

Lynn and Lynda – 14 years of touring and treading the boards for two ‘dainty’ brass musicians

Gavin Holman, 3 February 2021

Unfortunately, the full names or true identities of “Lynn and Lynda” have yet to be discovered. These two multi-instrumental brass performers appeared first as a double act in 1918. They certainly made a hit with the audiences and continued to tour, as a single act, sometimes as part of a revue, or even providing music and acting in stage plays, through to 1932. There was apparently a gap of 3½ years between 1924 and 1927 when it seems they were not performing, only for them to return to the stage in 1928 and, later that year, taking in a third performer – a dancer and vocalist – to make up the “Lynn and Lynda Trio.”



No trace of them has been found beyond 1932, so it is assumed they hung up their instruments and returned to a 'normal' life. The listing below details some of their engagements, and the scant reviews that are available about their performances.

- June 1918 – Electric Theatre, Dumfries, in *“a novel musical act”*
- July 1918 – The Palladium, Beeston – *“two dainty maids in a brass musical speciality, which is spoken of very highly wherever shown”*
- November 1918 – at the Market Theatre, Aylesbury.
- January 1919 – Electric Theatre, Grace Hill, Folkestone, providing *“a rich musical treat, their renditions on a variety of brass instruments never failing to evoke loud applause”*
- February 1919 – The Queen’s Varieties, Castleford, *“performing on brass instruments with precision and ability”*
- April 1919 – The Rink, Paisley; the Pavilion, Galashiels; and the Town Hall, Port Glasgow, *“in their great musical speciality, introducing cornets, post horns, tenor horn, a piano, and ragtime trombones.” “This pair were big favourites, and play all sorts of musical instruments – orthodox and unorthodox – so that altogether the Port Glasgow folks are again in for something good.” “Lynn and Lynda are a marvellous couple with musical instruments. They play all kinds, and in such a manner that they receive a great deal of applause.”*
- June 1919 – The Empire, Mansfield – *“two dainty little ladies.”* Also at the Regent, Chelmsford.
- July 1919 – The Playhouse, Mill Road, Cambridge – played a supporting music role for the grand film production of the play *“Inside the Lines”*, the great spy play. They were described as *“two dainty ladies, small but with big talent. Their playing on wind instruments is very creditable indeed and hearty applause rewarded their efforts.”*
- August 1919 – The Palace Theatre, Lincoln; and the Palace, Wellingborough – *“very pleasing in a musical turn.”*
- September 1919 – The Alhambra, Belfast.
- October 1919 - the Tivoli Theatre, Dublin – *“are exceptionally good instrumentalists and, using as they do only brass instruments, show that the fair sex have now successfully invaded another domain at one time considered exclusive to the mere male.”* The Theatre Royal, Munster – *“Lynn and Lynda proved themselves to be versatile instrumentalists, and their contributions were loudly applauded.”*
- November 1919 – The Playhouse, Felixstow.
- December 1919 – The Hippodrome, Exeter – *“Two dainty little ladies – Small but with Big Talent, in a Musical Melange.” “They are responsible for a charming musical melange, including grand opera, ragtime and popular songs. Most wind instruments can, apparently be played by Lynn and Lynda with consummate ease.”*
- January 1920 – the Empire Theatre, Edmonton.
- February 1920 – the Regent Theatre, Yarmouth.
- March 1920 - The Playhouse, Mill Road, Cambridge – played a supporting music role for the play *“King Solomon’s Mines”* and the film *“Twelve-Ten.”* *“Lynn and Lynda pay a welcome return visit and give a capital ‘turn’. Their playing on various wind instruments delights the audience.”* Later that

month, at the Playhouse, Guildhall Street, Folkestone, supporting the play "*Once to Every Man.*"

- April 1920 – the Hippodrome, Wigan.
- July 1920 – the Palace Theatre, Yeovil; the Palace Theatre, Salisbury.
- August 1920 – the Palace Theatre, Attercliffe; the London Theatre, Shoreditch; the Palace Theatre, Bath – "*the little brass wonders.*"
- September 1920 – the Hippodrome, Seacombe.
- October 1920 – the Palace Theatre, Belper – "*The little brass wonders, playing ten brass instruments.*" "*Lynn and Lynda, clad as juveniles, prove themselves astonishing versatile as pianists and brass instrumentalists, including cornet, French horn, euphonium and trombone.*"
- November 1920 – the Empire Theatre, Longton – "*Lynn and Lynda play a great number of tunes on a variety of brass and silver instruments, for which they were accorded very hearty applause.*"
- December 1920 – the Empire Theatre, Mansfield.
- February 1921 – the Regent Theatre, Chelmsford; the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.
- March 1921 – the Palace Theatre, Barry Dock; the Empire Theatre, Peterborough.
- April 1921 – the Palace Theatre, Fleetwood – "*the finale is one of the most entertaining and wonderful seen on stage. Brass instruments of several varieties are played by Lynn and Lynda, two prettily dressed young ladies, as clever as they are pretty.*"
- June 1921 – Lynn and Lynda sailed from Southampton, on the R.M.S. Armadale Castle, for South Africa, to fulfil engagements with the African Theatre Ltd. Also on board was Bob Anderson and his polo pony!
- October 1921 – the Palace Theatre, Neath.
- November 1921 – the Palace Theatre, Southampton – "*Lynn and Lynda, the little brass wonders, are fully entitled to the claim.*" Also at the New Theatre, Northampton.

LYNN AND LYNDA

LITTLE BRASS WONDERS, PLAYING 10 BRASS INSTRUMENTS.

- December 1921 – the Casino Theatre, Aberdeen; the Tivoli Theatre, Dublin.
- January 1922 – the Palace Theatre, Bradford; the Palace Theatre, Plymouth.
- February 1922 – Warrington; the Palace Theatre, Halifax – "*exhibiting prowess on cornet, trombone, etc.*" Also at the Palace and Hippodrome, Blackburn.
- March 1922 – Huddersfield; the Palace Theatre, Carlisle.
- April 1922 – the Palace Theatre, Burnley.
- May 1922 – the Grand Theatre, Gravesend.
- July 1922 – the Coliseum, Portsmouth; the Hackney Empire; the Shepherds Bush Empire.
- August 1922 – the Hippodrome, Eastbourne; the Grand Theatre, Hanley.

- September 1922 – the Palladium, Llandudno; the Bristol Hippodrome – *“the youthful musicians, Lynn and Lynda, give a musical act in which a number of musical instruments are effectively introduced.”* Also at the Putney Hippodrome – *“One of the conspicuous successes of the programme is the musical act of those two charming little ladies, Lynn and Lynda. They play on all manner of brass instruments – cornets, post horns, saxophones, and so on, and their work is brilliant throughout.”* Also at the Edmonton Empire Theatre; and the Grand Palace Theatre, Clapham Junction.
- November 1922 – the Grand Theatre, Hanley; the Granville Theatre, London.
- December 1922 – they appeared at the Bedford Theatre, Camden Town, in the fantastical pantomime *“Forbidden Fruit”*, by Charles Baldwin, with Luck’s touring troupe, playing the characters Hula and Psyche, which takes place in a haunted library where a couple of professors have an uneasy time of it, while other scenes are concerned with a farm, a lane, and a lovers’ walk, before moving to Venus after the cast drinks the lighter-than-air liquid *“Forbidden Fruit”*. Lynn and Lynda gained loud applause in the final scene.
- January 1923 - the production of *“Forbidden Fruit”*, with Lynn and Lynda, played at the Devonport Hippodrome, before moving on to the Palace Theatre, Bath.
- February 1923 – with *“Forbidden Fruit”* at the Theatre Royal, Smethwick and the Royal Hippodrome, Eastbourne.
- March 1923 – with *“Forbidden Fruit”* at the Hippodrome, Gloucester.
- April 1923 – with *“Forbidden Fruit”* at the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh; also at His Majesty’s Theatre, Aberdeen.
- May 1923 – with *“Forbidden Fruit”* at the Hippodrome, Nottingham; also at the Hippodrome, Aldershot; Stoke Newington; and the Empire, Bristol – *“the two brass instrument experts, Lynn and Lynda, added considerably to the success of the production with their skill.”*
- June 1923 – with *“Forbidden Fruit”* at the Grand Theatre, Clapham – *“an unusual and pleasing feature is the work of Lynn and Lynda, ladies who are expert performers on various brass instruments.”*
- July 1923 - with *“Forbidden Fruit”* at the Tivoli Theatre, Hull; also at Hippodrome, Sheffield; the Royal Hippodrome, Liverpool; and the Hippodrome, Derby – *“Lynn and Lynda are skilful musicians who confine their efforts to wind instruments. They perform the ‘Post Horn Gallop’ with a gusto scarcely to be expected from artistes by no means large physically.”*
- August 1923 – with *“Forbidden Fruit”* at the Palladium, Llandudno.
- October 1923 – with *“Forbidden Fruit”* at the Hippodrome, Putney.
- November 1923 – with *“Forbidden Fruit”* at the Hippodrome, Devonport – *“in the hunting scene Lynn and Lynda, two accomplished musicians, add a distinct zest to the act.”* Also, at the Hippodrome, Southampton; the Hippodrome, Portsmouth; the Kilburn Empire; and the Islington Empire.
- December 1923 – An advertisement in *“The Stage”* - *“Lynn & Lynda, The Two White Cats, wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Henry Luck for a very happy year with their revue, “Forbidden Fruits”, and for the offer to rejoin on completion of their continental tour. They also thank both them and the company for magnificent gifts received, and wish them all a very Happy Xmas and Prosperous New Year.”*

LYNN & LYNDA

THE TWO WHITE CATS,

wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Henry Luck for a very happy year with their revue, "Forbidden Fruit," and for the offer to rejoin on completion of their continental tour. They also thank both them and the company for magnificent gifts received, and wish them all a very Happy Xmas and Prosperous New Year.

- February 1924 – with "Forbidden Fruit" at the Tivoli Theatre, Hull.
- March 1924 – with "Forbidden Fruit" at the Palace Theatre, Leicester; also at the Palace Theatre, Blackburn.

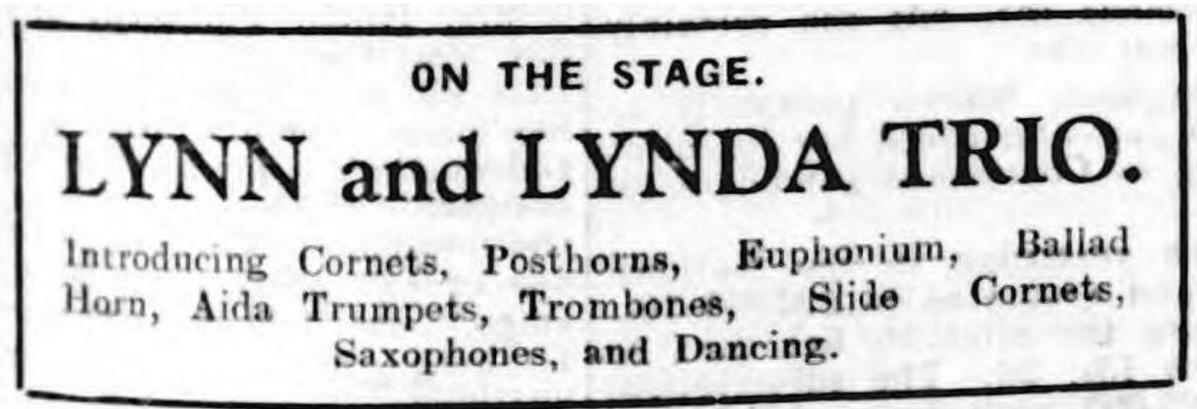
There is now a gap in their touring record, until the end of 1927 when they reappear, occasionally as "Lynne and Lynda" (with an added 'e').

- December 1927 – appeared at the London Theatre, Shoreditch on a variety bill.
- January 1928 – the Mile End Empire Theatre.
- February 1928 – at the City Varieties, Leeds, appearing in the comedy show "On the Go"; later at the Palace Theatre, Nottingham.
- April 1928 – with "On the Go" at the Alexandra Theatre, Hull – "Lynn and Lynda strengthen the instrumental department with trombone selections and syncopated items." Later that month they appeared in a variety bill at the New Tivoli Theatre, Weston-Super-Mare.



- May 1928 – they appeared at the Coliseum Theatre, Gloucester, together with a dancing partner, making up a trio. "They played a series of popular tunes with considerable skill, on wind instruments, including a coaching horn, trumpets and trombones."

- June 1928 – the Lynn and Lynda Trio appeared at the Empire Theatre, Smethwick.
- July 1928 – the trio is at the Victoria Hall, Batley.
- August 1928 – the Lyric Theatre, Liverpool.
- November 1928 – the Queen’s Theatre, Holbeck.
- December 1928 – the Plaza Theatre, Dundee. Followed by the Empire Super-Cinema, Barnsley, where the trio appeared three times daily “*in a marvellous musical melange. A combination of clever instrumentalists, dancers, and vocalists.*”



- January 1929 – the trio appeared at the Princess Theatre, Birstall; followed later in the month at the Abbeydale Picture House, Sheffield, where the trio entertained audiences between the feature films.
- February 1929 – the Palace Theatre, Plymouth; the Empire Theatre, Torquay; the Imperial Theatre, Newton Abbott; and the Hippodrome, Exeter (appearing on the bill with the comedian Rob Wilton with his act “Sherlock Bill”). “*The Lynne and Lynda Trio make a smart musical and dancing contribution to the programme.*”
- March 1929 – they Trio appeared at the Theatre Royal, Guilford, together with Dash’s Novelty Circus, a non-stop vaudeville show.
- April 1929 – the Empire Theatre, Bristol – “*The Lynne and Lynda Trio provide quite an interesting musical and dancing act, in fact it is a good curtain raiser.*” Later that month the trio provided musical entertainment during the film shows at the Avenue Theatre, Sunderland.
- May 1929 – again appearing at a cinema, the Palace Theatre, West Hartlepool. The trio introduced cornets, posthorns, euphonium, ballad horn, aida trumpets, trombones, slide cornets, saxophones, and dancing.
- July 1929 – at the Ripley Hippodrome the Trio were the main attraction, being supported by the film “*The Branded Man.*” Later moving to appear at the Olympia Theatre, Cardiff.
- October 1929 – the Trio appeared in the revue “*Très Bon*” at the Royal Hippodrome, Eastbourne, then the Empire Theatre, Middlesbrough, later moving to the Alexandra Theatre, Hull.
- December 1929 – appeared in “*Très Bon*” at the Playhouse, Cardiff.
- February 1920 – appeared in “*Très Bon*” at the Coliseum, Portsmouth; the Hippodrome, Coventry; and Her Majesty’s Theatre, Walsall.
- May 1930 – appeared in “*Très Bon*” at the Palace Theatre, Burnley.

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- June 1930 – appeared in “Très Bon” at the Theatre Royal, Leamington Spa; also at the Empire Theatre, Swindon.
- August 1930 – the Trio appeared in a variety programme at the Exeter Hippodrome – “several weird instruments are used in turn for the numbers of the Lynne and Lynda Trio, one of whom dances as well.”
- October 1930 – performed at the London Theatre, Shoreditch, appearing on the bill with the ‘Northern Comedian’ Jimmy Jewel.
- December 1930 – at the Bedford Theatre, Camden Town, giving “an instrumental treat to suit all music-lovers.”
- January 1931 – at the St James’ Kinema, Victoria.
- February 1931 – at the Empire Theatre, Belfast – appearing with Lindsay Fabre and ‘Aussie’ the boxing kangaroo.
- March 1931 – at the Metropole Theatre, Glasgow; and the Grand Picture Theatre, West Street, Crewe; then back to Belfast at the Gaiety Theatre at the end of the month.
- April 1931 – at the Popular Theatre, Belfast; and the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.
- October 1931 – at the Princess Theatre, Glasgow.
- November 1931 – at the Olympia Theatre, Cardiff.

- December 1931 – at the Tivoli Theatre, Aberdeen, “*giving graceful gymnastic dances and delightful items on a variety of instruments*”; and the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.
- January 1932 – at the London Theatre, Shoreditch – “*musical and dancing features of good calibre are the main ideas of the vivacious turn offered by the Lynne and Lynda Trio.*” Later appearing in support of the pantomime “*Red Riding Hood*” at Taunton.
- March 1932 – at the Palace Theatre, Plymouth. Also this month an advert appeared – “*Wanted, 21, Solo Dancer, Operatic, acrobatic, knowledge of trumpet, trombone. – Trixie Lynda, c/o Lynne and Lynda Trio, [Palace, Plymouth]; next P.A. 43 Hallsville Road, London, E.16*”

The trio appeared in the listings of available acts until June 1932, but no further mention of their appearances has been found.

