



WAVERLEY
CEMETERIES



JANUARY
2024

Edoardo Majeroni 1840 – 1891

- Cemetery searches detailing the location of a grave of those interred in Waverley Cemetery and South Head General Cemetery can be found on the website.
- Waverley Cemeteries offers a service of grave planting sites with Gazania (prostrate ground cover with silver foliage and yellow flowers, as can be seen in banner). Contact Waverley Cemeteries office if you are interested in this and other services, such as annual maintenance of allotments.
- Waverley Cemeteries office is at the corner of Trafalgar Street and St Thomas Street, BRONTE NSW 2024
- P: (02) 9083 8899
F: (02) 9665 4785
Email: cemetery@waverley.nsw.gov.au



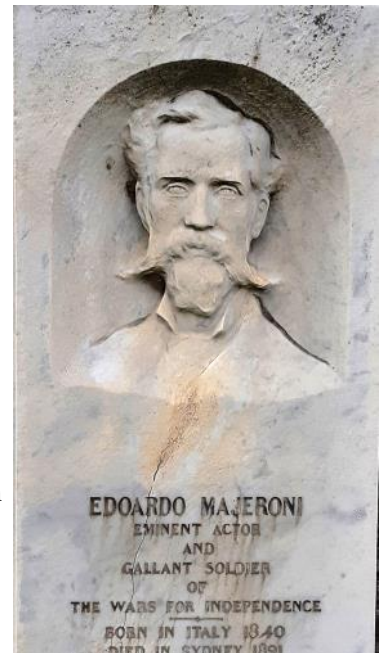
Edoardo Majeroni was an actor who toured the world with Adelaide Ristori, playing popular Italian dramas in their original language. He and his wife Giulia, a niece of Ristori, left the company in Australia and carved out a career playing the same repertoire in English translations. Giulia was an actress, and their two sons Mario and George had acting careers in America.

Majeroni was born in Bergamo, the youngest of 17 children, and educated in Milan. His parents had visions of his becoming a civil engineer and enrolled him in a college in Milan. Majeroni however put more effort into the college's theatrical endeavours than course work, and when Count Cavour enlisted Napoleon III's aid to drive out the Austrians in 1859, he and his comrade Alexander Meschini abandoned study for the glamour of an artillery uniform. They saw little fighting; after the siege of Bologna, which lasted five days before the Austrians capitulated, their capture of succeeding towns resembled nothing so much as a triumphal march and arrived too late to assist the French at Magenta. With the hateful Armistice of Villafranca signed, Majeroni and Meschini despondently returned to Milan, where they fell in with a crowd of

aspiring actors, and was engaged as a bit player, stagehand, and poster writer by an impresario named Pilati, for little reward as it turned out when he left in April 1860. He may have then tried his hand at theatre management, taking a short-term lease on a small theatre in Genoa.

It was during this period he was noticed by Madame Ristori resulting in an engagement with her company, which he joined in December 1860. Two years later he was forced by the irate father of a young actress to leave. He returned to Italy, forming his own company in Genoa, which led to an engagement with the company of one Signor Ajudi (or Aiudi), playing the lead role in a classical drama. Again, there was a compromising affair, this time with the manager's wife, and he was sacked when the company was in Alexandria. He remained in Egypt, setting himself up as an importer of Italian goods and produce, which proved profitable. In late 1864 he left Alexandria for Naples, where his eldest brother, the famous Achille Majeroni, had formed a company and leased the Teatro Mercadante for a series of plays.

In 1866 war was again declared against Austria, this time with Prussia as an ally, and Majeroni joined



Garibaldi's Redshirts. By teaming up with three other volunteers to safeguard each other's interests he survived the war without injury and was awarded a *Medaglia al valor militare* for planting *il Tricolore* at Fort Ampola while under fire. He rejoined his brother's touring company after hostilities ended, then around the end of 1867 returned to Ristori's company, and when Ernesto Rossi left the organisation, became her leading man, acting in every play in the Italian repertory.

Around this time Majeroni married Ristori's niece, Giulia Tessero. His world tour with the Ristori Italian Dramatic Company began at Bordeaux on 5 May 1872 and ended on 4 December 1875 in Adelaide, Australia. It was a triumphant last week and

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Majeroni, as Holofernes in *Judith*, was praised to the sky.

The company returned to Europe by the RMS *China* on 5 December 1875, but without Majeroni, who was determined to stay, at least partly to learn the language. Whatever lines in English he needed had been learned by rote without understanding a word.

He became proficient within months but never lost his North Italian accent; his wife learned just as quickly, moreover was able to play English parts perfectly. His next appearance in Australia was under contract to Samuel Lazar, in *The Old Corporal*, translated from a French play, staged at Sydney's Theatre Royal commencing 24 April 1876, and was rapturously received. The play moved to the Royal Victoria Theatre and was followed by *Society, or, A Mistake in Education*, on 24 July. Brisbane followed in September, under the management of H. N. Montagu, better known as the owner of *Sydney Punch*. Melbourne followed at the Theatre Royal, Melbourne on 25 November with *The Old Corporal*, and the Signora alternated with *Camille* from 4 December, then they appeared together in *Society*, renamed *Jealousy*. They returned to the

Melbourne stage in March, this time at the Academy of Music, with a new play, *A Living Statue*. Their final shows in Melbourne consisted of the Ristori favorite *Queen Elizabeth*, by Giacometti, with the vaudevillean *Nephews and Nieces* on the same bill, closing on 7 April 1877. They toured for short seasons to Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong several times throughout April and May, before crossing to Tasmania, playing at Hobart and Launceston. Next stop was Adelaide. They played in New Zealand, taking in Christchurch, Dunedin, and Wellington, but takings were poor on account of local actors being used for supporting roles, some said, rather than importing fresh faces. An engagement at the California Theatre failed dismally so they headed east to Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York, to favourable reviews. Majeroni's voice had been failing, so he returned to Sydney in August 1882.....

He became a recluse, and wasted away, dying from consumption at his home, 156 Victoria Street, and his remains were buried in Waverley Cemetery. After their father died, his two sons left for America to seek their fortune.

Giulia died on 8 August 1903 and was buried in alongside her husband.

[Eduardo Majeroni - Wikipedia](#)

Take a tour

General History Tours A, B, C & D are held on Saturdays

- 06 Jan @ 09.00 am (Greg) A
- 13 Jan @ 10.00 am (Greg) B
- 20 Jan @ 09.00 am (David) C
- 27 Jan @ 09.00 am (Andrew) D

Bookings for tours are essential. Book through Eventbrite for Waverley Cemetery's Saturday Tours

[A Walking History Tour of Waverley Cemetery gives a glimpse into the past. Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)



Happy New Year



Friends of Waverley Cemeteries

The postponed December meeting will be held on 13 January @ 9.00am at Waverley Cemetery.

If you would like to become a Friend you are encouraged to contact the group through its email which is friendsofwaverleycemetery@gmail.com Members of the Friends group are involved in leading tours, weeding and/or adopting graves, researching individuals interred in the cemetery or are involved in a major project to photograph every headstone in the cemetery.

To visit the FoWC Face Book Page which is updated every few days, go to <https://www.facebook.com/FoWCBronteNSW2024>



If you are interested in taking a midweek tour please email and we will attempt accommodate your request.

Gregory Ross President/Secretary

