

FRED DAVYS

(1855-1944) Englishman Fred Davys and American Georgie Devoe came to Australia in 1887 under contract to Harry Rickards. After splitting with Devoe in 1893 he teamed up with Ida Lewis to tour his own company. His marionette act, "On the Back of My Daddy-Oh" later became his signature turn. The pair eventually settled in West Wyalong where they also built their own theatre.

1855-1887

The youngest of seven children born to Thomas Parkinson and Mary Parkinson (nee Davy), Fred Davys was given the birth name David Davy Parkinson when born in West Yorkshire (UK) in 1855. Research conducted by his grandson, Michael Raynor, indicates that Thomas Parkinson was born in 1813 at Dolphinholme, Lancashire, while Mary Davy was born in Keighley Yorkshire sometime around 1814. Most likely married in Bradford in 1834 the couple's first child arrived in 1838, while David's birth came only two years before his mother's death in the same city in 1857. The family appears to have settled in Bradford as it was there that Thomas married his second wife, Olive Smith, in 1859. Raynor has also established that his grandfather left school before his teens and began work in the old Bradford Dye factory in Spring Mill Road.

Raynor provides some further insight in his 2012 research document:

[David's] friends in later life said as a boy he had acrobatics and dancing in his blood and probably worked in theatres in and around Bradford/Leeds. He was known to have worked in Brighton with Little Tich who encouraged him into the world of vaudeville. There is no information on his theatrical activities in the UK. His first media mention was in the USA. Prior to going to [there] he developed his singing, dancing, comedy routines, acrobatics and apparently was an accomplished puppeteer.



"On the Back of My Daddy O"

Courtesy of Michel Raynor

It is believed that Parkinson worked as a comedian/dancer in the USA between 1883 and 1886, and that during this period he developed a giant marionette act which he presented under the billing Professor Davys. Among the engagements that Raynor has established to date were the Opera House (ca. Oct. 1883); and the Summer Theatre (1885), and People's Theatre (ca. May/June 1885).¹ It was also around this period, possibly in the USA between 1885 and 1886 or in Great Britain in 1887 that he met Georgie Devoe (Raynor's grandmother).

Born in New York in 1867, Georgina Peabody Brundage was the daughter of the proprietor of the Peabody Hotel, situated at Union Square. She started her professional career at the age of nine playing Little Eva in a production of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* at the Grand Opera House. She then spent some five years playing various roles for producers Smith and Mestayer and then Darrett and Palmer. Having learned to dance and play the banjo during that time she spent her last five years in the USA (ca. 1882-86) performing musical specialties for Tony Pastor, James Donaldson, Harry Miner, G. W. Gilmore, Thomas Kelly, William Harris, Dr Dothrope, Messrs Hopkins and Morra. In May 1886 she travelled to London, having been engaged by Henry Edward Dixey to revive her role in Adonis for his season at the Gaiety Theatre (SBMJ: 31 July 1889, 5). During that season she was spotted by Harry Rickards who engaged for a tour of Great Britain following the conclusion of her commitments with Dixey (1886-87). In 1888 she and Davys were contracted to tour Australia with Rickards New English Comedy and Specialty Company.

It is unclear when Davys joined Rickards troupe in Great Britain. In his obituary published by the *West Wyalong Advocate* (5 Oct. 1944, n. pag.), the writer records that Davys was working at the Teatro de Cataluna, Barcelona in July 1887. In this respect it has not yet been ascertained whether he had already been engaged by Rickards or if he joined later. It may also be possible that Rickards' troupe was itself in Spain at that time. What can be established, however, is that Davys and Devoe's must have begun their relationship by mid-1887 at the latest because Devoe gave birth to their only child, Frederick Jessie Parkinson in early March the following year. Born in Chatham, England, Frederick's birth certificate (registered 10 Mar. 1888) records his parents as being Fredrick Parkinson (not David) aged 35, and Georgina Parkinson (nee Brundage) aged 21. Of interest here, as Michael Raynor points out, is that despite an extensive search, no marriage registration for his grandparents has yet been located either in the USA or the UK.

¹ *Lowell Daily Courier* 20 May 1885, n. pag. The People's Theatre was situated in Gorman Street

1888-1893

Having been engaged by Harry Rickards to tour Australia with his New English Comedy and Specialty combination, Davys and Devoe sailed from England within a few weeks of their son's birth. The company arrived at Albany, Western Australia aboard the S.S. Oroya on 21 April, and then continued through to Adelaide in time to open at the Theatre Royal on Saturday the 28th. Also making their first trip to Australia were Ada Delroy and James Bell, who similarly spent many years in the country over the coming decades. The company's opening night show included a production of the two act "musical absurdity" *On Guard*, in which Davys played Mr Longton (described in advertising as "a marionette"). Devoe played the character Miss Priscilla Jinks. While the couple were engaged to work with other members of the company in burlesques, musical comedies etc, in addition to presenting their own solo specialty turns, Devoe also doubled as Davys' assistant during his marionette act.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Arrival of s.s. Oroya to-day at Albany having on board

MR. HARRY RICKARDS
with his new Musical and
SPECIALTY COMEDY COMPANY,
who will have the honour of appearing at the
THEATRE ROYAL
on
SATURDAY, APRIL 23.

Full particulars in future issues. x

South Australian Register 21 Apr. (1888). 1.

After closing his Adelaide season Rickards took the troupe to Sydney, where it opened at the New Opera House on Saturday 19 May. Between that season and early 1891 Davys and Devoe toured extensively throughout Australia for Rickards. On two occasions (in 1888 and 1890) the company also joined forces with the Cogill Bros to present double combination entertainments. In early 1891 the couple left Rickards to undertake an engagement with Lizzie Hastings and over the next year or so they worked for various firms, notably J. Billins' Representative Metropolitan Company (1891). They also formed their own touring combination. Billed as Davys' Bright Lights Company, it presented selection of variety specialties, pantomime and other musical entertainments. Among the initial artists engaged were Will Stevens and Lorrie St George.

PUBLIC HALL, EUROA.

MONDAY and TUESDAY,
June 1st and 2nd.

First Appearance in Euroa of
MR. FRED. DAVYS'
BRIGHT LIGHTS COMEDY
and
NOVELTY COMPANY.

Our Artists:

MISS GEORGIE DEVOE—The Charming Soubrette Song and Dance Artiste, and Instrumentalist. The only lady in Australia introducing a Banjo Song and Dance.

MR. FRED DAVYS—The great and only Irish Comedian and Champion Eccentric Dancer of England and America.

Mr. Will Stevens. Miss Essie Loon.
Mr. T. C. Parker. Miss Marie Farley.
Mr. Joe Mac. Miss Florrie St. George

And the Wonder of all Wonders, the
American
FANTOCCINIE & PANTOMIME!
introducing the
FUNNIEST CLOWN IN THE WORLD.

The Transformation Scene is a copy on a miniature Scale of the great Drury Lane Pantomime, with all the latest lime-light and mechanical effects.

This performance is a treat for the young as well as their elders.

Admission—3s, 2s, and 1s.

NEW OPERA HOUSE.

Lessee and Manager Mr. F. E. Hiscocks.
Acting Manager Mr. R. B. Wiseman.

NEXT SATURDAY, MAY 19,
GRAND OPENING NIGHT and FIRST APPEARANCE in
AUSTRALIA
of
**HARRY RICKARDS' NEW COMEDY and SPECIALTY
COMPANY.**
Sole Proprietor and Manager... .. Mr. Harry Rickards.

Mr. HARRY RICKARDS respectfully informs his Australian friends and patrons that he has spared neither time, trouble, or expense in engaging the very best Novelty Company of Star Artists that could be procured in England. This truly great Company of

12 ARTISTES 12
12 ARTISTES 12

will have the honour of making their appearance in several new and original MUSICAL COMEDIES, written and composed expressly to show their respective talents.

MOST IMPORTANT ENGAGEMENT of
Mr. WILLIAM WOODHEAD,
the MUSICAL MARVEL. WOODHEAD, the Wonder, performs on various difficult instruments, playing the cleverest musical selections. All lovers of music should hear him. Plays seven different instruments at one time.

Master ANTONIO, the Zither Interlocutor.
Professor DAVY'S WONDERFUL MARIONETTES.
The figures stand 4ft. high. The FUNNIEST ACT EVER SEEN.

Mr. JAMES BELL,
This gentleman is acknowledged to be one of the most refined and legitimate Negro Delineators now before the public.

Mons. PROVO,
the Demon Juggler Extraordinary. This wonderful artiste has just concluded a twelvemonths' engagement at the Alhambra Palace, London.

Mr. FRED TERRISS,
Principal Low Comedian, Irish Vocalist, and Dancer.
Miss KATIE LAWRENCE,
the fascinating Burlesque Actress, Vocaliste, and Speciale Dancer, from the Alhambra Theatre, London.
Miss ADA D'ALROY,
the celebrated Burlesque Actress, Tyrolean Singer—a Little Gem.
Miss GEORGIE DEVOE, Actress, Vocalist, Banjoist, &c.
Miss MARION CONSTANCE,
Character Actress, Vocalist, and Eccentric Dancer.
Miss KATE LEETE, the charming Burlesque Actress, Vocalist, and Serio-Comic Artiste (Sappho).

And yours to command,
Mr. HARRY RICKARDS,
the EMINENT VOCAL COMEDIAN, who will have the honour of introducing all the LATEST LONDON SUCCESSES.

OPENING NIGHT—SATURDAY, May 19.

Full particulars in future issues.
Agent for Mr. Rickards Mr. SYDNEY HALL.

Sydney Morning Herald 12 May 1888, 2.

The troupe is known to have toured regional NSW (including Broken Hill) and Victoria between May and July 1891 before setting for several months in Melbourne where they joined the Representative Metropolitan Company during its season at the Victoria Hall. After ending that engagement the Bright Lights troupe went back on tour through regional Victoria (ca. Nov/Dec.).

Between late January and November 1892 Davys and Devoe toured their company through New Zealand. The biggest success of that tour was the 120 night season played in Wellington. Two of the biggest names to have joined the troupe for that tour were John Tudor and Tom Griffin.

Euroa Advertiser 29 May (1891), 3.

After returning to Australia Davys and Devoe went back to Melbourne to take up another contract with J. Billin at the Victoria Hall. There they presented a festive season show billed as *The Merry Christmas Party*. Comprising most of the members of the Bright Lights Company along with several selected guest artists, the programme's highlight was Davys' "Merry Christmas Pantomime."

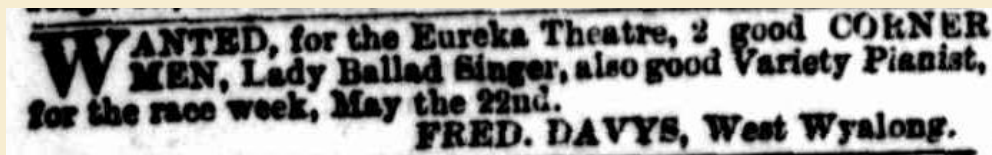
The following year, 1893, saw Davys and Devoe secure engagements with at least three companies - the Cogill Brothers New Minstrels (Melbourne), Hudson's Surprise Party (Adelaide and Broken Hill) and Harry Rickards (Sydney). Under Rickards management they appeared initially at the Tivoli Theatre and then transferred to the Alhambra Music Hall for the opening week of the entrepreneur's New Paragon Minstrels. With the first company the pair performed alongside such artists as George H. Wood and Harry Clay. The Alhambra line-up was equally strong, comprising such artists as the Leslie Brothers, Bovis and Franks, Arthur Farley and Harry Clay. However, this was very likely the couple's last engagement together before separating. Not only do their names no longer appear in connection with each other after the first week, but interestingly neither is listed in advertising for the remainder of the season. While few details have yet been located in connection with either performer over the next six months or so, it has been ascertained by Michael Raynor that Davys soon afterwards began a relationship with another younger woman Ida Lewis. By September the following year Devoe had also teamed up both personally and professionally with her future husband, Australian comedian Charlie Fanning.

1894-1900

Michael Raynor's research has discovered that after separating from Devoe, Davys teamed up with Ida Lewis and in 1894 debuted his own vaudeville tent show at West Wyalong. The choice of town was a good one, as it was then undergoing a boom period due to gold having been discovered in the region in 1893. According to an article published in the *West Wyalong Advocate* in 1928, Fred erected his marquee in Main Street (on the same site he was to later erect his own theatre) and did big business. This was also helped by the fact that he had engaged quality artists from the capital cities for the troupe. The pair were able to ride out the worst of the 1890s depression by toured their show around regional Australia, with Fred making occasional visits to the major cities. Davys also promoted boxing with his tours, engaging such known NSW pugilists of the day as Jim Fogerty, Nugget Walsh and Lou Lawson.

During this period Davys also developed his "On the Back of My Daddy O" act, which involved a quaint Daddy figure walking around the stage smoking a pipe with his young son perched on his back. The lad would then sing, crack jokes and tell yarns. Rayner writes further:

His friend W. H. Hazelton writing in the *Sydney Daily Mirror* (14 Aug. 1944) stated his version of "On a Bicycle Built for Two" and "Given away with Half a Pound of Tea" as well as "On the Back of My Daddy O" had the audiences rolling in the aisles and at the end of each performance wished everyone "safe journey to our respective homes." This was obviously his signature sign off at the end of each performance.



**WANTED, for the Eureka Theatre, 2 good CORNER
MEN, Lady Ballad Singer, also good Variety Pianist,
for the race week, May the 22nd.
FRED. DAVYS, West Wyalong.**

Sydney Morning Herald 6 May (1897), 2.

In 1899 Davys and Lewis decided to establish themselves in West Wyalong on a more permanent basis. They initially set up their tent on the same Main Street lot, but the following year moved into the newly built Ruddick Hall (known by the locals the Rio Hall). Although deciding to make the town their home, Davys was nevertheless still prepared to take his marionettes and a small company on the road, with engagements in New Zealand being recorded from around September through to late November.



**OPERA HOUSE, TAMM STREET.
TO-NIGHT AND EVERY EVENING.
DIX'S GAIETY COMPANY.
DIX'S GAIETY COMPANY.
BOOMING. BOOMING.
Everything New, Bright and Sparkling.
Enthusiastic Reception of
DAVY'S ROYAL GIANT MARIONETTES.
DAVY'S ROYAL GIANT MARIONETTES.
Our Fourth Grand Change of Programme
TO-NIGHT. TO-NIGHT.
FIRST APPEARANCE OF FRED DAVY,
Australia's Representative.**

Star (Lyttelton) 22 Sept. (1900), 5.

1901-1944

Davys and Lewis, along with Davys' son Fred ran "Rio Hall" for around a decade, presenting a combination of live shows and films when they became available.

**WEST WYALONG, Thursday.
Fred. Davy's picture show entertainment
in aid of the Red Cross Fund realised £32.**

Sydney Morning Herald 18 Sept. (1914), 8.

Davys also continued to mount occasional tours. Michael Raynor has identified possibly one of the last of these, a tour of Northern NSW in mid-1909. According to the *Northern Star*, Davys and his marionettes presented a short season at the Lismore's Festival Hall in early June that year (12 June 1909, n. pag.). Lewis was also on the bill and Raynor believes that his father, Fred Jnr, would also have been involved in some way, too. Another venue that Davy's is recorded as playing during the early 1900s was the Manly Chute in Sydney.²



The Manly Chute (ca. 1903-1907)

Source: www.panoramio.com (photo uploaded by Craig Tindale)

In 1910 Davys and Lewis finally married. He was then 57 years of age, while she 37. That same year the couple built their own theatre, the Tivoli, in West Wyalong. It was situated on the same site that he'd first pitched his tent show back in 1899. The Tivoli appears to have prospered for many years, due in part to the increasing popularity of motion pictures and the concession bar they operated. As to the family's latter years, Michael Raynor writes:

His travelling days were over as he was now in his sixties. He and Ida became pillars of West Wyalong society and the Bland Shire Council built a fountain to honour Fred and Ida. While he retired from performing he was known to mentor many young performers as well as charity work in West Wyalong.

Ida Parkinson/Davys died on 6 October 1939 aged 66. Her husband passed away some five years later on 3 October 1944 aged 91.

SEE ALSO

- [Fred Davys' Bright Lights Co](#)
- [Georgie Devoe](#)

ADDITIONAL QUOTATIONS

- The Davy's Bright Lights Company are billed to appear at the Alexandra hall tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday in a variety entertainment. The company has been playing to crowded houses all up the coast, and is highly spoken of by the Press. The *New York Herald* says: Professor Fred Davys' marionettes close the entertainment, but although last are not least. One must see his funny family to appreciate it, and it is well worth the price alone, being specially suited to ladies and children. The Melbourne *Argus* says: The cleverest and most undoubtedly amusing performance of the evening was the marionette entertainment provided by Mr Fred Davys and Miss Devoe, The figures were manipulated with wonderful skill and rapidity, and execute all kinds of antics. And the *Sydney Morning Herald* says: This is an excellent all round variety and specialty company, foremost amongst

² The Manly Shute opened on 14 December 1903.

which the name of Mr Fred Davys stands out as an excellent exponent of Irish comic song and dance business. This gentleman, who appeared first on the bill, gave an exhibition of such eccentric dancing that the house tumultuously demanded a repetition and got it. In the second half of the bill the principal item worthy of mention was Mr Davys' and Miss Devoe's Marionettes, an act which kept the house in continuous roar of merriment (Taranaki Herald 21 Apr. (1892), 2).

HISTORICAL NOTES AND CORRECTIONS

1.

Name	Relation	Sex	Age	Birth Year	Occupation	Where Born
Thomas Parkinson	Head	M	49	1812	Machine Maker	Dolphinholme Lancashire
Olive Parkinson	Wife	F	33	1828	Home Duties	Peak Forest Lancashire
Emma Parkinson*	Daughter Unmarried	F	23	1838	Crystal Packer	Bradford Yorkshire
Mary Parkinson*	Daughter Unmarried	F	21	1840	Crystal Packer	Bradford Yorkshire
Sarah Ann*	Daughter Unmarried	F	19	1842	Milliner	Bradford Yorkshire
William Parkinson*	Son Unmarried	M	14	1847	Scholar	Bradford Yorkshire
Hannah Parkinson*	Daughter Unmarried	F	10	1851	Scholar	Bradford Yorkshire
Thomas Edward Parkinson*	Son Unmarried	M	10	1851	Scholar	Bradford Yorkshire
David Davy Parkinson*	Son Unmarried	M	6	1855	Scholar	Bradford Yorkshire

* Children of Mary Davy Parkinson



Parkinson Home: 10 Park Road Bradford. The people in household in 1861 (above).

Source: 1861 UK Census
Courtesy of Michael Raynor

2. Michael Raynor's research into his grandfather (Fred Parkinson/Davys) and father (Frederick Jessie Parkinson) indicates that he travelled to South Africa and England in 1902 with his mother and step-father Charlies Fanning in 1902, then aged 14 years. In correspondence with the *Australian Variety Theatre Archive* in January 2012, Raynor writes that his family had long been under the assumption that Georgie Devoe took his father overseas and that Fred Davys had to travel to England to bring him back to Australia. His research has so far failed to locate any shipping records that list either the names David Parkinson or Fred Davys travelling to or from Great Britain between 1903 and 1906, at which time Frederick was back with his father. Raynor points to a 1906 review in the *Otago Witness* (New Zealand) which records that Davys was working the marionettes in the Manly Shute with "his young son who shows promise of upholding the good name enjoyed by his farther" (7 April 1906, n. pag.). Davys also notes that Davys was touring fairly constantly around Australia between 1904 and 1906, making it somewhat implausible that he undertook a return trip to England (requiring a minimum of ten weeks at sea).

How Frederick came back to Australia is unclear. There is the possibility that Frederick could have travelled back to Australia on his own, being aged 16 to 18 between 1904 and 1906. It is also possible that he returned

with either his mother, or as Raynor posits, Charlie Fanning. While there are no records of him playing any engagements in Australia between 1904 and 1906 Fanning may have had family reasons for making the voyage home.

Raynor further notes that his father told him in his later years that he had been pulled between Fred Snr and Georgie who fought over him when he was very young and that he divided his time between both his parent.

3. During Davys' season at Manly in 1906, the Otago Witness (New Zealand) published the following par:

Fred Davys, of marionette fame, who has been at the Manly Chute for some time, has a son, now appearing there who shows promise of worthily upholding the good name enjoyed by his father (25 Apr. 1906, 65).

ENGAGEMENTS CHRONOLOGY

Incl. Georgie Devoe (1888-1893)

- 1888:** HARRY RICKARDS (Th Royal, Adel; 28 Apr - * > New English Comedy & Specialty Co, first season back in Australia) • (Lse/Mngr. F. E. Hiscocks > New Op House, Syd; 19 May - 30 June) • (Coogee Palace Aquarium, Syd; 24 May > Queen's Birthday only) ► HARRY RICKARDS/COGILL BROS (St Geo's Hall, Melb; 7 July - 14 Sept. > Cogill Bros Minstrel & Burlesque Co/Rickards' New English Comedy & Specialty Co) ► HARRY RICKARDS (Gaiety Th, Bris; 27 Oct. - *) • (Haymarket Music Hall, Syd; 19 Nov. - 31 Dec.) • (Coogee Palace Aquarium, Syd; 26 Dec. > afternoon concert)
- 1889:** HARRY RICKARDS (New Haymarket Music Hall, Syd; 1-26 Jan. > New English Comedy & Specialty Co) ► COOGEE AQUARIUM (Coogee Palace Aquarium, Syd; 19 Jan. > New English Comedy & Specialty Co - afternoon concert) ► HARRY RICKARDS (Adelphi Hall, West Maitland; 4-6 Feb. > New English Comedy & Specialty Co) • (Mechanics Institute, Singleton; 7 Feb. - * > New English Comedy & Specialty Co) • (Gaiety Th, Bris; 18 Feb. - * > New English Comedy & Specialty Co) • (S of A, Rockhampton; 20-26 Mar. > New English Comedy & Specialty Co) • (S of A, Charters Towers, ca. 13 Apr. - * > New English Comedy & Specialty Co) • (St Geo's Hall, Melb; 8 June - 2 Aug. > New English Comedy & Specialty Co) • (Garner's Rooms, Adel; 5 Aug. - * > New English Comedy & Specialty Co) • n/e (Criterion Th, Syd; 25 Dec. > Grand Vocal and Instrumental Concert produced by John Solomon) ► (S of A, Syd; 26-31 Dec. - * > New English & Irish Comedy Co) ► COOGEE AQUARIUM (Coogee Palace Aquarium, Syd; 26 Dec. > New English Comedy & Specialty Co - afternoon concert)
- 1890:** HARRY RICKARDS (S of A, Syd; 1 Jan. - 17 Feb. > New English & Irish Comedy Co) ► COOGEE AQUARIUM (Coogee Palace Aquarium, Syd; 3, 4, 11, and 15 Jan. > New English & Irish Comedy Co) ► HARRY RICKARDS (Gaiety Th, Bris; 21 Feb. - * > New English & Irish Comedy Co) ► COOGEE AQUARIUM (Coogee Palace Aquarium, Syd; 22 Mar. > New English & Irish Comedy Co - afternoon concert) • (Gaiety Th, Melb; 5 Apr. - 2 May > New English & Irish Comedy Co) ► COGILL BROS (St Geo's Hall, Melb; 3-27 May > New English & Irish Comedy Co - with Cogill Brothers Minstrels) ► HARRY RICKARDS (St Geo's Hall, Melb; 28 May - 13 June > New English & Irish Comedy Co) • (Bijou Hall, Launceston; 17 June - * > Comedy Comic Opera and Specialty Co) • (S of A, Syd; 2 Aug. - 17 Nov. > New Musical Comedy Co) • (New Th Royal, Bris; 22 Nov. - *) • St Geo's Hall, Melb; 26-31 Dec.)
- NB:** The Cogill Bros season at St George's Hall was already underway when the Rickards company was engaged
- 1891:** HARRY RICKARDS (St Geo's Hall, Melb; 1 Jan. - * > New Musical Comedy Co) ► LIZZIE HASTINGS (Gaiety Th, Syd; 14 Mar. - * > Lizzie Hastings' Picnic Party) ► GORDON'S (Sydney Harbour; 29 Mar. only > New Musical Comedy Co - for Gordon's Elite Concerts and Harbour Excursions) ► FRED DAVYS (NSW/Victorian regional tour; ca. May-July * > Davys' Bright Lights Co) ► J. BILLIN (Vic Hall, Melb; 14 July - ca. Sept.* > Representative Metropolitan Co) ► FRED DAVYS (Victorian regional tour; ca. Nov/Dec. * > Davys' Bright Lights Co)
- NB 1:** Davys' Bright Lights Co first tour of NSW/Victorian tour incl. Broken Hill (ca. May) • Euroa (Public Hall; 1-2 June) • Warrigal, Vic (Public Hall; 5-6 June) • Sale (Victoria Hall; 8-9 June) • Bairnsdale, Vic (Payne's Th; 10-11 June) • Traralgon, Vic (12 June - *)
- NB 2:** The Bright Lights Victorian tour later in the year included Tatura (Mechanics Hall; 16 Nov - *) • Kilmore (Oddfellows Hall; 7 Dec. *)



- 1892:** FRED DAVYS (New Zealand tour; ca. Jan. - Nov. * > Davys' Bright Lights Co) ► J. BILLIN (Victoria Hall, Melb; 26-31 Dec. > *The Merry Christmas Party* - incl. Davys' Bright Lights Co)
- NB:** Davy's Bright Lights Co New Zealand tour incl. Auckland (Op House; ca. Jan. - 6 Feb.) • Thames (Assembly Rooms; 9-11Feb.) • Gisborne (Th Royal, 28 Feb. - 3 Mar.) • Napier (Th Royal; 5-9 Mar.) • Wanganui (Oddfellows Hall; 17 Mar. - *) • Fielding (Assembly Rooms; 21 Mar. - *) • Foxton (Public Hall 12-13 Apr.) • New Plymouth (Alexandra Hall; 22-23 Apr.) • Hawra (26 Apr. - *) • Wellington (Exchange Hall; ca. 23 May - 24 Sept. > 120 nights) • Blenheim (Ewart's Vic Hall; 4 Oct. - *) • Nelson (Th Royal; 8-11 Oct. - *) • Timaru (Th Royal; 14 Nov. - *)
- 1893:** J. BILLIN (Vic Hall, Melb; 1 Jan. - * *The Merry Christmas Party* - incl. Davys' Bright Lights Co) ► COGILL BROS (St Geo's Hall, Melb; 28 Jan. - * > Cogill Bros' New Minstrels) ► TOMMY HUDSON (Bijou Th, Adel; 1 Apr. - * > Hudson's Surprise Party) • (Th Royal, Broken Hill; 29 Apr. - * > Hudson's Surprise Party) ► HARRY RICKARDS (Tivoli Th, Syd; 10 June - ca Oct.*) • (Alhambra MH, Syd; 21-27 Oct. - * > New Paragon Minstrels and Vaudeville Co)
- NB 1:** The Tivoli bill for 23 September indicates that Devoe and Davys were making a re-appearance. Charlie Fanning also joined the company from that date.
- 1900:** PERCY R. DIX (Op House, Lyttleton, NZ; 21 Sept. - * > Dix's Gaiety Co) • (Dunedin, NZ; ca. Oct/Nov. * > Dix's Gaiety Co) • (Exchange Hall, Wellington; ca. Nov - * > last night 17 Nov. - Dix's Gaiety Co)
- 1901-09:** Davys and Lewis operated the Ruddick Hall (aka The Rio) for much of this period
- 1906:** MANLY CHUTE AMUSEMENT Co (Manly Chute, Manly NSW; ca. Mar-Apr.)
- 1909:** FRED DAVYS (Festival Hall, Lismore, NSW; ca. June)
- 1910-** After building their own theatre, the Tivoli, Davys and his wife more or less remained in West Wyalong as film exhibitors through until at least the late-1930s.

This entry has been sourced from research undertaken by Fred Davys' grandson, Michael Raynor.

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