

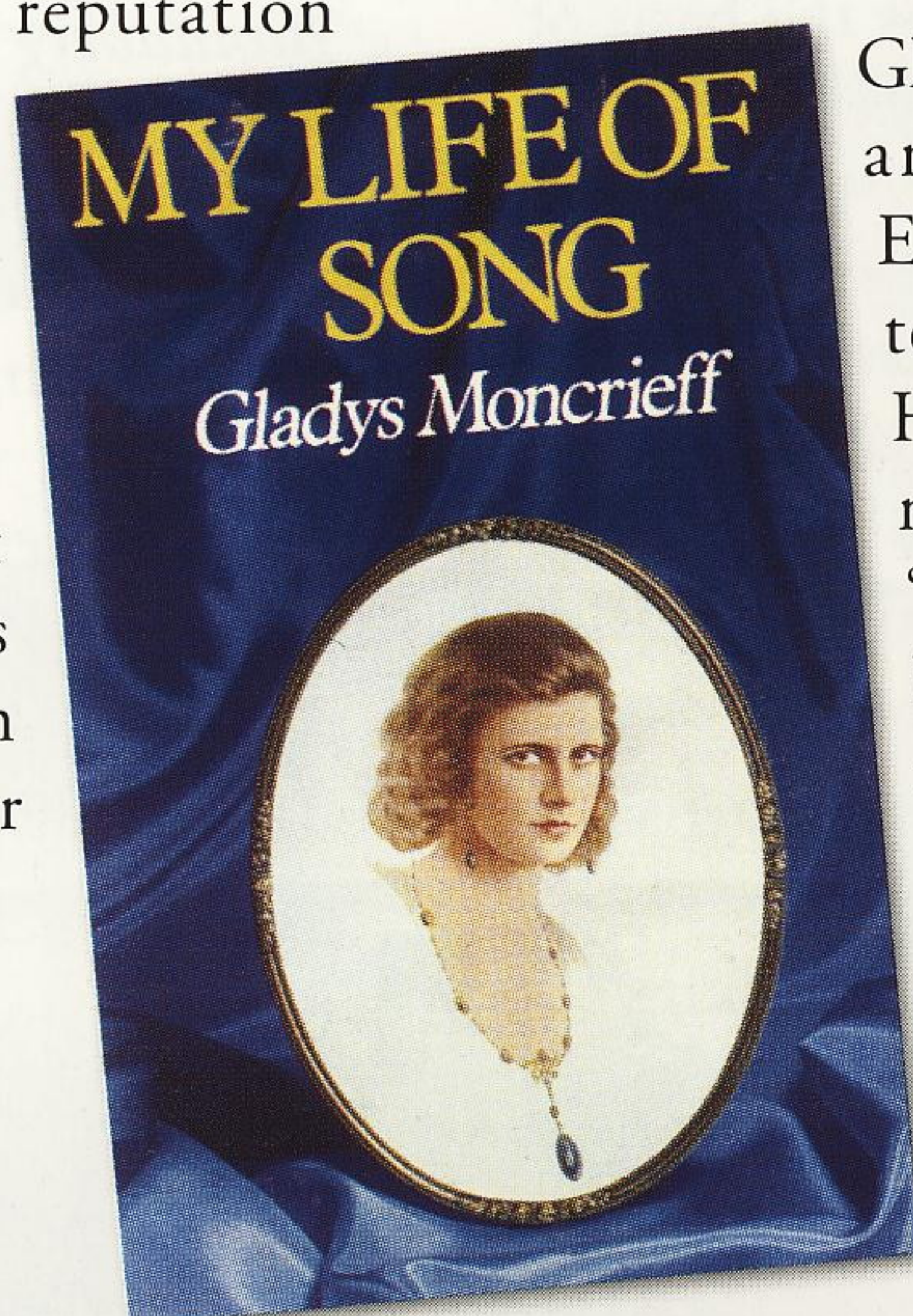
**Artist Profile****GLADYS MONCRIEFF****Gladys Lillian Moncrieff***Songbird of the 1900's*

Gladys Moncrieff was born in Bundaberg Base Hospital on April 13, 1892, but she and her family lived in Childers, or to be more precise, North Isis. Her father worked for the Knockroe Sugar Mill and later her parents moved to Childers. By the time Gladys was six years old, the family had moved to Bundaberg. It was at this tender age that Gladys made her first appearance with a group of schoolchildren, performing in a charity concert at the Queen's Theatre.

After travelling around singing at film shows with her father as accompanist on the piano, Gladys appeared in several Gilbert and Sullivan roles in Townsville. By 1909, under the direction of her mother who taught singing, Gladys Moncrieff had become a regular vaudeville performer in Brisbane. Musical comedy and light opera were her forte. In 1912 she auditioned for J.C. Williamson and studied with Grace Miller in Sydney. Her debut was in *HMS Pinafore* in Sydney in 1914, and her reputation was consolidated when she appeared in the title role of *Maid of the Mountains*. The show opened on January 22, 1921 in Melbourne, in an Australia - wide run that lasted two years. During this period she became known throughout Australia as "Our Glad".

In 1926 Gladys Moncrieff had established herself on the London musical comedy scene, and was referred to as "Miss Moncrieff, a new star from Australia". Success followed with the show, *The Blue Mazurka*, and her first series of recordings was produced. In 1928, Gladys returned to Australia to re-establish herself as the leading performer of musical comedy. She gained widespread popular success for "*The Merry Widow*". A serious car accident in 1938 interrupted her career, but by 1940 she was singing again, and began to give concerts to army personnel both in Australia and New Guinea. She returned to the stage in 1942. Her last appearance as the Maid in *Maid of the Mountains* was in Perth in 1952.

Gladys Moncrieff retired to the Gold Coast in 1961 and passed away on February 9, 1976. Her many recordings, some made in England, continue to be reissued from her vast repertoire. These include *The Merry Widow*, *The Chocolate Soldier*, *Floradora*, *The Gypsy Princess*, *Lady of the Rose*, *Rio Rita* and seven Gilbert and Sullivan operettas.



Gladys Moncrieff was awarded an Order of the British Empire for her contribution to the entertaining arts. However, Gladys felt her main achievement was "... to be remembered by theatregoers as that favourite of the people".

MARIA ACHURCH  
*Moncrieff Theatre*