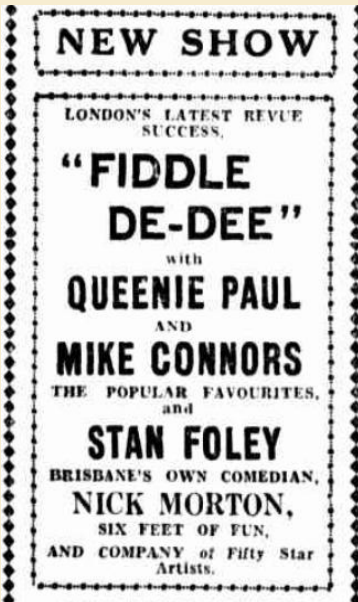


1934

The Jim Gerald Musical Revue Company had by 1934 returned to presenting largely mini musical comedy productions (revusical) after experimenting for several years, beginning ca.1929, with revue. At least on production staged during the company's Tivoli Theatre (Melbourne) season appears to have been revue, however, this being *Come Up and See Us* (14 July). Interestingly the *Age* theatre critic proposes that the show was considerably below the usual standard, lacking brightness and crispness, and containing generally weak material (16 July 1934, 12).

FIDDLE DE DEE: [revue] Txt/Mus. [n/e]



Courier Mail (Brisbane) 5 Jan. 1934, 2.

Comprising a mix of sketches, skits, scenas, songs, comedy routines, and ballets sourced from international revues, and from local writers (including members of the company), *Fiddle De Dee* included the highly popular "Potty Pantomime," reportedly a hit at the London Palladium in 1933. The 1934 Brisbane season also included several songs performed the previous week in *Flying Colours* (1933). Among the items recorded as being in the production were: "Darkness in the Delta" (Lulla Fanning), "A Beach Ball" (Sunkist Ballet), "Laugh Clown Laugh" and "Georgia" (Russell Callow), "A Little Street Where Old Friends Meet" (Tom Collins), and "Strike Me Pink" (Ronnie Hay and Doris Whimp).

1934: Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 5-11 Jan.

- **Dir.** Mike Connors; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres; **Chor.** Queenie Paul.

- **Cast** incl. Mike Connors, Queenie Paul, Stan "Stud" Foley, Nick Morton, Russell Callow, Lulla Fanning, Tom Collins, Ronnie Hay, Doris Whimp, Vi Jagelman, the Ritchie Bros (Archie and Les), Edna Hardy, Alec Raine, the Lorraines; and the Sunkist Ballet.

1934: National Theatre, Launceston (Tas); 7-14 Apr.

- **Dir.** Mike Connors and Queenie Paul; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres; **Chor.** Queenie Paul.

- **Cast** incl. Mike Connors, Queenie Paul, Stan "Stud" Foley, Syd Beck, Russell Callow, Lulla Fanning, the Ritchie Bros (Archie and Les), Tom Collins, Merna Stewart; and the Sunkist Ballet.

"Theatre Royal." *Courier Mail* (Brisbane) 6 Jan. 1934, 14.

SKY HIGH: [revue] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

Although Connors and Paul indicated that *Sky High* was one of several revues they purchased while in the United States, the production likely included localisations of some material and the inclusion of some additional material by one or more members of the company.

In its review of the opening night production the *Courier Mail's* theatre critic wrote: "*Sky High* is outstanding for its bright music, clever comedy sketches, witty gags, pretty and accomplished ballet girls. The costuming and dancing of the ballet in such numbers as 'Let's Make Up,' 'The Legionnaire,' 'Rhapsody in Gold,' and 'Only a Summer Night's Dream' were delightful... The feature of the programme is its brightness, however, and Stan Foley and Nick Morton never failed to convulse the audience. One of Morton's funniest turns was when he took charge of the Foreign Legion (the chorus) as the dyspeptic sergeant-major, and put the ranks through their paces' ("Theatre Royal," 9). Another feature of the show was the Connors and Paul duet "A Shanty in Old Shanty Town."

1934: Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 5-11 Jan.

- **Dir.** Mike Connors; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres; **Chor.** Queenie Paul.

- **Cast** incl. Mike Connors, Queenie Paul, Stan "Stud" Foley, Nick Morton, Russell Callow, Lulla Fanning, Tom Collins, Ronnie Hay, Doris Whimp, Vi Jagelman, the Ritchie Bros (Archie and Les), Edna Hardy, Alec Raine, the Lorraines; and the Sunkist Ballet.

1934: National Theatre, Launceston (Tas); 17-14 Apr.

- **Dir.** Mike Connors and Queenie Paul; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres; **Chor.** Queenie Paul; **M Dir.** Harold Vincer.

- **Cast** incl. Mike Connors, Queenie Paul, Stan "Stud" Foley, Syd Beck, Russell Callow, Lulla Fanning, the Ritchie Bros (Archie and Les), Tom Collins, Merna Stewart; Mavis Ritchie, Shiela Cruse; and the Sunkist Ballet.

"Colour, Melody, Fun: New Connors-Paul Revue - *Sky High* at National." *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas) 18 Apr. 1934, 3.

"Connors and Paul Revue." *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas) 17 Apr. 1934, 8.

"Theatre Royal." *Courier Mail* (Brisbane) 13 Jan. 1934, 9.

FUN RAYS: [revue] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

Another of Mike Connors and Queenie Paul's revues, possibly purchased during their time in America, the feature event of the 1934 Brisbane season was the inclusion of English comedian Harry Thurston (he joined the company on 19 January). Among Thurston's specialities was his popular impersonation of Bairnsfather's "Ole Bill." Other items in the programme, some of

which were likely localised or written by members of the company, included the sketch "A Quiet Game of Bridge" (Fanning, Connors, Morton, and Whimp), "The Hesperus" (a comic turn by Connors and Foley) and the song scena "The Masquerade" (featuring Russell Callow).

1934: Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 19-25 Jan.

- **Dir.** Mike Connors; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres; **Chor.** Queenie Paul.
- **Cast** incl. Mike Connors, Queenie Paul, Stan "Stud" Foley, Harry Thurston , Nick Morton, Russell Callow, Lulla Fanning, Tom Collins, Ronnie Hay, Doris Whimp, Vi Jagelman, the Ritchie Bros (Archie and Les), Edna Hardy, Alec Raine, the Lorraines; and the Sunkist Ballet.

"Theatre Royal." *Courier Mail* (Brisbane) 20 Jan. 1934, 20.

GAY PAREE: [revue] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

Staged as a second half musical revue during Connors and Paul's 1934 Brisbane season, Gay Paree not surprisingly focused on the theme of Paris. It may have also been produced more as a revusical than a revue, especially given the first half of the nightly entertainment, "Happy Moments," was billed as vaudeville but may have been produced along the lines of revue (vaudeville was rarely if ever given a production name while this was typically the case with the revue format).

1934: Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 26 Jan. - 1 Feb.

- **Dir.** Mike Connors; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres; **Chor.** Queenie Paul.
- **Cast** incl. Mike Connors, Queenie Paul, Stan "Stud" Foley, Harry Thurston , Nick Morton, Russell Callow, Lulla Fanning, Tom Collins, Ronnie Hay, Doris Whimp, Vi Jagelman, the Ritchie Bros (Archie and Les), Edna Hardy, Alec Raine, the Lorraines; and the Sunkist Ballet.

"Theatre Royal." *Courier Mail* (Brisbane) 27 Jan. 1934, 8.



Queenie Paul and Mike Connors
Source: Live Performance Australia.

SHE'S CRAZY ABOUT ME: [revue] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

"Charming ballet numbers, tuneful melodies, the fun and frolic of Stan Foley, and the droll humour of Nick Morton gave the entertainment plenty of "pep" and swing. Mike Connors and Queenie Paul, as usual, were prominent in specialty numbers, full of sparkle and vivacity, and Mr. Harry Thurston, London's famous character comedian, sang excellent character songs, his study of a broken-down actor reciting his first triumph in the Shakespearean role of *Macbeth* being particularly good. One of the most amusing of several comedy sketches was that in which Stan Foley gave a realistic im personation of a ventriloquist's doll, Mike Connors being the unfortunate ventriloquist who found his strength well-nigh unequal to the task of balancing tho "doll" on his knee. "Short Stories from Life" provided some amusing sidelights on the lives theatrical people lead after the curtain has rung down on tho show. Songs by Queenie Paul, Lulla Fanning, Vi Jugleman, Stan Foley, Russell Cal low, and Tom Collins met with the hearty appreciation of the audience, and specialty dances by Doris Whlmp and Ronnie Hay, and the Ritchie Boys were among tho most popular Items on an excellent and well-balanced potpourri of music song, and laughter" ("Theatre Royal," 9).

1934: Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 2-8 Feb.

- **Dir.** Mike Connors; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres; **Chor.** Queenie Paul.
- **Cast** incl. Mike Connors, Queenie Paul, Stan "Stud" Foley, Harry Thurston , Nick Morton, Russell Callow, Lulla Fanning, Tom Collins, Ronnie Hay, Doris Whimp, Vi Jagelman, the Ritchie Bros (Archie and Les), Edna Hardy, Alec Raine, the Lorraines; and the Sunkist Ballet.

"Theatre Royal." *Courier Mail* (Brisbane) 3 Feb. 1934, 9.

OH BABY: [revusical] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

A one act musical comedy, *Oh Baby* concerns Jack Henderson, a man about town who has been receiving money from a legacy for a number of years on the understanding that he has a wife son and son, both of which he has not. Accordingly, when one of the trustees arrives unexpectedly he hurriedly has to find substitutes to fill the parts. Unfortunately, the aid of too many is called in, and from being a bachelor he finds himself dubbed a Mormon.

The musical aspects of the show included an opening ballet and featured the song "Say Yes to Deacon Jones."

1934: Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 9-15 Feb.

- **Dir.** Mike Connors; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres; **Chor.** Queenie Paul.
- **Cast** incl. Mike Connors (Jack Henderson), Queenie Paul, Stan "Stud" Foley, Harry Thurston, Nick Morton, Russell Callow, Lulla Fanning, Tom Collins, Ronnie Hay, Doris Whimp, Vi Jagelman, the Ritchie Bros (Archie and Les), Edna Hardy, Alec Raine, the Lorraines; and the Sunkist Ballet.
- The second haf of the programme comprised vaudeville.

"Theatre Royal." *Courier Mail* (Brisbane) 10 Feb. 1934, 9.



Courier Mail (Brisbane) 16 Feb.
1934, 2.

LAUGHTER UNLIMITED: [revue] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

Connors and Paul's 1934 Brisbane season saw them joined midway through February by Roy Rene and Sadie Gale, while English character comedian Harry Thurston is thought to have left the company. While the authorship and/or origins of the show have not yet been ascertained, Rene's presence along suggests that the show contained locally-written (or improvised) material.

"The new show carries the appropriate title of *Laughter Unlimited*. It comprises an excellent blend of bright musical numbers, clever dancing items and colourful songs scenas, but it is the comedy element which prevails. 'Mo' and Stan Foley have long been recognised as two of Australia's foremost mirthmakers and in the many sketches last night they were afforded every opportunity for the display of ' their talents. Stan Foley's story of "Ben Hur," and his handling of "an advertising drama," had the audience convulsed with laughter, while his partner in mirth was seen at his best in a sketchen titled, "Brothers in Distress," composed of tense drama and bright comedy. He was ably assisted by Sadie Gale and Mike Connors.... The other members of the company also were in fine form, Russell Callow, Sadie Gale, Lulla Fanning, Tom Collins, and the two principals, Queenie Paul and Mike Connors, singing delightfully. Doris Whlmp, Ronnie Hay and Vi. Jagleman were [also] responsible for some clever tap dancing" ("Theatre Royal," 9).

1934: Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 16-22 Feb.

- **Dir.** Mike Connors; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres; **Chor.** Queenie Paul.

- **Cast** incl. Roy "Mo" Rene, Sadie Gale, Mike Connors, Queenie Paul, Stan "Stud" Foley, Nick Morton, Russell Callow, Lulla Fanning, Tom Collins, Ronnie Hay, Doris Whimp, Vi Jagelman, the Ritchie Bros (Archie and Les), Edna Hardy, Alec Raine, the Lorraines; and the Sunkist Ballet.

"Theatre Royal." *Courier Mail* (Brisbane) 17 Feb. 1934, 9.

ODDMENTS: [revue] Txt/Mus. [n/e]

Produced as the farewell programme for Connors and Paul's 1934 Brisbane season, *Oddments* comprised popular selections and requests from the previous shows.

1934: Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 16-22 Feb.

- **Dir.** Mike Connors; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres; **Chor.** Queenie Paul.

- **Cast** incl. Roy "Mo" Rene, Sadie Gale, Mike Connors, Queenie Paul, Stan "Stud" Foley, Nick Morton, Russell Callow, Lulla Fanning, Tom Collins, Ronnie Hay, Doris Whimp, Vi Jagelman, the Ritchie Bros (Archie and Les), Edna Hardy, Alec Raine, the Lorraines; and the Sunkist Ballet.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT: [musical comedy] Lib. [n/e]; Mus/Lyr. Les Raphael

Something Different was conceived by A.R. Harwood and Les Raphael as a musical comedy film, and indeed shooting of the cinematic version began in early February 1934 under the auspices of Harwood's recently founded production company Centenary Films Ltd. According to a *Table Talk* par Harwood was shortly afterwards convinced on by some "powers of the theatrical world" to trial the work live in a theatre (8 Mar. 1934, 15). Work on the film was subsequently halted with the rehearsals refocused towards a season to be staged at Melbourne's Palace Theatre in mid-March. Harwood's intention at that time was to finish the film later in the year. However, the show's mixed reviews and poor box office returns saw his company forced into voluntary liquidation less than six weeks after opening. By that time he and his company had already been taken to court by one a creditor ("Something," 5).

Although billed as a musical comedy *Something Different* was strongly influenced by both revue and vaudeville. As one Melbourne critic records following the films premiere:

In the ordinary sense of the word it is not a musical comedy, it is more like the old revues, but with more continuity. The story is unimportant, but that does not matter. In a word, it is about a lunatic who tries to produce a musical comedy. That, at least, is "something different," and is a change from the insipid "love" theme of 99 per cent, of musical comedies. The music, by Les Raphael, is for the most part pleasing ("Palace," 8).

Somewhat surprisingly Harwood went for a cast of performers who apart were not recognised as being among the leading variety or theatrical performers of the day. This is likely one of the key reasons for the show's failure. Of the principle cast only Alfred Frith and Guy Hastings were well-known, although hardly considered stars. Although Melbourne radio announcers Cliff Nicholls and Fred Tupper (3AW) had been engaged for minor roles in the film it has not yet been establish if they appeared in the Palace Theatre production.

1934: Palace Theatre, Melbourne; 17 Mar. -

- **Dir/Prod.** A.R. Harwood (Centenary Films); **M Dir.** Les Raphael.

- **Cast** incl. Alfred Frith, Jeannie Battie, Marjorie Stedeford, Guy Hastings, Les Raphael, June Mills, William Innes, Mrs Kingsbury Baillieu, Cliff Nicholls, Fred Tupper.

- Cliff Nichols and Fred Tupper (aka Nicky and Tuppy) were 3AW morning announcers.

"Palace: *Something Different* - Smart Revue by Local Company, The." *Argus* (Melbourne) 19 Mar. 1934, 8.

"*Something Different*: Claim for Ballet Shoes." *Argus* (Melbourne) 27 Apr. 1934, 5.



Jeanne Beattie, who plays opposite Alfred Frith in the Centenary Films production, "Something Different," which opens next Saturday.



Alfred Frith, the popular comedian, who will be in "Something Different," the Easter musical comedy show coming to the Palace Theatre.

Table Talk (Melbourne) 15 Mar. 1934, 5.

GOOD CATCH: [musical comedy] **Lib.** John F. Cazabon; **Mus.** George English (Jnr)

Little is known of the storyline in this musical comedy. In a preview published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, the writer notes only that "the plot is slender, but the action never flags, and some of the dialogue is excellent. The music score contains many lively numbers" ("*Good Catch*," 10).

1934: Savoy Theatre, Sydney; 21-22 Mar.; 11 Apr (Mossman Town Hall).

- **Dir.** Nora Cazabon; **M Dir/Cond.** George English; **Prod.** Royal Prince Alfred Junior Auxiliary; **Chor.** Lurline Lovatt (with Dorothy English)
- **Cast** incl. John Cazabon, Lindsay Goulding, Kitty Walker, Jean Gellatly, Dorise Humphreys, Dorothy English (Alice Bayswater), Alma Cull, Ida Alexander, Suzette Adams, Edward Druitt, John Walcott, Bruce Williams, Leonard Connolly.
- Staged under the patronage of the Governor and Lady Game, and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, with the proceeds going to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
- Dorothy English was the composer's sister. Nora Cazabon was the librettist's sister.
- The April revival at the Mossman Town Hall was given as a result of public demand. An advertised 4 April revival at the Savoy Theatre was cancelled a few days before due to two of the cast falling ill.

"*Good Catch : Musical Comedy at Savoy*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 22 Mar. 1934, 10.

"*A Good Catch : For R.P.A. Hospital – Successful Premiere.*" *Sun* (Sydney) 22 Mar. 1934, 36.

TELL THE WORLD: [revue] **Txt/mus.** [n/e]

Comprising a mix of sketches, skits, scenas, songs, comedy routines, and ballets sourced from international revues, and from local writers (including members of the company), *Tell the World* was used as Connors and Paul's opening show for their 1934 Launceston season. In reporting on the opening night the *Examiner's* theatre critics wrote:

[*Tell the World*] is a spectacular show, a show full of laughter, of music, of dancing, of magnificent settings, and beautiful clothes, and the 20 original "Ideas" which constituted the programme were received enthusiastically by a crowded house. It is doubtful if two such laugh makers as Messrs. Syd Beck and Stan Foley have ever been 'teamed' together in any previous revue company to visit Launceston---and it is certain that no comedians have had their efforts more fully appreciated. Mr. Foley's masterpiece was his recital of the manner in which he won a place in the Test team, and the dance that followed was uproarious. Mr. Beck's mispronunciations, which run through the show, and his general delightful clowning also established him as a warm favourite. Both comedians carried their fun throughout the show in a manner which de lighted every section of the audience... There is talent of every description. Mr. Mike Connors and Miss Queenie Paul, the founders of the company, have for many years been noted for their vaudeville work, and the examples which they presented on Saturday-night were explanation enough of

their long success, Mr. Connors, as ever, was particularly happy in the patter choruses, of which he is a past master. Miss Paul's capabilities as a producer as well as a most pleasing soprano, were fully demonstrated in the brilliance of the ballet work. Her's is a ballet that has been brought to the height of perfection, and the elaborate settings in which the bigger scenes are set, are truly spectacular ("With a Swing," 8).

- 1934:** National Theatre, Launceston (Tas); 31 Mar. - 5 Apr.
- **Dir.** Mike Connors; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres; **Chor.** Queenie Paul.
- **Cast** incl. Syd Beck, Mike Connors, Queenie Paul, Stan "Stud" Foley, Nick Morton, Russell Callow, Lulla Fanning, Tom Collins, Doris Whimp, Merna Stewart, the Ritchie Bros (Archie and Les); and the Sunkist Ballet

"With a Swing: Spectacular Revue - *Tell the World.*" *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas) 2 Apr. 1934, 8.

GEE WHIZZ: [revue] **Txt/mus.** [n/e]

"The title aptly describes the new Connors-Paul revue which began at the National Theatre last night for a three nights' season It is a lot of fun. It is a revue of exuberance and colour in which the whole company contributes to merriment and music that last the evening through. Never was the splendid Sunkissed Ballet seen in more picturesque numbers, and Launceston has not seen the comedians in crazier mood. And even if at moments their exuberance might possibly have been slightly overwhelming, the reception which they won was proof positive of their popular appeal" ("*Gee Whizz*," 8).

- 1934:** National Theatre, Launceston (Tas); 20-21, 23 Apr.
- **Dir.** Mike Connors; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres (Mike Connors and Queenie Paul); **Chor.** Queenie Paul.
- **Cast** incl. Syd Beck, Mike Connors, Queenie Paul, Stan "Stud" Foley, Nick Morton, Russell Callow, Lulla Fanning, Tom Collins, Doris Whimp, Merna Stewart, the Ritchie Bros (Archie and Les); and the Sunkist Ballet.

"*Gee Whizz: Well-named Revue - New Connors-Paul Show.*" *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas) 21 Apr. 1934, 8.

THE MIXED BRIDES: [revusical] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

The *Age* records: "Following a first half of vaudeville turns... [Jim Gerald] staged a sort of revue entitled *Mixed Brides*, throughout the action of which he ignored anything approaching sequence and story and frolicked through the scenes and below the footlights at his own sweat will. His most brilliant effects were achieved with Frieda Bohning, who is singing charmingly on the deck of a ship. The two hands of Miss Bohning trying to prevent the comedian from falling might have been the imaginary hands of everyone in the crowded house so skillfully did Mr Gerald play on the fancy of his audience" ("Jim Gerald," 10).

- 1934:** Tivoli Theatre, Melbourne; 7-13 Apr.
- **Dir.** Jim Gerald; **Prod.** Con-Paul Theatres (Mike Connors and Queenie Paul).
- **Troupe:** Jim Gerald's Musical Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Jim Gerald, Lou Cottam, Edna Ralston, Lily Coburn, Thelma Duff, Tom Dale, Lance Vane, Frieda Bohning, George Moon Jnr, Vilma Kaye, Robbie Clifton, Will Perryman, Max Reddy; and Six Twinklers.
- A second installment of the revue *Happy Ideas* was staged as the first part entertainment. See *Happy Ideas* entry in 1929 file.

"Jim Gerald at the Tivoli." *Argus* (Melbourne) 7 Apr. 1934, 22.

"Jim Gerald at the Tivoli." *Age* (Melbourne) 9 Apr. 1934, 10.



Argus (Melbourne) 6 Apr. 1934, 16.

THE PLUMBER'S DILEMMA: [revusical] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

The *Age* records: "In the course of a tabloid musical comedy, *The Plumber's Dilemma*, on Saturday, Gerald appeared in golfing costume and as Nero at a fancy dress ball, and it would be difficult to imagine anything more comical. Earlier in the performance he had given a clever sketch of a hen-pecked husband afflicted with the flu, and in his listening-in to a wireless story of Red Riding Hood was perfect pantomime. He was supported by the usual small but talented company, the strong point of which was the delightful dancing" ("Tivoli Theatre," 11).

- 1934:** Tivoli Theatre, Melbourne; 26 May - 1 June
- **Dir.** Jim Gerald; **Prod.** Tivoli Circuit Australia Pty Ltd.
- **Troupe:** Jim Gerald's Musical Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Jim Gerald, Charles L. Sherman, Lou Cottam, Edna Ralston, Lily Coburn, Thelma Duff, Tom Dale, Lance Vane, Frieda Bohning, Vilma Kaye, Bobbie Clifton, Will Perryman, Max Reddy; and the Six Twinklers.
- Charles L. Sherman joined the troupe on 12 May, appearing in *I Don't Want to be a Jockey* (see *Whips and Quips*). It is believed that he replaced George Moon Jnr, who went on to join the Melbourne season of George M. Cohan's musical comedy *The Merry Malones* (Apollo Theatre, beginning 23 June).

"Tivoli Theatre - Jim Gerald Co." *Age* (Melbourne) 28 May 1934, 11.

NB: **Jim Gerald Revue Company.** Frieda Bohning's surname is sometimes spelled Bonning.

BROADWAY NIGHTS: [revusical] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

A mini musical comedy in two scenes, *Broadway Nights* saw Jim Gerald appear as a night clerk in a metropolitan hotel.

1934: Tivoli Theatre, Melbourne; 7-13 July

- **Dir.** Jim Gerald; **Prod.** Tivoli Circuit Australia Pty Ltd.
- **Troupe:** Jim Gerald's Musical Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Jim Gerald, Charles L. Sherman, Lou Cottam, Russell Callow, Catherine Neil, Edna Ralston, Lily Coburn, Thelma Duff, Tom Dale, Owen Laurence, Lance Vane, Frieda Bohning, Vilma Kaye, Bobbie Clifton, Will Perryman, Max Reddy; and the Six Twinklers.
- *Broadway Nights* followed *Ye Old Nigger Minstrels*, and old-time plantation show in the traditional minstrel semi-circle. The cast included Jim Gerald and Max Reddy (tambos) and Charles L. Sherman and Owen Laurence (bones)

"Tivoli Theatre - *Ye Old Nigger Minstrels*." *Age* (Melbourne) 9 July 1934, 12.

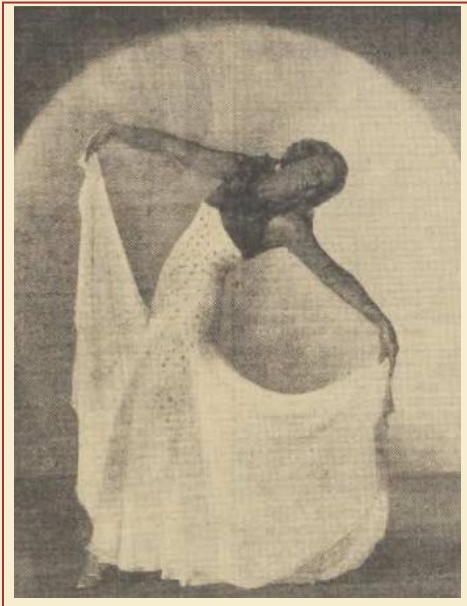
"Variety at the Tivoli." *Argus* (Melbourne) 9 July 1934, 5.

HIS LUCKY DAY: [revusical] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

1934: Tivoli Theatre, Melbourne; 21-27 July

- **Dir.** Jim Gerald; **Prod.** Tivoli Circuit Australia Pty Ltd.
- **Troupe:** Jim Gerald's Musical Revue Company.
- **Cast** incl. Jim Gerald, Charles L. Sherman, Lou Cottam, Russell Callow, Catherine Neil, Edna Ralston, Lily Coburn, Thelma Duff, Tom Dale, Owen Laurence, Lance Vane, Frieda Bohning, Vilma Kaye, Bobbie Clifton, Will Perryman, Max Reddy; and the Six Twinklers.

BLUE MOUNTAINS MELODY: [musical comedy] **Lib.** J.C. Bancks; **Mus/Lyr.** Charles Zwar



A collaboration between J.C. Bancks (the creator of the *Ginger Meggs* cartoon strip) and emerging composer Charles Zwar, the action takes place in the New South Wales Blue Mountains region, Sydney's Palm Beach and the King's Cross area. Inspiration for musical came from the American stage and screen, and thus the production featured American-style cabaret songs and gangsters with Chicago accents. *Blue Mountains Melody* was Zwar's first professional production. Following the Melbourne premiere the *Argus* theatre critic wrote:

Mr J.C. Bancks has striven to bring his book into line with the immemorial traditions of musical comedy. He has chosen a tragic and meandering plot with plenty of spectacular effects, and decorated it neatly and wittily. Mr Charles Zwar's music and lyrics are in the same vein - apt and pointed, with a touch of sentimentality when required and acid enough to stimulate the appetite ("His Majesty's," 4).

Among the songs written for the musical are: "Cooee" and "How I Love You" (performed by Gladys Moncrieff) and "I'd Like to be a Statue in the Park" (sung by Phyllis Baker and Alfred Frith).

Madge Elliott

Australian Women's Weekly 15 Sept. 1934, Home Maker, 5.

1934: Theatre Royal, Sydney 15 Sept. - 26 Oct. (6 week season)

- **Dir.** Frederick Blackman; **Prod.** J.C. Williamson's Ltd; **M Dir;** Andrew MacCunn.
- **Cast** incl. Madge Elliott (cafe singer and dancer), Cyril Ritchard (sheep and cattle king), Gus Bluett (boxer), Athol Tier (life saver) Leo Franklin, Don Nichol, Marie Le Varre, Agnes Doyle, Lois Green, Charles Zoli, George Moon, Arthur Cornell, the Kelly Trio, Mona Potts, Eric Bush, Mona Zeppel, Frank Leighton, Harry Death Jnr, Roy Hart.
- The rest of the cast composed of choruses of hikers, guests, bathing girls and boxing girls.
- **Musicians** incl. Charles Zwar (piano), Gabriel Joffe (piano).
- The season was forced to close early due to the company having been pre-booked for a Melbourne season.

"BLUE MOUNTAIN MELODY" FOR THEATRE ROYAL!

GRAND GALA WORLD PREMIERE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.

Excited thousands await its presentation! For here, with Madge Elliott, Cyril Ritchard and the greatest array of stars ever identified with one production, Australia sets a standard for the world to follow! Flashing with absolute genius—loaded with gorgeous comedy, and litling with never-to-be-forgotten melody, "Blue Mountain Melody" will simply take Sydney by storm! Made wonderfully real by a huge REVOLVING STAGE!

This Wonder All-Australian Musical Comedy has been written by J. C. Bancks (famous creator of *Ginger Meggs*). Music and Lyrics by Charles Zwar.

"BLUE MOUNTAIN MELODY" WILL STAR MADGE ELLIOTT & CYRIL RITCHARD

and a super cast, including Leo Franklyn, Frank Leighton, Agnes Doyle, Marie Le Varre, Don Nicol, Athol Tier, Lois Green, Charles Zoli, George Moon, The Kelly Trio, etc., etc., etc. Play produced by Frederick Blackman. Musical Director: Andrew McCunn.

MAKE YOUR APPLICATIONS NOW FOR GALA WORLD PREMIERE (Saturday, September 15). Preferential bookings are now being received by Manager, Theatre Royal. Enclose remittance for 8/8 (includes tax) per seat. Usual box plan opens at Paling's on Monday.

Sydney Morning Herald 7 Sept. 1934, 2.

- 1934:** His Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne 3 Nov. - 20 Dec. (7 weeks)
 - Cast and production mostly as for Sydney season.
 - The show was selected for a Gala performance for visiting British royal, Prince Henry.
 - The Melbourne season was broadcast on relay by various various Victorian and interstate radio stations on several occasions (4 and 8 Nov.).
- 1936:** Ashfield Town Hall, Sydney; 4-12 Aug. [amateur]

"Australian Play: Success of *Blue Mountains Melody*." *Sydney Morning Herald* 17 Sept. 1934, 4.

"Drama and Music of the Week: *Blue Mountain Melody*." *Sydney Mail* 19 Sept. 1934, 9.

"His Majesty's: Among the Mountains." *Argus* 5 Nov. (1934), 4.

"Musical Comedy in the Making." *Sydney Morning Herald* 20 Sept. 1934, Women's Supp. 7.

"Music and Drama: Australian Enterprise." *Sydney Morning Herald* 1 Sept. 1934, 12.

"Music and Drama: Theatrical Movements." *Sydney Morning Herald* 15 Sept. 1934, 6.

"New Australian Play." *Sydney Morning Herald* 18 Aug. 1934, 10.

Mail (Adelaide) 3 Nov. 1934, Supp. 2.

Wednesday

3LO.—7.30—"Paddy, the Next Best Thing," relay to SCL. 8.45—Recital by Percy Grainger. 10—Weather. 10.10—Wireless Dance Orchestra. 11—Close.

SCL and SCK.—7.30—News, weather. 7.40—Music. 8—News, reports. 8.10—Music. 8.30—Close. 11—Broadcast service. 11.15—Music. 11.28—Sporting. 11.30—Music. 12.15—Stock Exchange information, news. 12.30—"Silvius" talks on facing work of the week and minor sporting events. 12.40—Music. 12.55—Weather, river, grain reports. 1.5—News. 1.15—Music. 2—Grain reports, close. 3.15—Broadcast to schools. Mr. N. Edwards: "Forgotten Naval Heroes." 3.30—Music. 4—Topical gleanings by "Lady Tulliver." 4.15—Music. 4.30—Close. 6—Children's session. 6.26—Senior Birthday League. 6.22—Music. 6.30—Programme announcements, news. 6.40—Market, Stock Exchange reports, news. 7—National talk, "The Flight From Reality." In Education, by Mr. Frank Tate. 7.20—Boy Scouts' corner. 7.30—"Blue Mountain Melody," musical comedy by J. C. Bancks, music by Charles Zwart, from His Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne; principals, Madge Elliott, Cyril Ritchard, Gus Bluett. 10—World radio, by "Short Wave." 10.15—News, weather. 10.25—Dance music. 11—Close.

SAD and SPL.—7—News, reports. 7.15—Music. 9.30—Close. 10—Music. 11

Madge Elliott, who plays in "Blue Mountain Melody," to be relayed on Thursday night.

NOW AND THEN: [revue] Text. incl. J.C. Bancks; Mus [ne]

Produced as part of a fundraiser for Sydney's Free Kindergartens by an amateur company, *Now and Then* comprised the first half of the evening's entertainment. The *Sydney Morning Herald* critic said of the revue, "[it] was a little of all kinds of entertainment, singing, dancing and sketches. The many ballets were given with the finish of expert dancers.... The revue concluded with a fashion show with burlesque humour in a beauty salon and dress shop" (7). One of the sketches mentioned in the *Herald's* review "Spring," was written by J.C. Bancks.

NB: The second half of the show was a one-act play written by Edith Sterling Levis and C. H. Rolleston.

- 1933:** Savoy Theatre, Sydney; 31 Oct. [am]
 - **Prod/Dir.** Beryl Bryant; **M Dir/Cond.** Joan Chartres; **Chor.** Margaret Clift; **Lig.** John Clugston.
 - **Cast** incl. Molly Brown, Dorothy Quirk, Dorothy Shepherd, Pat Nall, Beryl Davie, David McNichol, Bylton Reid, Inky Carpenter, John Cazabon, Allen Toohey, Nuttie McKellar, Marjorie Stevens, Judith Campbell-Miles, Beryl Rosebery, Joan Hannan, Frank Crago, Peter Walker.

"*Revue and Play: Amateur's Effort for Charity*." *Sydney Morning Herald* 1 Nov. 1934, 7.

THE CEDAR TREE: [musical] Lib. Edmund Barclay and Helene Barclay; Lyr. Helene Barclay, with John "Jock"

McLeod and Varney Monk; **Mus.** Varney Monk

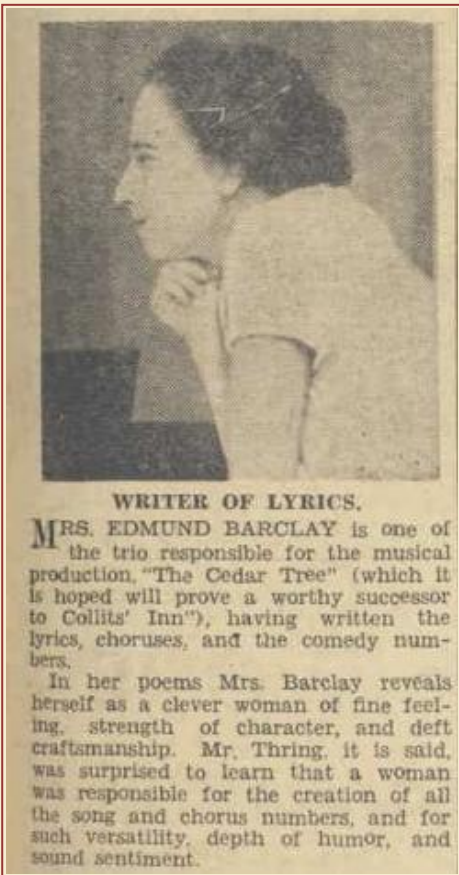
"The Cedar Tree." Manuscript. Fryer Library, The University of Queensland [H2006]

♫ Barclay, Helen and Varney Monk. "The Cedar Tree." Score. Chappel and Co (1946).

The Cedar Tree is set in the picturesque timber country between Parramatta and the Hawkesbury River, an area opened up in the early days of settlement by the cedar cutters. The story concerns Dianella Weston who carries on the ship-building yard of her father, having been loved by two suitors, Lieutenant Verners, of the Queen's Regiment and Roger Carstairs, a rich Sydney merchant. A dissolute brother introduces the tragic touch, with comedy by the Flying Pieman. Being an "early" Australian romance, a bushranger is included in the narrative as a several thrilling situations. Love and sacrifice are the main themes, with a good measure of sentiment added.

One of the features of the production was the dance of the animals and birds in the mountain gully, the animals including a number of native bears and a lyre bird. This aspect of the production was produced by Pat Eadie.

- 1934:** Princess Theatre, Melbourne; 22 Dec. 1934 - 16 Feb. 1935
 - **Prod.** F.W. Thring (Efftee Productions); **Dir.** Claude Flemming; **Cond.** Fred Quintrell; **S Art/Des.** R. Coleman and George Kenyon; **Chor.** Jennie Brennan; **Ast Chor.** Molly Radcliffe.
 - **Cast** incl. Gladys Moncrieff (Dianella Weston), Russell Scott (Lieut. Peter Verners), Alfred Frith (The Flying pieman), Claude Flemming (Roger Carstairs), Reginald Roberts, Bryl Walkley, Phyllis Baker, Jean Batty, Paul O'Loughlin (Carvel), Joe Valli, Norman Shepherd, Les King, Jock Thompson, Robert Nicolson, Gloria Williams, Gwen Burgoine, Thelma Kurtzon, Phyllis Glen.
 - **Musicians** incl. Alma Palmer.
- 1935:** Criterion Theatre, Sydney 16-30 Mar.
 - Cast and production mostly as for Melbourne season.
 - A cast member mentioned in reviews of the Sydney season, but not for the earlier Melbourne production was Ashton Jarry.



WRITER OF LYRICS.

MRS. EDMUND BARCLAY is one of the trio responsible for the musical production, "The Cedar Tree" (which it is hoped will prove a worthy successor to Collits' Inn"), having written the lyrics, choruses, and the comedy numbers.

In her poems Mrs. Barclay reveals herself as a clever woman of fine feeling, strength of character, and deft craftsmanship. Mr. Thring, it is said, was surprised to learn that a woman was responsible for the creation of all the song and chorus numbers, and for such versatility, depth of humor, and sound sentiment.

Argus (Melbourne) 22 Dec. 1934, 22.

Australian Women's Weekly
22 Dec. 1934, 3.

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Music by VARNEY MONK, who composed the Music of "COLLITS' INN."

Book by Edmund Barclay. Lyrics by Helene Barclay. Produced by Claude Flemming under the personal supervision of F. W. Thring.

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GLADYS MONCRIEFF
RUSSELL SCOTT.
ALFRED FRITH.
CLAUDE FLEMMING.
REGINALD ROBERTS.
MYRL WALKLEY. PHYLLIS BAKER.

"*Cedar Tree, The.*" *Age* (Melbourne) 24 Dec. 1934, 10.

"*Cedar Tree at the Criterion, The.*" *Australian Women's Weekly* 23 Mar. 1935, 23.

"*Cedar Tree - Fine Australian Play.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 18 Mar. 1935, 6.

"*Cedar Tree: Windsor Extolled in Song and Story for the Stage, The.*" *Windsor and Richmond Gazette* (NSW) 4 Jan. 1935, 1.

"*For Women: The Cedar Tree.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 18 Mar. 1935, 4.

"*Let's Talk of Intersting People.*" *Australian Women's Weekly* 22 Dec. 1934, 3. [see above]

"*Music and Drama: The Cedar Tree.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 2 Jan. 1935, 10.

"*Music and Drama: The Melbourne Theatres.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 15 Dec. 1934, 10.

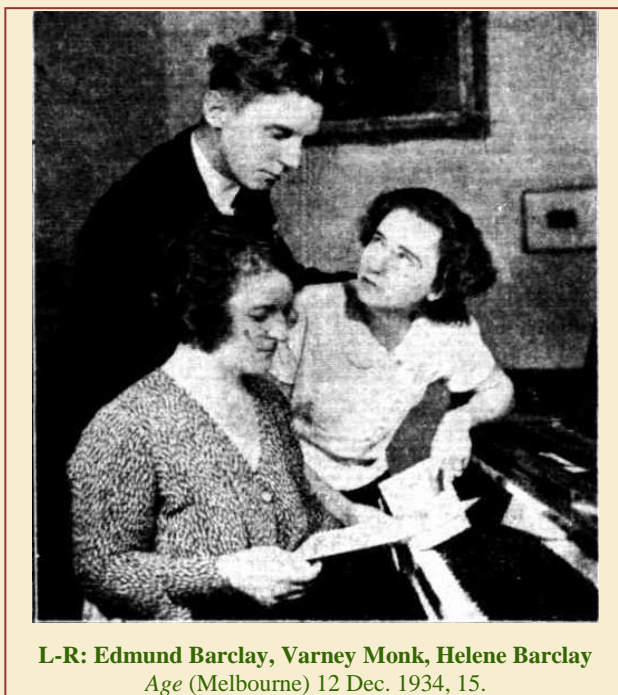
"*Music and Theatre.*" *West Australian* (Perth) 15 Dec. 1934, 23.

"*Prelude to the Cedar Tree: Local Authors, Composers and Locations.*" *Sydney Morning Herald* 14 Mar. 1935, Women's Supp. 9.

"*Princess: The Cedar Tree - Australian Musical Romance, The.*" *Argus* (Melbourne) 24 Dec. 1934, 4.

"*Some First Nights.*" *Bulletin* (Sydney) 9 Jan. 1935, 19.

West, John. *Companion to Theatre in Australia* (1995), 130.



L-R: Edmund Barclay, Varney Monk, Helene Barclay
Age (Melbourne) 12 Dec. 1934, 15.

MOTHER GOOSE: [pantomime] **Lib.** Frank Neil and Jim Gerald; **Mus.** [n/e]

Likely based on Frank Neil's 1927 *Mother Goose* pantomime, with additional new material by Jim Gerald, this version presents an array of characters including Demon Ill-Will, Fairy Heartease, a miraculous goose, a comical horse and various species of the human race, this pantomime was described in the *Age* as containing not much that was new, but nevertheless had a "great deal which has proved successful in the past" ("*Mother Goose*," 8).

The story sees Demon Ill-Will vow to make Mother Goose (a perfect example of a contented human being), discontented and unhappy. Thus he causes an overgrown goose with the capacity of laying ponderous golden eggs to stray into the widow's back yard. From this all sorts of humorous situations arise, including a hilarious trial of strength between the Demon and Fairy Heartease. This scene was also responsible for periodic outbreaks of dance and several comic songs. Another highlight was the juvenile ballet, which consisted of children, impersonating such characters as Micky Mouse, the Three Little Pigs, the Big Bad Wolf, golliwogs and wooden soldiers as they danced.

1934: Kings Theatre, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1934 - 2 Feb. 1935

- **Dir.** Jim Gerald; **Prod.** Frank Neil; **Chor.** Jennie Brennan.
- **Cast** incl. Jim Gerald (Mother Goose), Hetty King (principal boy), Harry Ratcliffe (Demon Ill-Will), Pat Wenman (Jack), Isabel Mahon (Jill), Stan Foley, Nick Morton.
- Specialty dances were presented by Corrie Ladders, L'Etoile and Laurence, and the Three Amazing Orlandos.

"*Mother Goose at King's*." *Argus* (Melbourne) 27 Dec. 1934, 4. [see also advert 26 Dec. 1934, 12 - right]

"*Mother Goose: Pantomime at the Kings*." *Age* (Melbourne) 27 Dec. 1934, 8.



◆ **THE MAGIC GUM TREE:** [children's musical] **Lib/Mus.** Arline Sauer

♪ W.H. Paling, 1934.

Subtitled *An Australian Play for Children*.

Last updated: 27/11/2018

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

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