

THE RACOONS

AUSTRALIAN VARIETY THEATRE ARCHIVE: RESEARCH NOTES
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aka **The Raccoon Bros / The 3 Racoons / The 4 Racoons / The Great Racoons**

(1908-ca.1913) Gymnasts, acrobats, child and dog act.

The Raccoon Brothers (Paddy and Michael) and their dog staged their popular comedy acrobatic act as a trio before expanding it (ca. 1910) to include a young boy. According to reviews the performances included forward, backward and flying somersaults, pyramid work, tumbling, and rolling, with their dog creating much merriment in response to its enthusiastic participation. Among the firms known to have engaged the acts were [Harry Clay](#), [James Brennan](#), [Harry Rickards](#) (Tivoli circuit), [Birch and Carroll](#) (Queensland), [Dix-Baker](#) (Newcastle/Hunter Valley, NSW), [Davis' Vaudeville Co](#) (Hunter Valley, NSW), [Tom Brennan](#) (Newcastle, NSW), the [Puglieses](#) (Alhambra Theatre, Sydney), [Ted Holland](#) (Brisbane), [West's Pictures](#), [A. R. Shepard](#) (Adelaide), and [Sayers and Lennon](#) (South Australia/Broken Hill, NSW) among others.

- The identity of the dog (or dogs) is unclear. Several names have been recorded in various newspapers over the period the act was active. These include: "Um" (1908), "Paddy" (1910), and "Tony" (1911). If not several dogs the one animal may have had its name changed several times. Alternatively some of the journalists reporting on the act may have simply got the name wrong.

1908

Davis' Vaudeville Company.

The Town Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity last evening, when Davis' Vaudeville Company gave their usual Monday night entertainment. An interesting and attractive programme was presented, and the various artists were well received, encores being frequent during the evening. The programme opened with the myorama, a number of most amusing moving pictures being shown, among the best of which were an artist's lightning sketches, which were highly relished. Songs and dances were contributed by Phyllis Faye, Lulu Eugene, and Joe Charles, who were each encored several times. Mr. Fred. Norris, the champion skater, entertained the audience with his amusing song and patter, "Olympia," and gave a clever exhibition of fancy skating. Will Tyler's juggling and balancing display with his feet called forth the most enthusiastic applause, and Mr. Arthur Valli did some excellent lightning sketch work in caricature and black and white landscape. The star turn of the evening, however, was the marvellous acrobatic performances of the Raccoon Brothers (Paddy and Michael) with their dog "Um," the three appearing in a novel and amusing jumping act which elicited loud applause. The entertainment con-

cont...

Maitland Daily Mercury (NSW) 3 Mar. 1908, 4.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/12634339>

NATIONAL AMPHITHEATRE

Sole Proprietor, **MR. JAMES BRENNAN.**

EVERY EVENING AT 7.45.

Matinees Every Saturday and Wednesday.
An Established Popularity. The National
Vaudeville Entertainers. Advance
Australia. Advance Vaudeville. The
Applause of Sydney. Loud and Long.
Overwhelming and Irresistible Suc-
cess. An Emphatic Winner.

READ WHAT YOU ARE GETTING FOR
THE MONEY TO-NIGHT.

VIVIE KEELING (The Vaudeville
Melba), DAWSON AND RHODESBUTRY
(Patter Comedians and Dancers), MAX-
WELL AND ROBERTS (Lady Duettists
and Dancers), MILLIE BERTOLO (Des-
criptive Vocalist), THREE RACOONS
(Comedy Acrobats, Two Men and a Dog),
CLARA KEATING (The Surprise Pac-
ket), ROSE BERTOLO (Juvenile Comedi-
enne), Beattie McDonald (Serio), Slade
Murray, Maud Fanning, Amy Blackie,
Violet Elliott, Arthur Elliott, Lucy La-
vina, The Minton, Frank Yorke, The
Swifts, Charles Pope, Dick Stead, Eileen
Capel, Ivy Nicholls, the GREAT MIOR-
ANA.

Prices: 1s 6d, 1s, and 6d.

J. C. BAIN, General Manager.

BYD. BRENNAN, Treasurer.

Sydney Sportsman 18 Mar. 1908, 2.

TIVOLI THEATRE

Sole Lessee Mr. Harry Richards. Sub-Lessee Mr. A. Brandon-Cramer.

TO-NIGHT.—NEW ARTISTS.—NEW PROGRAMME.—TO-NIGHT.

THREE RACOONS.

Two Men and a Dog.

GOLDIE COLLINS.

Magnetic Serio.

DAISIE COPPIN.

Danceuse.

IRVING SAYLES.

Ethiopian Comedian.

WALLER and WHEELER.

Patter Comedians and Dancers.

GRACE ELTON.

Musical Marvel.

ARTHUR MORLEY.

Descriptive Vocalist.

PHILLIPS and HINCHEY.

Harmonious Duettists.

JIM MARION.

A Comedian.

**TOM SINCLAIR, IVY LESLIE, GEORGE JONES, ETTIE WILLIAMS, FRANK CURTIS, W.
HAIRE, AND THE PANTOSCOPE.**

Prices—2s, 1s, and 6d. Early Doors, 6d. extra. Box-plan at Durst & Biven's only.

SUNDAY EVENING, NATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT, AT 8.30 P.M.

ENTERTAINMENTS

THE INITIAL "ALADDIN" MATINEE
TAKES PLACE ON
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON NEXT, AT 1.50 P.M.
CHILDREN HALF PRICE TO ALL PARTS.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.
Lessee: **HAROLD ASHTON.** Direction of **J. C. WILLIAMSON.**
Business Manager: **J. W. Haslitt.**

TO-NIGHT, MONDAY, TO-NIGHT,
AT 7.50.
J. C. WILLIAMSON

Has pleasure in presenting for the first time to Brisbane playgoers J. Hickory Wood's extremely funny and greatest of all spectacular pantomimes,

ALADDIN,

Interpreted by the following brilliant company, confidently put forward as an association of comedians, singers, dancers, and pantomimists absolutely unparalleled in the history of the Australian stage.

Aladdin (His Mother's Only Joy)	Miss MARIE EATON
Pekoe (The Prime Minister's Son).....	Miss STELLA SELBOURNE
Niece (The Widow's Lady Help)	Miss NANCE MAHER
The Slave of the Lamp	Miss LENA ERICSON
Genii of the Ring	Miss WINNIE HARBOR
The Bottle O' Boy	Master ROY MURPHY
Princess Badroulbador (The Emperor's Only Child)	Miss OLARA BECK
(Her First Appearance in Brisbane.)	
Mrs. Twankay (A Hopeful Widow)	Mr. HARRY PHYDORA
(His Reappearance in Brisbane.)	
Alanzar (A Magician)	Mr. RUPERT DARRELL
Ting Ting (The Emperor's Prime Minister)	Mr. VICTOR LOYDALL
Chow (His Bodyguard)	Mr. "BOBBY" WATSON
Chop (His Bodyguard)	Mr. CLYDE COOK
Amenophus (Chief of Magicians)	Mr. EDWARD SUTTON
The Emperor of Japan	Mr. J. M. CAMPBELL

PRICE AND REVUE. The Excruciatingly Funny and Sensational Acrobats, **WILLIAM HASSAN**, Best of all Donkeymen.

THE RACCOON BROTHERS, Marvelous Gymnasts, Egyptians, Magicians, Japanese, Nobles, Gaiety, Syrians, Populace, Guardians of the Jewels, Australian Scouts, Shop Assistants, Fire Maidens, Cannibal Islanders, Billikens, Courtiers, and &c.

Grand Ballet of 100 Dancers. Soloist: Miss Sutherland.

The whole production staged under the direction of Mr. Gerald Coventry.
Stage Manager: J. C. Whitfield. Musical Director: Fred. Quintrell.

Plans at Paling's. Day Sales at the Marble Bar.
PRICES: Dress Circle and Reserved Stalls, 5/-; Stalls, 3/-; Gallery, 1/-. Early Door Gallery, 1/- extra.

Touting Manager: J. Farrell.

MR. HARRY CLAY'S COMPANY.

At the Standard Theatre tonight Mr. Harry Clay's Vaudeville Company will give their usual entertainment, when new-comers will be the Raccoons and their Dog Paddy, the Silvia Sisters, and Miss Kitty Bar. New illustrated songs will be sung, and new moving pictures will be shown. The company will play at Parramatta on Monday, Leichhardt on Tuesday, and New Town on Wednesday.

BRENNAN'S NATIONAL AIRDOME.

LOCATION OPPOSITE VICTORIA THEATRE.

TO-NIGHT.

TO-NIGHT.

OPEN-AIR ENTERTAINMENT,

THE WORLD'S MOVING PICTURES, AND

BRENNAN'S NATIONAL VAUDEVILLE ENTERTAINERS.

DENIS CARNEY.

3 RACOONS.

POPULAR COMEDIAN.

COMEDY ACROBATS & CLEVER DOG.

CHANGE OF PROGRAMME BY OUR MAMMOTH COMPANY

OF

16 STAR ARTISTS. 16

THE LATEST MOVING PICTURES OF THE HOUR.

NOTHING BETTER IN THE WORLD FOR THE MONEY.

ADMISSION 1s (Centre Seats), and 6d (Side Seats). Children Half-price, except Saturdays.

2034

TOM BRENNAN, Business Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL.

Lessee: Mr. Percy St. John.

Sub-Lessee: Mr. Ted. Holland.

BRISBANE'S OWN SHOW.

TO-NIGHT,

TO-NIGHT,

TED HOLLAND'S NEW VAUDEVILLE ENTERTAINERS

AND EDISON'S VERY LATEST MOVING PICTURES.

LAST NIGHT.

OF THE

LAST NIGHT.

DO-RE-MI TRIO. DO-RE-MI TRIO,

The Celebrated Eccentric Comedians, in their

World-famed Act—

"THE TOREADORS"

The Talk of the Town, in Train, Tram, and Taxi.

TO-MORROW (SATURDAY).

First Appearance of

MARCELLA GRAY,
Dainty Serio and Dancer.
BERT DESMOND,
Endman and Comedian.

SAM. LE. MERT,
Whistling Comedian.
GRACE ALBANESE,
Juvenile Serio.

THE RACOONS,

Reappearance of

THE RACOONS,

Comedy Acrobats.

POPULAR PRICES : 2/, 1/, and 6d.

Reserved Seats, 2/6. Box Plan at Paling's. Telephone 2115.

Ipswich (Qld)

WEST'S PICTURES.

Owing to the showery weather which prevailed on Saturday evening, the display of West's Pictures, which were to have been shown on Martoo's Ground, Limestone-street, was abandoned. The liberal programme which had been arranged for Saturday evening will be submitted this evening in addition to which, "the Racoons" (three men and a dog), who are said to be the greatest comedy acrobatic performers in Australia, will appear for the first time before an Ipswich audience. The other artists, who will cater for the evening's enjoyment, include Miss Eileen Phillips, a charming serio and dancer, Mr. Frank Herbert, an illustrated ballad-singer, and Messrs. Martin Dennis and Fred Champion, comedians. A farcical sketch entitled "Jones, the Waiter" will be staged by Andrew Kirk and Co., and, no doubt, will prove to be enjoyable. The usual collection of pictures will be submitted, amongst them being one illustrating the recent battle with Anarchists in London.

Queensland Times (Ipswich) 13 Feb. 1911, 4.
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/9748038>

Newcastle (NSW)

DIX AND BAKER'S ENTERTAINERS.

At the King's Hall this afternoon and to-night Messrs. Dix and Baker will introduce the Two Racoons, comedy acrobats, who, assisted by their clever dog Tony, present a novel acrobatic comedy turn, full of "go." There will be an entire change of programme by the juggler Victor Martyu and Captain Winter's dogs. Fresh items will be submitted by the National Duo, the juvenile performers, Ernest Pitcher, Roy Rene, Alf. Edwards, Ida Jarvis, Rowell Girls, Lyall Sisters, Thelma Wood, Doris Ryott, Frank Herbert, and Will Walker. A new comedietta by Mr. Ernest Pitcher and full company, entitled "A Back-blocks Academy," will be staged.

Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate (NSW) 1 July 1911, 6.

Hobart

The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954) [about](#) Monday 24 July 1911 Page 6 Go of 8

H I S M A J E S T Y S T H E A T R E
 Brennan's Amphitheatres Ltd. Lessee.
 Mr. James Brennan Governing Director.

TO-NIGHT. **TO-NIGHT.**
NEW ARTISTS. **NEW ACTS.** **NEW PROGRAMME.**

BRENNAN'S VAUDEVILLE ENTERTAINERS
TERRIFIC RECEPTION OF THE WONDERFUL COMEDY ACOBATS.
4 THE RACOONS 4
 CHARLES POPE, ALICE FANE,
 Ethiopian Comedian. Toe Dancer.

And the Novelty Balladists,
 EDMUNDS AND KIBBY.
 WILL SULLIVAN. HUGHES AND PRIOR.
 LESLIE SHIPP. SMITH SISTERS.

Johnny Gilmore — Kittie Raynor — Winnie Rhodes — Charles Howard — Joe
 Gilbert — The Great Miorama.

PRICES: 2/, 1/6, 1/, and 6d. Plans at Findlay's. Booking Fee, 6d. Phone, 713.

Adelaide

KING'S THEATRE

Sub-Lessee A. R. Shepard,
Representative (for A. R. Shepard) Max Montemole

STARS OF THE GREATEST MAGNITUDE.

HARCOURT BEATTY

AND

DOROTHY GRIMSTON.

IT MARKS AN EPOCH

IN THE ANNALS OF

VAUDEVILLE HISTORY.

Also,

The Most Popular Comedian who has ever Ap-
peared in Adelaide.

ARCHIE GLEN,

THE TYRELLS, HARVEY and MORRIS.

Direct from New York. Firm Favorites.

KDMUNDS and KIBBY,

The Singers who have Charmed all,

AND LOOK AT THESE STARS

FOR

TO-NIGHT. TO-NIGHT.

FIRST APPEARANCE AT THE KING'S
OF

HASSAN AND COMPANY,

THE WORLD-FAMOUS INDIAN MAGICIAN.

THE GREAT WHISTLER.

BOY JEACLE.

THE RACOONS,

Two Men and a Dog.

The Inimitable American Acrobats.

And

THE WANDERERS,

George Stephenson's Musical Comedy Costume
Party.

Brilliant Society Entertainers.

Prices—2s, 1s, and 6d. Saturdays and Holi-
days, 2/6, 1/6, and 1s. Booking 6d. extra.
Plan at Allan's and Doherty's.

Advertiser (Adelaide) 7 Oct. 1911, 2.

Broken Hill (NSW)

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill, NSW : 1888 - 1954) (about) Friday 8 March 1912 Page 3

AMUSEMENTS.

CRYSTAL THEATRE.
Direction Sayers and Lennon Ltd.
LAST NIGHT BUT ONE OF THE

SENSATIONAL ALL STARS.

Great Success of Michal Braham's and Little Miss Bright Eyes' Comedy Sketch—
"HE," "SHE," and "IT."

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, at the Popular Prices, to secure more Versatile Artists—THEY ARE THE WORLD'S BEST—than

MISS EVA MUDGE.	THE NATIONAL DUO
THE BRAHAMS.	THE RACOONS, and
LES PETIT TOTOS.	THE BIG PICTURES.

PRICES: 2/, 1/6, and 1/. Plan at Vivian's.

Bathurst (NSW)

**The Jubilee Minstrel
COMPANY.**

**HAYMARKET PARK.
WILLIAM-STREET.**

TO-NIGHT
GRAND DOUBLE BILL.

THE GREAT RACOONS
In their Marvellous Acrobatic Feats.
Will introduce to-night the wonderful leap for life. A lad of 8 years will throw a double somersault through the air from one man's shoulder to the other's, a distance of 27 feet.

See THE DEBROYS
IN THEIR REFINED JUGGLING ACTS.

MISS JOSEPHINE JOHNSON
(Serio and Dancer.)
FREDA NEWMAN LILY ECKMAN
(Serio) (Ballad)
BERESFORD & ROBERTS
(Patter Duo)
THEODORE
(Comedy Juggler)
MISS ROSIE COLEMAN
(Song and Dance)
MISS LENA LUCAS
(Serio and Dancer)
Will sing "Little Man," by Special Request.
SAM JENNINGS
Will Sing "Gold in the Mountains."

4 ENDMEN 4

See the Funniest of Farces.
"THE HAUNTED SAWNSHOP."

POPULAR PRICES.

National Advocate (Bathurst) 18 Apr. 1912, 2.

Sydney

The patrons of the Alhambra Theatre, Haymarket, cannot complain on the score that they do not get enough for their money. This week there are 21 items on a fine vaudeville programme, the principal turns being supplied by Hugo and Olga, who are clever jugglers; the Three Acrobatic Racoons; and Jules and Lillian, "athletic pot pourri artists." The star artists who will appear next week include King and Millard, comedy and dramatic artists who will appear in a sketch, "The Waif;" Zif, the cartoonist and lightning sketch artist; and Queenie Paul.

Catholic Press (Sydney) 29 May 1913, 13.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/11727596>

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