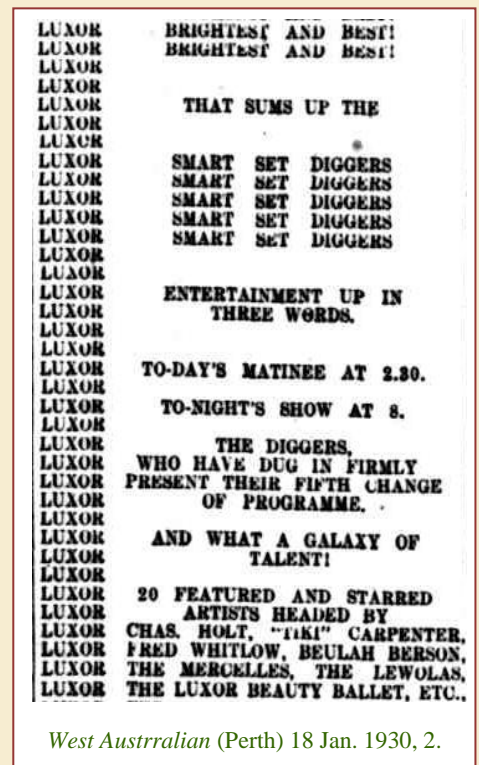
- 1930:** Luxor Theatre, Perth; 25-31 Jan.
- **Dir.** Charles Holt; **Prod.** Westralian Vaudeville Ltd; **Mngr.** Percy Doyle
- **Troupe:** Smart Set Diggers.
- **Cast** incl. Fred Aston, Beulah Berson, Tiki Carpenter, Eddie Hill, Charles Holt, Ray Kemble, Tommy Lewola, Jimmy Lewola, Doug Louvie, Fay Penn, Keith Watts, Fred Whitlow.
- **Musicians:** Winifred Walker's Orchestra

THE SINGING GIRL [musical comedy] Lib. A.E. Balnaves; Mus. [n/e]

A three act musical comedy set in the house of the wealthy Van Druten family. The action revolves around Yvette (the singing girl) and the Van Druten's son Dick who stirs things up in his pursuit of Yvette during a social event hosted by his mother. The principle comedy roles involve two black servants, with additional characters being an Italian prima donna and an American detective.

The libretto was written by Albert Balnaves who had recently come from Adelaide to work for the Yorketown branch of the Commercial Bank of Australasia. It was the first of three musical comedies he created for the local community during his tenure there.

- 1930:** Town Hall, Yorketown (South Australia); 14, 18, 27 Mar.
- **Dir.** A.E. Balnaves; **Prod.** Yorketown Comedy Company; **M Dir.** Rev. A.R. Thrush; **Cost.** Mrs Pegler; **Secretary** E.E. Lloyd (Yorketown Comedy Company secretary)
- **Cast** incl. Annie Mahar (Yvette girl"), Geoffrey Farrow (Dick Van Druten), Mrs E. Kildea (Hanna Jones, black servant), A.E. Balnaves (Silas Washington Brown, black servant), Mrs A.E. Lamshed (Mrs Van Druten, a wealthy hostess), Doris Springbett (Marion Harker, her ward), Rev. A.R. Thrush (Ben Manon, Yvette's father), Harry Shaw (Higgins, an American society detective), Nurse Jessie Plaisted (Senorita Santozzi, a prima donna), Miss Ferdie Pascall (Syncopated Sue), Misses Alpha Lamshed (Eleanor), Kath Farrow (Betty), Ivy Kirsch



LUXOR BRIGHTEST AND BEST!
LUXOR BRIGHTEST AND BEST!
LUXOR THAT SUMS UP THE
LUXOR SMART SET DIGGERS
LUXOR SMART SET DIGGERS
LUXOR SMART SET DIGGERS
LUXOR SMART SET DIGGERS
LUXOR ENTERTAINMENT UP IN
LUXOR THREE WORDS.
LUXOR TO-DAY'S MATINEE AT 2.30.
LUXOR TO-NIGHT'S SHOW AT 8.
LUXOR THE DIGGERS,
LUXOR WHO HAVE DUG IN FIRMLY
LUXOR PRESENT THEIR FIFTH CHANGE
LUXOR OF PROGRAMME.
LUXOR AND WHAT A GALAXY OF
LUXOR TALENT!
LUXOR 20 FEATURED AND STARRED
LUXOR ARTISTS HEADED BY
LUXOR CHAS. HOLT, "TIKI" CARPENTER,
LUXOR FRED WHITLOW, BEULAH BERSON,
LUXOR THE MERCELLES, THE LEWOLAS,
LUXOR THE LUXOR BEAUTY BALLET, ETC..

West Australian (Perth) 18 Jan. 1930, 2.

- (Susie), Agnes Forshaw (Rosalie), Gwen Friebe (Molly), Enid Shakes (Nan), and Frank Farrow (Bob Lee, a guest).
 - **Chorus** incl. Jean Simon, Mona Wurfel, Oriel Davey, Edith Wyly, Alpha Lamshed, Ivy Kirsch, Kath Farrow, Hilda Charlton, Thelma Heusler, Mrs Thiele; Messrs. Frank Farrow, Stan Rhyder, Bob Starr, Claude Riddle, Fred Holmes, Roy Pfitzner, R. A. Kolloosche.
 - **Ballet** incl. Enid Shakes, Nance Johnson, Gwen Friebe, Doreen Jones, Gwen Burton, Esme Grabia, Molly Eichner, Agnes Foreshaw.
 - **Musicians** incl. Horace Jordan (piano), Ben Thiele (violin).
1930: Minlaton Institute, Minlaton (South Australia); 20 Mar.
 - Cast and production as for previous Yorketown season.
1930: Curramulka, South Australia; 3 Apr.
 - Cast and production as for previous Yorketown season.

"*The Singing Girl: A Fine New Production.*" *Pioneer* (Yorketown, SA) 7 Feb. 1930, 3.

"*The Singing Girl: An Excellent Local Production - Opening Performance Tonight.*" *Pioneer* (Yorketown, SA) 14 Mar. 1930, 3.

"*The Singing Girl: New Comedy with Local Talent.*" *Pioneer* (Yorketown, SA) 7 Feb. 1930, 3.

THE DOOLEYS [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 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 Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

HOT BABY [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1930:** Luxor Theatre, Perth; 8-13 June
 - **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 Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

THE SULTAN [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

It is unclear whether this revusical is related to another Middle-Eastern themed revusical by Nat Phillips – *In a Harem* (aka *Porters*)

- 1930:** Luxor Theatre, Perth; 14-20 June
 - **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 Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

O.K. CHIEF [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1930:** Luxor Theatre, Perth; 28 June – 4 July
 - **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 Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

CURE 'EM QUICK [revusical] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1930:** Luxor Theatre, Perth; 19-25 July
 - **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).
 - NB: The Luxor Theatre came under new management as of 12 July. It has not yet been established who this was.

MR MULLIGAN COMES TO THE SHOW: [revusical] **Txt.** George Wallace; **Mus.** [n/e]

It is unclear whether this revusical is *Lads of the Village* (aka *Mr Mulligan, Millionaire*) with a slightly different name (not an uncommon practice) or whether it is a new story based around the character Mulligan.

1930: Theatre Royal, Perth; 4-10 Oct.

- **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, Tup Dudley, Jim Romaine, Irene Shamrock, Bebe Scott, Leonard Rich, John V. Dobbie, Jack Grant; and the Eight Rascals.
- **Musicians:** Five Flaming Youths Jazz Band.

SNAPSHOTS [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

1930: Grand Opera House, Sydney; 1-14 Nov.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Snapshots Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Stan Foley (Stud), Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hosking, Lewola Bros; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

"*Snapshots: Bright Entertainment.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 3 Nov. 1930, 6.

LAUGH PARADE [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

1930: Grand Opera House, Sydney; 15-21 Nov.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Snapshots Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Stan Foley (Stud), 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; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

SPEED AND SPARKLE [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

1930: Grand Opera House, Sydney; 22-29 Nov.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Snapshots Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Stan Foley (Stud), 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; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

"*Grand Opera House: Speed and Sparkle.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 24 Nov. 1930, 6.

FRILLS AND FLOUNCES [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

One of the scenes ("My Half") saw Nat Phillips and Stud Foley present a burlesque on Sydney robbers. "Foley showed how a robber can develop his profession to a fine art. He held up a girl. She had no money so he made an appointment to hold her up the following day, when she would hand him over a large sum. [He] and Phillips sang a number of witty songs, which were particularly topical. The audience showed its appreciation by whole-hearted applause ("*Frills and Flounces*," 6).

GRAND OPERA HOUSE NIGHTLY at 8 MATINEE. WED., at 2.30.	SYDNEY'S BEST FLESH AND BLOOD SHOW. NAT PHILLIPS and all his Merry Men and Maids with Stud Foley in FRILLS and FLOUNCES A NEW MEDLEY OF MELODY AND MIRTH. Box Plans at Paling's and Theatre (MA4692).	Prices: 2/-, 1/6, 1/-, 6d. Reserves, 6d. Extra.
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Truth (Sydney) 30 Nov. 1930, 10.

1930: Grand Opera House, Sydney; 30 Nov - 5 Dec.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.

- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Snapshots Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Stan Foley (Stud), 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; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

"*Frills and Flounces.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 1 Dec. 1930, 6.

FUN OF THE FAIR [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1930:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 6-12 Dec.
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
 - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Snapshots Revue Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Stan Foley (Stud), 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; and the Radio Six.
 - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

"*Fun of the Fair.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 8 Dec. 1930, 4.

PAINTING THE TOWN RED [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1930:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 13- 19 Dec.
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
 - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Snapshots Revue Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Stan Foley (Stud), 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; and the Radio Six.
 - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

"*At Grand Opera House.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 15 Dec. 1930, 5.

ALL SMILES [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

- 1930:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 20-22 Dec.
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
 - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Snapshots Revue Company.
 - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), 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; and the Radio Six.
 - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).
 - The final production before the company began preparations for *Beauty and the Beast*, a revival in the *Sydney Morning Herald* (22 Dec.) suggests that Stan Foley had departed the company at the end of the previous week (5).

"*Grand Opera House: The Revue All Smiles.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 22 Dec. 1930, 5.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: [pantomime] **Lib/Mus** [n/e].

The *Sydney Morning Herald* records that director Clyde Hood had departed from the old-fashioned system of backcloths and wings (which the review suggests "still reigns depressingly in so many local productions"), and had instead provided "all kinds of novel arrangements." Among these was the house of Dame Haggie (Jack's mother), described as "a crazy cottage with none of its windows or beams running straight, and [with] the plates on the rail sagging absurdly. The review goes on to record: "The forest where the witch dwells suggests cleverly receding aisles of tree trunks, leading to profound gloom. There is a setting with stairs running obliquely to join at the top and serving by turns as a background and a place of assembly for the ballet, and with blue canopies, studded with stars, hung overhead" ("*Jack*," 8).

The review also makes special mention of the ballets: "Most of the dancers wore costumes having grotesque, figured masks as their principal feature," writes the critic, "not masks representing human faces; but queer, flat contrivances, several feet long, which had the suggestion of magnified proboscis of insects about them. The central figure, however, wore a conventional white ballet dress" (ibid, 8).

The music programme included an interpretation of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

- 1930:** Capitol Theatre, Sydney; 19 Dec. 1930 - 1 Jan. 1931
- **Dir.** Clyde Hoode; **Chor.** Frances Scully (adults) and Chrissie Royal (children).
 - **Cast** incl. Peggy Peat (Jack), Syd Beck (Dame Haggie), Sylvia Post Mason (Bride), George Wallace Jnr (small boy).
 - The pantomime was staged three times daily.

"*Jack and the Beanstalk: Christmas Pantomime.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 20 Dec. 1930, 8.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST [pantomime] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Lyr.** incl. Jack Lumsdaine, Billy Moll, Harry Richman; **Mus.** incl. Don Bradman, Murray Mencher.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
2.15. TWICE DAILY. 8 p.m.
2.15. TWICE DAILY. 6 p.m.
SPECIAL GALA NIGHT TO-NIGHT.
SPECIAL GALA NIGHT TO-NIGHT.
DON BRADMAN, the Famous Cricket Star, will
attend to hear the song he Composed,
"Every Day is a Rainbow Day for Me."
The Members of the Australian Eleven and the
West Indian Cricketers will also attend.
George Marlow's Gorgeous Annual Pantomime,
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"
Produced by NAT. PHILLIPS, with a
Huge Cast of Nearly 200 Star Artists.
THE PANTOMIME OF 1000 WONDERS.
To-night, DON BRADMAN, To-night.
Prices within reach of all.
3/, 2/, 1/. Reserves, 1/ extra. Plus tax.
CHILDREN HALF PRICE TO ALL
PERFORMANCES.
Box Plans at Paling's, Australia, and Theatre.
CHILDREN CAN SEE IT DAY OR NIGHT FOR 6d.
CHILDREN CAN SEE IT DAY OR NIGHT FOR 6d.
For Bookings 'Phone MA4692.

Sydney Morning Herald 6 Jan. (1930), 2.

While following the general storyline of this popular fairytale, with the addition of traditional panto characters like the Baron, Dame, Tommy Ticker, Little Boy Bloy and Idle Jack, the production differed somewhat to the usual Christmas fare in that it "included few of the stage refinements" that were seen as characteristic of the form at that time ("*Beauty*," 10). Specialty scenes included "The Human Bouquet," "The Snow Ballet," "The Prince's Gondola," and "The Demon's Cave."

Songs incorporated into the production included "Ro-ro-rollin' Along" (Moll/Richman/Mencher) and a song with music by Australian cricket legend Donald Bradman "Every Day is a Rainbow Day for Me" (lyrics by Jack Lumsdaine).

1930: Grand Opera House, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1930 - 23 Jan. 1931

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.

- **Cast** incl. Dorothy Dewar (the Prince), Heather Jones (Beauty), Keith Connolly (Baron Bounting), Willie Cass (the dame), Frank Foster (Demon), Angela Parselles (Fairy Lotus), Nat Phillips (Idle Jack), Stella Lamond (Joy, Beauty's sister), Daisy Merritt, Iris Ackworth, Kathleen Howard, Hilda Waring, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins (Boy Blue), Frank Hyman (the Ape), Lewola Bros (giraffe/Jumbo the elephant) Manhattan Trio; and the Radio Six.

- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dwar (banjo/ guitar), Don Bennett (piano).
- Advertising indicates that the production comprised a cast of some 200 people.
- Tuesday 6 January 1931 was declared Don Bradman Night, in honour of the cricketer's attendance.
- NB: Elsie Hoskins name is sometimes referred to as Hopkins.

"Beauty and the Beast: Bright Pantomime at the Opera House." Sydney Morning Herald 27 Dec. 1930, 10.

PUSS IN BOOTS: [pantomime] **Lib.** [n/e]; **Mus** incl. Howard Carr.

Colin, the miller's youngest son is in love with Princess Rosalie. The Ogre wants the princess for himself and attempts to thwart their romance but is continually hampered in his plans by Colin's cat, Billy, who has been given the power of speech by the Good Fairy.

The musical programme, which comprised incidental music and some vocal and dance numbers by the production's music director, Howard Carr, also included Schubert's *Serenade* (transformation scene). Among the songs were "If I Had a Girl Like You" (sung by Jennie Benson and Mabel Gibson), "Harvest Time in Tennessee" (Benson) and the duet "We've Got to Carry On" (Jennie Benson and Stan Foley). The dance highlights are said to have been a pas seul by Rita Dolores, a scarecrow dance by Roy McDonnell and Peggy Bacon's Russian dance.



Jennie Benson, principal boy
Sydney Mail 31 Dec. 1930, 23.



Mabel Gibson, principal girl
Sydney Mail 31 Dec. 1930, 23.

This version of *Puss in Boots* served to reopen Sydney's St James Theatre. The *Sydney Morning Herald* critic records that Ernest C. Rolls production furnished indications of his experienced control as producer, notably through the picturesque settings and the many changes of scenes. These included: "The opening

tableau, a roof where a number of cats are dancing, overlooking a perspective of river, plain and high towers; the beautiful sylvan picture of the old mill with its broad wheel turning, and a rustic bridge leading to the deep glades beyond, the king's palace, an effective interior, and the rich transformation scene which concludes the first act, a spectacle of colour harmoniously blended in a scheme of blue bells, daffodils and roses" ("*Puss in Boots*," 10).



A unique feature of "Puss in Boots," at the St. James, is a mannequin parade by children.

Evening News (Sydney) 30 Dec. 1930, 3.

When Rolls came before the audience at the conclusion of the opening night performance he announced that his company had "come to stay" at the St James Theatre and that other attractions were in view. He also "gratefully acknowledged the assistance he had received from Sir Benjamin Fuller and Mr John Fuller" (ibid, 10).

1930: St James Theatre, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1930 - 22 Jan. 1931

- **Dir/Prod.** Ernest C. Rolls; **M Dir.** Howard Carr.

- **Cast** incl. Jennie Benson (Colin), Mabel Gibson (Princess Rosalie), Bert Gilbert (The Queen), Leonard Stephens (The King), Stan Foley (Billy the Cat), May Craven (The Good Fairy), Bertie Wright (Notary/Jester), Thomas Halstead (The Ogre), Dan Morris and Al Mack (Colin's older brothers), Leal Douglas, Margaret Grimshaw, Rita Dolores (dancer), Roy McDonnell (dancer), Peggy Bacon (dancer), Albert Moore (announcer), The Lorraines (acrobats/balancers), Phyllis Lynch (bird imitator), Baby June.

"*Puss in Boots*": Clever Pantomime." *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 Dec. 1930, 10.



"On Christmas Eve more than 2000 children were given the opportunity, of seeing the pantomime *Puss in Boots* at the St. James Theatre, Sydney. The children had been collected by the Smith Family and Dr. Arthur, and all of them came from homes where he parents are out of employment."

Sydney Mail 31 Dec. 1930, 25.

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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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