aka The Lyceum Pictures and Singers

(1909-1910)

Victor C. Black (Lyceum Pictures Ltd) established his Lyceum Pictures and Singers at the School of Arts from 16 June 1909. In continued operating there, under the management Lew Phillips, and later A.C. White, until April the following year. Although initially billed as playing only three nights the company soon afterwards extended its lease to six nights (and a Saturday matinee). Among the acts engaged were Eileen Lyons (operaic singer), Brandon Balfour (illustrated singer), "Banjo" Patterson (singer/whistler), Godfrey Wallace (singer), Kate Howarde Dramatic Co, and Harry J. Lawson (American club swinger). Birch and Carroll bought out Lyceum Pictures in March 1910, transferring their Olympia Pictures to the School of Arts in early April.

► See also: School of Arts (Charters Towers)

• A few weeks separated the Lyons season (16 July-early Sept.) and Brandon Balfour's debut on 15 Sept. (although Lyons made at least one brief return appearance, ca. 8 Sept.). During the interim advertising announced the Lyceum Pictures and Orchestra. From October 1909 the business was known simply as Lyceum Pictures. Unbilled advertisements typically announced "vocal solos and duets and illustrated story ballads."

• Other artists to appear with Lyceum Pictures included singers Richard Hall, Miss M. Martin, W. Belford, George Trail, May Couch, Fred Owens (comedian/singer) and specialty artists Joe Watts and Madge Lucas (sketch artists, contortionists, step dancers). Banjo Patterson also made a return visit in March 1910.

• A meeting of shareholders took place in Charters Towers on 21 April 1910, at which time a resolution was passed to wind down and liquidate the company. Interestingly, former manager Lew Phillips is recorded as touring a Lyceum Pictures show around North Queensland between May and June 1910.
It has often been the subject of comment why a city of the size of Charters Towers is not empowered to claim a permanent entertainment of its own. Within a brief time this anomaly will cease to be the cause of wonder. There has entered into our midst the Lyceum Pictures and Singers, a company of entertainers who will take up permanent residence here. Special arrangement has been made with Sydney for the weekly delivery of 10,000ft. of the latest films from Paris, and this will be shown in Charters Towers a fortnight after reaching our shores. The pictures will be all star films, and consist of the latest comic, dramatic, sentimental and educational nature, and will be projected by the company’s own powerful electric light plant. In addition, the director, Mr. Victor C. Black has arranged for the first appearance in North Queensland of Miss Ellen Lyons, a young operatic singer. This brilliant performer is a protege of that king of theatre managers, Mr. J. C. Williamson. The programme will be entirely changed every week, and will be presented to Charters Towers audiences every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The prices are 1/6, 1/ and 6d.

Lyceum Pictures and Singers.

There is no doubt the management of the Lyceum Pictures and Singers deserve congratulations for the enterprise shown in establishing what is virtually a permanent theatre in the city. The company intend to appear every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the School of Arts.

Last night their initial performance took place in the School of Arts, and was probably one of the best performances seen here. The highest appreciation was accorded the items throughout. The pictures were billed as “star” films, and without doubt they were very good. The scenic portion was very fine, the beauty spots of France, India, and Europe being illustrated. There were also a number of splendid dramatic, educational, and comic studies.

Miss Ellen Lyons is the possessor of a beautiful soprano voice, rich in expression, with full volume and flexibility. Her singing of Tosti’s “Good Bye” and “Prima Donna” was loudly applauded for both items.

Another performance will be given to-night and to-morrow night. Next Tuesday an absolutely new programme will be presented. On this day their matinées will be commenced at 2.30 p.m. Children will be admitted to the matinée for 3d. on production of concession tickets, which may be obtained at Mrs. McCullagh’s.

SCHOOL OF ARTS
THIS AFTERNOON AND TO-NIGHT
Lyceum Pictures and Singers.

Complete Change of Programme.

“Trollbaten in Winter,” “Between Love and Duty,” “Invisible Thief,” “Face to Face,” “All’s Fair in Love and War,” “Trip on the Nile,” “Week’s Absence,” “Two’s Company,” “Glimpse of Italy,” “For His Sister’s Sake,” “Fountains of Rome,” “Love’s T Cocktails.”

VIRGINIUS! VIRGINIUS!
The Great Roman Tragedy.

MISS EILEEN LYONS!
MISS EILEEN LYONS!

MATINEE, 2.30! MATINEE 2.30!
Children 3d.
Lyceum Pictures and Singers.

A dense mass of people, extending nearly across the street, expectant groups of family and theatre parties, clusters of children, jostling for tickets, and a continual stream of calls such was the scene outside the School of Arts last night on the occasion of the reappearance of the Lyceum Pictures and Singers. Inside the hall there was a solid wedge of people who, throughout the evening, made the walls of the hall shake with the thunder of their applause. The programme was, as the Townsville Daily asserted, “Nothing short of brilliant.” The audience were, in fact, taken for trips through the lovely valleys of Norway, with its lakes and rushing waterfalls; across the North Sea, where the fishing industry was shown in all its phases; through the streets of Nice (Italy) during carnival time, and through England. They were then transported to the land of the mysterious, Spain, where the scenes of the ghastly Spanish war were shown, and then brought face to face with superb moonlight scenes at sea, panoramas, and in fact, for less than 2/- were taken on a world’s tour; and then was unfolded an astonishing subject called “The Miner’s Daughter,” in which was shown a terrible explosion in a mine, the heroic deeds of the miners, and subsequent dramatic episodes in the life of the dead miner’s only child. It was in connection with “The White-Cloved Man” that emotion ran highest. This is a tragedy in high arts life, and is a worthy play in itself. Then there was a stirring military drama, five other dramas, and 16 comedies of most powerful risible power. Miss Eileen Lyons was greeted with cheer after cheer, and that brilliant young soprano achieved another gratifying success. Her voice draws music lovers like a magnet. The programme will be repeated to-night.

Norfolk Miner (Charters Towers, Qld) 9 Sept. 1909, 1.

To-night sees the first of the Lyceum Picture Company permanently in the School of Arts, for they have come to stay, and will give nightly performances with three changes of programme weekly. This week’s principal attraction is the World’s Champion Skater, which will only be on for two nights. This item should not be missed as it is only by a mere chance that the management are enabled to place this item before the public. Miss Eileen Lyons has only a few more nights to be with us, so we advise all who have not heard her to take the opportunity while it is offered. A change of programme is announced for Wednesday night, and Monday’s programme includes that fine drama, “The Blue Legend.”

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld) 30 Aug. 1909, 2.
EVERY EVENING AT 8 O’CLOCK.
LYCEUM PICTURES AND ORCHESTRA.

Complete Change of Pictures To-night. THE LAND OF GOLDEN MINES, specially imported for Charters Towers. 15 other New Subjects. Remember that the Free Tickets for the NELLIE STEWART SOLID GOLD BANGLE are now being given at every performance during this week. The Winning Number will be announced from the Stage on Saturday Night. The Bangles are on view in the London and American Tailoring Company’s Window. Admission—6d. and 1/.

MATINEE SATURDAY AFTERNOON. Three Prizes will be given, and the first 200 Children will receive a present.

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld) 14 Sept. 1909, 1.

LYCEUM PICTURES.

SCHOOL OF ARTS.
SPECIAL MATINEE,
THURSDAY AFTERNOON, SEPT. 16,
At 3 o’clock.
IN AID OF THE MISS LIZZIE BROWN TUITION FUND.

All Proceeds to go to the Fund. The First 100 Children will receive a Numbered Prize Packet, and the holder of the Winning Number will receive a 10/- Cash Prize.

Admission—Adults 6d., Children 3d. to all parts of the Hall.
Doors open at 2, Pictures at 3.

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld) 16 Sept. 1909, 4.

The repetition of the previous night’s programme at the School of Arts by the Lyceum Picture Company was highly successful, and every picture was seen at its best. One of the funniest films is the “Record trip through Europe.” By means of some wonderful motive power, hundreds of tourists visit all the chief centres of the Continent in the brief space of a few moments, and the audience are kept in roars of laughter during the highly amusing, though imaginary trip. The mining picture came in for a big share of popularity, and the beautifully colored picture of the pantomime, “The Clever Princess,” was thoroughly enjoyed. The songs of Mr. Godfrey Wallace were much appreciated, and as to-night is the last time this programme will be shown, no doubt the house will be equally well patronised. Saturday, the new programme will be put on at both performances.

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld) 15 Oct. 1909, 4.
Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld) 16 Oct. 1909, 1.

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld) 18 Oct. 1909, 4.

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld) 8 Nov. 1909, 1.

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld) 9 Nov. 1909, 1.
LYCEUM PICTURES.

ENORMOUS POPULARITY OF PRESENT PROGRAMME.

——

FOILED BY FIDO,
CAUSING ROUNDS OF CHEERING NIGHTLY.

——

VOCAL ITEMS BY MR. W. BELFORD.

——

Box Plan, where seats may be reserved without extra fee, and day sales, at McCullagh’s.

——

Prices, 6d and 1/ to front and gallery chairs.

——

A. C. WHITE, Manager.

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld) 16 Nov. 1909, 1.

The repeated innovations by the Lyceum Pictures at the School of Arts have gained a big hold on the confidence of the public. Last night the change of programme and the splendid selections on the xylophone were very much enjoyed. The first song was “Won't you dance the Merry Widow Waltz with me,” and the synchronism was perfect, as to the item “Mona,” the same good results were obtained, and the staging and scenery of the song was excellent. A very fine picture shown was “Where is my Wandering Boy To-night,” in the midst of which the hymn of the same title was sung behind the sheet, and gave a very realistic effect to the pathetic subject. The “Tyrolean Alps” was a splendid series, showing the grandeur of the scenery. The second series of “Sherlock Holmes” was also a great favourite. The same programme including “The Melbourne Cup,” will be repeated to-night.

A. C. WHITE, Manager.

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld) 17 Nov. 1909, 4.
TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!

LYCEUM PICTURES.

8 P.M., SCHOOL OF ARTS.

A Programme unsurpassed for beauty, interest and comedy.

Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves, a Beautiful Colored Pantomime.

A Son's Atavism — a splendid drama.

Archie Goes Shopping with the Girls—a real sidesplitter.

Over 8000 Feet of Pictures in all.

Miss May Couch will sing “Boomerang.”

Special engagement of the full strength of the Kate Howard Dramatic Company for a short season, commencing Monday next, the 29th instant, when we will give you a Grand Double Programme of Pictures and variety, at prices to suit the times.

Change of Programme every evening.

Our Own Prices — 6d. and 1/- to Front and Gallery Chairs. Day Seats and Box Plain at McCullagh's; no extra charge for booking.

A. C. WHITE, Manager.

N.B.—There will be Matinee Tomorrow (Tuesday). Half Profits for the Milchester State School Prize Fund. Admission, 3d.

The Lyceum Pictures opened to a bumper house last night. The first half was devoted entirely to the pictures, which were of the high standard usual to this company. After the intermission the Kate Howard Company made their appearance and were very welcome. Miss Howard herself scored in the numbers. Mr Elton Black successfully gave Scotch numbers after the manner of the only Lauder, and also appeared in dialogues with Miss Howard, the items being very popular, while the American success “Smile on Me,” pleased all. Mr Walter Wallingford was at his best in the descriptive song “Mighty London,” and in the farces and sketches, while Miss Lesly Adrienne rendered efficient assistance. The programme will be repeated to-night.

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld) 29 Nov. 1909, 1.
Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld)  

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld)  
18 Dec. 1909, 1.

Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld)  
30 Dec. 1909, 1.
**LYCEUM PICTURES.**

The Lyceum Coupon is now obtainable from all bus drivers. This is the only one of its kind in the Commonwealth, entitling you to a free bus drive, and a Front Seat Ticket, all for One Shilling.

The Lyceum is open every night of the week, and there is always something new and novel and interesting. Tickets are on sale at the Lyceum, or at all bus stations. Children's seats are kept for the little ones. Special Matinee for the little ones, prices 6d. and 1d. Reserves seats 1/4. Booking at McCullagh's.

**TO-NIGHT **

**LYCEUM PICTURES.**

Complete Change of Pictures To-night. Absolutely the Best Programme for the Season.

In combination with our Pictures, we give you a splendid One Act Comedy, staged by Miss Howard and Mr. R. Finlay, entitled "An Act of Piracy."

Watch for our next advertisement, when we have something new.

Don't forget to ask your "busman" for our New Coupon Tickets, which entitles you to a Front Seat and Free "Bus Ride for 1/1."

**TO-NIGHT **

A. C. WHITE, Manager.

**LYCEUM PICTURES.**

Our Third Grand Art Programme of all Star Pathé Frères' Pictures, in conjunction with Harry J. Lawton, America's Human Machine.

The American Fancy Club Swinging Champion will give an exhibition of Fancy Swinging below, and Battle Axes. He will be assisted by W. Glover, Champion of Charter Towers. Glover Bros., Club Swinging Extraordinary.

Also, Local Bar Performers headed by C. Vassell, the Fearless Triple Bar Performers.

**TO-NIGHT **

A. C. WHITE, Manager.

**LYCEUM PICTURES LIMITED.**

Our Special Matinee for children THIS AFTERNOON.

**TO-NIGHT **

Other of our Art Programmes.

A. C. WHITE, Manager.

**LYCEUM PICTURES.**

Complete Change of Programme.

**TO-NIGHT **

Our Special Matinee for children in the First Half of the Entertainment.
LYCEUM PICTURES.
SCHOOL OF ARTS, 8 P.M.
TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!
TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!
LAST NIGHT! LAST NIGHT!
LAST NIGHT! LAST NIGHT!
of the
LYCEUM PICTURES, LIMITED!
LYCEUM PICTURES, LIMITED!

ENTIRE CHANGE OF PICTURES.
OUR ALL PATHE PROGRAMME!
OUR ALL PATHE PROGRAMME!
Of Recherche Dramatic, Scenic, Mystic, Instructional and Comic Pictures
specially selected by the highest Professional Artists.

CORSICAN REVENGE!
CORSICAN REVENGE!
CORSICAN REVENGE!
A thrilling drama, exemplifying the
bitterness of hatred and revenge in the
birthplace and home of the Vendetta.

LAST APPEARANCE OF!
LAST APPEARANCE OF!
HUGO AND OLGA!
HUGO AND OLGA!
HUGO AND OLGA!
HUGO AND OLGA!
In their Bright Songs and Clever
Juggling.

Our Prices—6d. and 1/-. Day Sales
and Box Plan at McCullagh's.
A. C. WHITE,
Manager.

The benefit tendered by the Lyceum
Picture Ltd. to the Technical College
was the occasion of a large and
sympathetic audience assembling at the
School of Arts last night, when a
bright and varied programme was
submitted. The pictures were all good
and were well received. Hugo and
Olga were again the recipients of well
deserved applause. The ladies and
gentlemen who kindly volunteered
their services were deservedly applaud
ed. Miss Millie Keeling sang Tosti's
"Good-bye" with great expression and
feeling. Miss Rose Johnson's voice
was heard to great advantage in "A
Summer Night." Mrs. Edwards' juve
nile combination sustained their reputa
tion as singers and dancers, and
Martin Smith was happy in the selec
tion of his song, "The Deathless
Army," a song that suits his fine bar
itone voice. To-night will be the last
night of the company's occupancy of the
School of Arts, they having sold to the
Olympia Proprietary, and there
should be a bumper house to say fare
well to the Lyceum Co.

LYCEUM PICTURES, LIMITED.
AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL
MEETING of Shareholders will be
held at the Registered Office, Mosman
street, Charters Towers, on THURS
DAY, 21st April, 1910, at 10.30 a.m.
BUSINESS:
To consider, and, if thought advis
able, pass a resolution to Wind the
Company up voluntarily, and ap
point a Liquidator. Should the
said resolution be passed by the
requisite majority it will be sub
mitted for confirmation to a Sec
ond General Meeting, which will
be subsequently convened.
Dated 12th April, 1910.
T. NIEL,
Secretary.

LYCEUM PICTURES, LIMITED.
AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL
MEETING of Shareholders will be
held at the Registered Office, Mosman
street, Charters Towers, on FRIDAY,
6th May, 1910, at 10.30 a.m.
BUSINESS:
To confirm the Special Resolution
passed at an Extraordinary Gen
eral Meeting, held on 21st April,
1910, at 10.30 a.m.
RESOLUTION:
"That the Company be wound-up
voluntarily under the Companies
Acts 1863 to 1896, and that Geo.
J. Niel, of Charters Towers,
"Mining Agent, be, and he is
"hereby appointed Liquidator for
"the purpose of such winding-
"up."
GEO. J. NIEL,
Secretary.
Dated 21st April, 1910.
MISC

Lew Phillips Lyceum Pictures Co

"Shipping Arrivals"  
Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld) 16 May 1910, 2.

"Cloncurry Notes"  


Australian Variety Theatre Archive: Research Notes

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