

@the weekend



ARTS A photographer's passion for Native Americans. Page 14

PICTURE THIS / ALL HAIL THE DANCING QUEEN

100 YEARS OF HERALD PHOTOGRAPHY

Valerie Lawson

IN A grey fur coat, far too hot for an April day, the ballerina Anna Pavlova arrived at Central Station in Sydney.

It was April 16, 1926. She looked down, towards a child in the crowd – out of frame in this picture. At her sides were four hatted men: a Pole, a Russian, a Frenchman and an Australian.

The Australian, looking very pleased with himself, was John Tait, the force behind the star. Along with his brothers, all at JC Williamson Ltd, he promoted Pavlova's Australian tours in 1926 and 1929.

The *Herald* began its report: "Out of the stamp and scuttle, voices babbling and steam blowing, policemen pushing, porters running, Pavlova."

"Around her, men and women fought to line the path: a dozen cameras fed hungrily on her face; policemen saluted; a rope held back the populace. In the middle of it... flowers pressed to her side, this little bird-like dancer."

"Anna Pavlova. It was like a universe revolving around a linnets."

Describing her as "a dancing queen", "dainty", and "fairy-like", press reports stressed Pavlova's youthfulness, as well as the Russian background of her troupe.

Things were not quite as they were portrayed. Pavlova was tired. At 45, she had been travelling the world for years. From South Africa she sailed to Australia early in 1926, then, following a month-long season in Melbourne, travelled by train to Sydney. Her contract for the four-month tour of Australia stipulated that she must perform at least twice during each performance. For this she would receive 50 per cent of the gross.

Many in her troupe were English dancers obliged to use Russian names. Only one male dancer is shown in this picture, the Pole, Mieczyslaw Pianowski, although there is some dispute about his identity. Beside him is Victor Dandre, de facto husband and manager of Pavlova.

The bearded Lucien Wurmser, a French composer and conductor, appears to be sizing up Tait, the second oldest of five Tait brothers nicknamed Agi-Tait, Dic-Tait, Hesi-Tait, Irri-Tait and Cogi-Tait.

Five years after this photo was taken, Pavlova died in The Hague. As she asked for her swan costume, her dying words were: "Play that last measure softly."

Photographs are available from www.fairfaxphotos.com or telephone 1300 136 466.



Out of the stamp and the scuttle came ... Mieczyslaw Pianowski (in belted coat), Victor Dandre, Anna Pavlova, Lucien Wurmser and John Tait. Know more about this subject? Email 100yearsofpictures@smh.com.au

SEVEN DAYS

"I think most of Australia was enjoying [and] delighting in the beauty and goodness of these young people ... rather than dwelling crankily, as a few people are doing, on old wounds."

Bishop **ANTHONY FISHER**, responding to a question on Cardinal George Pell's handling of a sexual abuse case.



HEADLINES OF THE WEEK

The Chaser

www.chaser.com.au

Tour de France addled with drugs: Amy Winehouse asks to join

With the announcement that a third contestant had tested positive for drugs, the Tour de France has replaced Ibiza to become the hottest venue for the party set. "I'm intrigued because I've never shot up with EPO before," singer and potential contestant Amy Winehouse said. "And my blood vessels could use all the help they can get." Winehouse is unsure how she'll fare in the mountain-climbing stages, but fans and veterans agree she's an expert at going rapidly downhill.

IN OTHER NEWS

Rudd peeved Pope didn't recognise him as the Messiah

Big Brother no longer Uncut

WYD bishop calls for end to dwelling in past: church disbanded
PM's climate plan creates more sceptics than climate change itself

COOL RUNNINGS DYLAN WELCH

Love in the age of the slutbot

OSCAR Wilde once lamented the difficulties of "the love that dare not speak its name". Little did he know that a century later it would be more of a concern trying to find a love that would, even for the barest of moments, keep its mouth shut.

Romantic comedies. Reality television. Online dating websites. Speed dating. Documentaries about American women and their sexual obsessions with toasters. There is no limit to the amount of vocalised love being shared across every available medium, in particular the internet.

Cue CyberLover, a Russian software robot (known as a "bot") that poses as a would-be paramour in sex chatrooms. While the use of love to hoodwink unsuspecting schmoe is as old as the dirt, the use of so-called slutbots is a relatively new innovation.

According to a report from the tech site PC Tools, the slutbot can conduct automated "flirtatious" conversations with up to 10 people in 30 minutes. During conversations it is programmed to garner personal infor-

mation and lure correspondents to other websites where they are infected with malware (malicious software).

"CyberLover demonstrates an unprecedented level of social engineering," an expert in software designed to damage computer systems, Sergei Shevchenko, told the site.

"It employs highly intelligent and customised dialogue to target users of social networking systems."

It can operate in a number of different personality modes, varying from "romantic lover" to the particularly appealing "sexual predator". Not to mention that CyberLover could present an even greater risk if paired with emerging technologies.

When a robotics futurist declared in 2006 that people would be having sex with robots "within five years" society (outside of Japan) shivered.

Now, with only three years to go until this prophesied robo-sexual revolution, the danger of merging technologies should be a concern.

Imagine the CyberLove program inserted into the mainframe of a robotic Scarlett Johansson; surely the bank

accounts of every red-blooded man in the world would be in peril. Thankfully, attempts thus far to make life-like robots have resulted in creations no more human-looking than Pamela Anderson. But how long will that techno-sexual frontier remain unbreached? Eventually some spotty, single scientist is going to perfect the android, and then we are all in big trouble.

So while PC Tools has provided some ways to ways to protect yourself from the unwelcome advances of the current CyberLover, it provides no advice on future incarnations.

Updating your virus protection and limiting the amount of personal information you give out to strangers on the web are the best ways to protect yourself from CyberLover at the moment, PC Tools says.

However, it offers no advice on what to do if the minxbot is in your lounge room, dressed in a small black dress and patent leather pumps, smiling demurely as it surreptitiously uploads your credit card details to a server in Vladivostok.

Perhaps that is for another issue.



Australia has been photographed for over 100 years.

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EOS

Canon
advanced simplicity

As Australia's history evolves, so too do our cameras. Introducing the new EOS 450D by Canon. It's the Digital SLR which makes it fun and easy to capture all the moments of your life perfectly. It's **playtime**.