

JACK LANDOW

Sydney vaudeville entrepreneur Jack (Jacky) 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 several 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" (3 Mar. 1915, n. pag.).

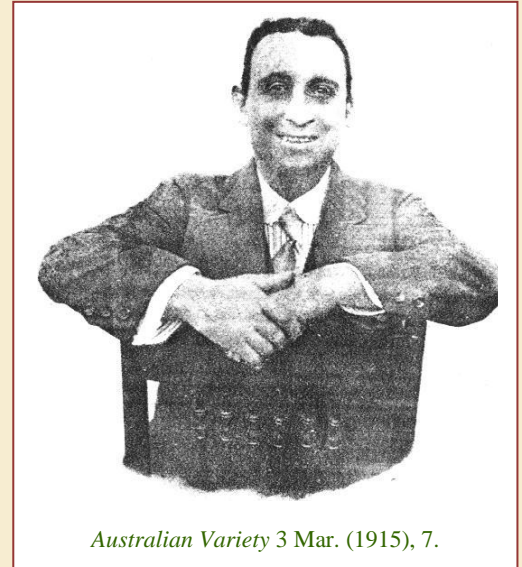
Little is yet known about Landow's personal life or career outside the period 1911 and 1919. He is recorded as having had at least two brothers - George "Puddin" Landow (who died of the Spanish Flu in March 1919) and Albert (who also contracted influenza around the same time). He was also said to have been in the mercantile business prior to entering the suburban vaudeville game.

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 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, remaining absent for somewhere between 12 to 18 months.¹

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 (AV: 15 Feb. 1918, n. pag; 1 Mar. 1918, n. pag.). Later that same year *Variety* 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 (6 Sept. 1918, 9).

Jack Landow is known to have continued operating his circuit through until at least November 1919, and possibly into 1920. While the last recorded Sydney show found to date was at the Crown Star, Surry Hills in late October 1919, his name is mentioned in relation to still operating around Sydney in *Australian Variety* in early 1920 (although 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 (10).



Australian Variety 3 Mar. (1915), 7.

CROWN THEATRE.
Crown-street, SURRY HILLS.
TO-NIGHT, AND EVERY WEDNESDAY,
JACK LANDOW'S VAUDEVILLE ENTERTAINERS.
18 STAR ARTISTS, 18.
Admission 6d; Res. Seats, 6d extra.

Sydney Morning Herald 6 Dec. (1911), 2.

¹ See "Historical Notes and Corrections" section.

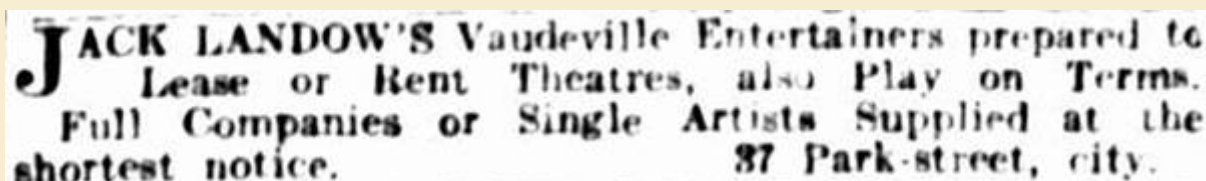
HISTORICAL NOTES AND CORRECTIONS

1. 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), The Arteens (1914), Molly Ambrsoe (1919).
- B:** Bartlett the Musical Comedy Clown (1916), Ivy Bowmont (1916), Lottie Beaumont (1916), Benns and Graham (1919).
- C:** Carlton and Sutton (1916), Maurice Chenoweth (1916), Owen Conduit (1916), Clarino (1916), Wal Cottier (1916), Cass and Cass (1916), Will Castrade (1916), Crawford and Campbell (1918), Coleman Girls (1919), Ernie Crawford (1919).
- D:** Ern Delavale (1914), Bert Desmond and Mattie Jansen (1914, 1916, 1919), Delwyn and Tye (1916), Maud Delmay (1916), Will Darrell (1919), Louie Duggan (1919), Ivey Davidson (1920).
- E:** Florence Elvin (1916), Lulu Eugene (1916, 1918), Arthur Elliot (1916), Mercia Florence (1916), Lulla Elliott (1919), Alf Edwards (1919).
- F:** Maude Fanning and children (1916), Four Kings (1918), Five Kewpie Kids (1919).
- G:** Gibson Girls (1916), The Gilberts (1918), Nellie Gould (1918).
- H:** Ted Herbert (1916, 1919), Frank Herberte (1916), Tom Hedley (1916), Gladys Holmes (1919), Syd Herbert (1919).
- J:** Ida Jarvis (1914), Jamison and Boyd (1914).
- L:** Harry Little (1914), Lazern the Mystic (1916), Little Galdys (1916), Florrie Lorraine (1916), George Livingstone (1918), Leonard's Poodles (1919), Ward Lear (1920).
- M:** Morris and Shand (1914), Vera Murray (1916), George Marsh (1916), Bennett McKenzie (1916), Dorothy Menzies (1916), Mandeno's Dogs (1918), Max Martin (1918), Beattie McDonald (1919), Frank martin (1919).
- O:** Dud Osborne (1914, 1916, 1919).
- P:** Charles Pope (1914, 1916), Phillips Sisters (1918), Pagden and Stanley (1918).
- R:** Robert Raymond (1918).
- S:** Pearl Smaile (1914), Seyffer Twins (1914), George Sorlie (1914), Daisy Sylvester (1914, 1916), Smith Sisters (1916), May Smith (1916), Elsie Stewart (1916), Jack Sutton (1916), Silbini (1918), Ted Stanley (1918), Maude Stewart (1919), Shipp and Gaffney (1919), Jack Smith (1919), Stewart and Lorraine (1920).
- T:** Arthur Tauchert (1914, 1920), Lyla Thompson (1914, 1916), Eloise Taylor (1920), Tilly and Doris (1920).
- V:** Lily Vockler (1914), Victor the Great (1916, 1919).
- W:** Thelma Woods (1914), Dorsi Woodnal (1916), Lalla Ward (1918), Winifred and Lumley (1919), Bert Wilson (1919), Winifred and Lumley (1920).



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. **87 Park-street, city.**

2. **Production team** 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)

SYDNEY CIRCUIT CHRONOLOGY

All dates provided are those that have been established. In most instances the periods in which Landow operated at any particular venue would have been for longer periods, but the extent of these operations has not yet been confirmed.

- 1911:** Surrey Hills (Crown Th; ca. Nov-Dec.)
1912: n/e
1913: n/e
1914: Marrickville (Lyceum Th; ca. Nov) • Surrey Hills (Crown Star; ca. Aug. - Sept.)
1915: n/e
1916: Kogarah (Bett's Hall; ca. Aug - Sept.)
1917: n/e
1918: Lakemba (ca. Mar- Oct.) • Bankstown (ca. Mar.) • Banksia (ca. Sept-Oct) • Hurlstone Park (ca. Sept-Oct) •
1919: Surrey Hills (Crown Star; ca. Oct.)
1920: n/e

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

FURTHER REFERENCE

"Jacky Landow" AV: 6 Sept. (1918), 9.

"Mr Jack Landow." AV: 3 Mar. (1915), n. pag.