

TWIN CINEMA: 4 DEVILS AND A WOMAN IN RED LILY HIBBERD

Lily Hibberd's project, *TWIN CINEMA: 4 Devils and a Woman in Red* is the culmination of more than a year's work collecting memories of cinema in Gippsland. During the course of her project, Hibberd focused on the towns of Morwell, Yarram and Yallourn gathering local stories, objects, posters and photographs from surviving and lost cinemas. These memories and remnants form the basis for an exhibition (of the same name) at the Latrobe Regional Gallery as well as a play about the history of The Regent, Yarram. This play, *4 Devils: Hell and High Water*, was performed by a local cast and staged in the Regent itself – a building that still stands at the centre of community life in Yarram today.

The multifarious strands of the work that Hibberd has undertaken in Gippsland are carefully woven together in a manner that allows for the specificity of individual communities and locations to be recognised and addressed. These different manifestations comprise the exhibition at Latrobe Regional Gallery, the play at the Regent in Yarram, memory days and individual meetings with interviewees. Furthermore, the relationship between the sites – the Regent in Yarram, the Twin Cinema in Morwell and the Yallourn Theatre in the now demolished town of Yallourn – is highlighted through the word play inherent in the project's title – *TWIN CINEMA: 4 Devils and a Woman in Red*. As such, the woman in red (of the title) is Margaret Thompson who built the Regent; the four devils refers to F W Murnau's *4 Devils*, which was the first film screened at the Regent at its opening in 1930; and, finally, 'Twin Cinema' makes reference to the Village Twin in Morwell – long abandoned but fondly remembered, also calling up the nature of memory itself: for every lost theatre has its twin in the townships' recollections, memories projected in place of the missing screen.





The projection room was contrast and contradiction. It was almost black inside yet there was the brightest, whitest light I had ever seen.

Throwing Jaffas at the bald guy in the third row.

Had my first real kiss there!

Do you remember the lady (or man) who used to go around with a torch and shine it on anyone they thought was too noisy?

You used to have two movies and a newsreel. You'd get two! People'd get dressed up to go for a night out.

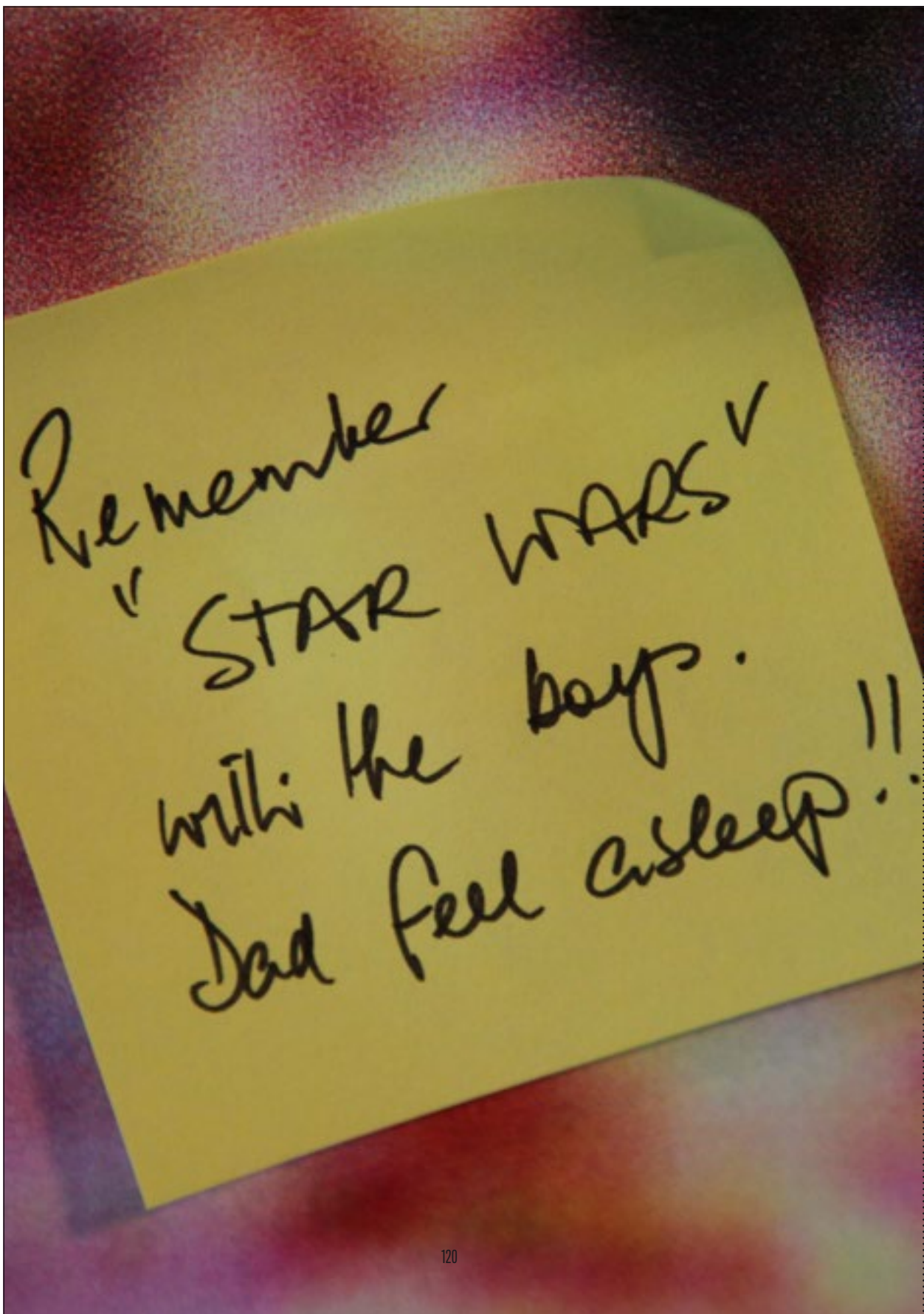
It was the whitest light I have ever seen. My first impressions were of being in a black room and you went in there it was such high contrast.

I saw for the first time the picture from the other side of the porthole, as the projectionist sees it.

My uncles used transport films between different theatres on motorbikes. As the film came off they'd race it up to the next theatre. But they were prone to flat tyres...







Images on preceding pages:

p.113 Lily Hibberd, *Twin Cinema: 4 Devils and a Woman in Red*, 2014, exhibition view.
Photographer: Lily Hibberd

p.114-5 Lily Hibberd, *4 Devils: Hell and High Water* (2014): documentation of theatrical performance.
Photographer: Lily Hibberd

p.116-7 Lily Hibberd, *Twin Cinema: 4 Devils and a Woman in Red*, 2014, documentation of cinema memory day.
Photographer: Sam Nightingale

p.118-9 & 120 Lily Hibberd, *Twin Cinema: 4 Devils and a Woman in Red*, 2014, exhibition view.
Photographer: Din Heagney

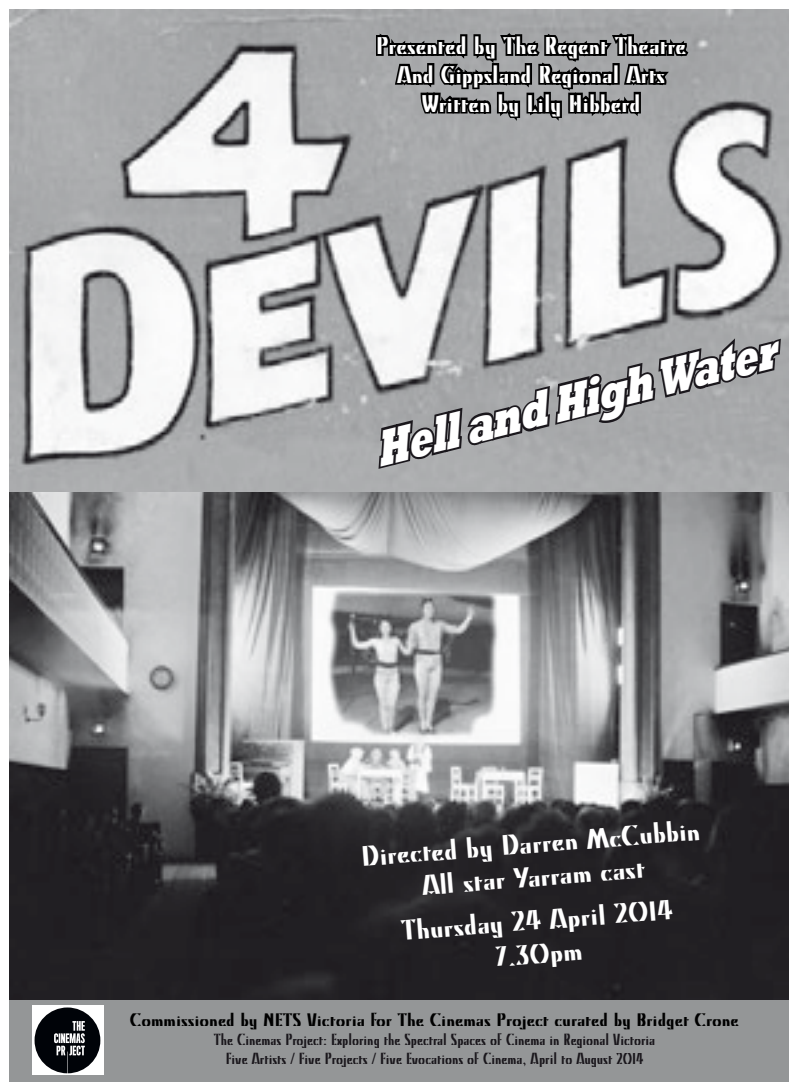
All images commissioned by NETS Victoria for *The Cinemas Project* curated by Bridget Crone.

Images on following pages:

p.122-3 Morwell Town Hall Theatre interior, 1936 inscription verso: AG Leith & Associates (photographer?),
courtesy Morwell Historical Society, Len Hare Collection

p.124-5 Yallourn Theatre interior, date unknown, photographer unknown, courtesy Old Brown Coal Mine Museum





Quotes on previous pages collected by Lily Hibberd as part of her project.

This page: *4 Devils: Hell and High Water*, program cover designed by Lily Hibberd.

4 DEVILS: HELL AND HIGH WATER A PLAY IN SIX ACTS BY LILY HIBBERD

THE CAST

MARGARET (MA) THOMPSON	back from the dead to restage the '4 DEVILS'. Plays the Circus Ringmaster in the drama.
CLOWN FRITZ	A kind man who rears and trains the Four Devils. One of the 4 Devils, elder brother of Adolf, Aimee and The Lady's lover.
AIMEE	One of the 4 Devils, elder sister of Louise.
ADOLPH	One of the 4 Devils, brother of Fritz.
LOUISE	One of the 4 Devils, younger sister of Aimee.
THE LADY	Admirer and lover of Fritz.
MR THOMAS DUKE	Margaret's first husband.
ARTHUR THOMPSON	Margaret's second husband.
SARAH DUKE	Cousin of Margaret Thompson, Mr Duke's first wife.
POODLE	Sidekick of the Clown.
THE BUILDER	MA's boyfriend.
LOCAL REPORTER	Reads the Yarram news.

'4 DEVILS - HELL AND HIGH WATER'

ACT I: PROLOGUE

SCENE 1

MA
It has been one hundred years since I laid the first one of 40,000 *local* bricks on the corner of Commercial and James Streets. The Strand, Strand Pictures, Thompson's Hall. 1914, the same year I made plans for this theatre, The Regent.

So tonight we are here to celebrate together my great achievements! My legacy survives, like I did, through Hell and High waters! Fire and flood. Love, marriage and loss. I want to celebrate this auspicious occasion, this 100-year anniversary, with another lost dream. Does anyone remember the film shown here, right here, on opening night? Yes, it was a while ago. 18 June 1930...

Come on; try a bit harder!

Well, not very good memories you lot.

It was a film called *4 Devils*, made by F.W. Murnau.

Excited? Don't wet your seats yet. There will be no film. *4 Devils* does not exist! Like my glorious dream, like the magical Strand Hall, the film has been lost. One of the last silent films of the era, sound was added by Fox producers after Murnau fell out with Fox and quit the studio in 1929. The original film was probably destroyed in a 1937 fire at Fox's storage vaults in New Jersey.

Tonight, we are going to remake this movie. *4 Devils* will come to life right here, for the first time since 1930. But, most importantly, you're going to help me tell the story of my life. Are you ready?

ACT II
SCENE 2

Projection of Port Albert.

MA 1897. A ship docks at Port Albert.
When they drew into those waveless, mudflats, what do you think the four young sisters from County Clare saw?

Yes, it looked just like home!

Margaret, Mary, Gladys and Elsie Hart.

The four daughters of Thady and Mary Hart.
I think I was 17. Maybe we were orphans...
You know, I can't remember. In those days a lot of girls made the crossing alone.

Does anyone know the story?

The records say my name was Margaret Adelia Hart.
I'll tell you a secret. I was really called Bridget.
Not the first or the last lass to change her name.
Now's your moment ladies, make your confessions.

*Clown enters onto round stage.
Poodle hides behind him.*

CLOWN I have one!

MA Who! Who are you?

CLOWN A clown. The ghost of Regents past. Here in Spirit.
You ask Susan or Bruce you can quite often hear me knocking about the place.

MA Imposter...

CLOWN Anyway, she's one to talk.
Two names; two women.
The orphan and the owner.
At least two husbands. How many men?
Two names. Could be useful. Like Yarram Yarram...
(*to a person*) Can you tell us what it means?

CLOWN That's right, in Bratowooloong it means 'plenty of water'.

MA In those days, we had plenty of water!
Yarram was a town on the 'rise'. Water spirits.

CLOWN Rising floodwaters, But that was not all.
We were drowning in drink, thanks to you Mrs... Mrs...

Poodle yaps and leaps, demarcating the flood zone.

CLOWN What's he doing?

MA The Water Spirit used to seep out under the stage.
It was a like a lake there.
How often did it flood?

Poodle barks a dozen times before MA interrupts.

MA Alright, we get the picture!
When I built the Regent theatre I left it to my boyfriend
to appease the gods. He assumed we had to honour the
big man.

Poodle scampers over to the balcony to point to Neptune.

MA See him in the pressed metal?
That grumpy face etched on the balcony?
Anyone know the old bastard?
God of the sea...
Yes, Neptune!

CLOWN He should have protected us...
Held back the water spirit.

MA Neptune was useless.

CLOWN Some say it was a leaking pipe from Wynns.
But no one ever knew.

MA It had nothing to do with plumbing, in the literal sense...No,
no. The mistake my builder made was to leave the women
out of the picture.

CLOWN Really? He had a woman.
What was she called? Eileen, Beryl, Ethel, Mavis?

MA The waters were too much for the old bloke, Neptune.
To manage it all, he actually needed two helpers.
Salacia, the salty one, salacious, impetuous, flooding waters.
And Venilia, the one in control, calming the wind and waves.

CLOWN Sounds like a disease.
Ahem. Yes! Two women to rule the waters.

MA Oh, and the ceiling.
That came from the sea as well.
Who knows what it was?
Yes, seaweed!
My silly boyfriend had some idea
it would insulate us from the oceans.
Neptune on the walls and seaweed in the roof!
What were they smoking in those days?

CLOWN We should have got the ladies in to sort out the flooding
in Yarram. The blokes argued about those drains for 120
years... they are still arguing about them...
Here's a tale from the 1890s.

REPORTER About 5am on Friday the creek filled almost suddenly, which
was immediately followed by a complete wall of water
sweeping over the whole of Yarram Yarram, carrying with it
everything that offered any obstruction to its progress. Folks
had at once to seek the highest position at hand, first on the
tables thence on the tie beams or on the roofs. Trees, horses
and cattle, were on the move; even the snakes, large

numbers carried down by the torrent.
When the flood went down, one of the toilets was missing
from the Recreation reserve.

MA Right! Who took the dunnys?

Poodle searches audience.

CLOWN Look! They're up there, on that tree!

MA You want to know how I saw it back in 1887?
Well, Commercial Street was a quagmire.
No such thing as bitumen. Horses, cattle and dogs wander-
ing loose. Lean-to shops and a shanty for a pub.
It's a circus, this town, I thought.
And I'll be its master.

CLOWN Yes! The circus. Of course!
We have a show to put on!

MA Where's the main act?
Do we have four virgins?

Clown searches high and low for the four virgins.

CLOWN Yoo hoo! Any virgins here?

Poodle runs around too.

CLOWN You? Hmmm. Don't think so. You? Maybe? Actually no...

MA We'll have to go back in time.
A very long way back.

CLOWN Sweeney, Trickett, Cox, Bird, Peck...
Virgins anyone?
Bunn, Head, Hart, Rash, Burns,
Brash, Strange, Gash...
With names like that, no wonder you're keeping quiet.

The four virgins emerge from the four corners of the space, dressed in white gowns.

MA Look no further! Here are some virgins. Let's begin!

SCENE 3

Projections of circus.

CLOWN Once upon a time there was a circus in Yarram.
Does anyone remember?

MA I do! I was its owner!
Welcome one, welcome all, to Hart's Country Circus!
Anyone want to join?

CLOWN Come on up!
Oh no, not sure about you on a trapeze.
But you'd make a good clown.

MA Hey! We need acrobats. No more clowns!

Two figures come wandering shyly down the central aisle, from the foyer.

CLOWN Who do we have here?

MA Hurry up. Speak!

ADOLPH pushes FRITZ forward.

Projection Title

WE ARE ORPHANS
WE WANT TO JOIN YOUR CIRCUS

CLOWN Look MA! A film?

MA A silent movie?

(to Adolph and Fritz)

What makes you two so special?

Projection Title

THEIR PARENTS WERE ACCIDENTALLY
KILLED IN THEIR 'LEAP OF DEATH'

MA Names please! Speak up now.

FRITZ I am Fritz. He's Adolf.

MA Funny names! Are you from Won Wron?
And what about the two girls?

CLOWN They're orphans too. Aimee and her sister Louise.
Their parents were acrobats killed in the leap of death.

MA What do you think this is?
A circus or asylum?

FRITZ Our mother is dead.

AIMEE We too have lost our parents.

Projected title

FROM CHILDHOOD
THE LIFE OF AN ACROBAT
IS FULL OF LABOUR AND RISKS.
AN EVERLASTING REHEARSING AND REHEARSING...

ACT III

SCENE 4

MA reclines on a chaise lounge. Mr and Mrs Duke enter.

MA I know what it is to be alone.
To make your own way.
They say I was callous... wily.
I was a maid for Mr Duke there.
A helper to Mr Duke ancient wife.
Sarah. She was a cousin of mine, apparently.
But I was not born to serve.
I was destined to rise to greater things.
Don't you agree? Come on, you'd do the same.
I know it when I see it.
Pure ambition!

MRS DUKE She was a schemer.
I knew it from the start.
I wasn't even in the grave...

(extracts a piece of paper from her pocket)

'At Yarram Petty Sessions, Sarah DUKES v Thomas DUKES re
maintenance, he having left with her niece, Maggie HART,
'without whom he could not live', without providing for wife.'

MR DUKE Yes, it's true. I was in love.

MRS DUKE Ha! "Without whom you could not live..." You old fool. You were 78 years old. She was 24. You wouldn't live long! Obviously, she used you.
(to audience) What would you say?

MA What should I have done?
I'd either rise on the high waters,
or wallow in hell and slavery.

MRS DUKE You think you'd have some sympathy for the weak.
You're no better than Hart's circus owner.

CLOWN Did someone say Circus? Bring on the acrobats.

*Fritz comes out and starts to practice while Aimee watches him.
He fails to make the leap.*

MA Sacrifice yourself! Make yourself do things you can't imagine doing. Look at me. This is the only way to make the leap of death.

Projected Title (Fritz)
I CAN'T.

MA There is no such expression in an acrobat's language!

*MA raises her arm above little Fritz.
Clown steps in to protect him.*

CLOWN *(to audience)* Should I sock her one?
No. I can't.
It's like looking in a mirror.
Everyone's got a bit of MA in them.

Projected Title
IN THIS MANNER, THE MAN, WHO HAS
LEARNED TO LOVE THE CHILDREN, TOOK THEM INTO THE WORLD.
HE BECAME THEIR TEACHER...
THEIR FATHER...

CLOWN The four virgins left alone when their parents were killed attempting the leap of death. I became their protector. We survived together. We starved together. I taught them and they became the 4 DEVILS.

Projected Title
THE FOUR DEVILS
THE LEAP OF DEATH
GREAT SENSATION

MA Ladies and gentlemen! I have the honour to introduce to you tonight the world famous acrobats known as 'The 4 Devils'.

4 Devils run into the ring and bow. They clap their hands and jump with outstretched arms to the trapeze. They begin to swing.

*A spotlight illuminates THE LADY in a box seat.
Fritz swings toward the box. The Lady leans over to catch Fritz's eyes, as he is swinging to and fro.
4 Devils glide over the round stage and set down on its edge.
4 Devils are puffed but beaming.
Fritz takes Aimee's hand, and Adolf, Louise's hand.
They bow to audience and swirl off the stage into the wings.*

SCENE 5
MA reclines on the chaise lounge on the main stage.

MA And that's how Hart's Country Circus began.
Who do you think you are?

MRS DUKE I'm Sarah Duke.
I was a few weeks dead when you wed my husband.

MR DUKE It was a matter of honour.

MRS DUKE Was it her honour or a con?
A baby girl was born three months later.

Pause.
Only she died the same day.

MA I was not going to take it lying down.
I, the second Mrs Duke took back the Yarram Yarram Hotel.

CLOWN *(on round stage)* So 'MA' was made.
What do you think happened next?
The old Duke died...
Do you think she mourned?

MA I told the doctors. Oh, I said,
'He was old, senile'.
I'd inherited a good business.
And I sought good advice.
Lawyers Skinner & Hart – no relation – directed me to take
out a loan from ANZ bank in Melbourne and buy up the
stockyards. After some wrangling, I had them move the
yards into town, which saw to it that the workers drank at
my hotel.

CLOWN She ran that pub all by herself

MRS DUKE Just imagine what the upright people thought...

MA I did it for eight years.
I had no need to remarry.

MRS DUKE Your *private* quarters were never empty.

CLOWN It was still a tight ship, the Yarram Hotel.
And she was always at the helm.

MA By 1900 I was busy laying the plans for a grand new estab-
lishment, Dukes Hotel, so I leased the Yarram Yarram pub to
J. A. Pruden from Sale.

CLOWN This upstart from Sale promised the locals A1 liquors
and 1st class accommodation...

MA But my new pub would trump that. I wish you should have
seen Dukes Hotel when it opened in 1910.

CLOWN Meanwhile, in 1907, she married again.
What was his name?
Yes, that's right. Thompson. First name? No one? Arthur.

MR DUKE Poor old Arthur.
He was married to MA for three years but, still,
it was my surname on MA's new hotel...

MA I only did it because I needed someone reliable
to run the pub so I could start the *next* project...
Anyone know what that was?
Yes, the first picture theatre in Yarram!

CLOWN She used local bricks and local blokes.

MA The Strand opened its doors to the thronging crowd in 1914.

CLOWN Not frightened of feminine arts, some fellow decorated the
walls with...
What was it? Painted fla...?
Flamingos, yes.
How many? Give a rough guess. Great!
And there was something else painted there too. Anyone?
Something twisted and purple.
No, not tripe. Wisteria!

MA The first films came with the travelling picture shows
in about 1900. The halls were always full.
I saw it clear as Grace Kelly's skin.
A private hall would do exceptional trade.

CLOWN Every Wednesday and Friday night, and twice on Saturday.
When a live muso couldn't do the honours of accompani-
ment, what did they do?
Pause. Well, a Pianola was rolled out.
The player was meant to keep up with film.
Only, apparently, when the suspense became too great, the
poor pianist would lose track!
They'd have to pedal like mad to catch up with the scene.

MA So which films did we put on?
No idea. Too young, you lot.
I'll let you off this time.
Anyone remember seeing a film here at the Regent?
Well, back in my day, they weren't as prim as you would
think back then. Just listen to this list of titles of the films
shown at the Strand and the Regent in 1930.

Clown and Poodle acts out a pantomime of titles.

REPORTER *Surrender*
Just Wait
Honeymoon
Dangerous Woman
Shooting the Bull
Cross Country Bunion Race
Fish Stories
The Wild Party

College of Love
And Morning Came
Betrayal
River of Romance
Shiraz
Newlyweds' Headache
Divorce Made Easy
Girl Overboard
Uneasy Virtue
Daddy Long Legs
Two Kinds of Women
Kisses by Command

MA Three films a week were still not enough for the people of Yarram. We had four theatres going by then. The Strand, the Regent, the Mechanics and the Masonic Hall. I had wealth and power. I could choose my own destiny. From the day we built that first hall, The Strand, fantasy knew no bounds. The films rolled out night after night. But that was the least of it.

CLOWN Yes! Glorious days!
We had them all.
Pageants, grand balls, eisteddfods.
Carnivals, sheep shearing comps.
Scone bake offs, roller skating and basketball!

MA But the pinnacle was...
the QUEEN CARNIVAL!!!

CLOWN Hurrah! It's the QUEEN CARNIVAL!!

The 4 Devils reappear parading in a circle.

CLOWN And here she comes: the Queen of Sport.
Now the Queen of Agriculture.
And now the Queen of Charity!
And reigning above all,
the Queen of the North!

MA Do you know why was she called Queen of the North?
Who knows where that was?
Yes. Devon North.
Otherwise known as?

Anyone?
Yes! The Holy City!
But not so many virgins I hear, eh?
Hold on, someone's coming...
Who could it be?
Oh, it's that old clown.
What is he doing now??

Clown enters with a giant sponge cake on a trolley.

CLOWN Here you go!
I've got a story about the great sponge!

MA Is it about Alma?

CLOWN No, no. She won't talk to the press.
The story goes that one day there was a big 'do' at The Strand.

POODLE Like tonight?

MA Shut up. You're a dog - not meant to talk.

CLOWN Some crafty lady had made a fine batch of sponges for the occasion. Canny, like our Alma, she'd packed them into a suitcase.
Rehearsals were in full swing.
The delicate specimens stowed just below the stage.
One fine gentleman...
Well, he'd just indulged a little too much over at Duke's Hotel.

MA Oh no, don't say...

CLOWN He was dancing along the stage, though, not quite part of the act, when he lurched and fell...
And where, my friends, do you think he landed?
That's right!
He tumbled straight into suitcase full of sponges!
Yes, it was truly an awful day for sponge-lovers.
When I think about it, the sponge is like marriage.

MA How so?

CLOWN

Some of us can make 'em,
Some of us fake 'em,
Others just break 'em.

*The Poodle lifts a giant ring from the top of the sponge cake.
He carries it onto of the round stage and holds it up.*

Projection of Film poster 'Leap of Death' through ring of fire.

The four virgins pass in a procession through the ring.

ACT IV
SCENE 6

MA

Finally, it's opening night of The Regent Theatre.
18 June 1930.
To kick off the celebrations,
Let's put on the fantastic 4 Devils!
A swinging circus trapeze becomes the pendulum of
passion!

Clown throws a Jaffa at MA.

MA

Okay, who threw that? Where is the projectionist? Susan!?

CLOWN

She's probably chasing those rascals out the back.
The boys give projectionists no end of strife.
I'm a good shot. Huh?
Let's hope that Aimee has deadly accuracy when she
sends the trapeze to Fritz, just like this!

MA

That's right.
Now we're coming to the real power struggle.
It's between Aimee and The Lady.
Who do you think will win?
The Virgin or the Vamp?
Who do you think should win?

*Enter 4 Devils in trapeze costumes and red capes.
They wave at the crowd -- call to them.*

SCENE 7

The 4 Devils stand with outstretched arms before the trapeze.

MA

The leap of death only performed here in Hart's country
circus! Of course eventually something always does happen
with these death leaps...
But there's good money in it.

*Aimee is standing on the far side of the stage, holding the bar,
ready to throw it to Fritz.*

*Fritz sets off with a terrific swing and flying into space, turns the famous three-time
somersault – the Leap of Death!*

*Aimee under great mental strain stands ready to act.
We see her last second decision before with deadly accuracy she throws the trapeze
on which Fritz lands.*

*4 Devils leap into centre stage.
The two pairs, Aimee and Fritz, and Adolph and Louise, take each other by the
hand, bowing.*

*A rose falls at the feet of Fritz.
He picks it up.
He releases Aimee's hand as he bows to the box.
The Lady, with a captivating smile, acknowledges his thanks.*

*Aimee following Fritz' movements sees The Lady.
Aimee seeks Fritz's hand.
Only she grabs the hand in which he is holding the rose.
Its thorns pierce her fingers.*

SCENE 8

CLOWN *(running in from the back of the auditorium)* Fire! Fire!

MA

What!? Where?

CLOWN

Up there! In the bio box!!

MA

Not the first time, I'll have you know.
Let me think...
(To audience) Help me here.
It was just after we opened.
That's it. It's coming back.
Thursday 6 November 1930.

REPORTER

Does anyone remember that day?

Theatre Sensation at Yarram. A fire broke out in the bio room of the new Regent Theatre at Yarram on Saturday evening.

At about 8.15pm residents were disturbed by the ringing of the fire bell. The local brigade promptly answered the call and a hose was taken into the theatre and run into the bio-room from which the smoke was issuing. Although the film has been alight for some minutes it was considered unnecessary to inform the large audience immediately. When the fire was announced, those present walked quietly out, the majority receiving pass out tickets.

The fire demonstrated the complete proof against fire of the bio-room, which is constructed against fire on modern lines. The loss is covered by insurance.

CLOWN

Years later another man was caught in the hot seat.

MA

Not the first time that happened either...
What was he up to then?

CLOWN

It was Mr Vern Campbell.
He told Kate Remfry at the Historical Society that one night he was sitting there in the balcony and he felt his trousers getting warm. He looked down and saw that the seat was on fire!

MA

Who knows what really went on...
But right now our 4 Devils are playing with fire.

CLOWN

Yes, our lovers are caught in a trapeze.
Very soon they will do the Leap of Death through the flaming ring.
(to audience) What do you think?
Who is going to get burned?
Is it Fritz? Aimee?
I love those devils...

MA

What would a clown know about a love triangle?

CLOWN

Ah, why do you think I wear paint?

MA

Well, I had Mr Thompson.
But I needed a man who could really lay the bricks.
He'd be the one.
The one to construct my great theatre.

THE BUILDER

Hi. I built this theatre.
And I took care of a few other jobs for the boss Lady,
if you get my drift...

MA

Just like our acrobats on their trapeze,
we swing between two extremes
ambition and love,
which end up as one in our dreams

SCENE 8

Spotlight moves to Main Stage, where Fritz and the Lady are sharing Champagne. He leaves.

Lights up on round stage.

*Clown paces up and down in front of Aimee in her costume.
He glances nervously at his watch.*

*Fritz arrives. He is breathing heavily, wiping the perspiration from his brow.
He bends forward. An empty trapeze comes to him.
He grabs it and swings away,
breathing heavily, dripping with perspiration.
Fritz is falling, head over heels*

AIMEE

Net!

Projection Title

TOMORROW WE WILL WORK
WITHOUT THE NET.

AIMEE

Fritz! You...we...cannot!

Projection Title

COURAGE IS THE ONLY THING
WHICH LIFTS US ABOVE THE HERD.

ACT V
SCENE 9

MA
Falling, falling, dreams come tumbling down.
My dream would crumble too.
But like our Devils, I fought back, blind to the risks.
Like Aimee, soon I would become my own enemy.
And there would be no one to catch me. Poor Aimee. They
grew up together but she was losing him to the lady.

Projection Title
MONSIEUR FRITZ
will execute
THE DEATH LEAP FROM THE
CIRCUS DOME
!!! WITHOUT A NET !!!
SCENE 10

Adolf and Fritz are putting on makeup. Adolf watches his brother secretly reading a letter and the sight fills him with bitterness.

Projection of The Lady's letter.

*Best Beloved
Because you did not come this afternoon the day has seemed endless.
I will be waiting with greater eagerness.*

Clown enters

FRITZ What's the matter?

CLOWN You fell today! Tomorrow you must make the leap of death
without a net. It's impossible for an acrobat to live the sort of
life you are living.

FRITZ I am not only an acrobat.
I am a man with feelings.
My life means more to me than my profession.

CLOWN *(picks up the rose)* Is this then, your life?

FRITZ Don't you dare touch that flower!

The clown throws the flower on the floor.

FRITZ You have messed with me for the last time!
I'm through. Do you understand? Through!!"

SCENE 11

The Lady is on the lounge, looking smug. She rise to answer a knock at the door.

THE LADY Well? He is not here!

AIMEE You are ruining his career as an acrobat!

THE LADY He will forget his career where I am taking him!

AIMEE You are keeping him from
someone he has hurt...
someone he loves...

THE LADY You mean from someone who loves him!

AIMEE Yes! I love him!

Projection Title

I WOULD RATHER SEE HIM DEAD
THAN IN YOUR HANDS!

FRITZ I don't belong here

THE LADY Then go back to them.

AIMEE You are not...
Going to remain... With her?

FRITZ Tonight, I have broken away...
Ended it.

SCENE 12

MA But Aimee is no longer the same placid girl. A new and
disturbing creature has risen from the former weakness.
A Devil-woman has been born. A creature of equal power
and menace.

Projection Title

! TODAY!

! Of the FOUR DEVILS!

GALA NIGHT AT THE CIRCUS

Never seen before:

The deathspring from the
CIRCUS DOME

!!! WITHOUT A NET !!!

Executed by Monsieur Frederick

and MADEMOISELLE AIMEE!!

AS FINALE TO THE FAMOUS

TRAPEZE ACT OF THE

!!! FOUR DEVILS !!!

SCENE 13

The Circus Ring.

MA The one and only 4 devils!
 Farewell performance tonight!
 Hart's country circus!!

The 4 Devils make a full turn of the arena.

CLOWN (Narrates) Tonight the leap of death will be performed
 for the first time without a net.

Fritz swings on trapeze above the crowd. On the other side is Aimee his former lover. Fritz will shortly let go of the trapeze perform a somersault and be caught by Aimee as she swings over the crowd.

The lady steps forward watching him. She knows that despite what Fritz has said, she will have him tonight. He is hers.

The crowd is hushed as Fritz launches himself across the gap, he completes the somersault and his hands reach out for Aimee. There he goes.

But she has also launched herself from the trapeze. Their bodies meeting in the air together.

Projection title

I LOVE YOU.

CLOWN

(Narrates) They fall together locked in a death embrace. To the ground, to their deaths.

Aimee decided that death was better than letting Fritz go back to The Lady. Instead of passing the bar to her lover, she threw herself to Fritz, knowing she could never hold his weight.

That was the end of '4 Devils'. Not really an uplifting finale for the first film shown here at The Regent. A story of 4 orphans, who became 4 devils.

ACT VI: EPILOGUE

SCENE 14

Projection of Ninety Mile Beach

CLOWN I heard that years later when you, Mary Duncan, 'The Lady', borrowed a copy of the film from Fox and watched the film again, you were so upset that you threw the film into her pool, or maybe even into the Pacific Ocean!

THE LADY Yes. It was an awful performance. The film was a flop. She stole the show, and the studio remade the ending with her talking. Her! I had the only print. I had it in my hands!

MA That's life!
 We underestimated that woman and the water.
 Underestimated the power of ambition.
 I decided that I should make one last building before I died,
 my own memorial.

Projection of MA's grave in Yarram cemetery.

MA Impressed?
 It must be the highest cross in the cemetery,
 I said to the funeral director.
 Pity nobody came to my funeral.
 That was the complaint of my funeral director.
 Poor man put in such an effort.
 Well, after all, I had told him to 'spare no expense'.

CLOWN What a pity. But in this small town we still honour you MA in this great building. But we will always remember the other one, The Strand. Won't we everyone?

MA Like Aimee, The Strand was sacrificed to save another love, this place, our Regent Theatre.

CLOWN Oh, you are right. The first brick laid one hundred years ago, but now we can celebrate the smashing down of the old Strand. Hurrah!

MA Ah, what was it like?
Some shows just about brought the house down!
Not, I'll have you know, that the Strand could be 'brought down'.

CLOWN No! It was anything but a 'push-over'. The wreckers reckoned the walls were as solid as the days they were built.

MA Ah, the expression, 'built like a brick-shhhh...'

CLOWN Bzzz! That was precisely the problem.
Your brickie didn't build any dunnys!

MA It was little wander out the back.
A bit of the fresh Yarram air.
Good for the constitution!

CLOWN There have been so many good times here at the Regent, MA. We owe you.

MA I ran two pubs and two theatres. I did all right out of Yarram. I don't think it owes me anything. I believed a woman could do anything.

CLOWN When you think of all the relationships that started up there in the Mezzanine.
All the good ones would sit up there with Mum and Dad but the naughty ones would sit right there. Come on, who remembers what went on down the back of the theatre?

MA Hey. Who's that? It that George Scammell?
Are you a ghost?

CLOWN Maybe. Maybe not. George was a bit of a clown but he organised Sunday school concerts in Devon North so he would never be naughty. Do you think that George would have let our acrobats perform on the floor? He would have had them appearing through a hole he cut in the floor of the stage or swinging from a loop attached to the roof.

CLOWN You built the Regent MA, but George Scammell made it come alive. Life is more than having the highest cross in the cemetery.

MA I didn't care what the town thought of me, but you, George, you opened the doors and let people in. My beautiful Regent became their Regent Theatre.
It belongs to Yarram now.

THE END

LILY HIBBERD, TWIN CINEMA: FOUR DEVILS AND THE WOMAN IN RED

GIPPSLAND: 12 APRIL – 8 JUNE
LATROBE REGIONAL GALLERY, MORWELL
24 APRIL, THE REGENT THEATRE, YARRAM

COMMISSION DETAILS

Lily Hibberd, *Twin Cinema: 4 Devils and A Woman in Red*, 2014
Exhibition of original artwork and collected cinema equipment and memorabilia
Commissioned by NETS Victoria for *The Cinemas Project* curated by Bridget Crone

INCLUDED IN THE EXHIBITION

4 Devils: Hell and High Water (2014)

Single channel digital video, 11 minutes 24 seconds; Director: Lily Hibberd,
Assistant Director: Wyatt Kilgower Manager of The Regent Theatre: Susan
McMillan; actors: Margery Missen, Holly Johnson

Morwell Town Hall Theatre Banner

Reproduction of Morwell Town Hall Theatre interior, 1936, 20 x 24cm (original)
Inscription verso: AG Leith & Associates (photographer?), Banner print 310 x 500cm,
courtesy Morwell Historical Society, Len Hare Collection

Yallourn Theatre Banner

Reproduction of Yallourn Theatre interior, date unknown, photographer unknown
Banner print 310 x 500 cm, photograph courtesy Old Brown Coal Mine Museum

Yallourn Theatre Demolition Banner

Reproduction of Yallourn Theatre in process of demolition,
photographer unknown, c1980, banner print 260 x 400cm,
photograph courtesy Julie George, Virtual Yallourn website.

Cinema projection equipment including a reconstructed Raycophone 35mm Film
Projector, 1937, archival materials including photographs, glass slides, cinema
tickets, courtesy of Peter Ricketts.

Other cinema memorabilia courtesy of the Morwell Historical Society and Daniel
Jordan. Yallourn Theatre Architectural Plans courtesy of the Old Brown Coal Mine
Museum. Yallourn Brick donated by Steve Cox.

COMMISSION DETAILS (CONTD)

Lily Hibberd, *4 Devils: Hell and High Water*, 2014
Six act play, presented by The Regent Theatre and Gippsland Regional Arts.
Performed by a local cast, directed by Darren McCubbin.

CAST

Ma Thompson	Jess Lawrence
Clown	Darren McCubbin
The Lady	Rebecca Brennan
Devil 'Fritz'	Ayla Hay
Devil 'Aimee'	Prue Stark
Devil 'Louise'	Kaitlin Woolford
Devil 'Adolph'	Teilor Woolford
Poodle	Clara Mandaletti
The Builder (Ma's Boyfriend)	'Bob' Mark Wigg
Mr Thomas Duke	Gary Stephens
Mrs Sarah Duke	Janet Bland
Piano	Ann Richards
Lighting	Jed Smith & Wyatt Kilgower

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and Daniel Jordan from the Black Skivvy Film Society; Julie George of the Yal-
lourn Old Girls' Association; Steve Cox of the Yallourn Community Facebook; and
Wayne Gilmour and Ann Dyer of the Latrobe Valley Film Club.

Historical sources for '4 Devils: Hell and High Water': Margery Missen,
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