

**A Study of the Generative Relationship Between Live Performance
and Collective Remembering in Western Australian Settler Society,
1839 to 1899.**

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This thesis is presented for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of Murdoch University
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Declaration:

I declare that this thesis is my own account of my research and contains as its main content work which has not previously been submitted for a degree at any other tertiary education institution.

..... (W. J. L. Dunstone)

Abstract:

This thesis makes a theoretical intervention into debates about the interrelationship of performance with remembering; and analyses performance as a specific instance of distributed collective remembering in colonial Western Australia during the period from 1839 to 1899. It brings new archival data to an analysis of the transmission of British culture through performance events in the colony. This transmission was a double process, in which performance heritage played a significant part in the development of a West Australian identification and sense of place.

The first part of the thesis delimits the topic and the interdisciplinary approach I take to it. It then conceptualises the generative links between performance and collective memory in relation to prior philosophical concepts of place and space. It next relates these concepts to social and cultural praxis, culminating with five case studies of colonial Western Australian performances.

I argue that colonial performance is symptomatic of a wider modern crisis of remembering that was embedded in specifically Western Australian matrices of gender, class, and race. The case studies analyse the function of microcosmic place-worlds enacted through doublets of imaginative thinking and future remembering, acculturation and cultural amnesia, within colonial performance.

Contents

Acknowledgements

Abbreviations

	Introduction	1
One	Topic and approaches	8
Two	Concepts	37
Three	Amateurism and community	63
Four	A politics of colonial performance	102
Five	Case Studies: Fremantle and the Eastern Goldfields	138
Six	Case Studies: Harry Bartine and Masked Balls	168
Seven	Case Study: Stage Magic and the 'Fatima' Illusion	201
	Conclusion	236
	Reference list	252
	Photographs and permissions	276

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Abbreviations:

This thesis refers to copies of the following newspapers held on microfilm at the, State Library of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia, J. S. Battye Library of Western Australian History. Abbreviated titles are used in parentheses for references in the main text and footnotes. Titles and abbreviations (in brackets) are:

Albany Advertiser (AlbAd)

Australian Advertiser (AustAdvt.)

Coolgardie Miner (CM)

Coolgardie Pioneer (CP)

Daily News (DN)

Eastern Districts Chronicle (EDC)

Golden Age (GAge)

Hannan's Herald (HanHer.)

Herald (Herald)

Inquirer and Commercial News (Inquirer.)

Kalgoorlie Miner (KM)

Perth Gazette and West Australian Times and avatars (Gazette)

Victorian Express (VicExp)

West Australian (WAust)

West Australian Catholic Record (WACR)

West Australian Times (WAT)

Western Mail (WMail)