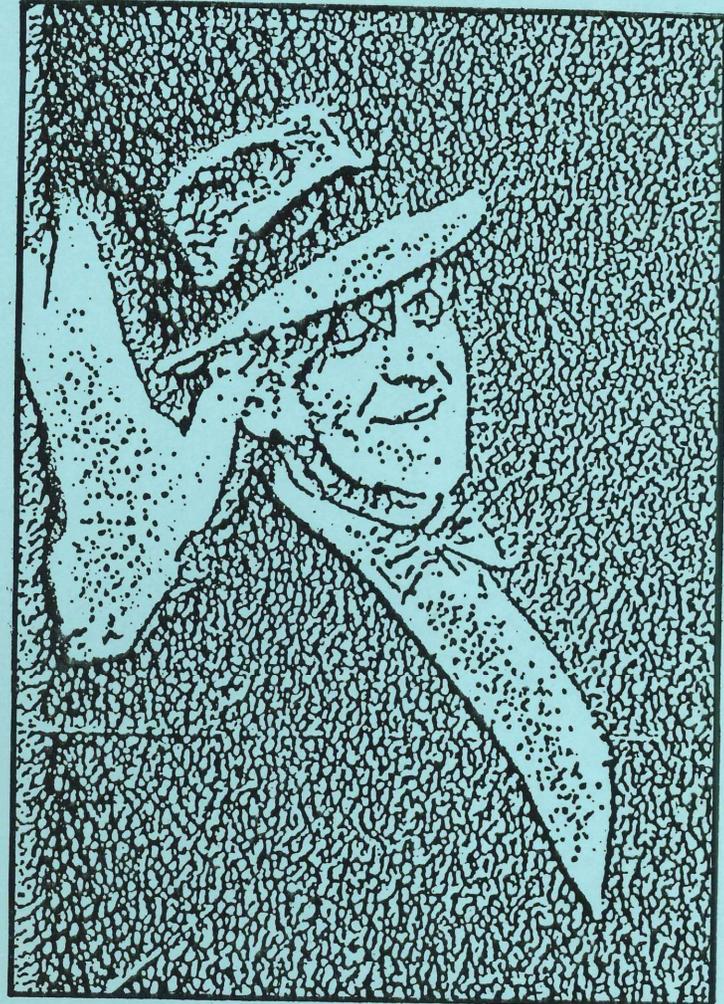


THANK YOU,  
MR. HOLLOWAY!



... a tribute to a great artist

LIGHTING FOR  
"THANK YOU MR. HOLLOWAY!"  
BY COMPANY THEATRE  
BOX 33-171 TAKAPUNA,  
AUCKLAND 9



*Ephemera: Theatre - Company Theatre*

we proudly present ...

## THANK YOU, MR. HOLLOWAY!

(a tribute to a great artist)

Written and presented by: CHIC LITTLEWOOD

Music and lighting design: JOHN DYLAN

### PART ONE

In which Alfred P Doolittle introduces Stanley Holloway and a few of the artists who influenced him as a young man.

You are respectfully requested to "join in the chorus" in the true tradition of music hall! The words of the songs are overleaf.

### INTERVAL

### PART TWO

In which Mr Holloway recalls songs and monologues that through the years have become identified solely with him.

... he grew up at a time when music-hall was at its peak. As a young man, he was able to watch the "greats" of a fabulous era plying their craft in the theatres, the pubs and the beer-halls of his native London. The influence of those early years stayed with him, and is evident in everything he has ever done - and when it comes to show business, Mr Holloway has done it all.

Forty years before "My Fair Lady" made him into a superstar, he was helping to create theatrical history as one of the original "Co-optomists", the concert party that ran for an unprecedented ten years in London's West End, and, twenty years after that, he established himself internationally in a series of movies that have each become classics in their own right: "The Way Ahead", "Brief Encounter", "This Happy Breed", "Passport to Pimlico", "The Lavender Hill Mob", and Sir Lawrence Olivier's "Hamlet".

As a variety artist, his choice of material can only be described as inspired. Recordings of his monologues, selling in millions in the 1930's, are still in demand, as is Mr Holloway himself, who in his 91st year keeps right on working.

Tonight we acknowledge a career that, incredibly, spans every year of the present century. So may we thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for helping us to say ...

"THANK YOU, MR HOLLOWAY!"

S O N G   S H E E T

1) Any old iron, any old iron!  
Any any old iron!  
You look sweet, talk about a treat,  
You look dapper from your napper to your feet.  
Dressed in style, with a brand new tile,  
And your father's old green tie on,  
Oh! I wouldn't give you tuppence for your old  
watch chain,  
Old iron! Old iron!

- 2) The end of me old cigar, hurrah, hurrah, hurrah;  
I stroll down Piccadilly and they fancy I'm the Shah!  
It isn't because I'm handsome or that I'm a lah-de-dah,  
I tickle the people's fancy with the end of me old  
cigar!
- 3) For we were comrades, comrades, ever since we were boys,  
Sharing each other's sorrows, sharing each other's joys,  
Comrades when man was in danger,  
Comrades whate'er may betide,  
When danger threatened my darling old Comrade  
Was there by my side.
- 4) Bumpety, bumpety, bumpety bump!  
As if I was riding me charger.  
Bumpety, bumpety, bumpety bump!  
As proud as an Indian Rajah.  
All the girls declare, that I'm a gay old stager -  
Hey! Hey! Clear the way!  
Here comes the Galloping Major!
- 5) I love a lassie, a bonnie bonnie lassie,  
She's as pure as the lilies in the dell,  
She's as sweet as the heather,  
The bonnie purple heather,  
Mary, my Scots bluebell.
- 6) Roamin' in the gloamin', by the bonny banks o' Clyde,  
Roamin' in the gloamin', wi' a lassie by my side.  
When the sun has gone tae rest,  
That's the time that I like the best -  
Man, it's lovely Roamin' in the Gloamin'.
- 7) Will you stop your ticklin', Jock?  
Will you stop your ticklin', Jock!  
Dinna mak' me laugh sae hearty or you'll mak' me choke!  
Och, I wish you'd stop your nonsense -  
Look at all the folk!  
Will you stop your ticklin',  
Tickle-ickle-icklin',  
Stop your ticklin', Jock!

"I'd better tell you at once I'm an old fan of Chic Littlewood. Over the past 15 years I've watched him developing and maturing first as a brilliant impressionist, then as a comedian in his own right, then as a singer in television entertainment, then as an actor in television drama, and most recently chatting to children on television every afternoon. So he's a versatile, multi-talented, all-round entertainer, and all he's lacked is the right star vehicle. But now he's found it, or rather created it for himself, in the life of another all-rounder, Stanley Holloway. Now there's a man who's done everything too, from music-hall to Shakespeare, from Cockney comedy to the sophisticated dialogue of Noel Coward, and Chic has simply put together a selection from the vast amount of material that the man has performed in his long life and called it, "Thank you, Mr Holloway!"

"He's over 90 now - Holloway, I mean, not Chic, and he's been in show business during every year of the present century, starting as a boy soprano. As a lad, Holloway saw great stars who were around as long as a whole century ago, back in the 1880's, which is a staggering thought. And that's where Chic chose to begin, portraying for us those stars who were watched by Holloway as a boy and who must have influenced him ... and of course the show went right on to the songs most people nowadays link with Stanley Holloway, especially from "My Fair Lady".

"It was a living portrait of the whole span of show business in the twentieth century, as seen through the eyes of a great star who had been in the middle of it all; and it took another star to carry it off. Yes, this was the genuine star vehicle Chic has been waiting for, and it was one of those rare events that make theatre history, a night to remember, and - if you'll pardon my cliché - the night a star was born. Maybe in another generation or two there'll be somebody else up there doing another show on very similar lines, except that that one will be called "Thank you, Mr Littlewood".

Bute Hewes

"THE ARTS IN AUCKLAND" - Radio New Zealand 1YC - 28.6.81



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