

THE MIRTHQUAKERS

(1928) The Mirthquakers was a costume comedy revue troupe put together and directed by **Vic Roberts** for a season at Brisbane's Cremorne Theatre in 1928. The troupe made its debut on 18 February, following on from **Elton Black's** New Follies. Among the performers engaged for the opening weeks were **Bert Le Blanc**, **Moon and Morris**, Linda Foy, **George Moon Jnr**, Paul Daly, and American specialty dancers Helen and Frank. While the entertainment largely comprised vaudeville turns and revue-style sketches, the troupe staged at least one full length musical comedy, *Great Scott*, in March.

The Mirthquakers remained at the Cremorne until 15 June, giving way to a new revue company known as The Hustlers. The final month saw the troupe's line-up bolstered by the inclusion of the **Great Levante** and Indian digger **Mohamet Kassim**.



Vic Roberts

Telegraph (Brisbane) 7 Oct. 1937, 19.



Bert Le Blanc

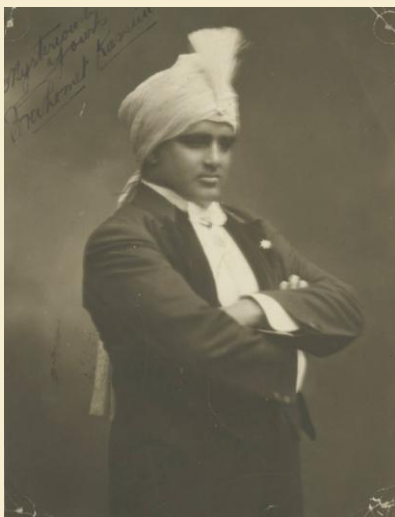
Daily Telegraph (Sydney)
10 Nov. 1927, 14.



Moon and Morris

Green Room (Sydney) June 1919, 12.

Following the close of the Mirthquakers' season Bert Le Blanc reformed his **Travesty Stars** troupe for a tour of North Queensland (and later Northern New South Wales). The re-organised line-up included at least two of the Mirthquakers performers, these being Gladys Cole and Mohamet Kassim. In September Vic Roberts took over Paul Daly's Supremes during its Perth season, renaming the troupe the Smilestones.



Cass Mahomet

Courtesy of Charles Prasad.



The Great Levante

Courtesy of the State Library of
Victoria.

SEE ALSO

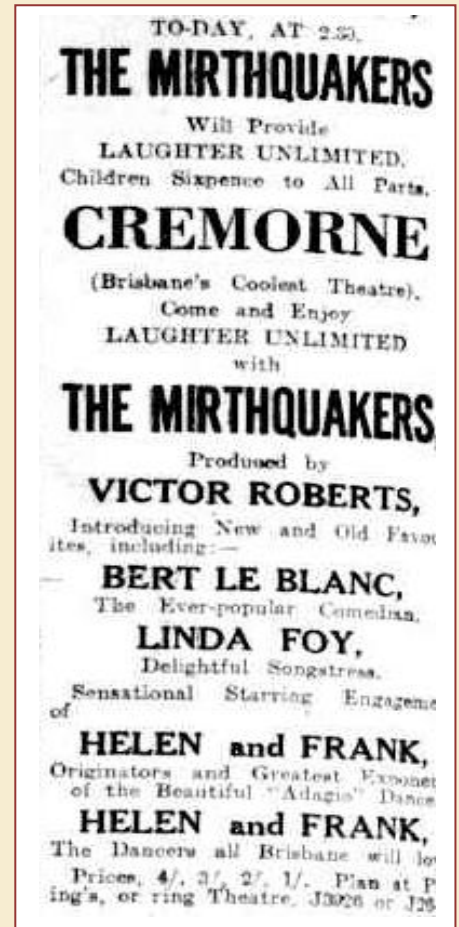
- [Vic Roberts](#)

PERSONNEL

1. **Troupe members** incl. George Brown, Doreen Carroll, Gladys Cole, Paul Daly, Emmie Ensor, Linda Foy, Lilian Gray, Paul Gray, Helen and Frank, Nellie Lafferty, Bert Le Blanc, George Moon, George Moon Jnr, Dan Morris, Pimple and Shadow, Vic Roberts, Rolling Rollos, Doris Whimp.
2. **Special guest artists** incl. The Great Levante, Mahomet Kassim.
3. **Production team:** Bill Butland (music director), Vic Roberts (director)
4. **Additional notes and/or historical clarification:**
 - **Gladys Cole:** Piano accordion.
 - **Emmie Ensor:** Dancer.
 - **Helen and Frank:** American specialty dancers.
 - **Rolling Rollos:** Exhibition skaters. One of their feature acts was "The Loop of Death."

FURTHER REFERENCE

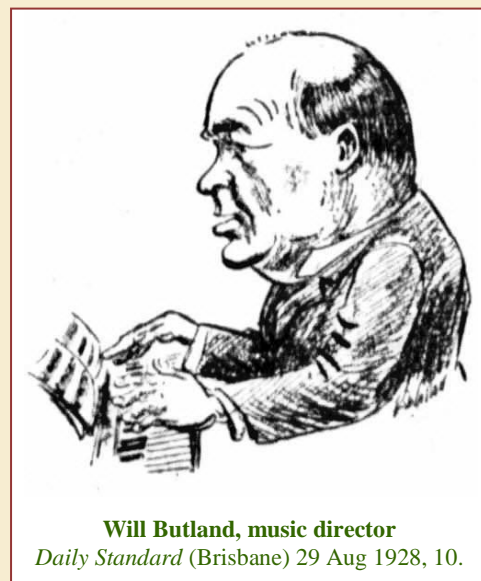
- "Bright Show at Cremorne." *Brisbane Courier* 30 Apr. 1928, 19.
"Cremorne, The." *Brisbane Courier* 12 Mar. 1928, 18.
"Cremorne, The." *Brisbane Courier* 2 Apr. 1928, 25.
"Cremorne Theatre." *Brisbane Courier* 9 Apr. 1928, 11.
"Cremorne Theatre." *Brisbane Courier* 16 Apr. 1928, 24.
"Cremorne Theatre." *Brisbane Courier* 14 May 1928, 21.
"Cremorne Theatre." *Brisbane Courier* 28 May 1928, 18.
"Entertainments: Cremorne." *Brisbane Courier* 26 Mar. 1928, 18.
"Entertainments: Mirthquakers at Cremorne." *Brisbane Courier* 20 Feb. 1928, 7.



Brisbane Courier 18 Feb. 1928, 2.



Paul Daly
Truth (Brisbane) 10 Mar. 1929, 10.



Will Butland, music director
Daily Standard (Brisbane) 29 Aug 1928, 10.