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The Empire . . .

*the era ends --- but memories
will live on*



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End of an Era?

INVERNESS has long had a theatre tradition. As long ago as 1805, there was a theatre in the town and even a thoroughfare known as Theatre Lane. Theatre Lane was so named, as might be expected, because it was alongside the theatre of those days, and it went by that name until about ninety years ago when it was given the more ordinary and less descriptive title of Hamilton Street. This theatre, at which plays were frequently presented as well as individual "turns", was situated near the junction of Inglis Street and Hamilton Street.

It was in the 1880s that the old Theatre Royal in Bank Street was built, and in April 1887 it was given official permission to style itself "Royal", and until it was destroyed by fire on March 17, 1931, it was always described as "The New Theatre Royal." On its stage many great actors performed, among them the most famous actor whom Inverness has produced, the late Matheson Lang, whose father was minister of the West Parish Church, across the river from the Theatre. It is not generally known that the great Shakespearian actor, Henry Ainley, made his acting debut at the Theatre Royal. One Christmas time when the London theatres went over to pantomime and many "straight" actors were "resting", actors to Inverness to put on a show at the theatre. Ainley was in charge of the props, but was given a small part. Lang was astonished when his sisters, after the performance, asked him who was the young actor with the wonderful stage presence and beautiful speaking voice. They had spotted Ainley's exceptional acting talents when Lang hadn't!

The destruction of the Theatre Royal in 1931 was a tragic experience for the owner, Rose Graham Falcon (Mrs Newton), and the top-of-the-bill performer, Will Fyffe, the great Scottish character comedian. Fyffe lost all his costumes and theatrical effects, gathered during his career, then valued about £400. Two hours after seeing the show and writing the press notice, I was describing the fire, and recording that the blaze was so great that "Across the river on Huntly Street at two in the morning it was possible to read a newspaper."

True to the theatre tradition that "the show must go on", Fyffe travelled south the next day to get new props and costumes, and he and his fellow artistes opened up again the following day in the Central Hall Picture House, the building later to become the Empire Theatre.

The Central Hall for the showing of motion pictures, as films were called in those days, was built in 1912 and the entire proceeds of the first performance on December 20th of that year were given to the Provost's Coal Fund and the Veteran's Fund. The late Provost John Birnie performed the opening ceremony. Prices of admission were :- Balcony seats, reserved and unreserved, 1/6d and 9d; area 6d; standing balcony 6d and area 3d. The films for the opening were "With Captain Scott to the South Pole" and "Queen Bess" with Sarah Bernhardt in the title role. A contemporary account of the shows provided in those days stated :- "A band discourses pleasant music and afternoon patrons are regaled with tea and biscuits free." As if anticipating the arrival of "the talkies" there were some Central Hall Shows which featured a combination of cinematograph and gramophone records.

It was three years after the loss of the Theatre Royal that the Empire Theatre came into being - on September 17, 1934, with Sir Harry Lauder doing the first footing. Since then the Empire has provided a setting for much more than plays, pantomimes, revues, vaudeville, concerts, amateur drama festivals, war-time Service shows, ballet, music and opera. It has housed political meetings - Harold Wilson spoke from its stage shortly before he became Prime Minister for the first time - protest meetings of various kinds, farmers' demonstrations, free style wrestling, amateur boxing, a ceremony for the conferment of the Freedom of the Royal Burgh and even a circus complete with Bengal tigers, polar bears, lions, a kangaroo, horses, ponies and three elephants. The Empire was nothing if not versatile. It gave entertainment and pleasure to thousands of towns-people and visitors from home and overseas during its 36 years of useful existence as a theatre and its earlier 22 years as a cinema. And now it is to go, and with it, for the time being at anyrate, the live theatre in the Highlands.

J. A. M.

ANIST FINISHES 133-HOUR MARATHON ON JELLY LEGS

NO OBJECTIONS RAISED AFTER PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DOWN

NUDE SHOW OPENS

★ Now, it's pop songs in Gaelic— next it may be opera for Gaels

POP songs in Gaelic are probably something new in the world of music but they are being introduced in Inverness this week in the form of a series of night shows. The series is being presented by the Empire Theatre.

HAVE A GO! SAY THE GIRLS HULA HOOP HITS THE HIGHLANDS

THIS hula hoop team has hit Inverness and is going to give the girls a good time. They will be seen at the Empire Theatre on Saturday night.

MIDNIGHT AT THE EMPIRE

The series of matinees

Wives are Invited

Magistrates and Their

THE variety show "Nude, Neat and Naughty" opened last night in Inverness for a four-day run after Inverness magistrates had decided to allow it for a day to offer no objections.

Police are called in to control the "Gay Town" crowds

Express Staff Reporter
Inverness, last night, because so many people

Donald will dance for his home-town

At home in Inverness 10-year-old Donald Macleary was seen dancing to the tune of "The Glen Corran".

HIGHLAND HERALD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1953.

The Empire Theatre Proposal

The proposal that Inverness Town Council should acquire the Empire Theatre, which is being offered for sale, has aroused a good deal of interest in Inverness, but there appears to be some difference of opinion as to the advisability of such a move.

EMPIRE'S 50th JUBILEE

IT'S easy to pick out the strangers to Inverness if you stand at the lower end of Academy Street opposite the Empire Theatre. Unlike the Academy Street roams around with his gaze fixed ahead, the visitor's eye roams around taking in a new scene.

The Florians, First Holders, the Douglas Hunter Trophy

Audience outburst cuts short Inverness show

THIS BOY BABE SINGS BARITONE!

Theatre iron curtain foils the pop mob

THE iron safety curtain in the Empire Theatre, Inverness, had to be lowered on Saturday night when more than 1000 screaming teenagers threatened to rush the stage during the act of the pop group The Hollies.

Star's Praise

Mr James Robertson Justice, anti-scams Scottish film star, who opened the pantomime was full of praise for the youngsters and remarked: "The scenery is enough for a London stage."

Meeting with Donald Peers thrills the Hebridean bairns

Almost All County Plunged into Darkness: Candles Used in Shops

FAILURE IN INVERNESS

Torches Brought in for Trapeze Act

THE HYPNOTIST WEDS THE GIRL HE JUST COULDN'T

"DAILY MIRROR" REPORTER ONE after another, as the orchestra played softly and sweetly, the hypnotist put his twenty-five volunteers to the test.

the biggest show of the year

Cairney - the man fill Scots theatres...

Inverness bobbies working hard on an arresting show

THE BOBBIES of Inverness will cast aside their blue uniforms, bairns and boots next month when they tackle a new role—on the stage.

All Right to Sit in His Death Chair

TOPICAL AT THE EMPIRE "Come to the Show"

Terry Dene's Highland fling

ROCK 'N' ROLLER Terry Dene—the Highland fling

JUDGED IN SPITE OF INJURY

Run of Misfortune for Inverness

PLAYS PIANO WITH FEET

New McFlannels for Inverness

The McFlannels Harmonica Band

The Fortescue Players in 'Rookery Nook'

Celtic Ballet at Empire

Only memories are left...

"PRESS-BUTTON" FESTIVAL

INVERNESS enjoys a feast of music this week-end, when the Highland Accordion Festival was held there for the first time.

EMPIRE THEATRE STAFF 1970

BOX OFFICE – Jean Brockie (cashier), Mary Baxter, Margaret Fraser

USHERETTES – Muriel Davidson, Mary Baxter, Morag Brockie, Sandra Thomson, Alexis MacLean, Diane Baxter

STAGE STAFF – Willie Aird (Stage Manager), Teddy Aird, Murdo Watson, Iain Anderson

CLEANERS – Mrs Mary MacKenzie, Mrs A. MacLeod, Mrs J. Allanach

DOORMAN – Ian Davies

EMPIRE THEATRE STAFF 1952



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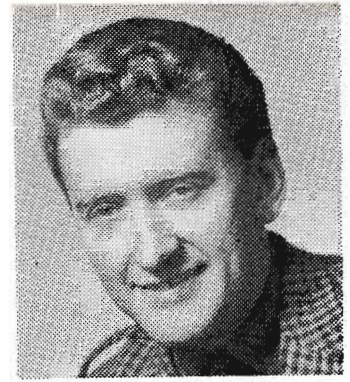
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At the Box Office . . .

Well-known worthy (reeking of wine, as usual) : I wonder if you could do me a small favour? Can you let me have the price of a dram?

Cashier : You usually want the price of a cup of tea

W.-k.W. : I know — but it's my Silver Wedding today

American Tourist : Is there Scattish Dancing in this show?

Cashier : Yes

A.T. : And Scattish Sangs?

Cashier : Yes

A.T. : Give me two ten-shilling tickets

Tourist's companion : Are there bagpipes on the stage as well

Cashier : Yes

Tourist's companion : Better make them six shilling tickets

Wifie (who had come in specially from the country) : Here's my tickets

Cashier : We don't take tickets back

Wifie : But it says in the Courier that all booked tickets must be picked up by 6 p.m.

Another Wifie ('phoning from Newtonmore) : Has a lassie been in for two tickets?

Cashier : A lot of lassies have been in for tickets. We've been busy

A.W. : This lassie was wearing a red coat

Cashier : We haven't had time to notice what they were wearing

A.W. : Well, if she was in, I've just phoned to tell you I don't want them

Tour Courier (just popping in) : My party missed this show at Perth, and I'm happy to say we'll miss it here, too

Patron : What have you got for the Merry Widow?

Slipper MacKenzie : A man

*

Wifie : Where can I put an old lady of eighty who can't see or hear properly and has a bad leg?

Slipper : John Fraser's

*

Patron : Two seats for the circus, please

Cashier : Circus? We haven't got a circus

Patron : Oh yes you have . . . Ah! I see you call it the balcony

*

Patron : I want to collect the tickets I reserved for Saturday

Cashier : Name, please?

Patron : MacKenzie

Cashier : Which house?

Patron : 23 Woodburn Road

*

Opera Patron : You can't be full . . . I must have seats at the front centre aisle. After all, I'm a regular you know . . . I COME EVERY YEAR

Lady : I want two ten-shilling seats

Cashier : When for?

Lady (snappily) : Saturday of course

Cashier : First or second house?

Lady : Second of course

Cashier : Stalls or balcony?

Lady : Stalls of course

Cashier : Sorry — no stalls left

Lady : Why?

Cashier : They're sold out of course

Late Arrival : Four seats in A row, centre aisle

Cashier : Sorry, sir — we haven't a seat left

L.A. : Don't be silly: you MUST have

Cashier : But we haven't

L.A. (after stunned pause) : Then we'll have to stand

Cashier : Sorry — we haven't room for any more standing

L.A. (turning away, disgusted) : Ah, well! Who WANTS to go in? The place is always half empty anyway

*

Patron (very late for show and somewhat tipsy) : How much are the tickets?

Cashier : Ten shillings and eight shillings

Patron : What's the difference

Cashier : Two shillings

*

Commercaill Traveller : Manager in?

Cashier : No

C.T. : I want to see him about cleaning materials. This foyer, for instance — we've got a line that is better and cheaper than anything you're using on it now

Cashier : It may be better, but it's not cheaper

C.T. : Oh? What are you using?

Cashier : Water

*

Visitor (booking four seats) : We saw this show in Dundee — and it was rotten!

Wifie : I want a back seat at the front

Cashier : Do you mean a front seat at the back?

Wifie : That's right . . . the first row of the 6/-



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 MATHESON LANG, NOEL COWARD
 DENNIS PRICE, Leslie French
 JACK HULBERT, CLAUDE HULBERT
 CICELY COURTNEIDGE, Wally Patch
 Arthur Vontner, Donald Dallas
 PETE MARTIN, Greta Hagen
 Jimmy Lang, Janet Crawford
 Kemp & Keen, Evelyn Phillips
 Archie Roy, Jimmy Holmes, Freda Wyn
 Bensaid Twins, Hugh McIlroy
 Betty Barnes Dancers, Mae McEvoy
 THE McFLANNELS, Paul Rogers
 Potter & Carole, EDWIN HEATH
 Ella Wilson, Benny Garcia
 Bud Hyndman, Richard Hardie
 June Balmer, Margaret Smart
 TOMMY LESTER, May Moxon Dancers
 Vicky Lester, Joyce & Elaine
 BILLY RUSK, Earl King
 The Debutantes, George Clarkson
 Francois & Zandra, Harry Murdoch
 Campbell & Rogerson, Ike Freedman
 Ken Swan & McGhee, Jack Easy
 Lucerne Skaters, BOBBY TELFORD
 Bentley Sisters, Maria Moscardini
 Stella Peters, Jimmy Reid
 Sandy & Iris Blair, Jimmy McKinley
 Billy & Fay Toner, Arthur Hale
 Conway Stewart, Peter Merrill
 JOHNNY VICTORY, Stewart Vernal
 Joe Nicol, Ronnie Coburn, Betty Nolan
 Syd Bryan & Eve Lynne, Peg White
 Douglas Dex Dale & Don, Davey Sisters
 FORTESCUE PLAYERS (James Lovell
 Janette Richer, Eunice Mann
 Paul Courtney, Leonard Austin
 Harold Wolfenden, Lilian Rumsby
 Trevor Williams, Colin McIntyre
 Moreen Gleeson, Barbara Stewart
 Tony Barron), Vickers Twins
 Jack & Chris Beatty, TOMMY LOMAN
 Bill Aitken & Kay Gordon, Joyce Bolt
 Celia Nichols, THE GREAT MURRAY
 Maskar, Bert Bendon, St Dennis Sisters
 ALEX MUNRO, Fitzgerald & Louise
 Lascelles & Nada, 2 Dancettes
 Mansfield Singers, Morris Horsburgh
 Gina Grilloni, JIMMY WALLACE
 Edith MacPherson & Pupils, Roy King
 Leslie & Jean Robertson, Jack MacLeod
 Eugene Redmond, Winifred Scott
 JIMMY FLETCHER, Eric Wylie
 Betty Jackson, Ken Lomond
 Bert Denver, Jimmy Duncan
 Alan McRitchie, Brown Sisters
 Danny Regan, Billy Maloney, Marie Ford
 Matt Soutar, TOMMY HOOD
 Irene Marsh, Maxie Elliott, Billy Wyner
 Larry Lane Trio, Williams Dancers
 Glen Daly, Jack E. Raymond
 Wally Williams, Olive Moore
 Willie O'Donnell, Geddes Bros.
 Marion Dickie, WILL STARR

Pauline & Eddie, Rita Cardie
 Carl Roper, ALEC FINLAY, Hugh Evans
 George & Fred Eastwood, The Ansons
 Margaret Morris, Douglas McEvoy Trio
 Roland Smith, Amanda & Marc
 June Grant, Edith Thomson
 JIMMY NICOL, Sheila McIntyre
 Johnny Rae, Dene & O'Brien
 Jack Smith, Larry Davies,
 Tommy McEwan, Michael Ronni
 Four Dimes, DUNCAN MACRAE
 Rosemary Allan, Nell Ballantyne
 Frances Slaven, James Stuart
 Jean Taylor Smith, PAUL CURRAN
 Jack Maguire, Eileen Vernon
 Kashgari & Pekingese Dogs, Windy Blow
 Rai & her Wonder Electric Organ
 BSA Cycle Roller Racing Contest
 Lorna Day, Charles Cole, Dennis Lake
 Vi Marshall & Greta Brett, Ivy Troy
 ALY WILSON, Russell Paterson
 MacKinnon Sisters, Ascot & Roberta
 Billy Cameron, Irene Campbell
 Olive Herriott, Gwynne Evans
 Chris J. Lobban & Nairn Childrens Panto
 Johnnie Mack, Ted Cassidy, Fred Brand
 FRASER NEAL PLAYERS (Janet Hill
 Ralph Rovey, Alastair Davidson
 Elsie Law, John Jevons, Audrey Young
 Ivor Humphris, Philip Ingram
 Sheila Donald, Robert Bett
 Patricia Mason), Toni, Tina & Tony
 Raymonde & Ann Faye, George Rex
 Billington, Billy Crotchet, Billy Leslie
 Gennard Sisters, Viola, Jimmy Kennedy
 Leslie St. Clair, Vic Ray & Lucille
 Hamilton Conrad's Pigeons, Jim Brough
 Burgess Bros., Dave Miller's Orchestra
 (Jim Stewart, Don Davidson, Eddie Main
 Lachy Shaw, George Ralph)
 Allan Cameron & Frank Ross
 Inverness Girls' Choir, Nicky Quinn
 Inverness Fire Service (William Shand
 John Gardiner, Alex MacQueen
 Lyall MacRobb, Peter J. Chisholm
 Gordon Taylor), The Great Rameses
 Alick Davidson, James Monteith
 May Kelly, Daphne Davidson
 CELTIC BALLET, Brian Morris
 Will Norman, Isobel Millar, Colin Dunn
 June (Stripper), JOHNNY BEATTY
 Pamela's Wolfhounds, Pat Sylvano
 Hillier Sisters, Danny O'Dare
 THE DAVEY FAMILY, Molly Miller
 Michael Molloy, Danny Small, Savola
 Tom Katz Six, Jackie Wilson
 Margaret Kinnaird, Vesta & Ashton
 Society Four, Walter Jackson
 Clara Kenyon, Carter & Barr
 ROBERT WILSON, Terry O'Duffy
 Harry Redpath, Hilda Sparkman Dancers
 Petrina Ford, Jenny Hogarth, Valee
 Kathleen Stanley, Franklin & Loretta
 The Jacksons, Westway Girls
 Jimmy Benson, Leonard & Chenley
 Lois Bard & Golden Chords, Nelson Bros
 Marc Crauford & Nina, Arthur Blake
 RENEE HOUSTON &
 DONALD STEWART, Diane Verne

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 Stevano, PETER SINCLAIR, Ivy Carey
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 Allan Young Organ Trio, Bernie Lewis
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 Burt Twins, Harry Carter & Doray
 Chris Charlton, Bob & Buddy Bruce
 Rondart, George Ladd & Jean
 Amazing Celeste, Foster & Clarke
 HERSCHEL ("Jizz") HENLERE
 Dinkie Maurice, Regency Twins
 Jimmy McKinley, Tiki & Del
 Smith & Kelly, Pat Gentles, June Royal
 Tony Heaton, Marshall & Best
 Barbara Ray, Mastersingers, Pat Gulley
 Regan & Royal, CROWN PLAYERS
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 William Redmond, Christina Wellings
 Rex Deering, Gwerfyll Hamer)
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 Malcolm MacLean, Isobel Gemmel
 Sydney Devine, George Innes
 Mick Bottom, Alasdair MacLeod
 Warden MacIntyre, Robin Logan
 Kenneth MacRae, Andrew Ross
 BALLETT RAMBERT, Al Burrows
 RNI Sports & Social Club Panto
 Highland Magic Circle, Charles & Jupp
 Killarney Colleens, Jack Hudson
 Jean Elliott, Dennis Clancy,
 JIMMY YOUNG, Stan Mars & Irene Hall
 Blue Bonnets Concert Party, Pete Murray
 BILLY DENISON & Di Carrol
 KENNETH MACKELLAR,
 Eddie Hooper, Max & Maxa
 Sylvia & Ray Holland, Alice Davidson
 Four Reigels, Pat Hatton & Peggy
 Two Aberdonians, FOUR RAMBLERS
 (Including VAL DOONICAN),
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 Jack & Mary Kinson, MARCIA OWENS
 Boston Sisters, Norma Hartnell
 Ivy Val, Delwyn Thomas, Louise Boyd
 LARRY MARSHALL, Barry Burgoyne
 INVERNESS REPERTORY COMPANY
 (Anthony Wile, Mary Kean, Peter Hill
 Terrence Fitzgerald, Helena de Crespo
 Rachel Hainey), SONIA DREDEL
 The Great Claude, SYDNEY MACEWAN
 Drama Group A.K.V.T. Oostrianderen
 of Belgium, JIMMY SHAND'S BAND
 Jack Fraser, Doris Gilfedder
 St. Johnstoun S.C. Dancers, Dave Kidd
 Ian McLeish, Betty Anderson
 Irene Young, Johnny Geddes
 Jim McKenzie, Bon Accord Dancers
 Gie Gordons S.C.D. Team
 Gie Gordons S.C.E. Band, Val Worth
 Dorothy McGill, Ishbel Wilson
 Milne Morrison, Kenneth Stewart
 DAVE MACKINTOSH, Susan Scott
 Margaret Firth and her Dancers
 THE GREAT LEVANTE, Gladys Cole
 Norma Andrews, Georgina Pickaver
 Tiki & John Newman, Four Sharps
 Cannon-ball Kate, Robert Lamont
 Jayne & Allan Howard, Ann Dyet
 Duncan Robertson, Patricia McLean
 Rene Venmore's Debutantes

MEMBER ?

Stan Stewart, Marlene Mair, Ian Aird
ALEX McAVOY, Laidlaw Dalling
RODDY McMILLAN, Malcolm Morton
Mackenzie Robertson, Doris McLatchie
Alan Dunbar, Ian MacNaughton
Fred Neilson, Dierdre Murray
Dorothy Hood, Norah Irvine, Jack Fair
Rosemary Manly, Pat Ramsey
Jimmy Scott's Blue Bonnets Band
David McGill, Ken Ralph, Pat White
Isobel Grant, George Masson
Buddy Smart, Gay Bachelors
Ina Laurie, Amazing Zodias
Highland Girls' Choir, George Bell
Pipe Major D. MacRae, Tom Booth
Dougie Cunningham, Margaret Nairn
MacKenzie & Young, Tommy O'Rourke
Band of the Queen's Own Cameron
Highlanders, Granada Girls, Isobel Quinn
Dixon & Hunter, Honey Silvers
Govan Citadel Band, Forbes Whitelock
Lindsay Wood & Fay, Jeannette Wood
Dorrie Marr, DAVE WILLIS
James Urquhart & Margaret Young
Frank Wilson, The Q.O.C.H. Show
Mary Francis, Jack Lindsay, Ann Mullen
Parnell & Ashton, Lillian Collins
Castle Troupe of Dancers, Will Hannah Jr
BUDDY LOGAN, Wally Johnston
Edina Four, Lockhart Bros, Lenton
TOMMY KENNY, Saxon de Milo
Evelyn Robertson, Bud McGhee
Jim MacKay Scottish Dance Trio
Roddy Stewart, Bob Barr, Alex Don
Master Joe Paterson, Mitchell Watson
Ian Mearns' S.C.D. Band, Mabel Lobban
JIMMY LOGAN, Dickie Murray
Cliff Harley, Alastair McHarg
Ababananah, Hep-Cats Jive Team
THE BOGAN, JEAN LAMB
John Hercher & Sandy Cummings
PAMELA DONALD, Morrell Sisters
Donald MacKenzie's Puppets
Stephen Lawson's Puppets, Bert Bendon
Dundee Harmonica Band, Melody Maids
Claverhouse S.C.D. Team, Mary Lynch
Dave MacKie & Univox, Lloyd Day
Wick Scottish Band, Denis Woolford
Margaret MacDonald, Jack Jackley
Flat Tops Swing Quartette, Jimmy Neil
Hugh McKenna, Lamond Forbes
Terry Conner, Annie Shand Scott's Band
Morris Scott, Inverness Ladies' Choir
Aileen Brebner & Gordon Rattray
Tammis Fisher, Wilfred Worden
Alberto, Donald Riddle, Bond Rowell
Dean Dixon & Day, Barry Sisters
Lena Ritchie, Edna Young, Billy Bowers
Ian Duncan's Band, Monty Evans
Annette & Noel, Harry Robertson
Fiorance Hunter, Aeolian Trio
Bandsman John Alexander (ALEX-
ANDER BROTHERS), Moira Kaye
Harry Pringle, Henson Hutchison
Brownie Dene, Frank Murphy
Tommy & Sylvia Snapp,
Marie Cunningham, Chuck Mooney
Bill Wilkie & Perth Accordeon
Orchestra, MICKIE AINSWORTH

Sheena Lindsay, Jimmy McNab
Ian Anderson, BOBBY MACLEOD & Band
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Harold Elder, Elizabeth Reach
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BOBBY WATSON, Jimmy Scott-Smith
Williams Brothers, Dougan & Topy
Leslie Cannons, Bill Manderson
IAN POWRIE & Band, Artie Mayne
Roy Munro, Eleanor Ritchie
JIMMY BLUE, Gordon Clark
Jimmy McBeath, Katherine Kiddie
Tayside Trio, Marko, Aileen Rennie
Laich O'Moray Dancers, Kazan & Katz
Eddie Watson & Alligators Skiffle Group
June Taylor, BILL MCGUFFIE
Rita Martell, MARIE BENSON
Patton Brown, Hugh MacLean
Skitch Dime Skiffle Group,
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Mackell Twins, Andy Kennedy
O'Duffy Bros., Three Esquires
Irene Adair, JIM McLEOD & Band
John McIvor, Hula Hoop Team
Tommy Ford, Sonia Cavan, Nan Arton
Koko's Cinderella Dogs, Dorma Sisters
Ken & Alan Haynes, Mighty Apollos
The Almados, The Ferrantis
Kit Matthews, Donald MacDougal
'Nude Neat & Naughty', John Huband
Frank Hutcheson, Glenisla Dancers
Andy Tilley, Roger Casbey, Tony Twins
Gordon MacKenzie, Angus Fitchett
Desmond Carrol, Jimmy Irvine & June
Jimmy Donaghue, Joe Walmar
Roma Derry & George Johnstone
Patti Powell & Jo-Anne, Grace Cook
Alasdair Downie's Band, Angus Martin
Ian MacConnachie, Jimmy McHugh
Terry Scanlon, Ronnie Lockhead
Kathleen & Ann Kemp, Jackie German
Hill & Billie, DAVID HUGHES
Myra Crichton, Cedric Scott
Boys of Fort Augustus Abbey School
David Snadiland's Argyll 4
Haloes Skiffle Group, Melotones
Black Diamonds Skiffle Group

RUSSELL HUNTER, Sandy Bright
CLYDE VALLEY STOMPERS
Graham Fulton, Gordon Scott
Dyke Andrews, Rosa Goldie
Hawthorn Accordeon Band
DONALD MACLEARY & SUSAN
ALEXANDER, Edith Bell 4
Rikki Barnes & his All Stars
SYNCPATING SANDY, Arthur Spink
George Mack, Lindsay Ross Band
John Mulvaney, Lotus & Josie
Rosett & Lilli French Poodles
Allan Bruce, Cody & Oran
John Payten & Sylvia Downing
Ann & Val Shelley, Tommy Dale
Kay & Kimberley, Wal Butler
Leila Gonzalez & Erik Neilsen
Rozelle Sisters, Patricia Cone
JOE GORDON FOLK FOUR
Heather McKay & Elizabeth Cameron
Wizard of the Isles, Malcolm Kennedy
Gibson Sisters, Laurie Adams
Isobel James, Skating Morenos
TERRY DENE, Marion Tennant
Jack Forsyth's Band, Chic Gordon
George Kyle, Islay McTaggart
Wendy Bell, Dave Bryburgh
Henderson & Trotter, George Hill
Stewart Ross, Vincent Derry
ALASDAIR GILLIES, Eddie Chilla
Archie Duncan, STANLEY BAXTER
Alec Halls, Barbour & Billie
Max Kay, Derek Auld, George Dick
Glenshee S.C.D. Team, The Rievers
Francis Langford's TV Teenagers
Jimmy Shand Jr., Don Ross & his Spoons
Vonne & Valda, Bill Devlin
Peter Johnston, June Starrs
Lillian Welsh, Ann Wood, Avril Fleming
Irene Langlands, Dorothy Paul
Kaye Bros., Bob McLarty, Kay Sisters
Rinty Monaghan, The McPeakes
Inverness Gaelic Choir, Willie Kemp
Betty Bruce, Bill Murray, Ann Cowie
CHIC MURRAY & Maidie
Frank & Lairin O'Neill, Gil Gordon
Tommy (Toes) Jacobsen, Bill Powrie
Harry Carmichael, Jock Morgan
Irene Cormack, Dixie Ingram
London Irish Girl Pipers & Dancers
Shek Ben Ali, Eddie Canale
Jameson Clark, Eleanor Cairns
Bob Temple, Joy Anton Trio
John Mearns, Fen MacDougall
Queen's Cross S.C.D. Team
Hugh Mularky, Tommy Lees
Ray Cousins, Arthur Roynan
Bette Lomond, Maureen Gardner
Tom Anderson, Louise Mason
Musical Mackies, JACKIE DENNIS
Jack Kirwan, Jimani, The Avons
Don Charles, Lindsay Scott
DUKE D'MONDE & BARRON
KNIGHTS, George Reno, Ford Bros.
Johnny Douglas Combo, Patti Lynn
Elgin Amateur Stage Productions
Miss Grampian Contest, Ravens
JAON HAMMOND, CHECKMATES
Rockets Twist Team, Chance Gordon

Jimmy Crawford, SHANE FENTONE
 3 Dale Sisters, Joe McBride, Olive Rae
 Balnagoakers Bothy Team, Wildcats
 SANDY MACPHERSON, John Dunbar
 Ricky Valance, Rhet Stoller Group
 Grampian TV Teenbeat Showband
 EDEN KANE, Carlton Singers
 Paul Fender & Fenderman, MIKE BERRY
 Crusader Diamonds, Damn Yankee Jivers
 Gerry Rue & Rockets, Gertie Wine
 The Innocents, LEX MCLEAN
 Garyl Buchanan & Colin Speed
 Cumberland 3, The Tornados
 MALCOLM CLARKE & CRESTERS
 Argo Cameron, DONALD PEERS
 Frank Carson, CLARK & MURRAY
 Betty Melville, JACK RADCLIFFE
 Patricia Greenwood, Heather Astral
 HARRY GORDON, Colin Stuart
 Culloden S.C.D. Team, Flora Martin
 Peter Davidson's Band, Joy Brennan
 TERESA DUFFY, BILL McCUE
 Piper James MacKenzie, Suzy Cope
 Piper Willie MacDonald, Jock Watt
 DAVID KINNAIRD, Sammy Shortt
 Hi-Fi Showband, THE HOLLIES

ROBIN HALL & JIMMIE MACGREGOR
 Albert Eirick, Jimmy Cassidy
 Keefe Brothers & Annette, Eric Burns
 CORRIE FOLK TRIO with PADDIE
 BELL, Jack Sinclair's Band, Jacobbeats
 Brian Sievwright, The Modelles
 White Heather Club Dancers, Kenny Ross
 ANNE & LAURA BRAND, Norman Dunn
 DONNA DOUGLAS, Mal Hollander
 "Professor" Tom Shand, Bobby Colgan
 LANCE PERCIVAL, Steve Kenny
 "Oh, What a Lovely War", Jimmy Mellon
 MOIRA BRIDY, Jennifer Cummings
 Larry Burns & Sallyann, Jeff Graham
 Anne O'Neill, Telford & Charmaine
 GILBERT & SULLIVAN FOR ALL
 BERT SHORTHOUSE & BAND
 Neil & Morag Campbell, Graham Brown
 ANITA HARRIS, Ray Jeffries
 Moira Kerr, Fraser-Dale Group
 Sheena Houston, Anne Scott
 Sleaz Band, Steve Cameron, Tony Holland
 Packabeats, Ronnie Hall, LITA ROZA
 CYRIL STAPLETON BAND
 Sheena Andrew, MOIRA ANDERSON
 The Albanachs, Evelyn Campbell

THE ISLANDERS, Two's Company
 John Murdo Morrison, CALUM KENNEDY
 ANNE GILLIES, KENNEDY FAMILY
 Tyrannosaurus Rex, Margo Bentley
 Charlie Sim, Helen Randell, Fay Lenore
 Calum Cameron, FRANCIE & JOSIE
 Curly McKay's Band, Tony Ruddick
 MACDONALD SISTERS, THE CORRIES
 Calumdon Pipe Band, Billy Martell
 IAN CAMPBELL FOLK GROUP
 Christine Gillies, Christine, Millie Herd
 Lynn & Graham McCarthy, Ann Ross
 JAMES SPANKIE, The Florians
 Phoenix Theatre Group, The Freeman
 Inverness Opera Company, Sheila Paton
 JOHN CAIRNEY, Country Fever
 Jimmy McWilliams, JOHN HEDDLE NASH
 JENNIFER SHAW, The Millers
 Carrick Folk Four, Ian Fraser
 Islands Waulking Team, Jimmy Mather
 COLIN CAMPBELL & Band
 MARTIN CARTHY & DAVE SWAR-
 BRICK, Heather Isle Band, Neil Owen
 U.S.S.R. Group, Eoin Hamilton
 El Sali & Flamenco Co., Karen Russell
 KATHY KAY, Alec Mapplebeck
 ARCHIE MACCULLOCH
 "Merry-Go-Round", HANK LOCKLIN
 Amenities Association Talent Finals

These, too, were here . . .

S.C.D.A. Festivals — Preliminary, Divisional & Finals, Boys' Brigade (Inverness Battalion), Lifeboys' Sportagamas, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society — Festival, Music Festivals, Scottish National Orchestra, Salvation Army, British Legion — Inverness Branch, Royal Academy Speech Days, Political Meetings, North of Scotland Milk Marketing Board — 'An Evening in Dairyland', New Scottish Touring Theatre, Boxing, Wrestling, Inverness Youth Club's TEN MINUS SHOW.

The following funds and organisations are amongst those which have benefitted from collections at, or donations from the Empire :-

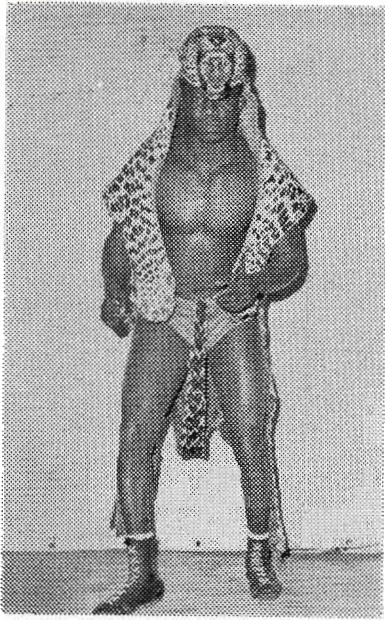
Flood and Tempest Distress Fund, Provost's Coal and Comforts Fund, R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, Inverness Coronation Fund, Provost's Hungarian Relief Fund, Hunger Relief Fund, The Highland Orphanage, Inverness Pageant Committee, World-wide Advent Missions, Action for the Crippled Child, Blind Social Club, An Comunn Gaidhealach, Old People's Welfare Association, British Sailor's Society (Children's Home at Rhu), The Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, Variety Artistes Ladies' Guild & Orphanage, Fire Services National Benevolent Fund.

INVERNESS LIGHT OPERA COMPANY PRODUCTIONS at the EMPIRE

1926 The Mikado	1930 Iolanthe	1934 The Gondoliers
1927 The Gondoliers	1931 The Mikado	1935 A Country Girl
1928 The Yeomen of the Guard	1932 The Quaker Girl	
1929 Pirates of Penzance	1933 The Belle of Brittany	

INVERNESS OPERA COMPANY PRODUCTIONS at the EMPIRE

1947 The Mikado	1954 Concerts, etc.	1963 White Horse Inn
1948 Iolanthe	1955 The Mikado	1964 Show Boat
1949 The Gondoliers	1958 Maid of the Mountains	1965 Call Me Madam
1950 Pirates of Penzance	1959 The Gypsy Baron	1966 New Moon
1951 The Quaker Girl	1960 The Merry Widow	1967 Rose Marie
1952 Yeomen of the Guard	1961 Oklahoma	1968 The Desert Song
1953 Merrie England	1962 Die Fledermaus	1969 Finian's Rainbow
		1970 Summer Song



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THE ROYAL BROTHERS



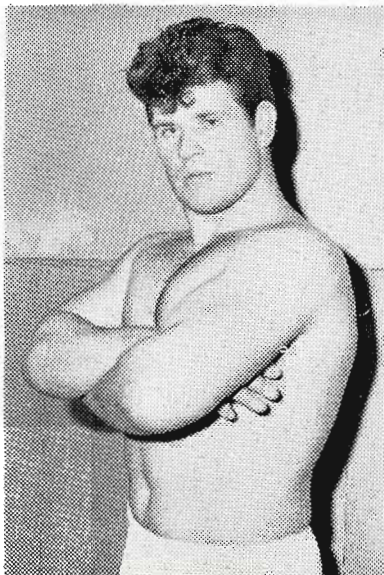
Famous American Red Indian,
BILLY WHITE WOLF, U.S.A.

Some of the Wrestlers who have fought in Inverness

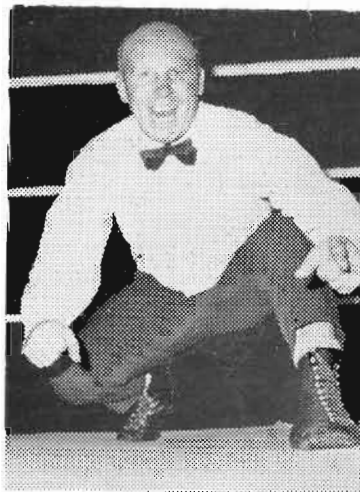
Jackie Pallo, Mick McManus, Les Kellett, Alan Dennison, Johnny Eagles, Ian Campbell, Mal Kirk, Jimmy Saville, Billy White Wolf, Massambula, Honey Boy Zimba, Prince Kumazi, Sunshine Bardoville.

Champions: Andy Robins, Jim Breaks, Alan Sargeant, Jon Cortez, Alan Colbeck, Billy Joyce, George Kidd, Steve Logan.
American Stars: Ricky Starr, Prince Curtis Iauk.

Tag Teams: Royal Brothers, Black Diamonds, The Dennisons, Leon Arras and Bobby Graham, White Eagles, The Barrons, The Toffs, Jeff Kaye and Ian Gilmour, Yorkshire Terriers, Black Knights, The Invaders.



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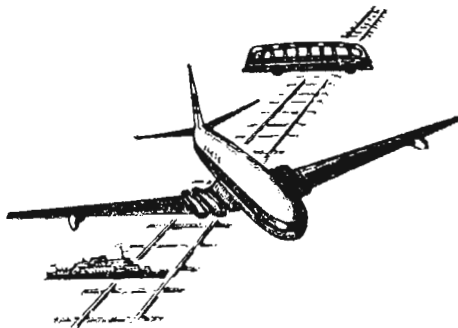
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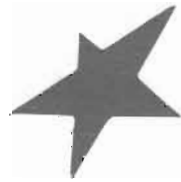


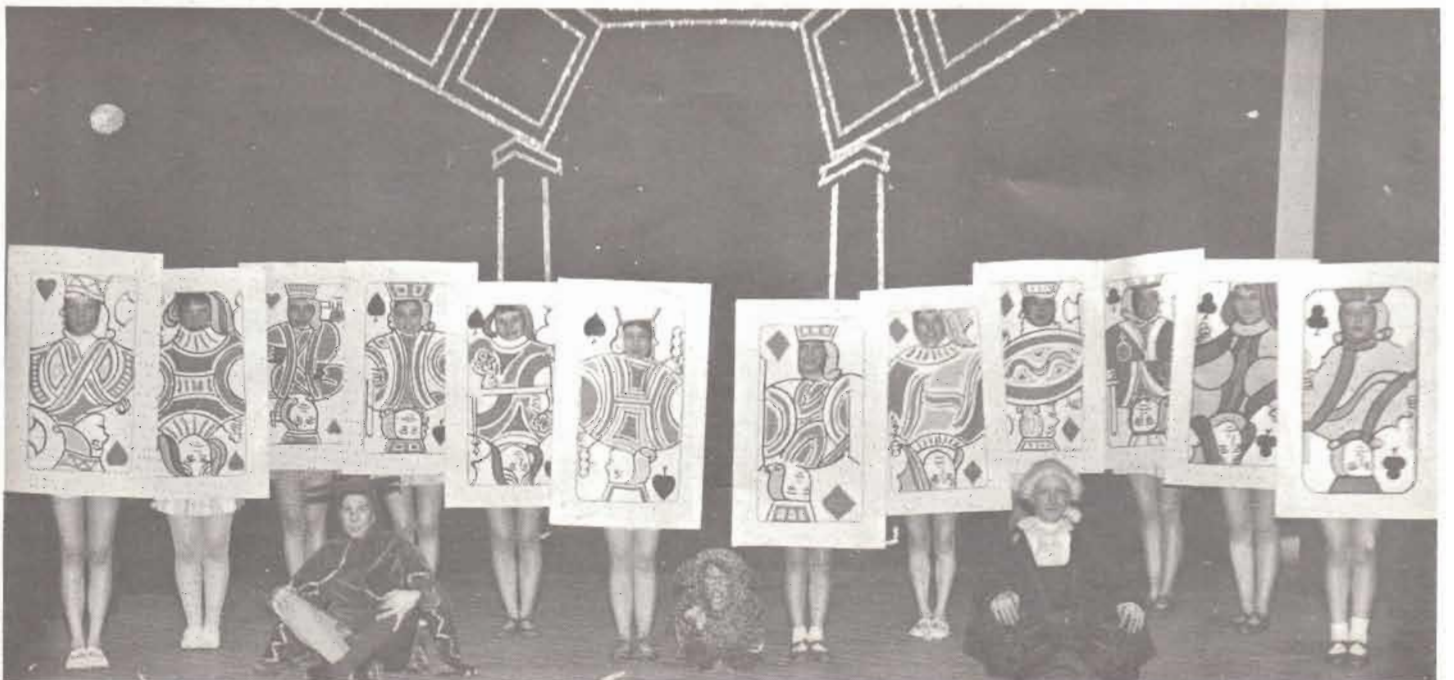
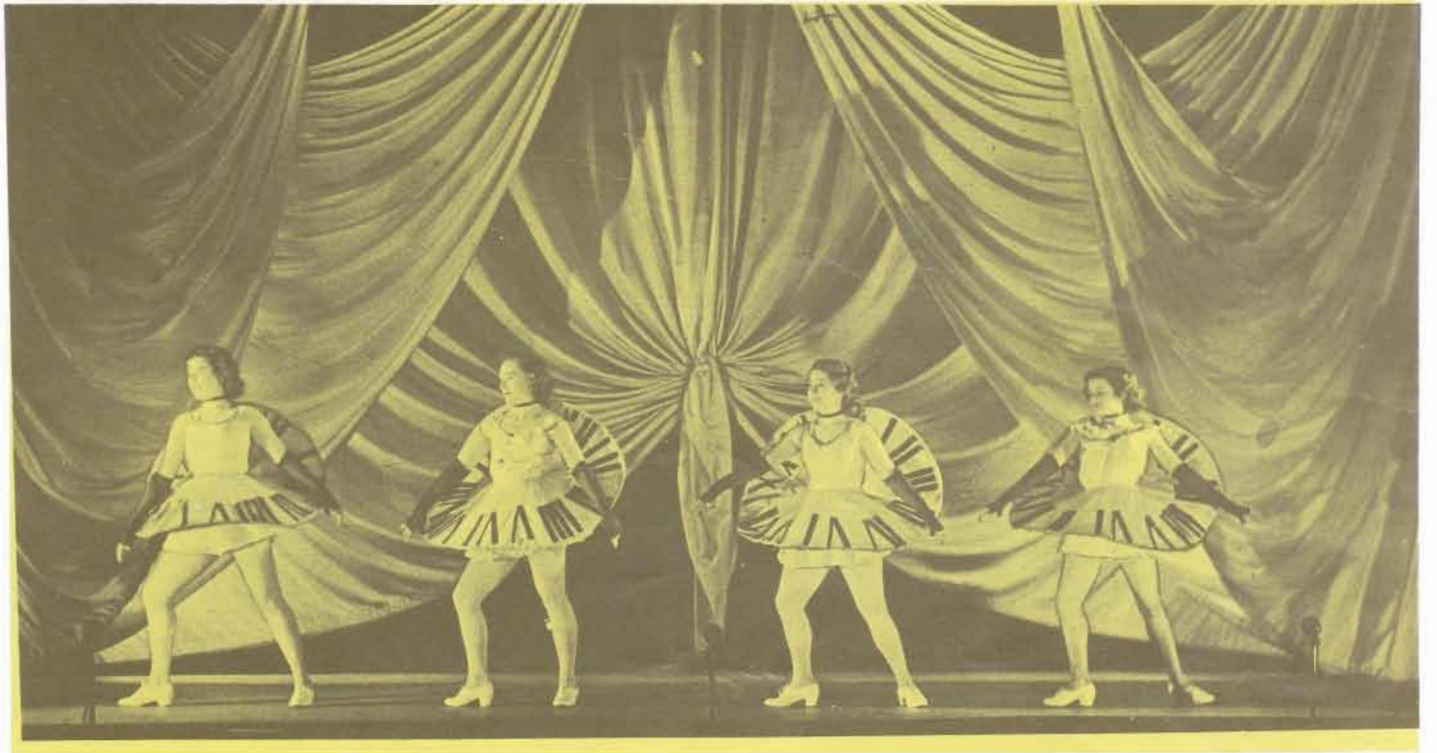
Scenes from

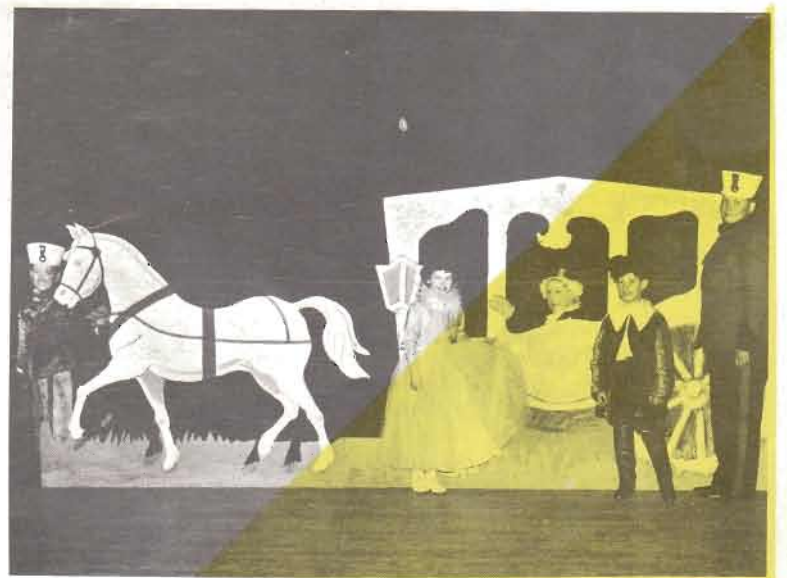


the Shows











THEATRE is not bricks and mortar, seats and scenery; Theatre is People — people on the stage and people in front of the footlights, both reaching out to bridge the gap. Their emotions and imagination mingle to form a fresh experience at each meeting. All must give to receive.

THEATRE is not an inconsequential item given away, like potato crisps, as an inducement to buy another drink; it is not a background to dining, conversation or a permissive happening; it is not the outcome of a Feasibility Report. Theatre is People.

THE EMPIRE is rich and warm — rich in memories and, even at its draughtiest, warm with the accumulated enthusiasm of the many thousands of people who responded to, and so stimulated to further effort, the many hundreds of artistes appearing in it.

There is nothing so empty or lonely as an empty theatre — nor yet so crowded. When the last of the audience has left, and all that remains of the artistes is their make-up lying on tissues in the dressingrooms, when the lights are switched off and the key is turned in the lock; then the theatre is filled with people — audiences, usherettes, jugglers, singers, dancers, comedians, musicians, actors. What a show for those who can see!

Soon an usherette will take the last person to his seat, the key will be turned for the last time. Men will tear down the body of the Empire, but they cannot rip out its spirit.

The theatre will still be there — because it is People.

J. W.



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