

# 1931

The Ike Delavale Metropolitan Star Company, led by Charles Delavale, continued its Australasian touring schedule, presenting a mixture of old favourite revusicals like *Chuckles*, *Yankee Doodle* and *The Suffragettes*, along with relatively new revues (including *Odds and Ends*) and at least one pantomime, *Old Mother Hubbard*. The troupe also presenign an opening revue which was titled after whichever city or town the troupe was then playing. For the six week Brisbane season (beginning 21 Nov.), for example, the show was called *Hello Brisbane*. In addition to Delavale's wife, Elvie Stagpoole, the company members included Ron Shand, Doris (Dot) Tindall and Marie Le Varre.

Frank Neil staged a season of vaudeville, revue and pantomime at the Fullers' Roxy Theatre (Sydney) beginning 28 November (the engagement last until well into February the following year). Among the revues presented by his Vaudeville and Revue Entertainers during 1931 were: *Hullo Paris*, *The Whirl of the World*, *The Fun Factory* and a pantomime, *Cinderella* (see entry below). Among the principal artists engaged by Neil for the revues were: Byrl Walkley, Nellie Kolle, Bert Ray, Robert Roberts, George Lloyd, Maggie Buckely, Winnie Edgerton, Hector St Clair, Len Rich and Arline Paterson. The chorus/ballet was called the Eight Roxy Rosebuds.

Another revue company touring Australia during the years was Al Mack and His High Hat Revue Company. The troupe is known to have played a season at Brisbane's Theatre Royal around October/November.

Nat Phillips and Syd Beck's Snapshots Revue Company, comprising such artists as Joe Lawman, Stella Lamond, Amy Rochelle, Dan Weldon, Les Warton, Betty Lambert and Len Rich, played a season at the Tivoli Theatre in Adelaide from 26 September through until mid-January 1932. Unfortunately the Adelaide *Advertiser* does not record the names of each production during that period (except for the Christmas pantomime, *Cinderella*).

## HOT AND STRONG [revue] Txt. Nat Phillips; Mus. [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 24-30 Jan.
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, 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, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).
  - The first production following the 1930/31 pantomime *Beauty and the Beast*, this was also the debut appearance with the company by Joe Lawman.

"New Revue: Grand Opera House." *Sydney Morning Herald* 26 Jan. 1931, 2.

*Sydney Morning Herald* 31 Jan. 1931, 3.

## ACE HIGH [revue] Txt. Nat Phillips; Mus. [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company. One of the comedy features of the production was a scene in which Nat Phillips and Joe Lawman played a couple of railway porters who made various amusing quips concerning current politics.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 31 Jan. – 6 Feb.
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, 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, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

"*Ace High*: Grand Opera House." *Sydney Morning Herald* 2 Feb. 1931, 5.

## SHOWERS OF FUN [revue] Txt. Nat Phillips; Mus. [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 7-13 Feb.
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.

- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

"Grand Opera House." *Sydney Morning Herald* 9 Feb. 1931, 5.

## THE JOYMAKERS [revue] Txt. Nat Phillips; Mus. [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

**GRAND OPERA HOUSE. To-night at 8 o'clock.**

**MATINEE TO-DAY AT 2.30.**  
**MATINEE TO-DAY AT 2.30.**

**THE BIGGEST, AND BEST SHOW IN TOWN.**  
**STIFFY and JOE**  
**STIFFY and JOE**  
**(Nat Phillips), (Joe Lawman),**  
**with**  
**SYD. BECK, SYD. BECK, SYD. BECK,**  
**and a Wonderful Aggregation of Australia's**  
**LEADING VAUDEVILLE and REVUE ARTISTS.**  
**in**  
**"THE JOY MAKERS," "THE JOY MAKERS,"**  
**"THE JOY MAKERS," "THE JOY MAKERS,"**  
**"THE JOY MAKERS," "THE JOY MAKERS,"**  
**a Bright, and Breezy Whirl of Gaiety.**  
**A COMPLETE CHANGE OF PROGRAMME.**  
**"THE JOY MAKERS" WONDERFUL SNAP PRICES:**  
**3/., 2/., 1/., NO TAX. 3/., 2/., 1/.**  
**3/., 2/., 1/., No Booking Fee. 3/., 2/., 1/.**  
**CHILDREN HALF PRICE TO ALL PARTS.**  
**Box Plans at Paling's and Theatre.**  
**FOR BOOKINGS 'PHONE, MA4692.**

*Sydney Morning Herald* 14 Feb. 1931, 2.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 14-20 Feb.
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).
  - This was Syd Beck's debut appearance with the company.

"Grand Opera House." *Sydney Morning Herald* 16 Feb. 1931, 5.

## SILVER CLOUDS [revue] Txt. Nat Phillips; Mus. [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 21-27 Feb.
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## TONS OF FUN [revue] Txt. Nat Phillips; Mus. [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 28 Feb. - 6 Mar.
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

### "TINY" DOUGLAS' 'VARSITY BOYS JAZZ BAND



*Daily Standard* (Brisbane) 24 Dec. 1929, 4.

## HAPPY HOURS [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 7-13 Mar.  
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.  
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.  
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.  
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## LAUGHING FACES [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 14-20 Mar.  
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.  
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.  
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.  
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## FINE AND DANDY [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 21-27 Mar.  
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.  
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.  
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.  
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## GLOOM TONICS [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 28 Mar. - 3 Apr. .  
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.  
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.  
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.  
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

**GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—“GLOOM TONICS.”**  
“The Home of Joy and Laughter.”  
MATINEE TO-DAY, AT 2.30. TO-NIGHT, AT 8 O’CLOCK,  
**STIFFY AND JOE, WITH SYD. BECK.**  
(Nat Phillips), (Joe Lawman), (Syd. Beck),  
In “GLOOM TONICS,” “GLOOM TONICS,” “GLOOM TONICS,” “GLOOM TONICS,”  
A New Musical Depression Chaser, full of Melody and Mirth, with PEGGY PRYDE, TINY  
DOUGLAS, and his VARSITY BOYS, Keith Connolly, Tom Dale, Stella Lamond, Will Raynor,  
Angela Parselles, and the Big Company of Australia’s Leading Revue Artistes.  
PRICES: 3/, 2/, 1/. Book Now. Plan at Palling’s and Theatre. Phone, MA4692.

## **KEEP SMILING** [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

**1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 4-10 Apr.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## **BUBBLE AND SQUEAK** [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

**1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 11-17 Apr.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## **BRIC-A-BRAC** [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

**1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 18-24 Apr.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## **OUR BIG PARTY** [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

**1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 25 Apr. - 1 May.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## **FUN SPOTS** [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

**1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 2-8 May.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Les Warton, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).
- This week saw the first appearance of Les Warton in the troupe.

"Grand Opera House: *Fun Spots*." *Sydney Morning Herald* 4 May 1931, 5.

## LAUGHING EYES [revue] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

1931: St James Theatre, Sydney; 2-8 May

- **Dir.** Jim Gerald; **Prod.** Ernest C. Rolls.

- **Troupe:** Jim Gerald Revue Company.

- **Cast** incl. Jim Gerald, Queenie Ashton, Elsie Parkes, Charley Silber, Janette Gilmour, Sydney Montague, Mdlle Desiree.

"St James Theatre: Jim Gerald Reappears." *Sydney Morning Herald* 4 May 1931, 5.

## THE REVUE STAR: [musical comedy] Lib. A.E. Balnaves; Mus. [n/e]

"Kitty Carew is a little chorus girl who waited for her chance and got it when the temperamental Lalla Delage refused orders. How did Lalla act when she knew that Kitty was to take her place? What did she do to stop her. Come and see this fascinating story of life behind the scenes and the beautiful stage settings. Never before on the Yorketown stage have the costumes been so spectacular. The colourful spectacle of the East enacted in the harem of Kasim Hasan, with its oriental colourings, eastern dances, and singing slaves. The scenes embrace the beautiful love lyrics, the nigger minstrels in their old-time darkie songs"; the island of Hawaiian, with the swaying hula girls; the spectacular scene before the totem-pole, where - the sweeping head-dresses of the Indian braves sway to and fro to the never-ceasing tap of feet. These are just a few of the scenes from this new comedy. Mr. Balnaves has divided the play into two parts, and special scenery has been prepared for the fifteen scenes. The musical numbers, the minstrel show, and the snappy humorous dialogues all go to make up an attractive show which will be appreciated by patrons" ("*Revue Star*: First Appearance," 2).

The libretto of this two-act musical comedy was written by Albert Balnaves who had come from Adelaide the previous year to work at the Yorketown branch of the Commercial Bank of Australasia. It was the second of three musical comedies he created for the local community during his tenure there.

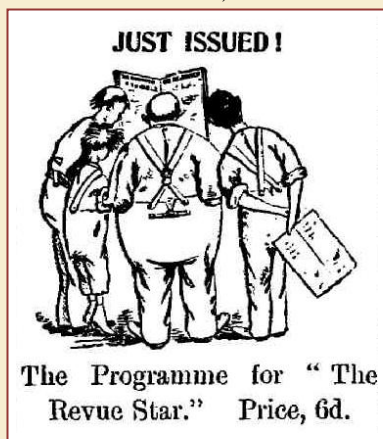
A minstrel show was incorporated in the second act (Scene 6). Among the other assorted minor characters are show girls, aviators, crinoline ladies, pirates, Eastern ladies, slaves, Hawaiian girls, and Indians.

1931: Town Hall, Yorketown (South Australia); 5, 8 May

- **Dir.** A. E. Balnaves; **Prod.** Yorketown Comedy Company; **M Dir.** Rev. A. R. Thrush and Horace Jordan, L.A.B.;

**Cost.** Audrey Friebe, Ivy Frank, Mrs A. R. Thrush; **Secretary** E.E. Lloyd (Yorketown Comedy Company secretary); **S Art.** Mrs C.A. Lamshed.

- **Main cast** (in order of appearance) incl. A.E. Balnaves (Jimmy Semple, an actor/director), I.H. Beeton (Barton J. Hicks, the author), Mrs B. Thiele (Mamie Bourke, a chorus girl), Dalna Lamshed (Toby Jones, a call boy), Rev. A.R. Thrush (Alexander Gorming), Audrey Friebe (Kitty), L.A. Clutterbuck (Buster Binks, a scene shifter), Agnes Forshaw (Lalla De Lage, a revue star), Alpha Lamshed (Miss Pebbles, Plaza Theatre secretary), Ettie Rechner (Margaret Buring), Mrs C.A. Lamshed (Mumsie Jenkins, a dresser), Olga Friebe (Loretta Brooks), Kathleen Farrow (Dolores Darling), Frank Farrow (Marmaduke Monks, a stage door dude), Miss Ferdie Pascall (Maravana, premiere danseuse).



*Pioneer* (Yorketown, SA) 1 May 1931, 3.

- **Ballet:** Misses Enid Shakes, Gwen Friebe, Nancy Johnson, Gwen Fowles, Rene Millar, Doreen Jones, Mollie Eichner, Betty Eichner, Esme Grabia, Jean Simon, Edith Wyley, Gwen Burton, Kath Law, Gwen Ebert.

- **Ensemble:** Misses Kathleen Farrow, Hilda Charlton, Mrs R.B. Thiele, Jean Wilkinson, Thelma Heusler, Olga Friebe, Edith Kirsch, Dolly Sheehan, Molly Lloyd, Isabel Grabia, Doris Springbett, Alpha Lamshed.

- **Minstrels:** Harold Heusler, Murray Riddle (Obadiah), R.H.C. Wiltshire (Sambo), Claude Riddle, O.H. Jachne (Rastus), Arnold Riddle, E.E. Lloyd (Pete), Gordon Riddle, Rev. A.R. Thrush (Mose), A. E. Balnaves (Silas), L.H. Beeton (interlocutor)

- **Musicians** incl. Horace Jordan (piano), Ben Thiele (violin).

1931: Minlaton Institute, Minlaton (South Australia); 12 May

- Cast and production as for previous Yorketown season.

1931: Warooka, South Australia; 22 May

- Cast and production as for previous Yorketown season.

1931: Edithburgh Institute, Edithburgh (South Australia); 2 June

- Cast and production as for previous Yorketown season.

"*Revue Star*: A Comedy in Two Acts by Local Artists, *The*." *Pioneer* (Yorketown, SA) 15 May 1931, 3.

"*Revue Star* at Edithburgh, *The*." *Pioneer* (Yorketown, SA) 12 June 1931, 2.

"*Revue Star* at Warooka, *The*." *Pioneer* (Yorketown, SA) 29 May 1931, 2.

"*Revue Star*: First Appearance at Yorketown Next Tuesday, *The*." *Pioneer* (Yorketown, SA) 1 May 1931, 2.

"*Revue Star*: Fine Opening Performance, *The*." *Pioneer* (Yorketown, SA) 8 May 1931, 3.

## WISE CRACKS [revue] Txt. Nat Phillips; Mus. [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

1931: Grand Opera House, Sydney; 9-15 May

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

- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Les Warton, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## **SURE FIRE** [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 16-22 May
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow, Ron Shand, Letty Craydon; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## **A GOOD TIME** [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 30 May – 5 June.
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow, Ron Shand, Letty Craydon; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## **HIGH KICKS** [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 6-12 June
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow, Ron Shand, Letty Craydon; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

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

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 13-19 June
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow, Ron Shand, Letty Craydon; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

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

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 20-26 June
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.

- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow, Ron Shand, Letty Craydon; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## **BITS OF FLUFF** [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 27 June- 3 July
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow, Ron Shand, Letty Craydon; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## **DUCKS AND DRAKES** [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 4-10 July
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow, Ron Shand, Letty Craydon; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## **AU REVOIR [aka SO LONG FOLKS]** [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

Very likely a "best of" and requests night show.

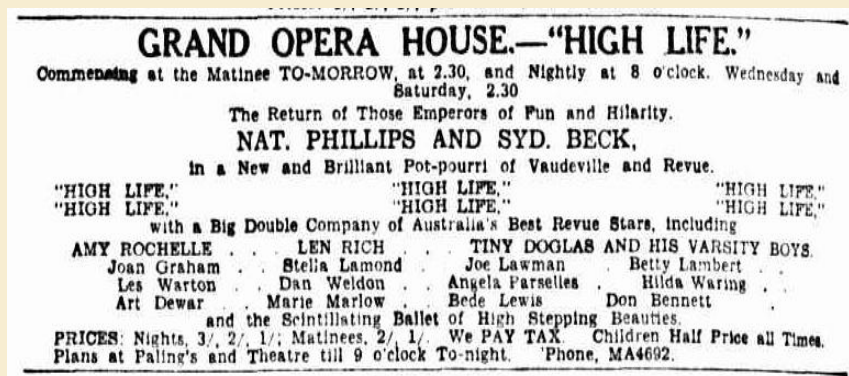
- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 11-17 July
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Daisy Merritt, Keith Connolly, Iris Ackworth, Heather Jones, Kathleen Howard, Stella Lamond, Hilda Waring, Angela Parselles, Lulla Fanning, June Mills, Will Raynor, Billy Doyle, Cecil Scott, Tom Dale, Elsie Hoskins, Lewola Bros, Marie Marlow, Ron Shand, Letty Craydon; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).
  - This was the final show in the 1930/31 Grand Opera House season. The company did make a four week return season in August, however.
- 1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 12-19 Sept.
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Amy Rochelle, Stella Lamond, Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Leonard Rich, Joan Graham, Les Warton, Betty Lambert, Dan Weldon, Angela Parselles, Hilda Waring, Marie Marlow, Bede Lewis; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).
  - This was the final show in the company's four week retrun season.
- 1932:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 20 Feb. [one night only]
- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
  - **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
  - **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Stella Lamond, Joe Lawman, Les Warton, Daisy Merrirr, Betty Lambert, Dan Weldon, Angela Parselles, Keith Connelly, Marie Marlow, Nita Carr, Lewola Brothers, Dick Ryan, Elsie Hosking; and the Radio Six.
  - **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dwar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).
  - This was the first show in a four week return season at Grand Opera House.

## **HIGH LIFE** [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

**1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 22-28 Aug.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Amy Rochelle, Stella Lamond, Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Leonard Rich, Joan Graham, Les Warton, Betty Lambert, Dan Weldon, Angela Parselles, Hilda Waring, Marie Marlow, Bede Lewis; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).
- This was the first show in a four week return season at Grand Opera House.



*Sydney Morning Herald 22 Aug. 1931, 2*

## **TIP TOP** [revue] **Txt.** Nat Phillips; **Mus.** [n/e]

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

**1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 29 Aug. - 4 Sept.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Amy Rochelle, Stella Lamond, Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Leonard Rich, Joan Graham, Les Warton, Betty Lambert, Dan Weldon, Angela Parselles, Hilda Waring, Marie Marlow, Bede Lewis; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

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

A revue with some sketches most likely written by Nat Phillips, and possibly in association with other members of the company.

**1931:** Grand Opera House, Sydney; 5-11 Sept.

- **Dir.** Nat Phillips; **Prod.** George Marlow; **M Dir.** Tiny Douglas.
- **Troupe:** Nat Phillips' Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Nat Phillips (Stiffy), Amy Rochelle, Stella Lamond, Joe Lawman, Syd Beck, Leonard Rich, Joan Graham, Les Warton, Betty Lambert, Dan Weldon, Angela Parselles, Hilda Waring, Marie Marlow, Bede Lewis; and the Radio Six.
- **Musicians:** Tiny's Varsity Boys; incl. Tiny Douglas (violin), Art Dewar (banjo/guitar), Don Bennett (piano).

## **BROWN'S IN TOWN:** [revusical] **Txt.** George Sorlie; **Mus.** [n/e]

Most likely written as a collaboration between George Sorlie and Arthur Morlie, additional comic material and songs would have also likely been introduced by other members of the troupe.

**1931:** His Majesty's Theatre, Brisbane; 21-27 Nov.

- **Dir/Prod.** George Sorlie.
- **Troupe:** George Sorlie's Vaudeville and Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. George Sorlie, Arthur Morley, Yvonne Banvard, Gerald Connolly, Richard Parry, Addie Lake, Grace Bromley, Bud de Silva, Alma Jorgenson, The Two Hildas (Hilda Waring and Hilda Statler), Sam Stern, Neville Clark, James Blair; and the Eight Rhythm Rascals.
- **Musicians:** Tiny Douglas and His Varsity Boys.

"His Majesty's Theatre." *Brisbane Courier* 23 Nov. 1931, 19.

"His Majesty's Theatre." *Telegraph* (Brisbane) 23 Nov. 1931, 9.



## **THE WIGGLES FAMILY:** [revusical] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

Possibly written by either Arthur Morley or George Sorlie (or as a collaboration between both men) with additional comic material and songs introduced by other members of the troupe. A review in the *Brisbane Courier* records: "*The Wiggles Family...* keeps the audience in continual merriment. Yvonne Banvard shows versatility in crooning a delightful melody, 'Her Secret Passion,' and by her portrayal of Mrs Waggle, housekeeper for Mr Wiggles. Sam Stern gives an excellent characterization as the irritable and gouty Mr Wiggles, and also pleases with his rendition of 'Banana,' which tells of the fall from grace of an Italian opera singer" ("His Majesty's," 18). The following week's review indicates that the plot revolved around the trials of the Wiggles family and its friends (*Brisbane Courier* 7 Dec. 1931, 8).

**1931:** His Majesty's Theatre, Brisbane; 28 Nov. - 7 Dec.

- **Dir/Prod.** George Sorlie.

- **Troupe:** George Sorlie's Vaudeville and Revue Company.

- **Cast** incl. George Sorlie, Arthur Morley, Yvonne Banvard, Gerald Connolly, Richard Parry, Addie Lake, Grace Bromley, Bud de Silva, Alma Jorgenson, The Two Hildas (Hilda Waring and Hilda Statler), Sam Stern, Neville Clark, James Blair; and the Eight Rhythm Rascals.

- **Musicians:** Tiny Douglas and His Varsity Boys.

- The *Wiggles Family* played one extra night (Monday 7 Dec.), along with a first part vaudeville entertainment called Pot Pourri. The troupe then closed its revue/vaudeville season for four nights to prepare for its Christmas pantomime, *Mother Grundy*.

"His Majesty's Theatre." *Brisbane Courier* 30 Nov. 1931, 18.

## **MOTHER GRUNDY:** [revusical] **Txt.** Arthur Morley, with George Sorlie; **Mus.** [n/e]

Billed as "George Sorlie's all-Australian pantomime" (*Brisbane Courier* 12 Dec. 1931, 2), the storyline "revolves around the vicissitudes experienced by Matilda Grundy in her ultimately successful search for her hero. The machinations of the scheming Dame Grundy are effectively repulsed by the Fairy Wattle" ("*Mother Grundy*," 7). The principal boy role (played by Yvonne Banvard) involved multiple character impersonations, these being "The Aussie Lad," "Dick Whittington," "Robinson Crusoe" and "Boy Blue."

Produced on a large scale with numerous original dances and comic interludes, picturesque settings, an extensive array of songs and ballets, and a real circus (performing horses, dogs, a donkey, clowns, trapeze artists etc), the pantomime also drew much praise from the *Brisbane Courier* for its transformation scene depicting Queensland's primary industries and Australia's emblematic flowers. Local references and allusions (which included "The Prince of Pinkenba"), and topicalities were also introduced into the storyline.

The musical programme comprised 22 songs and ballets, including "You Should See My Neighbour's Daughter" (sung by George Sorlie), "Rip Van Winkle" (Percy Mackay) and "The Dance of the Mummies" (ballet). A review in the *Brisbane Courier* also notes that the production included George Sorlie's "musical tour of the world per medium of the orchestra" ("His Majesty's," 3).

**1931:** His Majesty's Theatre, Brisbane; 21-27 Nov.

- **Dir/Prod.** George Sorlie; **Cost.** Mrs Morley [aka Elsie Bates].

- **Troupe:** George Sorlie's Vaudeville and Revue Company.

- **Cast** incl. Yvonne Banvard (The Aussie Lad/Dick Whittington/Robinson Crusoe/Boy Blue) George Sorlie (Baron Bounder, Prince of Pinkenba), Arthur Morley (Demon Despair), Bert Desmond (Dame Grundy), Eva Webber (Matilda Grundy), Percy Mackay (Father Christmas), Dorrie Ricketts (Fairy Queen), Alma Jorgensen (Bo-Peep), Tom Collins (Policeman), Gerald Connolly, Richard Parry, Addie Lake, Grace Bromley, Bud de Silva, The Two Hildas (Hilda Waring and Hilda Statler), Sam Stern, Neville Clark, James Blair, Little Minnie Hesse; and the Eight Rhythm Rascals.

- **Musicians:** Tiny Douglas and His Varsity Boys.

- Jewish comedian and impersonator Sam Stern, who had been a member of Sorlie's Vaudeville and Revue Company, did not appear in the pantomime. He instead accepted a temporary engagement with the Ike Delavale Revue Company, then playing the nearby Theatre Royal. Stern returned to the Sorlie troupe following the conclusion of its Brisbane season in early January 1932.

"Christmas Pantomime." *Brisbane Courier* 14 Dec. 1931, 12.

"His Majesty's Theatre." *Brisbane Courier* 21 Dec. 1931, 3.

"*Mother Grundy*." *Brisbane Courier* 28 Dec. 1931, 7.

## **OLD MOTHER HUBBARD:** [pantomime] **Lib.** Charles Delavale; **Mus.** [n/e]

Most likely written by Charles Delavale with additional material from members of the company, the *Brisbane Courier's* review indicates that the production was more like a revue than traditional pantomime, comprising as it did mostly novelty acts, "vocal items and amusing sketches." One of the feature sketches, for example was "Mr M'Caccy" (described as having an almost 'O. Henry ending') which was performed by Charles Delavale, Addie Lake and Lee Murray. The characters involved in the storyline are advertised as being "the funny old dame, the painters, the Fairy Queen and the Monkey" (*Brisbane Courier* 26 Dec. 1931, 7).

Among the musical highlights are said to have been a rendition of "Mary of Argyle" by George Correlli billed as "the Caruso of Vaudeville"), "Mr Gallagher and Mr Sheen" (a duet by Correlli and Delavale), and "Love is Just a Little Bit of Heaven" and "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" (by young Chinese baritone, Chung Doo). Other songs included: "La Paloma" and "Dreamy Sevilla" (Addie Lake), and "Hello, Beautiful" (performed by Dolly Vockler and the ballet).

- 1931:** Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 26 Dec. 1931 - ca. 2 Jan. 1932
- **Dir.** Charles Delavale; **M Dir.** Nina Hutton.
  - **Troupe:** Ike Delavale's Metropolitan Star Company; and Miss Cullen's Smarty Set Pantomime Kiddies
  - **Cast** incl. Charles Delavale, Ron Shand, Elvie Stagpoole, Marie La Varre, Lewola Brothers, Colleen Hope, Reg Desmond, Doris Tindall, Lee Murray, Jeanette and Vince, Alma Patterson, Keith Barry (juvenile singer), Claude Wearne, Eddie Cockburn (violin), Cecil Jarrett (tenor), Melody Boys in Harmony, Chung Doo, Addie Lake, Dolly Vockler, George Correlli; and the Red Hot Peppers.
  - **Musicians:** Six Royal Syncopators.
  - Although opening night advertising in the *Brisbane Courier* indicates that the pantomime was to run for a week (26 Dec. 1931, 2), no further ads were published in the paper after 28 December. It is therefore unclear whether the show closed early or whether Delavale did not see the need to continue advertising in the paper (possibly using other means of publicizing the show).
  - Addie Lake was billed as "Queensland's nightingale" ("Theatre Royal," 7).

"Theatre Royal." *Brisbane Courier* 28 Dec. 1931, 7.

## **THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT:** [pantomime] **Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

In reviewing this J. C. Williamson production the *Sydney Morning Herald* theatre critic writes: 'Pantomime has undergone great changes in common with all other forms of stage entertainment. But though *The House that Jack Built*... differed in many ways from the Christmas productions of the old tradition, it contained a great number of scenes that introduced action and movement, gaiety and brightness, humour that appealed to the eye as well as to the ear, charming ballads sung with grace and refinement, picturesque and original dances, comic interludes that were irresistibly funny, and one of the best displays of acrobatic feats - performed with hurricane speed by a large troupe of children - ever seen at a Christmas entertainment of this type. It is true that the thread of the story upon which all these sparkling beads are strung is excessively thin; and that there are no huge spectacular displays that enlivened such productions in the past, but the torch of pantomime still burns bright, and its enchantment still holds power" ("Bright Pantomime," 4).

The story begins at Brookville Farm owned by Farmer Barleycorn and his wife. Also present is Princess Susetta, disguised as a student of agriculture, and Jack the farm's gardener. The bucolic atmosphere is also enhanced by Lily, the dame's prize cow (played by the Paulestro brothers) who performs one of the feature acts - the "Vegetable Ballet." From the farm the story moves in rapid succession to the dame's parlour, the marketplace, the tulip farm, a woodland grove (where the four seasons are depicted in an artistic and scenic ballet), and then to the Regent's palace, where it is revealed that the princess is heirress to a throne of a recently demised monarch. "Through gardens of delight and stately corridors," writes the herald critic, "the bewildered audience were gently led to the palace of the princess, where it was finally announced that a marriage had been arranged and would shortly take place between Jack, the erstwhile gardener, and Susetta, the reigning princess" (ibid, 4).

Specialty acts included: "The Aeroplane Flying over the Audience," "The Lench Dolls," "The Amazing Toy Shop," "The Phantom Army," "The Wonderful Swing," and comedy scenes by Stan Foley and Alfred Frith ("Fun in the Mirror"), "Selling a Wireless Set (Alfred Frith), "The Stranglers of Paris" (a burlesque by John Fernside), "Characters that Come and Go" (Stan Foley and John Fernside), and the "Eve Ballet" (in which a gorilla carries off a maiden in the style of an accentuated Apache dance).

Among the songs incorporated into the pantomime were: "Bluebeard's Back Again," "In the Shanty Where Santa Claus Lives," "The Million Dollar Baby," a song scena "I'm Marching Home Again" (Josephine Trix), and "Strolling Through the Tulips (a duet between Josephine Trix and and Nell Taylor),

- 1931:** Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney; 19-24 Dec. / Criterion Theatre, Sydney; 29 Dec. 1931 - 16 Jan. 1932
- **Dir.** Victor Tatnall, **Prod.** J.C. Williamsons' Ltd; **M Dir.** Ernest G. Oram.
  - **Cast** incl. Josephine Trix (Jack), Nell Taylor (Princess Susetta), Alfred Frith (Dame Barleycorn), Walter Kingsley (Demon Depression), George Willoughby (Farmer Barlycorn), Stan Foley, Vera Spraul (The Regent), John Fernside (a retired tragedian), May Craven (Fairy Queen), Morris Pic, Alf Pic, Paulestro Bros (Lily, the dame's cow), Ellen Percival (Madge), Isabelle Mahon [aka Isabel Mahon], Valma Clarke, Mona and Zeppel (specialty dancers), Edna Moncrieff, The Ten Tornados, Eric Bush (gorilla).
  - Josephine Trix was specially engaged from London.
  - The company comprised more than 123 performers.
  - The production transferred to the Criterion on Boxing day so that J.C. Williamson's could present *Floradora* at the Theatre Royal.

"Bright Pantomime: *The House that Jack Built*." *Sydney Morning Herald* 21 Dec. 1931, 4.

## **RED RIDING HOOD:** [pantomime] **Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

"In his plan to capture Little Red Riding Hood," records the *Age* theatre critic, "the Demon Depression, with his chorus of imps, is thwarted by the goldenhaired Fairy Prosperita, who casts a spell over the little maid." ("*Red Riding Pantomime*," 9).

One of the production features according to both the *Age* and the *Argus* was the introduction of The Tiny Tots, a group of small children whose dancing is described as having been "vigorous" and yet "graceful" ("*Red Riding*: Attractive," 11). The *Age* records that the average age of the children was six years. "These little ones," the review notes, "took conspicuous parts in the ballets, while several even took solo parts, and one baby, in an abbreviated frock of three tiny red frills, silver bodice and a wand that matched her height, gave a delightful exhibition of toe dancing" (ibid, 9).

Songs known to have been incorporated into the production were: "Pipes of Love" (sung by Linda May) and "King of the Night" (performed by Ray Simpson). One of the feature dances is said to have been "The Butterfly Ballet."

**1931:** Playhouse Theatre, Melbourne; 26 Dec 1931. - 1 Feb. 1932

- **Dir.** Alfred Broadway; **Chor.** May Downs.

- **Cast** incl. Joan McGuire (Red Riding Hood), Ray Simpson (Demon Depression), Linda May (Fairy Prosperita), Rose McQuinn (Wolf), George Jennings (Dame Amblett, Red Riding Hood's mother), Jim Romaine (Baron Amblett), Joe Archer (their boy), Jean Cooksley (Jack), Ettie Peterson (Jill), The Broadway Brothers (jugglers), The Broadway Steppers, The Pony Ballet, The Tiny Tots.

"*Red Riding Hood: Attractive Dancing at Playhouse.*" *Argus* (Melbourne) 28 Dec. 1931, 11.

"*Red Riding Hood Pantomime at Playhouse.*" *Age* (Melbourne) 28 Dec. 1931, 9.

## **SINBAD:** [pantomime] **Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

Both reviewers writing for the leading Melbourne newspapers, the *Age* and the *Argus* appear to agree that this production of *Sinbad the Sailor* suffered from both a bad "book" and from incidents of humour that bordered on vulgarity. In relation to the story the *Age* indicates: "It has no plot, of course - what pantomime has? - but just romps along in a carefree, inconsequential manner, charming one, amusing one, in the good old pantomime way" ("*Sinbad*," 28 Dec. 1931, 9). While the *Argus* review makes no mention of there being a lack of plot, it does note that the comedians were "worthy of a much better book, pointing to the dame role as a particular example." The critic writes: To the eye [Don Nicol's] Mrs Sinbad is one of the most entertaining dames pantomime has known for many years. His makeup is amusingly convincing and he dressed the part extremely well. It is a pity [however] that what he has to say should be, for the most part, not only dull but pointless [and] often objectionably vulgar" ("*Sinbad*," 11). The amount of blue humour introduced into the production was viewed not only as being inconsistent with a largely children's entertainment but also pushed the boundaries of good taste with adult audiences too. "The only saving grace in Mr Sinbad's songs and conversation" wrote the *Argus* critic, "is that the children may miss the vulgarity in their enjoyment of her appearance and agile behaviour" (ibid, 11).

Among the production's more prominent attractions were the specialty dances "Youth is supreme... in the solo dancing of Robert Helpman and his charming young partners, Frances Ogilvie and Lois Green, one dark, the other fair" records the *Argus*. "It is a long day since anything so promising as their work has been seen in Melbourne, and their numbers were the feature of the performance. As well as grace of body, there is distinct evidence of the temperament and the imagination of the true artist. Especially interesting is the miming of Frances Ogilvie as the fly and Robert Helpman as the spider in a dance. In which an immense web provides a sinister background" (ibid, 11).

The scenic settings devised for the production included: The Mermaids Cave; The Port of Balsora; Underneath the Sea; The Rolling Ship; On the Whale's Back; The Valley of Diamonds; The Persian garden; The Spider's Web; The Slave Market; The Forest of Coconuts; The Shipwreck; The Almost-Human Dog; The Balloon Ballet; The Children's Playroom; The Ballet of Roses; The Dance of the Seven Veils; The Tree of Truth; Australian Wildflowers Ballet.

One of the songs incorporated into (or possibly written for) the production was "Billabong" (performed by Thelma Burness). Other musical performances included "Let's Get Friendly" (sung by Thelma Burness and Lillian Crisp) and "The Sailor's Ballet."

NB: Charles Wenman directed another *Sinbad* pantomime in 1939, with Nellie Kollé in one of the lead roles. Kollé wrote one of the songs for the production "One for the Road" (with Maurice Guttridge). It is unclear if there is any relationship between the two works.

**1931:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 26 Dec 1931. - 6 Feb. 1932

- **Dir.** Charles A. Wenman; **Prod.** J.C. Williamson's Ltd; **M Dir.** William Quintrell; **Chor.** Jennie Brennan, with Margaret Berry.

- **Cast** incl. Field Fisher (Sinbad), Thelma Burness (Ruby, Sinbad's daughter), Kathleen Goodall (Fairy Spirit of Adventure), Don Nicol (Mrs Sinbad), George Blunt (Emperor of Sahara), Lillian Crisp (Hinbad), William Hassan (Dirk the Dog), Neil McKay (a comic British sailor), Athol Tier (another comic British sailor), Miriam Lester (Princess Fatima, the Emperor's sister), Les King (the Old Man of the Sea), Patricia Wenman, Robert Helpman (dancer), Frances Ogilvie, Lois Green.

"*Sinbad the Sailor: Christmas Pantomime at Royal.*" *Argus* (Melbourne) 28 Dec. 1931, 11.

"*Sinbad the Sailor- Rollicking Pantomime.*" *Age* (Melbourne) 28 Dec. 1931, 9.

## **CINDERELLA:** [pantomime] **Lib.** Frank Neil; **Mus.** [n/e]

Although largely following the standard fairytale storyline, Frank Neil's production nevertheless introduced some new features. Among these were real and imitation animals, with the latter including a dancing horse and Mickey and Minnie Mouse. 20 young children also took on the roles of fairies. The pantomime's scenes included "Underneath the Sea," "The Beautiful Butterfly and Rose Ballet," "The Autumn Glade," "The Demon's Lair," "The Royal Ballroom," "The Palace of Hearts," and "The Toy Soldiers."

For the 1933 Adelaide season comedian Elton Black (who originally played an ugly sister in Melbourne) was cast in the non-traditional role of Cinderella's step-father. His ugly sister character was subsequently taken over by Dan Thomas.

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A MATINEE EVERY DAY, AT 2.  
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**"SINBAD THE SAILOR."**  
125 PEOPLE ON THE STAGE, 125  
125 PEOPLE ON THE STAGE, 125  
TWO ACTS OF TWENTY-TWO SCENES  
Will Comprise a Unique and Varied Entertainment.  
**A MAGNIFICENT AGGREGATION OF ARTISTS,**  
Including  
NEIL MCKAY, ATHOL TIER, DON NICOL,  
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BURNESS, MIRIAM LESTER, KATHLEEN GOOD-  
ALL, GEORGE BLUNT, WILLIAM HASSAN, PAT-  
RICIA WENMAN, LES KING, JACK BUTLER,  
and many others, together with a beautiful ballet  
and captivating chorus. Specialty Dancers:  
ROBERT HELPMAN, FRANCES OGILVIE, LOIS  
GREEN.  
*Argus* (Melbourne) 26 Dec. 1931, 16.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* critic writes in 1933:

No limit is placed on the imagination in the preparation of pantomime. The recipe is very simple. The author simply takes his theme, carries it out on conventional lines, and the producer builds upon it such superstructure as a whimsical fancy may suggest. Thus the story, whatever it may be becomes a peg on which can be hung with delightful irrelevance a repertoire of engaging incidents. Through these the story emerges from time to time, only to be quickly submerged in the spectacular and the unexpected. Everything therefore depends upon the adroitness with which the producer employs his license. Mr Frank Neil has a reputation in this direction and it is well maintained in the production of *Cinderella*... The ballet is excellent. It has a lot to do during the evening and does everything well. Among the special acts introduced were those of the Flying Omars, Patillo and Pesco, and Abdy's Performing Pets. These turns were very popular. Abdy seems by extraordinary patience in training to have achieved the impossible. His cats and birds live together in complete friendship... The concluding scene of this pantomime strikes an entirely new note, the whole company apostrophizing in song the harbour bridge, which forms the final phase of a transformation scene. The idea was very well carried out and provoked enthusiastic applause ("*Cinderella*," 2).

NB: This production is believed to have been a re-worked version of Neil's 1925 *Cinderella* pantomime.

- 1931:** Roxy Theatre, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1931 - 29 Jan. 1932  
- **Dir.** Frank Neil; **Prod.** Fullers' Theatres Ltd.  
- **Troupe:** Frank Neil's Vaudeville and Revue Entertainers.  
- **Cast** incl. Byrl Walkley (Prince Charming), Josie Melville (Cinderella), Robert Roberts (Baron), Bert Ray and Maggie Buckley (the Ugly Sisters), Hector St Clair, Winnie Edgerton (Fairy Queen), George Lloyd, Leonard Rich, Arline Paterson, Golden Sisters, Ron Le Brun, Freddie Witt, The Flying Omars, Abdy's Performing Pets, Patillo and Pescoe.
- 1933:** Palace Theatre, Melbourne; 23 Dec 1933 - 4 Feb. 1934  
- **Dir.** Frank Neil; **Prod.** Fullers Theatres; **Chor.** Maurice Diamond.  
- **Cast** incl. Josie Melville (Cinderella), Miriam Lester (Prince Charming), Syd Beck (an ugly sister), Bert Ray (an ugly sister), Billy Maloney, Elton Black (The Baron), Harry Ratcliffe (Demon Nightshade), Dorothy Dewar, Hilda Lane (Fairy Queen Silverlight), Alma Hutchinson, Cusko's Dog and Monkey Circus, Five Whirlwind Cleveres (acrobats), Ernest Kilroy (Cutie the Cat)
- 1934:** Theatre Royal, Adelaide; 10-28 Feb.  
- **Dir.** Frank Neil; **Prod.** J.C. Williamson's Ltd; **M Dir.** S. Smith; **Chor.** Maurice Diamond.  
- The cast was mostly as per the previous Melbourne season. Dan Thomas played an ugly sister (replacing Bert Ray).



**Josie Melville**  
*Advertiser* (Adelaide) 2 Feb. 1934, 23.

"*Cinderella at the Palace.*" *Argus* (Melbourne) 26 Dec. 1933, 3.

"*Cinderella: Delightful Production.*" *Age* (Melbourne) 26 Dec. 1933, 9.

"*Theatre Royal Pantomime: Josie Melville as Cinderella.*" *Advertiser* (Adelaide) 12 Feb. 1934, 11.

"*Cinderella: Pantomime at the Roxy.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 28 Dec. 1931, 2.

## **CINDERELLA:** [pantomime] **Lib.** George Wallace; **Mus.** Incl. George Wallace

George Wallace is believed to have written the libretto for *Cinderella* during his revue company's season at the Bijou Theatre, Melbourne, in late 1931. His company was considerably expanded for the pantomime, most notably through the inclusion of some fifty children ("Pantomime, 28). Interestingly, Wallace decided against the tradition of having a principle boy (played by a woman) preferring to have Prince Charming played by a man (Russell Callow).

One of the features of the production was Cinderella's coach, which producer Harry Kitching and Wallace decided should be a real motor car. According to *Table Talk* they had considerable difficulties getting the vehicle not only on the stage but into the theatre itself ("Theatre," 16). The production also featured an animal circus.



*Herald* (Melbourne) 21 Dec. 1931, 11.

- 1931:** Bijou Theatre, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1931 - 8 Jan. 1932.  
- **Dir.** George Wallace; **Prod.** Harry R. Kitching; **Chor.** Billy Kershaw and Ivy Emms.  
- **Cast** incl. Maida Jones (Cinderella), Russell Callow (Prince Charming), Phyllis Baker (Dandini, Prince Charming's valet), George Wallace (Buttons), Bill Innes (Demon King), June Mills (Ugly Sister), John Dobbie (Ugly Sister), Lyn St Louis (Baroness); The Eight Rascals.

"*Cinderella True to Label: Bright Bijou Show.*" *Herald* (Melbourne) 28 Dec. 1931, 3.

"*Pantomime Must be Young.*" *Herald* (Melbourne) 19 Dec. 1931, 28.

"*Theatre and it's People: Struggle with Motor Car, The.*" *Table Talk* (Melbourne) 24 Dec. 1931, 16.

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Expanded and updated from Clay Djubal, "What Oh Tonight" Ph D Diss (2005) U of Qld, Appendix C.

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