

GOLDEN GATE GARDENS (Sydney)

AUSTRALIAN VARIETY THEATRE ARCHIVE: RESEARCH NOTES
See last page for citation, copyright and last updated details.

aka People Popular Concerts

(1904-05) 525 George Street (Brickfield Hill)

Established in December 1904 by emerging entrepreneur George H. Jones, the Golden Gate Gardens operated as a people's popular concerts entertainment in a roofless premises on the former site of the old Golden Gate Athletic Club (a venue well-known for boxing matches). The shows, presented 6 nights a week, comprised blackface minstrelsy, an American Bioscope (also used for illustrated songs), farces and dances. Jones continued operating the concerts through until early May 1905 (after which advertising ceases), likely closing it down as winter approached. By October that year the site had been turned into the Golden Gate Running Grounds, offering registered events for both professional and novice sprinters.

In the middle nineties, the standard of boxing, among the "left-overs" of the White Horse regime, and the new men coming into the game, declined considerably. Our star performers were, with the exception of Mick Dooley (whose best days were far behind him), all overseas, and with Foley busy building up his fortunes in the house-wrecking sphere, a certain slackness of tutorship developed.

The two Charlies—Young and Campbell—Inaugurated the tournament idea at the Golden Gate Athletic Club, in lower George Street.

Note the prevalence of George Street in our pugilistic history. In the very early days, "Gypsy" Cooper and "Black" Perry had established their boxing academies in the ancient thoroughfare. Foley, in the "White Horse," carried on the tradition, and the old "Golden Gate" followed in his wake.

People's Popular Concerts—

George Jones' variety show continues to trawl all the wandering trays and sprats in the vicinity of Brickfield Hill, and the management is beginning to run into diamonds and wine with pretties on the cork. Because why? Because George plays pieces that please the proletariat.

Newsletter (Sydney) 6 May 1905, 7.

From "Rise of the Golden Gate and Gaiety Theatre."
Referee (Sydney) 14 Nov. 1935, 37.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/15583389>



Brickfield Hill. George Street (cnr of Liverpool Street) looking south.

Geoff Barker. Powerhouse Museum.

<http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/imageservices/2012/08/brickfield-hill-george-st-and-liverpool-st/>

The original historical location of Brickfield Hill was the land south of Liverpool Street. As the clay was exhausted the brickfields expanded to the east, south and west. The brickworks closed in 1841 as the city centre expanded but the name Brickfield Hill continued to be used to refer to the area well into the twentieth century.

From to-night and until further notice the Sunday concerts at the Golden Gate Hall, George-street, will be under the sole management of Mr. W. Loughlin, late of the Regina Variety Company. All artists will appear in evening dress. The company to-night will comprise Misses Minnie Shipp, Fanning, Carmichael, and Irene Murray, Master Claude Sullivan, and Messrs. Bob Foster, Charles Kunkler, and the Wallace Bros.

Sunday Times (Sydney) 7 Dec. 1902, 2.
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article126428339>

Mr. Young writes :—"The old Golden Gate, the scene of many an exciting fistic encounter, has been razed to the ground, and your humble servant has had the site of the old boxing pavilion levelled out, decorated neatly, and will inaugurate within a couple of weeks a promenade open-air vaudeville show, to be called the 'Golden Gate Cremorne Gardens,' thereon. This should supply just what people desire during these sweltering Summer months, in order to escape the stifling atmosphere of a closed theatre. Mr. George Jones will conduct the entertainments, and everything promises well."

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/13162396>

OPEN AIR CONCERT.

The first of a series of open-air concerts was given in George-street, Brickfield-hill, on Saturday evening, before a large audience.. The following contributed:—Misses Wilfrid, Everett, Donald, M'Leod, Raymond, and "Spanga," and Messrs. G. H. Jones, J. Cosgrove, R. Davis, G. Clements, F. Garnet, S. Jenyns, C. Sullivan, and "Marmozette," who was described as the "human serpent." A bioscope entertainment was also given.

PEOPLE'S POPULAR CONCERTS,
 525 GEORGE STREET (late Golden Gate).
 Sole Lessee and Manager .. GEORGE H. JONES.
EVERY NIGHT, EVERY NIGHT.
 By our Grand Concert Company.
 20 STAR PERFORMERS 20
 Joe Dunn's latest American Bioscope and
 Illustrated Songs.
 Collection. Collection. Collection.
SILVER COIN.

George H. Jones (erst of Williamson and Musgrove fame), a well-known comedian, is striking oil with his open-air popular concerts in a roofless premises on the former site of the old Golden Gate Plug-mill, 525 George-street. The new manager has a tuneful and clever company surrounding him, and the public turn up as numerous as early door flies on a honey jar. The open-air show is bright and clear, and patrons have the fun without the swelter.

Newsletter (Sydney) 4 Mar. 1905, 6.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/10860475>

The Golden Gate Gardens—

George H. Jones's *al fresco* entertainment is booming on the site of the old Golden Gate stousbery, George-street. Blackfaced turns and barefaced turns please a great multitude beneath the Austral stars, which have the able assistance of the acetylene gas. It is good for the masses to be able to smoke in the presence of the lingerie display which is thrown in with the song and dance; and to puff a cloud in the presence of the nigger conundrum gives a satisfactory sensation of irreverence. George Jones deserves credit for the good conduct of the show, and the patrons. Any wanton disturber is evicted by an attendant in gorgeous uniform, and the small and noisy boy is shoo'd away by the same splendid person. The air is fresh, and most of the gags are ditto. Biographs, farces, dances, and trial scenes wherein people are condemned to Newcastle, are among the frivolities of the evening. Ye good olde argent coin of ye realm is the admittance tax.

Newsletter (Sydney) 11 Mar. (1905), 7.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/10860500>

The Golden Gate Gardens—

At the Golden Gate, the urgent coin takes you right upon the inside where you are outside in the open air, the patron doesn't swelter, and the gag is not too hot. There is not a song or joke above 80 degrees in the shade, and a man might almost cool his throbbing temples against the dialogue. The show is as wholesome as the fresh air, of which it is full. And Geo. H. Jones, a comedian, who made his reputation with Williamson and Musgrove is the boss of it, while the man in gorgeous uniform who hushes the voice of the small boy, and casts forth the disturber, in one of the institutions of Sydney. A great array of talent provide the evening's amusement, in which the black face and the shapely female "dutch-peg" figure prominently.

Newsletter (Sydney) 25 Mar. 1905, 7.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/10860549>

PEOPLE'S POPULAR CONCERTS,
 525 GEORGE STREET (late Golden Gate).
 Sole Lessee and Manager .. GEORGE H. JONES.
EVERY NIGHT. EVERY NIGHT.
 20 STAR PERFORMERS 20.
 Salmon's American Banjo and Musical Kings,
 also H. Skinner, the London comeque, Tom
 Rilson, end man comedian.
 Sacred Concert Every Sunday Night.
SILVER COIN.

Newsletter (Sydney) 6 May 1905, 6.

People's Popular Concerts—

George Jones' variety show continues to trawl all the wandering trays and sprats in the vicinity of Brickfield Hill, and the management is beginning to run into diamonds and wine with pretties on the cork. Because why? Because George plays pieces that please the proletariat.

Newsletter (Sydney) 6 May 1905, 7.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/1086067>

Referee (Sydney, NSW : 1886 - 1939) (about) ◀ Wednesday 11 October 1905 ▶ ◀ Page 4

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Australian Variety Theatre Archive: Research Notes

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