

Buckley & Holly's Pleasure Party

aka **Buckley and Holly's Surprise Party / Buckley and Holly's Entertainers**

AUSTRALIAN VARIETY THEATRE ARCHIVE: RESEARCH NOTES

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(ca. 1882, 1885, 1889) After making their first foray in management in 1871/72 (with Billy Barlow), Tom Buckley and Charles Holly' spent the next five years touring Australasia with other companies. While their names disappear from Australian newspaper reports on several (sometimes lengthy) occasions between 1877 and 1888, it is possible that they were touring overseas, and sometimes with their own troupes at various times. The first established Buckley and Holly troupe (their Pleasure Party) undertook a tour of Tasmania beginning January 1882. In 1885 Buckley toured a Great Hibernicon company with others (and at one stage in conjunction with Holly). The two also established Buckley and Holly's Entertainers in 1889.

► See also: [Tom Buckley](#) • [Charles Holly](#) • [Buckley and Holly](#)

NB: Tom Buckley indicates in a 1914 interview that he and Holly took a company through the East at some stage but provides no dates (see *Table Talk* 26 Mar. 1914, 35).

Regional Tasmania

BUCKLEY AND HOLLY'S PLEASURE PARTY.—This compact little troupe, the members of which arrived by the s.s. Flinders from Melbourne yesterday, will appear at Carrick to-night, after which Longford, Evandale, and several other of the country townships will be visited. As the members of the company are all clever in their special lines of business, those who patronise their entertainment may expect to pass a very enjoyable evening.

Launceston Examiner 12 Jan. (1882), 2.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/3294425>

Launceston Examiner (Tas. : 1842 - 1899) about Thursday 12 January 1882 Page 4 Go

BUCKLEY AND HOLLY'S Pleasure Party have arrived, and will appear at Carrick to-night, Jan. 12; Longford, Friday 13; Evandale, Saturday 14. For particulars see day bills.

The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954) about Friday 10 February 1882 Page 2

MOUNT BISCHOFF, THURSDAY.

Mr. A. H. Boyd, P.M., held a Court of Requests here to-day, when several cases were disposed of. Messrs. Boyd and Duncanson, J.P., afterwards presided at the Police Court. Joseph Soanes was charged, on remand, with stealing a watch, the property of James Hide, jeweller, of Waratah. The Bench, after hearing the evidence of several witnesses, found the prisoner guilty, and sentenced him to three months' imprisonment.

Dr. Marr, of Victoria, arrived here yesterday, and will relieve Dr. Stewart, that gentleman having sent in his resignation as medical officer here.

Buckley and Holly's Pleasure Party Troupe performed here last night in the Mechanics' Institute, and were greeted with a bumper house. Their singing and dancing elicited great applause.

Launceston Examiner (Tas. : 1842 - 1899) about Thursday 16 February 1882 Page 2

LEVEN, Feb. 15.

The Buckley and Holly Pleasure Troupe cleverly entertained a very fair audience here last night.

M ECHANICS' INSTITUTE.**RACES! RACES!****BUCKLEY AND HOLLY'S**
Pleasure Party of Lady and Gentlemen
entertainers, commencing**WEDNESDAY, EVENING, FEB. 22.**In their grand laboratory of merriment,
Rapid Transit to a world of fun.
The Grandest Entertainment travelling.
Fountains of laughter turned on nightly
at eight. Bring the little ones to see our
Little Virgie.**BUCKLEY AND HOLLY,**Acknowledged Champion Dancers of the
world, and great Eccentrics, Hibernian
Pastimes, Dutch eccentricities, Songs and
Dances, Banjoisms.**MISS MAY VIVIAN**The beautiful and accomplished com-
edienne and Bard of Erin in her peerless
casket of gems.**MISS LILY HOWARD,**The exquisite contralto, vocalist, and ac-
complished pianiste, par excellence.For full particulars see future advertise-
ments.**HARRY DE YOUNG, Advance Agent.**

Launceston Examiner 21 Feb. (1882), 3.

Launceston Examiner 23 Feb. (1882), 2.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/3294618>**PLEASURE PARTY.**

The Mechanics' Institute was crowded in every part last evening when Messrs Buckley and Holly's "Pleasure Party" troupe of variety artists made their appearance in Launceston. The entertainment all through was a most enjoyable one, and the audience were not slow in bestowing applause on the efforts of the various performers concerned in its carrying out. The first item on the programme was a pianoforte selection excellently rendered by Miss Lily Howard. Mr Tom Buckley and Miss May Vivian next appeared in a number of Irish songs and dances, all of which were heartily appreciated by those present. Little Virgie was very successful in her rendition of several comic songs, and received an enthusiastic encore. The Ethiopian songs and dances of Mr Charles Holly, created roars of laughter, and he also had to submit to a re-call. Miss Lily Howard sang "Thy smile and voice" with expression and sweetness, and was encored. The bouquet of serio-comic songs rendered by Miss May Vivian, were received with applause, and the banjo sketch by Messrs Buckley and Holly, "Going to the Shucking," was most mirth-provoking. In the second portion of the programme the chief items were the Golden Shoe Dance by Messrs Buckley and Holly, the Highland Fling by little Virgie, and a vocal duet, "When will the birds come back" by Misses May Vivian and Lily Howard. The performance concluded with the laughable farce, "Who Died First." "The Pleasure Party" will appear again this evening, and we would advise those who wish to enjoy a hearty laugh to go to their entertainment.

Hobart**T A S M A N I A N H A L L****BUCKLEY AND HOLLY'S**Pleasure Party of Lady and Gentlemen Ent-
ertainers, commencing**THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 9,**In their grand laboratory of merriment, Rapid
Transit to a World of Fun.

The Grandest Entertainment travelling.

Fountains of laughter turned on nightly at
8. Bring the little ones to see our Little
Virgie.**BUCKLEY AND HOLLY,**Acknowledged Champion Dancers of the World,
and great Eccentrics, Hibernian Pastimes,
Dutch Eccentricities, Songs and Dances,
Banjoisms.**MISS MAY VIVIAN,** the beautiful and ac-
complished comedienne and Bard of Erin, in
her peerless casket of gems.**MISS LILY HOWARD,** the exquisite con-
tralto vocalist, and accomplished pianiste, par
excellence.

For full particulars see future advertisements.

HARRY-DE-YOUNG,
Advance Agent.

Mercury (Hobart) 4 Mar. (1882), 3.

Launceston

PLEASURE PARTY.— Notwithstanding the inclement weather there was a fairly numerous attendance at the Odd Fellows' Hall last evening, when Messrs. Buckley and Holly's "Pleasure Party" made their second appearance. There was a change of programme from the previous evening, and the performance went with smoothness all through. The Dutch sketch by Mr. Tom Buckley and Miss May Vivian, the serio-comic song of Little Virgie, the negro eccentricities of Mr. Charles Holly, and the ballad singing of Miss Lily Howard in the first portion of the entertainment, all appeared to give satisfaction, while the farce which concluded it created unlimited merriment. In the second part the dancing of Messrs. Buckley and Holly, the duet given by Misses May Vivian and Lily Howard, the Sailor's Hornpipe by Little Virgie, and the laughable farce "From Paris in a Balloon," were all received with favour and applause. The troupe will appear for the last time in Launceston this evening, when all those who wish to enjoy a couple of hours' merriment should visit them.

Launceston Examiner 12 Apr. (1882), 2.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/3294880>

SCHOOL OF ARTS, BEGA
Immense Enthusiasm!
 INSTANTANEOUS & ELECTRIC SUCCESS.
 Unanimous opinion and General Verdict
 of all!
THE MOST ENJOYABLE AND AMUSING
ENTERTAINMENT ever witnessed
IN BEGA!
A REGULAR OVATION!
A PERFECT FURORE!
 Greeted us last evening.
THE GREAT AND ONLY
BUCKLEY AND HOLLY'S
PLEASURE of **L**ADY & **G**ENTLEMAN
PARTY of **L**ADY & **G**ENTLEMAN
ENTERTAINERS
 The following is our
FIRST GRAND CHANGE of PROGRAMME
PART I.
Anglo-German Specialities.
 Old Christie } TOM BUCKLEY.
 Young Karl Klein }
 Old Lizette } MISS MAY VIVIAN.
 Young Gretchen }
OUR LITTLE VIRGIE'S Casket of Gems.
MR. CHARLES HOLLY in his irimitable Song
 and Dance Specialities.

INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES.
PART II.
AMERICAN CHAMPION SILVER BELT
JIG,
 By the acknowledged Champion Dancers,
Messrs. BUCKLEY and HOLLY.
LITTLE VIRGIE, in her Peerless Specialities.
 Duet—"JUANITA,"
 Miss May Vivian and Miss Lily Howard.
 "Echoes at the Stump," — **TOM BUCKLEY,**
M.L.A.
SAILOR'S HORNPIPE (in character),
LITTLE VIRGIE.
MISS MAY VIVIAN'S Serio-comic Album.
BUCKLEY & HOLLY'S Plantation
 Pastimes,
 Ballad.. .. Miss LILY HOWARD.
 The whole to conclude with the
 Screaming Sketch,
THE RIVAL ARTISTS,
 By Miss May Vivian, Messrs. Buckley and Holly
 Prices of Admission: 3s. and 2s.
 Doors open at 7.30; performance commences at 8.

Bega Gazette and Eden District or Southern Coast Advertiser
 17 May (1882), 3.

COOMA SCHOOL OF ARTS.
GRAND OPENING NIGHT,
Wednesday, 31st May.
ANNOUNCEMENT EXTRAORDINARY.
FIRST APPEARANCE of the celebrated
 and unequalled
Buckley and Holly's
PLEASURE PARTY
 Of Lady and Gentleman Entertainers after a
 most successful season in Bega and Bombala.
 Houses filled to overflowing wherever we have
 appeared.
 An Avalanche of Music, Mirth, Songs,
 Dances, and Beautiful Vocalists and Instru-
 mental Solos.
Mr. BUCKLEY & HOLLY,
 the organisers of the famous U.S. Minstrels,
 and the acknowledged greatest dancers living.
Miss MAY VIVIAN,
 from the leading Australian Theatres.
Miss LILY HOWARD,
 the Beautiful Vocalist; and our
LITTLE VIRGIE,
 the wonder of the age, in her beautiful Guitar
 Solos, &c.
 Read the opinions of the Bega Press.
LOOK OUT FOR US! LOOK OUT FOR US!
 Don't fail to witness this justly celebrated
 Company.
 Prices of admission, 3s. and 2s. 601

The Manaro Mercury, and Cooma and Bombala Advertiser
 24 May (1882), 2.

Rockhampton (Qld)

MEETINGS AND AMUSEMENTS.

**THEATRE ROYAL.
FOR THREE NIGHTS ONLY.
COMMENCING SATURDAY, AUG. 1.**

BUCKLEY'S GREAT HIBERNICON
AND COURT MINSTRELS, in con-
junction with Mr. Charles Holly, the Renowned
Comedian and Dancer. Buckley and Holly,
acknowledged Champion Dancers of the
World. Farewell Performances.

Morning Bulletin 30 July (1885), 1.

Buckley and Holly's Variety Entertainment.

Last Monday evening a very amusing entertainment was given in the Town Hall, Balmain, by this Minstrel and Variety troupe. There was a fairly good audience who seemed to greatly appreciate the various items. The programme opened with an overture on the piano by the accompanist, Mr. A. H. E. Smith. Next followed a comic sketch entitled "The Mischievous Monkey." Mr. Watson took the part of the hotel landlord, Mr. T. Buckley, Carl T. Klein (a German Tourist), and Joko (the house pot, Mr. C. Holly.) The vagaries of this latter character caused roars of laughter. Mr. John Coghlan next favored the audience with some selections on the Irish pipes, which were played in a highly creditable manner, and evoked loud applause. Mr. Tom Buckley brought the house down in his "Home, sweet home," on the mouth organ; and his imitation of the "Siege of Limerick" on the kettle-drum, reminded one forcibly of that historic incident. Mr. Charles Holly, in his mirth-provoking and eccentric witticisms and comic ballads, was an unqualified success. Miss Lucy Cottier sang very admirably, "The flags of all nations," and was vociferously applauded. A sand jig performed by Miss Maggie Coghlan is deserving of praise. Mr. Watson in his comic songs created no end of laughter. A comic banjo act, entitled "That rascal

Tom," in which Messrs. Buckley and Holly took part, introducing their celebrated "Shoo fly" duet, was a great success. After an interval, the second part of the programme was opened with a selection by the accompanist, followed by Mr. Chas. Holly's Champion American silver bell jig, which was a fine display of terpsichorian art, and was loudly applauded. Mr. Tom Buckley's banjo solo, songs and sayings were very laughable performances. Miss Lucy Cottier again favored the audience with a song entitled "Deutscher Loy," and in response to an encore, she sang very sweetly, the song "Kissing," and we intend to abide by her advice. Miss Mulera danced the "Highland fling" in real old Scottish style. Selections on the Irish pipes by Mr. John Coghlan were again performed in good style. The whole concluded with the laughable farce, entitled "Slocum's Dog," which completely convulsed the audience with laughter. The following were the characters:—"Charley Christmas," Mr. T. Buckley; "Billy Newyear," Mr. Charles Holly; "Mr. Smart (in love)," Mr. Watson. We can compliment Messrs. Buckley and Holly's company on the success of their entertainment, and hope that they will repeat it before they leave the district.

Balmain Observer and Western Suburbs Advertiser 14 Sept. (1889), 8.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/15027994>

Australian Variety Theatre Archive: Research Notes

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