

Basic Detail Report

00033981

Title

Advertising sign for Tanner and Rose Clowns

Date

1976-1995

Medium

Cardboard, paint, photograph, paper

Dimensions

Overall: 760 x 510 mm, 0.25 kg

Name

Sign

History

Harold Tanner (Poncho) and Marcelle Rose (Bubbles) started out as duettists singing musical numbers and opera in the 1950s. They worked clubs and hotels by night under the name Tanner and Rose and performed at children's parties by day as clowns Poncho and Bubbles. Poncho and Bubbles were spotted by a scout for Sitmar cruises in 1976 and were employed on the FAIRSKY end-of-year cruise. They were a huge success and were booked to work again. They continued to perform for school holiday cruises on ships like FAIRSTAR, ORIANA, MINGHUA, CANBERRA and ACHILLE LAURO for the next 20 years. Poncho and Bubbles liked to work close to their audience and personalised their act by transforming themselves from Marcelle and Harold into Bubbles and Poncho while on stage. They would start in their civilian clothes and slowly apply their characteristic clown makeup and put on their costumes, socks, shoes, wig and hat. This was their trademark performance. Marcelle and Harold believed that many children were scared of clowns so this visual transformation helped children understand that clowns were real people. Their son Clive was born in 1961. He started performing as Pimple when he was six years old. At 15 he would work on one ship while his parents performed on another. By the late 1990s there was a definite shift away from entertainers like Poncho and Bubbles. Their last performance was on FAIRSTAR in 1995.