(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.
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, Faning, Carmichael, and Irene Murray, Master Claude Sullivan, and Messrs. Bob Foster, Charles Kunkler, and the Wallace Bros.

Sunday Times (Sydney) 7 Dec. 1902, 2.

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."


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. Congrove, R. Davis, G. Clements, F. Garnet, B. Jenyns, C. Sullivan, and "Marmozette," who was described as the "human serpent." A bioscope entertainment was also given.

The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954) 26 Dec. 1904, Page 7, 4 of 4
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.
SILVER COIN.

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

The Golden Gate Gardens—
George H. Jones’s al fresco entertain-
ment 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 p.e-
sence 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 con-
demned to Newcastle, are among the
frivolities of the evening. Ye good olde
argent coin of ye realm is the admis-
tance tax.

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 swim, 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 bushes 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 even-
ing’s amusement, in which the black face
and the shapely female “dutch-peg”
figure prominently.
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
Ruson, 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 pro-
letariate.

Newsletter (Sydney) 6 May 1905, 7.


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