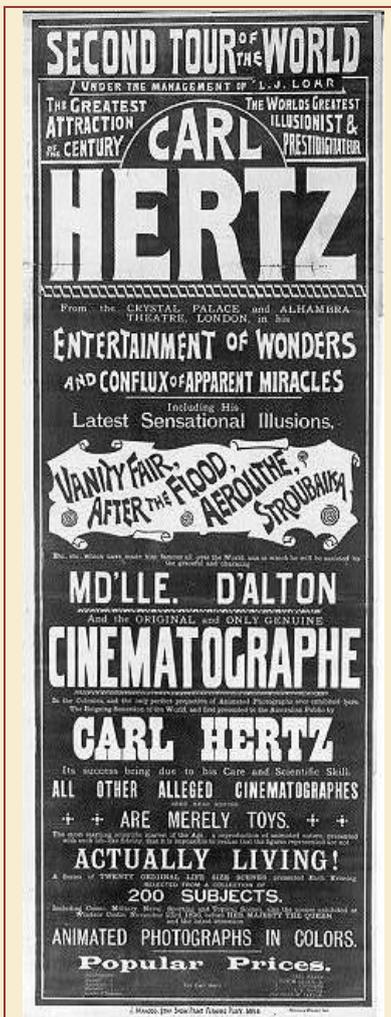


INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS: H

CARL HERTZ:

(1859-1924) American magician, card manipulator, raconteur, film exhibitor, writer [Born: Louis (or Leib) Morgenstein]

[1892, 1896-97] Carl Hertz was fascinated by conjuring from a young age and developed his skills as a magician in his home town of San Francisco. He later joined a number of touring companies, playing cities as diverse as Kansas, Philadelphia and Nashville before progressing to headline status as a vaudeville act and going on to tour the world, including Europe, Great Britain, South Africa, The Far East, and Australasia. In the late 1880s he was the first magician to introduce the "Vanishing Lady" trick. He was also known for his "Aerolithe" illusion, which involved a girl dancing on air (a court case was brought that accused him of stealing it from a German magician), the "Phoenix" illusion (in which his wife entered a furnace and emerged unscathed), the "Vanishing Bird," and for his card tricks.

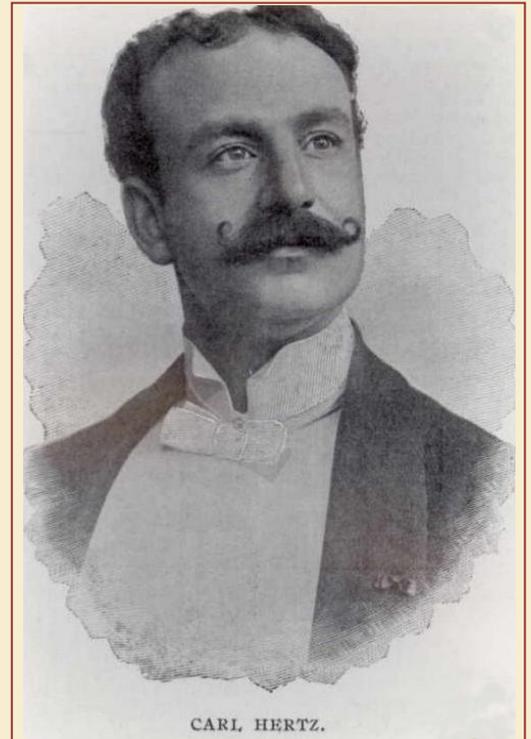


Hertz first toured the Australasian region in 1892 for [George Musgrove](#), arriving in Australia in early February. He was accompanied by Mademoiselle D'Alton. The pair remained until early August, playing Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide along with major regional towns like Bendigo, Broken Hill and Newcastle. The Australian tour was also broken by a short (6 weeks) visit to New Zealand beginning early May.

Hertz returned to the region in 1896 under contract to [Harry Rickards](#). "Like David Devant, the popular conjuror of the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly," writes John Barnes, "Hertz acquired one of the first Theatrograph projectors made by Robert Paul, and took it with him on his tour South Africa and the Antipodes" (n. pag.). He opened in Australia at the Melbourne Opera House on 15 August, but it was the second week of his season that became historically important, being the first the time that moving pictures were shown to the Australian public.¹ Indeed the 22 August event caused such interest that people forced their way in to the theatre, causing enormous over-crowding and creating a situation where Harry Rickards was later given three fines for failing to keep the theatre to its capacity.

Source: www.pinterest.com

Hertz played Rickards' Tivoli circuit until 13 February, finishing up at the Palace Theatre, Sydney before heading to New Zealand where he opened in Auckland the following week. His New Zealand tour also resulted in several instances of over-crowding, with the Wellington season seeing his manager/promoter, Edwin Geach, given a summons and fined for failing to abide by the



CARL HERTZ.

Source: *Beside the Yarra... Stories from Melbourne's History*

OPERA HOUSE.
Sole Lessee and Director .. Mr. Harry Rickards
Acting Manager .. Mr. Fred. Aydon
A veritable triumph achieved by
Mr. HARRY RICKARDS'S
New Tivoli Minstrels and Specialty Company.

TO-NIGHT (SATURDAY) TO-NIGHT.
For the First Time in
THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE,
The Greatest Wonder of the
NINETEENTH CENTURY.
The
RAGE OF LONDON.
The Photo. Electric Sensation of the Day.
FIRST PRODUCTION
Of the
GREAT LONDON SENSATION,
The
CINEMATOGAPHE, The
Photo. Electric Sensation of the Day, Every Scene in Motion. **Most Startling Scientific Marvel Of the Age, The World's Greatest Wonder.**

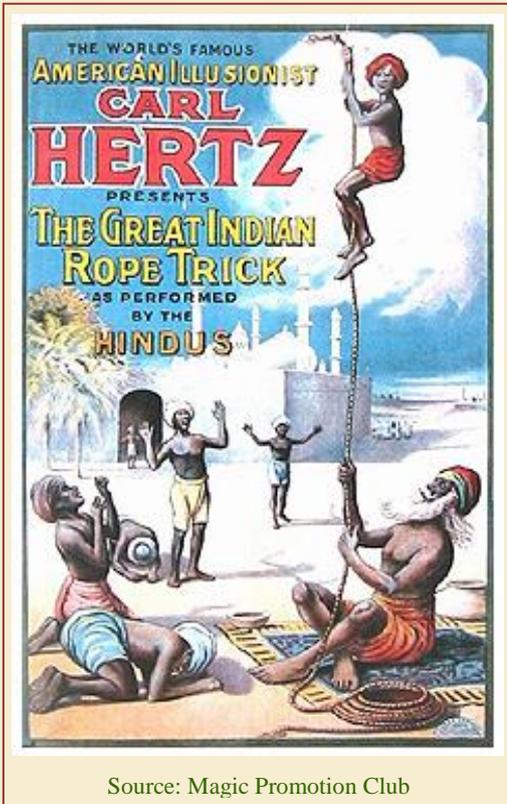
A Marvellous Reproduction of
ANIMATED NATURE.
Impossible to realise that the figures are not
ACTUALLY LIVING.
First Production in Australia,
TO-NIGHT (SATURDAY) TO-NIGHT
Introduced by
CARL HERTZ The Premier Prestidigitateur
CARL HERTZ And Illusionist of the World,
CARL HERTZ In His Conflux of
CARL HERTZ Apparent Miracles,
CARL HERTZ Including the Most
CARL HERTZ Marvellous Illusion.

Argus (Melbourne) 22 Aug. 1896, 12.

¹ Hertz showed his Theatrograph to an invited audience at the Melbourne Opera House on 17 August 1896, but the first public performance was on the 22nd. It can be argued that the first moving pictures shown in Australia, however, were those exhibited in the Edison peepshow Kinetoscope.

council's theatre regulations. The tour, which ran until late June, included the other major cities - Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin - along with smaller centres such as Invercargill, Ashburton and Timaru. He and his company then returned to Australia under Geach's management, opening in Melbourne on 19 July at the Atheneum.

The extensive return tour of Australia involved two visits to Tasmania (including Hobart, Launceston and Zeehan), Victoria (including a return Melbourne season and Bendigo), South Australia (including Adelaide and Port Adelaide), Western Australia (including Perth, Kalgoorlie, Fremantle and Albany), and Broken Hill (NSW). Hertz remained in Australia until 10 December, at which time he sailed for Bombay (India) with Edwin Geach on the first leg of an extensive and exceedingly prosperous world tour.



Although he never returned to the Australasian region, Hertz remained a popular subject of reportage in Australian newspapers up until his actual death in 1924.²

Further Reference:

Alexander, Angela. *Carl Hertz: A Modern Mystery Merchant*. [sighted 23/02/2014]
Barnes, John. "Carl Hertz (Louis Morgenstein)." *Who's Who of Victorian Cinema*. [sighted 24/02/2014]
"Carl Hertz: The American Illusionist." *Advertiser (Adelaide)* 10 Feb. 1892, 6.
"Great Illusionist and Conjurer." *South Australian Register (Adelaide)* 10 Feb. 1892, 6.
Hertz, Carl. *A Modern Mystery Merchant: The Trials, Tricks, and Travels of Carl Hertz* London: Hutchinson Co, 1924.
--- "Playing for a Big Stake: Card Playing in Curious Company. How I Sharped the Sharpers." *Referee (Sydney)* 28 Dec. 1892, 6.
"Magician of 40 Years: Death of Carl Hertz." *Horsham Times (Vic)* 3 June 1924, 5.
Martin-Jones, Tony. "Carl Hertz in Australia." *Film History Notes* [sighted 18/03/2015]

000

HOGAN'S GENUINE NEGRO Co

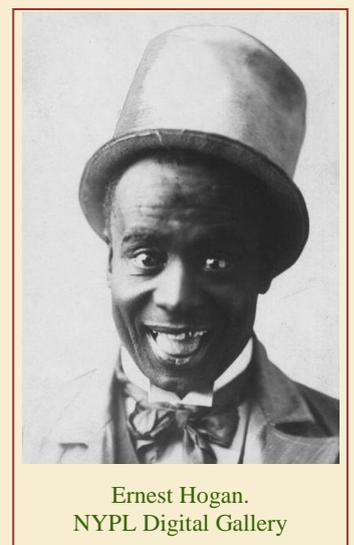
akas incl. **Ernest Hogan's Genuine Georgia's and Alabama Cake Walkers / Curtis's Afro-American Minstrel Co**

[1899-1900] Although ragtime and African-American Broadway pioneer, Ernest Hogan (1865-1909) only spent eight months in the Australasian region, it was nevertheless a significant event. He arrived in Australia in late June 1899 as headline act with M.B. Curtis. After a fall out with Curtis in New Zealand in late September Hogan took control of the troupe, which also featured Billy McClain, Tom and Robert Logan and Madah A. Hyer. The company's Australia engagements comprised Sydney and Brisbane (twice each) and a number of regional centres in Queensland and New South Wales. A proposed return tour (ca. 1901-02) never eventuated.

See also: [Billie C. Brown](#).

Further Reference:

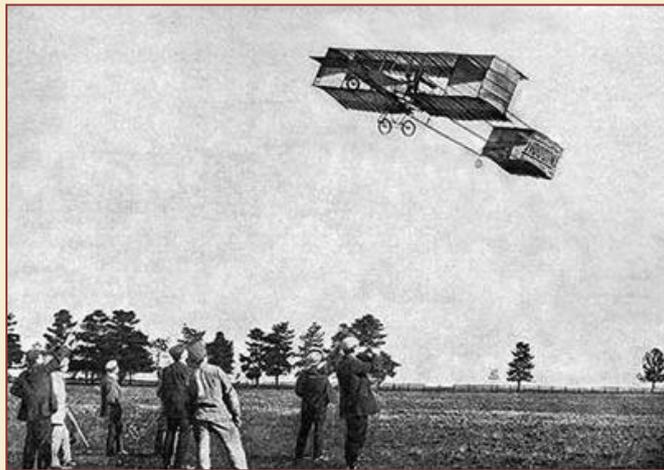
Abbott, Lynn, and Doug Seroff. *Out of Sight: The Rise of African American Popular Music, 1889-1895*. Oxford, Miss: UP of Mississippi, 2002.
"Afro-American Minstrels, The." *Ashburton Guardian (NZ)* 30 Sept. 1899, 2.
"Stageland." *Evening News (Sydney)* 1 July 1899, 12.
Wepman, Dennis. "**Ernest Hogan**." *American National Biography Online* (2010).



000

² Hertz's death had been incorrectly announced around Australia ca. August/September 1903.

18, 1910, he succeeded in making three flights. The last of these flights was the longest and involved him covering a distance of two miles and achieving a height of 100 feet in 3 ½ minutes. The delays meant, however, that he did not become the first official Australian aviator (being beaten by two days). But this didn't stop him from using the power of publicity to instil the idea that he had become the first.

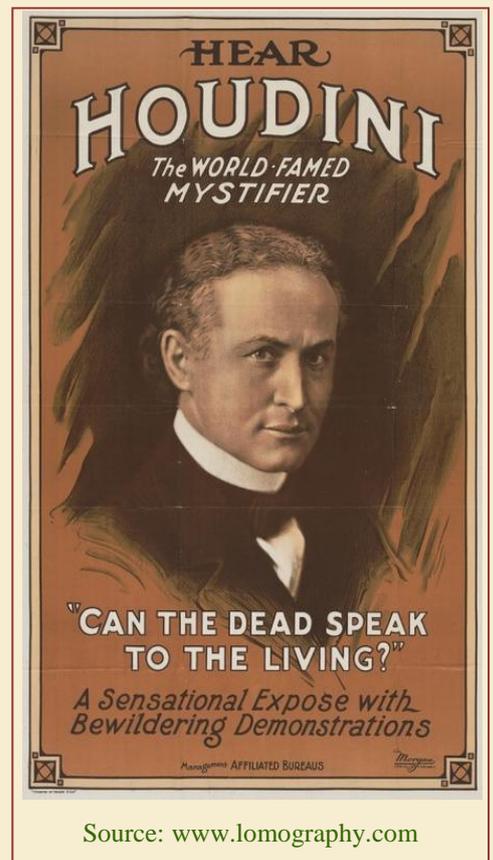


Houdini's Victorian flight, 18 March 1910

Houdini's Sydney season had begun on 28 March and continued up until 30 April, with both his *Tivoli* season and extra-curricular activities playing out like his Melbourne. For his public escape site he chose the Domain municipal baths rather than risk the possibility of a shark attack in the harbour. And unlike the free Yarra dive, Rickards charged a one shilling entry fee - no doubt because the baths could be controlled whereas the Melbourne site was freely accessible. The much publicised event, which took place on 14 April, saw Houdini handcuffed behind his back, his elbows secured to his sides with heavy leg irons with the chain also wrapped around his neck.

Houdini's aviation feats in Sydney were similarly well-attended, and indeed the level of public interest was such that Harry Rickards sold one shilling tickets to Houdini's attempt at Rosehill Raceway on 26 April.⁴ He also used the opportunity to further advertise his star attraction, although given the excitement being generated throughout the Sydney community this was possibly unnecessary. Houdini made his last flight in Australia on Sunday 1 May and was suitably mobbed after he landed. He and his entourage left Australia for the United States on 11 May, having travelled by train to Brisbane for their departure aboard the *Manuka*.

NB: Houdini took his stage name from the name of the French magician Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin, but he later wrote *The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin* (1908), a debunking study of Houdini's abilities. Before his death from peritonitis (following an injury to his stomach) Houdini published a number of other books. He also contributed an entry on conjuring to the 13th edition of *Encyclopedia Britannica* and appeared in at least six films.



Source: www.lomography.com

Further Reference:

"Harry Houdini." *Wikipedia*. [sighted 7/06/2014]

Harry Houdini: His Life and Art (2013) [sighted 7/06/2014]

Richards, Leann. *Houdini's Tour of Australia*. Charnwood, A.C.T: Ginninderra Press, 2006.

000

⁴ The Rosehill Raceway exhibition was originally scheduled for the 25th but cancelled due to inclement weather.