

# 1905

Lilly Octavia, who in the late 1890s had presented musical sketches with baritone singer, Robert Boyd, had by 1904 teamed up with Dave Warne. It is not clear whether all of their sketches were narrative-driven, however. One sketch known to have been staged by the pair during 1905, but which may possibly have been created as a vaudeville turn was *Faces and Fashions* (Theatre Royal, Brisbane, ca. July). Their sketch, "*Masqueraders*" (first known to be performed in 1904) was also a popular presentation in 1905.

Nina Rochester and Walter Rivers presented a series of society sketches under Ted Holland's management at the Theatre Royal (Brisbane) during the latter part of the year. It is not clear at this stage whether these sketches incorporated music into the narratives. Those sketches known to have been staged by the pair include: *An Island Episode* (30 Sept.), described as being "reminiscent of *Robinson Crusoe*, with Nina Rochester as Princess Zadie, clothed in a "Rose of Persia costume" and Walter Rivers as a "shipwrecked sailor; *A Matrimonial Compact* (7 Oct.); *When Two Hearts are One* (21 Oct.); *Ostler Joe* (28 Oct.); *The Census Man* (4 Nov.) and *For Old Time's Sake* (11 Nov.).

Other musical sketch artists included: Connie Vernon and Joe Woodward were also engaged by Ted Holland at the Theatre Royal (ca. Dec.). Their act is described as containing "bright dialogue, clever songs and dances." The Gotham Quartet also presented musical sketches during their season at the Palace Gardens in Perth, notably *A Couple of Footpads* (13 Feb).

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## **ROMANCE FROM ROME:** [one act music comedy] **Txt.** Ted Holland et al; **Mus.** [n/e]

Although details of regarding this production (advertised as a musical comedy) remain scarce, its production as part of the Ted Holland New Vaudeville Entertainers company program suggests that if not written by Holland, then it may well have been adapted by him. In this respect Holland had himself supplied several of his own farce creations for the company during its first few weeks at the Theatre Royal (Brisbane). The season began in December 1904. Additional variety material, and indeed the choice of songs, would undoubtedly have been provided other members of the troupe, and perhaps, too, Percy St John. Holland's previous operations as an established popular entertainer, producer of minstrel farces and entrepreneur with the "Australian team" of Delohery, Craydon and Holland, and on a number of occasions with St John, suggests that the work's creative process would have been a largely local affair.

**1905:** Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 7-13 Jan.

- **Dir/Prod/Sub-Lse.** Ted Holland; **Lse.** Harry Rickards; **M Dir.** W. Butland; **B Mngr.** J. Stewart.

- **Troupe:** Ted Holland's New Vaudeville Entertainers.

- **Cast** incl. Ted Holland, Eva Wilson, Claire and Albert McKisson, Ted Herbert, Fred Norris, Ruby Clifford, George Williamson.

## **NORTH-EAST LYNNE:** [burlesque] **Txt.** Wilton Swift; **Mus.** [n/e]

**1905:** Theatre Royal, Charters Towers (Qld); 15 Mar. -

- **Dir/Prod/Sub-Lse.** Ted Holland; **Lse.** Percy St John.

- **Troupe:** Holland's Entertainers.

- **Cast** incl. Wilton Swift (Lady Isabel/Madam Vine), George Williamson (Little Willie).

"**Holland's Entertainers.**" *Northern Miner* (Charters Towers) 17 Mar. (1905), 5.

## **NORTH-EAST LYNN:** [burlesque] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

A burlesque on the popular melodrama, this version is first known to have been staged under the auspices of Leonard Davis at the Palace Gardens, Perth. Although the production's cast members have not been established, the company engaged at the Palace Gardens at that time included George Sorlie, Sam Gale, Myra James (aka Myra Gale), Harry Baxter, Lizzie Kirke and W. Perman.

**1905:** Palace Gardens, Perth; 1 Apr. -

- **Prod.** Leonard Davis

- **Troupe:** Palace Gardens Variety Co.

## **UNCLE'S VISIT:** [musical sketch] **Txt/Mus.** [n/e]

It is likely that this Warne/Octavia turn would have essentially been a society sketch, staged with one or more songs, and may well have been written by the pair.

**1905:** Theatre Royal, Brisbane; 17 July -

- **Dir/Prod/Sub-Lse.** Ted Holland; **Lse.** Percy St John.

- **Cast:** Dave Warne, Lilly Octavia.

**TRILBY:** [burlesque] **Txt/Mus.** [n]e

It is not clear what relationship this production has with another burlesque of Du Maurier's famous story, staged in March 1897 under the management of Delohery, Bovis and Deane at the Gaiety Theatre (Brisbane). In the company for that production were Ted Holland and James Craydon. Nina Rochester and Walter Rivers, who played the leading roles in the 1905 burlesque, were at the time engaged by Ted Holland to supply society sketches, and could possibly have been involved in the adaptation/creation of the piece.

- 1905:** Theatre Royal, Brisbane; ca.14 Nov.  
- **Dir/Prod/Sub-Lse.** Ted Holland; **Lse.** Percy St John.  
- **Troupe:** Ted Holland's New Vaudeville Entertainers.  
- **Cast** incl. Nina Rochester (Trilby), Walter Rivers (Svengali).

**THE GOLDEN CORNFIELDS:** [musical entertainment] **Txt.** [n/e]; **Mus.** Fred Hall

Advertised as a "entirely new and original first part," the songs and chorus were especially written for Harry Rickards. The extent to which a narrative thread runs through this production remains unclear.

- 1905:** Tivoli Theatre, Sydney; 23 Dec. 1905 - 5 Jan. 1906  
- **Dir/Prod.** Harry Rickards; **S Art.** Alfred Clint; **Cost.** Mrs Huxham.  
- **Cast** incl. Dorothy Dennis, Edie Calder, Violet Martin, Emily Neville, Ruby Forde, Evelyn Dolby, Maud Edwards, Liella Delmont, Emma Murray, Bertha Lloyd, Myra Thompson, Lily Kane, Emily Keeley, Daisy Vernon, Kitty Mason, Daisy Berry, Mabel Bell, Eva Stewart, Lillian Davis.

\* **THE FUN DOCTOR:** [musical comedy] **Lib.** George Forbes; **Mus.** [n/e]

The only reference to this production located to date is a brief paragraph in the "Music and Drama" column of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. The writer indicates that "Forbes, who at one time was prominent on the comedy stage [in Sydney] as a portrayer of 'heavy swells,' has for some years resumed practice as a solicitor [but] has recently written a new musical play entitled *The Fun Doctor*." The paper reports that the work was recently produced at Wyalong, and was favourably received as an exhilarating piece of fun, still further animated by songs and dances" ("Music and Drama," 4).

- 1905:** Wyalong (NSW); n. details

"**Music and Drama.**" *Sydney Morning Herald* 13 May (1905), 4.

Last updated: 3/07/2016

Expanded and updated from Clay Djubal, "What Oh Tonight" (Appendix C), Ph D Diss (2005) U of Qld.

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