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Hugh de Wardener

Sears Eldredge

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Medical Officer Hugh "Ginger" de Wardener remembers his first appearance onstage as a ballet dancer in farcical pas de deux at Takanun.

I wouldn’t forget it; it was my first contribution. . . . And it lasted three and a half minutes. And we practiced for nine hours, this ballet. And there was this fellow who actually played the squeezebox [when] we practiced. . . .

Oh, yes, the whole thing was comic . . . a lot of falling about, but in time with the music, and so on. And it worked very well. He was small and I was relatively big, so that worked well. I had to catch him. And I did, two or three times. Then I missed him, you see, and he flew through the air. But it was [the] sand [stage floor he landed on].