

# KNOWN"

## HALLS AND PERFORMERS OF 60 YEARS AGO

ago I appeared in this town and was very popular with the ladies. Remember that. You might be booing your old Dad!"



Gus Harris was "The only Yiddisher Scotsman in the Irish Fusiliers"; Bronx Grove, "The inebriated Swell in search of a Light"; Ugly Duclin (Ugh!); "The world's greatest boy actress"; Tom Davis; "Ellesmere Port's gifted tenor and ironworker".

There were some fearsome feats. Le Mounier starred as "The Human Anvil". The Oriental Trio featured "The Man with the Iron Jaw". Going back in time: Kelly & Gillette were on Liverpool Royal Hippo bill in 1902 as "The Human-Billiard Table".

And at Sadler's Wells you could see, "The Man with the Iron Head". Heavy stones were perched on his napper and broken with a sledgehammer. Going forward: About 25 years ago I worked with Henri Vadden & Les Girls. I can't recall his billing but his big finish was placing a spiked helmet on his head and catching a cartwheel on it.

In those earlier days the acts always travelled on Sundays. Sooner or later they met at Crewe, and it was not uncommon to see a mixed train chalked up as "Fish & Actors" — in that order.

Datas was topping at the Grand, Lancaster, in 1924 as can be seen in the reproduction. He was, of course, a big act and started in 1902 through a fluke. His name was Harry Bottles and

originally he was a retort house man at Anerley Gasworks.

Confined to bed by illness for long periods as a youth, he acquired a vast store of knowledge by assiduous reading. One day he settled a pub argument, was overheard by an agent, and began as "The Memory Man", at the Royal Standard, forerunner of London's "Victoria Palace".

The diminutive Lancashire comedienne, Hylda Baker, who confided so much to audiences about her silent, gangling male stooge in drag, used bill matter that would have equally suited Datas:

"She Knows Y' Know!"

- Some super posters from our author's collection.
1. Who would have thought that Lancaster could have supported variety as late as 1924?
  2. Palace, Lincoln — A good mixed bill, but remarkable for the extraordinary billing of Charles Falla — "The Shrinkable Comedian".
  3. Alexandra Pontefract — Typical 1920's Bill. Interesting point: Les Kismos has only minor billing in June, 1924. A month later with same Agent, Fred Reynolds, he was bottoming (2nd in importance) to Datas at Grand, Lancaster.
  4. Atherstone Picturedrome — An early example of what was later called "Cine-Variety".

## PALACE

THEATRE, LINCOLN.

LONDON: Messrs. G. GILBERT & S. SELLERS  
TELEPHONE 914

|      |               |      |
|------|---------------|------|
| 6-50 | TWICE NIGHTLY | 8-50 |
|------|---------------|------|

MONDAY, MAY 7th, 1923

### FRED REYNOLDS

Presents a  
Super Vaudeville Company

Special Engagement of

## ASTON BROS.

AND LADY

The World-famous CYCLING COMEDIANS, introducing their Great Comedy Football Match in England. In connection with the above a NOVEL CYCLING COMPETITION RACE & NOVEL Three Money Races—8h., 10h., & 12h. For the best attempt at making a Surprise Ladies specially invited. FINAL FRIDAY

### STARTON

Will introduce to you his best ever comedy.

### THREE DANCING DURHAMS

In "Wholly Comedy" during the evening.

Planning Engagement of the

## SHERRY TRIO

In a Novel and Novelty Act, "WHEN THE GOES AWAY"

### The LEONARDS

Present their latest act.

### FUSCO

Direct from the London Coliseum. The one and only

## CHAS. FALLA

The SHRINKABLE COMEDIAN

|                   |               |               |                                    |               |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Side Seats<br>6d. | Circle<br>9d. | Stalls<br>1/- | Orchestra, Stalls<br>Booked<br>1/- | Booked<br>1/6 |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|

INCLUDING TAX

## ALEXANDRA

THEATRE,  
PONTEFRACT.

PROPERTA      MRS. A. A. GAYNE

MONDAY, June 16th, 1924.

and during the week

7-30      EACH EVENING      7-30

Except Saturday, Two Performances 8-30 & 8-30

The Only Entertainment House Playing Variety.

FRED REYNOLDS PRESENTS A  
SUPER VAUDEVILLE COMPANY.

From the Alhambra, Paris and Coliseum, London,  
THE ROYAL FUSCINE

## MIDLE. CAMEO

Assisted by DAVID GORRE, presents a Series of Original Pieces in Living Motion, featuring "Dignity," the authorship.

### Little DOLLY WRIGHT

Dolly's first tour.

### 3 Dancing Durhams 3

The Light Comedy Troupe.

Coming to Entertainment House, management of

## DENE DUNLOP

In Four Songs and Sketches, including his latest Raging Rooster. Full Force of the Hoop.

### LES KISMOS

In Comic Sketch.

### DORIS DESMOND

The Infatuated Woman.

### COQUELLI

The Infatuated Woman.

Special Planning Engagement of

## ROBINSON & MACKEN

In a deftly Original Comedy Sketch.

NOTE REDUCED PRICES OF ADMISSION (including Tax):

|        |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| MOONER | 8d. | 1/3 | 1/6 | 8d. | 4d. |
| 3/-    | 1/6 | 1/3 | 8d. | 4d. |     |

ATHERSTONE

## PICTUREDROME

### VARIETY PALACE

LATE CORN EXCHANGE

MONDAY, Jan. 9, 1911

AND DURING THE WEEK

ANOTHER GRAND PROGRAMME!

## DIGBYS

A New Picture Drama in 10 Acts, featuring the best of the best.

Grand Children's Picture Matinee

DON'T FORGET THE CHILDREN'S COMPETITIONS.

OH, YES! OH, YES!! OH, YES!!!

### OUR PICTURES

ARE ARTISTIC MUSING AND ALWAYS ATTRACTIVE

CHANGED EVERY MONDAY-THURSDAY

## KATE LYND

The Infatuated Woman.

LEST YOU FORGET, GRAND PICTORIAL

### SUNDAY CONCERT

CHARLEY DIXON

In his Original Act, "ON THE RAILWAY"

3d. 4d. 6d. 9d.