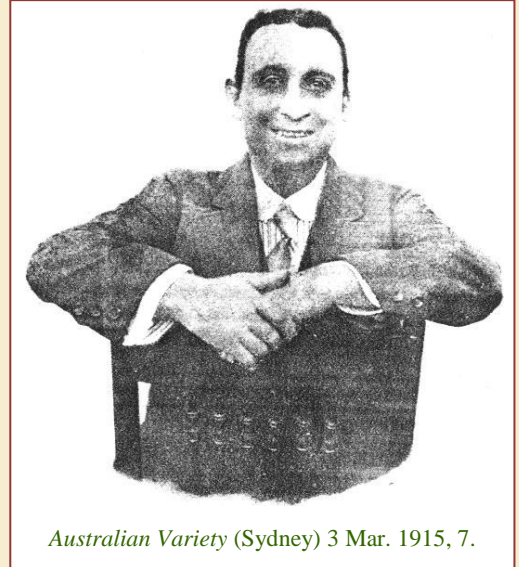


## JACK LANDOW

Sydney vaudeville entrepreneur Jack Landow initially established himself as a mercantile businessman before turning to the entertainment industry in 1911. Landow's Entertainers toured the south and south-western regions - including Surrey Hills, Lakemba, Kogarah and Bankstown, through until 1919, albeit with several interruptions. Highly regarded within the industry for his policy of employing mostly local acts, Landow's "small-time" status did not restrict him to small time acts - with Charlie Pope, Arthur Tauchert, George Sorlie, Desmond and Jansen, and Maud Fanning being among those engaged.

Described in *Australian Variety* in 1915 as "one of Sydney's best-known small-time managers" Jack Landow had by then been actively involved in the suburban theatre business for at least six years, during which time he engaged mostly local acts. "Always a hustler and with a kindly consideration for those in his employ," writes the magazine's journalist, "Mr Landow is much esteemed by all and sundry. He is now working three shows a week but will shortly be doing six."<sup>1</sup>

Little is yet known about Landow's personal life or career outside the period 1911 and 1919. He is recorded as having had at least two brothers - George "Puddin" Landow (who died of the Spanish Flu in March 1919) and Albert (who also contracted influenza around the same time), and is believed to have started out his working life in one of the trades or commercial industries.<sup>2</sup> The earliest his name has been located in connection with entertainment is in 1908 when he gave permission for some of his artists to appear at a benefit held in Rockdale Town Hall, Sydney, on 7 December.<sup>3</sup>



*Australian Variety* (Sydney) 3 Mar. 1915, 7.

### Return Thanks

I desire to tender my sincere thanks to the Committee, Artists, Rockdale Municipal Band, Jack Landow & Co., Local Press and Public and all friends who rendered such valuable assistance at the recent benefit tendered to myself and family.

Yours in appreciation,  
W. E. CORNISH.

**JACK LANDOW'S** Vaudeville Entertainers.—Prepared to lease or rent Theatres, also play on terms. Full Companies or Single Artists supplied at the shortest notice. Address, 37 Park-street, city.

*Sydney Morning Herald* 19 Nov. 1912, 2.

*St George Call* (Kogarah, Sydney) 19 Dec. 1908, 5.

In 1914 Landow closed down his circuit and returned to his former career for around a year or so, eventually making his re-appearance as a suburban manager at Kogarah on 15 July 1916. His company, billed as Landow's Entertainers at that time included [Carlton and Sutton](#), [Charles Pope](#), [Lyla Thompson](#), [Joe Archer](#) and [Maurice Chenoweth](#). By the end of the year, however, he again closed down the circuit, and reportedly left the industry to become involved in a mercantile business.<sup>4</sup>

By February 1918 Landow, described as the "veteran suburban vaudeville magnate," had reopened his Sydney circuit, initially presenting shows at Lakemba and Bankstown. *Australian Variety* records that the entire company had been leased from fellow-suburban manager, [Harry Clay](#).<sup>5</sup> Later that same year the magazine recorded that with summer approaching Landow intended staying in the business for keeps and that he had arranged to expand his circuit from 22 September to include Banksia and Hurlstone. The writer noted the importance of small time suburban managers like Landow, writing:

The regulars will be pleased to know that "Little Jacky" is back again in the business sit will mean more work for them. This after all is what they need most, and so long as the house can be kept open, then so long will Jacky keep up his end of the business.<sup>6</sup>

Jack Landow is known to have continued operating his circuit through until at least November 1919, and possibly into 1920. While his last recorded Sydney show found to date was at the Crown Star, Surrey Hills in late October 1919, Landow's name is mentioned in relation to still operating around Sydney in *Australian Variety* in early 1920 (although

<sup>1</sup> "Mr Jack Landow," n. pag. See "Further Reference" section below for full citation details.

<sup>2</sup> "Jacky Landow," 9. An extract from this article is presented in the "Quotations and Anecdotes" section below.

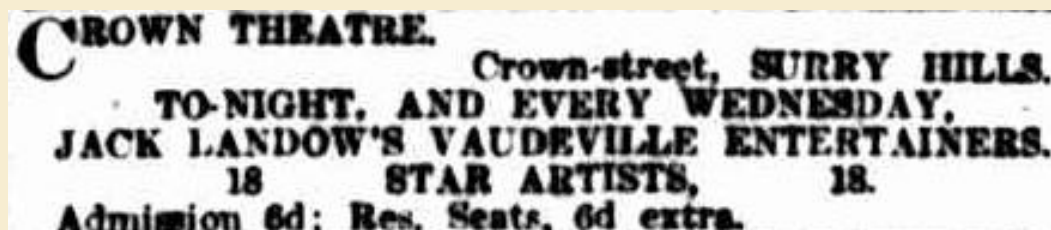
<sup>3</sup> "[The Cornish Benefit Concert](#)," *St George Call* (Kogarah, Sydney) 12 Dec. 1908, 3. See also thank you notice above.

<sup>4</sup> See "Historical Notes and Corrections" section.

<sup>5</sup> *Australian Variety and Show World* (Sydney) 15 Feb. 1918, n. pag. See also 1 Mar. 1918, n. pag.

<sup>6</sup> "Jacky Landow," 9.

no details are recorded). Landow does appear to have also undertaken at least one regional New South Wales around late January/early February, however. In its 22 January issue, *Variety* records that the tour was to include Goulburn and that the principal artists engaged were: Stewart and Lorraine, Winifred and Lumley, Eloise Taylor, Tilly and Doris, Ivy Davidson, [Ward Lear](#) and [Arthur Tauchert](#). The tour manager was Will Parker and the pianist, Daisy Dutton.<sup>7</sup>



*Sydney Morning Herald* 6 Dec. 1911, 2.

### ADDITIONAL QUOTATIONS AND ANECDOTES

- 1912:** **Sydney:** Jack Landow's vaudeville entertainers will commence a season in the Hurstville Hall on Saturday night. This combination of star artists appeared continuously for several years in the Rockdale Town Hall before crowded houses, and should also draw well in Hurstville ("[Newsy Notes](#)." *Propeller* 29 Nov. 1912, 1).
- 1914:** **Sydney:** Jack Landow has the bad temerity to invade J.C. Bain's stronghold (Rockdale) and run an opposition vaudeville show there on Saturday night. So far no casualties ("[Stage Gossip](#)." *Newsletter: an Australian Paper for Australian People* 20 June 1914, 2).
- 1914:** **Sydney:** Graham and Howard, and Jack Landow are battling through the winter with their vaudeville shows ("[Stage Gossip](#)." *Newsletter: an Australian Paper for Australian People* 18 July 1914, 2).
- 1918:** **Sydney:** For many years Jacky Landow has been a small-time vaudeville manager. As a matter of fact, he may well be looked upon as one of the pioneers. For some time he dropped out of the variety business and confined himself to mercantile pursuits until the tail-end of last summer when he came back to his old love again. Now that summer is approaching Landow intends going into the game for keeps, and for this purpose will commence a circuit of one-night stands embracing Lakemba, Banksia and Hurlstone Park.... The regulars will be pleased to know that "Little Jacky" is back again in the business as it will mean more work ("Jacky Landow." *Australian Variety and Show World* 6 Sept. 1918, 9.).

### HISTORICAL NOTES AND CORRECTIONS

- In its 1 March 1918 issue, *Australian Variety* records that Landow was "back in the business after an absence of two years" (n. pag.). Given that the entrepreneur was presenting shows in September 1916, the longest period of time that he could have been out of the industry would have been 18 months.

### LANDOW'S ENTERTAINERS

#### 1. Artists and Acts included:

- A:** [Joe Archer](#) (1914, 1916), [Molly Ambrose](#) (1919), [The Arteens](#) (1914).
- B:** Bartlett the Musical Comedy Clown (1916), Lottie Beaumont (1916), Bennis and Graham (1919), Ivy Bowmont (1916).
- C:** [Carlton and Sutton](#) (1916), [Cass and Cass](#) (1916), Will Castrade (1916), [Maurice Chenoweth](#) (1916), Clarino (1916), Clayton and Croan (1912), Coleman Girls (1919), [Owen Conduit](#) (1916), [Wal Cottier](#) (1916), Harry Cowan (1912), Ernie Crawford (1919), Crawford and Campbell (1918), The Two Croydons (1914).
- D:** May Daphne (1912), Ivey Davidson (1920), [Ern Delavale](#) (1914), Delavale and Tauchert (1914),<sup>8</sup> Delwyn and Tye (1916), Maud Delmay (1916), Will Darrell (1919), [Bert Desmond and Mattie Jansen](#) (1914, 1916, 1919), Louie Duggan (1919).
- E:** Alf Edwards (1919), [Arthur Elliott](#) (1916), Lulla Elliott (1919), Florence Elvin (1916), [Lulu Eugene](#) (1916, 1918).

<sup>7</sup> *Australian Variety and Show World* (Sydney) 22 Jan. 1918, 10.

<sup>8</sup> Ern Delavale and Arthur Tauchert.

- F:** [Maud Fanning](#) and children (1916), Farrell Bros (1908), Mercia Florence (1916), Four Kings (1918), Five Kewpie Kids (1919).
- G:** Gibson Girls (1916), [The Gilberts](#) (1918), Nellie Gould (1918), Elise Green (1912).
- H:** [Tom Hedley](#) (1916), Syd Herbert (1919), Ted Herbert (1916, 1919), Frank Herbert (1916), Gladys Holmes (1919).
- J:** Jamison and Boyd (1914), [Ida Jarvis](#) (1914).
- L:** [Lazern the Mystic](#) (1912, 1916), [Ward Lear](#) (1920), Lennon, Hyman and Lennon (1914), Leonard's Poodles (1919), [Harry Little](#) (1914), Little Gladys (1916), George Livingstone (1918), Florrie Lorraine (1916).
- M:** Beattie McDonald (1919), Bennett McKenzie (1916), Mandeno's Dogs (1918), George Marsh (1916), Frank Martin (1919), Max Martin (1918), Dorothy Menzies (1916), [Morris and Shand](#) (1914), Vera Murray (1916).
- O:** Dud Osborne (1914, 1916, 1919).
- P:** [Pagden and Stanley](#) (1918), [Phillips Sisters](#) (1918), [Charles Pope](#) (1914, 1916).
- R:** Robert Raymond (1918), Tom Riso (1912).
- S:** Seyffer Twins (1914), [Shipp and Gaffney](#) (1912, 1919), Silbini (1918), Skinner and Ritson (1912), Pearl Smaile (1914), Jack Smith (1919), May Smith (1916), Smith Sisters (1916), [George Sorlie](#) (1914), [Ted Stanley](#) (1918), Stefano and Wilson (1912), Elsie Stewart (1916), Maude Stewart (1919), Stewart and Lorraine (1920), Jack Sutton (1916), Daisy Sylvester (1914, 1916).
- T:** [Arthur Tauchert](#) (1912, 1914, 1920),<sup>9</sup> Eloise Taylor (1920), Tom Tepuni (1912), [Herr Theodore](#) (1912), [Lyla Thompson](#) (1914, 1916), Tilly and Doris (1920).
- V:** Victor the Great (1916, 1919), [Lily Vockler](#) (1914).
- W:** Ruby Wallace (1912), Lalla Ward (1918), Bert Wilson (1919), Winifred and Lumley (1919-1920), Doris Woodnal (1916), Thelma Woods (1914).

**2. Production teams** included: Daisy Dutton (pianist, 1919-20), Will Parker (tour manager, 1920).

### 3. Additional Notes and Historical Clarification:

- **Molly Ambrose:** Billed as performing in an act billed as Barham and Molly Ambrose.
- **Delavale and Arthur Tauchert :** Ern Delavale and Arthur Tauchert worked an act together in 1914.
- **Gilberts, The:** aka The Two Gilberts (Will and Dora Gilbert)

**T**WO-NIGHT, TO-NIGHT, Coronation Theatre, Balmain-rd, Leihhardt, Saturday and Monday, 27th and 29th, grand holiday programme. Jack Landow's Vaudeville Entertainers. Big Star Attractions. Lennon, Hyman, and Lennon, comedy acrobats, jugglers, and comedian George Sorlie, King of Ragtime; 2 Croydons, clever double; Charles Pope, coloured com. 6d, 1/, 1/6.

*Sydney Morning Herald 27 June 1914, 3.*

## SYDNEY CIRCUIT CHRONOLOGY

The time periods for each venue (or suburb) are yet to be determined. All venues are for Sydney unless otherwise noted.

**1911-1910:** n/e

**1911:** Surrey Hills (Crown Theatre).

**1912:** Hurstville (Hurstville Hall) • Lewisham (Lewisham Pictures) • Newtown (Prince of Wales Theatre) • Rockdale (Town Hall) • Woonona, NSW South Coast (Friendly Societies' Hall).

**1913:** n/e

<sup>9</sup> See also Delavale and Tauchert (with Ern Delavale)

- 1914:** Leichhardt (Coronation Theatre) • Marrickville (Lyceum Theatre) • Rockdale • Surrey Hills (Crown Star).
- 1915:** n/e
- 1916:** Kogarah (Bett's Hall).
- 1917:** n/e
- 1918:** Banksia • Bankstown • Lakemba • Hurlstone Park.
- 1919:** Surrey Hills (Crown Star).
- 1920:** n/e

**NB:** Landow's operations in 1920 also included a south-west tour (ca. Jan/Feb.).

*Australian Variety and Show World* (Sydney) 6 Sept. 1918, 9.



### **FURTHER REFERENCE**

"Jacky Landow" *Australian Variety and Show World* (Sydney) 6 Sept. 1918, 9.

"Landow's Entertainers." *Propeller* (Hurstville, Sydney) 6 Dec. 1912, 3.

"Mr Jack Landow." *Australian Variety and Show World* (Sydney) 3 Mar. 1915, n. pag.

**Hurstville Hall, Hurstville.**  
**Saturday, December 7,**  
**And Every Following Saturday.**  
**JACK LANDOW'S**  
**VAUDEVILLE ENTERTAINERS.**  
**Prices 6d, 1s. New Artists every week.**

*Propeller* (Hurstville, Sydney) 6 Dec. 1912, 3.

First published: 29/11/2012 • Last updated: 19/06/2020

**NB: The URL for this PDF will change each time it is updated. If you wish to cite or link to this record please use the following:**

Clay Djubal. "Jack Landow." *Australian Variety Theatre Archive*. Entrepreneurs: G-L.

<http://ozvta.com/entrepreneurs-g-l/>