

FRANK LEVY

The son of violinist Barney Levy, one time leader of Lyster's Grand Opera Company who came to Australia with [George Coppin](#), and nephew of cornet player Jules Levy, Frank Levy was one of the best-known and widely respected business and tour managers of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. During his long career he acted for a diverse range of companies, including dramatic organisations, minstrel troupes, circuses, and pantomime and variety companies.

Among the firms Levy is recorded as having been associated with up until 1913 were: Dan Barry (3 years), [John F. Sheridan](#) (3 years), Charles Holloway Dramatic Company, Taylor-Carrington Dramatic Company,¹ Wirth's Circus, [Ada Delroy Company](#), [Kate Howarde Dramatic Company](#), The World's Entertainers,² Hardie's Ideals, The Arcadians, The Gay Gordons, Ethel Irving Company, H.B. Irving, and the *Mother Goose* Pantomime Company. He was also associated with Messrs Clarke and Meynell (Meynell and Gunn) for some four years.³

In the early 1910s Levy moved to Broken Hill to act as General Manger for the firm of Sayers and Lennon Ltd.⁴ In 1914 he toured the sensation drama *Within the Law* through Queensland for [Birch and Carroll](#) (in association with [J.C. Williamson](#)) and two years later acted as representative for the Gerald Griffin Company during its 1916 Western Australian tour. In the late-1910s he was the Australian representative for the Togos (acrobats) while also working as Alan Doone's business manager for several years.

The 1920s saw Levy employed as advance rep/business manager for Coleman and Taylor's revue and pantomime company, and [Odiva](#) and her performing seals. The *Argus* reported in 1923 that the popular manager, who was well-known in every state in Australia, was soon to make his 24th tour of New Zealand.⁵ His last established management undertakings were the 1925 Australian tour by Chinese magician Chung Wah Lee and Kaai's Hawaiian Troubadours (1926).

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West Gippsland Gazette (Warragul, Vic)
 15 Sept. 1903, 2.

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"Much Experienced Manager, A." *Barrier Miner* (Broken Hill, NSW) 20 Oct. 1913, 6.

"Town and Country." *Cairns Post* (Qld) 8 June (1926), 3.

NB: Levy's family name was often spelled Levey.

Cairns Post (Qld) 1 Oct. 1921, 1.

¹ See [Charles H. Taylor](#) and [Ella Carrington](#).

² It has not yet been ascertained which of the World's Entertainers companies Levy was associated with. See [Troupes \[S-Z\]](#) for details of the known companies touring under variations of this name.

³ "Much Experienced Manager," 6.

⁴ *ibid*, 6.

⁵ *Argus* (Melbourne) 24 Feb. 1923, 6.