

# GRACIE FOR AUSTRALIA



Gracie Fields

## Rolling Stones and Orbison also booked

GRACIE FIELDS is to make an Australian tour for J. C. Williamson Theatres. She opens in Sydney on February 10 and finishes in Adelaide on March 6, also appearing in Melbourne and Brisbane, giving two or three performances in each city.

Gracie last made an Australian tour during the war years. Her sister, Betty, is now resident in Melbourne.

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## "Gracie" Goes Sightseeing

"I've seen more in one day in Sydney this trip than I did the whole of the three months I was here 20 years ago," said Gracie Fields yesterday.

Miss Fields arrived in Sydney on January 30, three days ahead of schedule, and from Romano's to the Australia Hotel," Miss Fields said yesterday.

Her last visit to Australia was 20 years ago with her late husband, Monty Banks. "I didn't even know there were so many shops or that Sydney was so beautiful.

"I was so rushed last trip. Australia was just Army camps and hospitals and wondering when I would get to bed.

"This time I have allowed five days before I start work and I have been shopping and sightseeing.

"For instance, I had time to travel by ferry and had a wonderful time just looking."

Her sightseeing is almost over for the next few days, however, as she starts rehearsing with associate artist Isador Goodman today for her first Sydney concert on February 10.

Talking about her work, Miss Fields patted her spare tyre and said: "This is how I know I am on a tour.

"When I am at home in Capri I do a lot of swimming and it disappears, so I called this my 'sing-ging' shape," she said with the English accent she still has even after many years in Capri.

"I don't have a weight problem and just fluctuate 5lbs one way or the other, depending whether I am working or not."

Miss Fields will return to Capri for a television appearance early in April, after two months in Australia.

"I have written to ask them to change the date to Easter, as the season does not open until then and the island will be dead," Miss Fields said.

"If they agree, I will be able to go home by boat and shop along the way, as well as buying things in Sydney for my villa.

"If I have to return by air, I will be able to do very little shopping as I am already overloaded with stage clothes."

## THE THEME...SISTERS, SISTERS



SINGING STAR Gracie Fields (left) seen reunited with her younger sister Mrs. Betty Saunders in Sydney yesterday, confided later: "Betty could have been the star, you now — she is really far more talented than I am."

But Mrs. Saunders, now of Melbourne, chose a quieter life.

"I used to be on the stage — in fact, all the family were as a team — but when Gracie decided

to try her luck on her own, the rest of us went our own ways," she said.

Mrs. Saunders and her husband Charles were in Sydney to greet Gracie when she arrived on Saturday. She had last

seen her sister when she visited her in Capri 15 months ago.

"We will spend as much time together as possible and I'm looking forward to Gracie coming to Melbourne to

meet two of her nephews and my grandson," she said.

Gracie Fields will sing in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane on her current tour.