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Walker Opera House
Scrapbook, 1904-1909

Collection 348

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Sherrie Bowser, May 2022

Creator/Corporate Name: Walker Opera House

Inclusive Dates: 1904-1909

Physical Description: 2 boxes, (1.31 linear ft.)

Language: English

Provenance:

The Walker Opera House Scrapbook materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives by John Matsen in July 2021.

Access:

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

During the early 20th century, "opera house" was generally used instead of theater. These entertainment venues were often located on the upper floor of buildings. Within its walls, one could enjoy a variety of acts, including plays, musicals, lectures, comedians, acrobats, animal acts, and magicians. The Walker Opera House was unique in that it was the first free-standing opera house in Champaign or Urbana. Originally known as the Armory, it was a large brick building located on the corner of Neil and Park streets in downtown Champaign and could seat over 1,500. The venue hosted its first performance on May 18, 1885. Celebrities that appeared at the Walker Opera House over the years include the Marx Brother, Sara Bernhardt, Enrico Carouso, Eddie Foy, Will Rogers, and boxing champ John L. Sullivan. The Walker Opera House hosted its last performance on April 25, 1914. The original building was demolished.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of one scrapbook. The scrapbook contains playbills pasted onto the scrapbook pages. The playbills are 14" L x 5" W broadsides, and multiple are attached to a single page. The loose materials within the scrapbook have been removed, placed into folders, and divided into the series outlined in the arrangement section. An index of the play's titles and dates has been included at the end of this finding to reduce the scrapbook's handling. **Due to the scrapbook's fragile, nature it may not be photocopied or scanned. However, pictures may be taken with a camera.**

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged into five series: Scrapbook, Walker Opera House Programs, Local Events, Regional Theaters, and Media.

Subject Terms:

Actors

Opera House



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Playbills
Theater—Champaign
Theater programs.
Theaters
Theaters—Champaign
Theaters—Champaign—History.
Theatrical Companies

Name Terms:

Chicago Examiner (Chicago, Ill.) 1903-1918
The Casino Springbrook Park (South Bend, Ind.)
Colonial Theater (Chicago, Ill.)
Gary Hotel (Gary, Ind.)
George M. Cohan's Grand Opera House (Chicago, Ill.)
Grand Opera House (Danville, Ill.)
Illinois Theater (Urbana, Ill.)
La Salle Theater (Chicago, Ill.)
Majestic Theater (Chicago, Ill.)
Princess Theater (Chicago, Ill.)
The Studebaker (Chicago, Ill.)
Walker Opera House (Champaign, Ill.)
Whitney Opera House (Chicago, Ill.)

Container List

Box 1

Series 1: Scrapbook, 1904-1908

Box 2

Series 2: Walker Opera House Programs

Folder 1: 1904
Folder 2: 1905
Folder 3: 1906
Folder 4: 1907
Folder 5: 1908

Series 3: Local Events

Folder 6: Illinois Theater Programs
Folder 7: Women's League Stunt Party, May 2, 1908
Folder 8: University of Illinois Indoor Track Meet Programs, 1908
Folder 9: University of Illinois Music Programs, 1907-1908
 Promenade Concerts, 1907-1908
 Sousa and His Band, [1908]



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Series 4: Regional Theaters

- Folder 10: The Casino, Springbrook Park, South Bend, Ind.
- Folder 11: Colonial Theater, Chicago, Ill.
- Folder 12: Gary Hotel, Gary Ind.
- Folder 13: George M. Cohan's Grand Opera House, Chicago, Ill.
- Folder 14: Grand Opera House, Danville, Ill., 1906-1907
- Folder 15: La Salle Theater, Chicago, Ill.
- Folder 16: Majestic Theater, Chicago, Ill.
- Folder 17: Princess Theater, Chicago, Ill.
- Folder 18: The Studebaker, Chicago, Ill.
- Folder 19: Whitney Opera House, Chicago, Ill.

Series 5: Media

- Folder 20: Chicago Sunday Examiner, "How Mrs. Reed the young bride, won another and happier honeymoon when her romantic dreams on her first honeymoon were cruelly shattered by a thoughtless husband," August 29, 1909



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Walker Opera House Scrapbook Programs Index

*Years in brackets have been supplied by Archives staff

Page 1

The Office Boy, Smith and Englander's Hilarious Musical Comedy, featuring Frank Deshon, March 9, 1906

Peggy from Paris, by George Ade, Thursday, January 19 [1905]

The Yankee Consul, Henry W. Savage, featuring Raymond Hitchcock, Henry M. Blossom, Jr. (book and lyrics), Alfred G. Robyn (music), Tuesday, May 9 [1905]

Babes in Toyland, Fred R. Hamlin, Julian Mitchell, March 1, 1905

The Sign of the Cross, Fred G. Berger Presents Wilson Barrett's Famous Play, Thursday, January 26 [1905]

Isle of Spice, B.C. Whitney's Piquant Musical Mixture, Allen Lowe and George E. Stoddard (book and lyrics), Paul Schindler and Ben Jerome (music), Friday, April 28 [1905]

A Chinese Honeymoon, George Dance (books and lyrics), presented by Sam S. Schubert, Wednesday, February 22 [1905]

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The Royal Chef, Friday, Stoddard and Taylor (book and lyrics) Ben M. Jerome (music), January 19

Geezer of Geck, Robert J. Adam and Paul Schindler October 12, 1905

Babes in Toyland, Fred R. Hamlin, Julian Mitchell, February 20

Cousin Kate, Herbert Henry Davies', featuring Roselle Knoit, Tuesday, February 7 [1905]

The School Girl, Paul M. Potter and Henry Hamilton (book), Leslie Stuart (music), Charles H. Taylor (lyrics), Monday October 9, 1905

The District Leader, Joseph E. Howard (book, lyrics, music), featuring Mabel Barrison and Joseph E. Howard, Saturday, November 10 [1906]

The Forbidden Land, Guy F. Steeley (book and lyrics), Frederic Chapin (music), Friday, November 24, 1905



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The Rustlers, Herbert L. Lyman (author), Lyman Bros. and Lewis M. McCartney (music), Saturday, September 9, 1905

The Mayor of Tokio, Richard Carle (book), William Frederick Peters (music), featuring Richard Carle, Thursday April 19 [1906]

[P]iff, Paff, Pouf, Stanislaus Stange (book), Jean Schwartz (music), William Jerome (lyrics), Saturday, October 27 [1906]

Told in the Hills, by Marah Ellis and McPherson Turnbull, featuring Edwin Arden, Tuesday, October 2 [1906]

The Squaw Man, by Edwin Milton Royle, featuring Henry Jewett, Tuesday, November 13 [1906]

Arizona, by Augustus Thomas, Saturday, March 10, 1906

The Heir to the Hoorah, by Paul Armstrong, featuring Guy Bates Post, Thursday, December 7 [1905]

Little Johnny Jones, George M. Cohen (book, lyrics, music), Thursday, October 19, 1905

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Hoity-Toity, Edgar Smith (dialogue, lyrics), John Stromberry (music), November 26, 1904

The Runaways, Addison Burkhardy (book), Raymond Hubbell (music), featuring George Evans, Tuesday, November 21, 1905

My Wife's Family, featuring Hal Stephens and Harry Linton, Saturday, March 4 [1905]

The Turkish Harem Co., Friday, April 21, 1905

The Governor's Pardon, featuring Arthur Nelson, Wednesday, October 24 [1906]

Dads Girl, Tuesday September 12, 1905

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At the Races by Herbert L. Lyman, music arranged by L.M. Macartney, Saturday, December 17, 1904

Running for Congress, presented by the Howard-Dorset Co., February 15

The Shoplifter, featuring Jules Walters, Louise Llewellyn and Adeliade Walters, Friday, October 26 [1906]

Railroad Jack, by Guy Caufman, Thursday, April 16 [1908]



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Across the Desert, presented by the VanDyke-Eaton Company, Saturday, October 20 [1906]

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Carmen, presented by the VanDyke-Eaton Company, Friday, October 19 [1906]

Land of Nod, featuring William Norris, Friday, January 12, 1906

A Stranger in Town, featuring Frank Beamish, presented by Harry B. Linton, Wednesday, September 19 [1906]

A Fight for Love, by and starring Bon Fitzsimmons, Monday, October 15 [1906]

The Mummy and the Humming Bird, by Isaac Henderson, featuring W.A. Whitecar, presented by Jules Murry, Monday, October 1 [1906]

Franchon the Cricket, presented by the Howard-Dorset Co., February 14

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The Volunteer Organist, by William B. Gray, presented by W.W. Newcomer, Friday, November 23 [1906]

Old Innocence, by Richard Kingsley, featuring Miss Dorothy Sherrod, presented by Tim Murphy, Monday, November 26 [1906]

The Umpire, book and lyrics by Will H. Hough and Frank R. Adams, music by Joseph E. Howard, Tuesday, December 11 [1906]

The Gingerbread Man, book and lyrics by Frederic Ranken, music by A. Baldwin Sloane, Monday, December 3 [1906]

The County Chairman, Saturday, December 8 [1906]

Watson's Oriental Burlesquers, Monday, December 10 [1906]

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The Time, The Place, and The Girl, book and lyrics by Will M. Hough and Frank R. Adams, Music by Joseph E. Howard, presented by the Askin-Singer Company

Glorious Betsy, by Rida Johnson Young, featuring Mary Mannering, Monday, January 14 [1907]

Hoyt's A Bunch of Keys, by Charles H. Hoyt and Willie Edoum, Saturday, January 12 [1907]



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The College Widow, by George Ade, presented by Henry W. Savage, Wednesday February 27 [1907]

The Girl and the Bandit, presented by the Viola Gillette Opera Company, Wednesday, January 30 [1907]

Wonderland, book by Glen MacDonough, music by Victor Herbert, featuring Little Chip and Mary Marble, presented by Julian Mitchell's Productions, Thursday, January 17 [1907]

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The Walls of Jericho, by Alfred Sutro, featuring James K. Hackett, Friday, February 22 [1907]

The Ben Greet Players performing The Merchant of Venice, Wednesday, February 13 [1907]

Rajah of Bhong, Saturday, March 9 [1907]

Land of Nod, book by Frank R. Adams and Will M. Hough, music by Joseph H. Howard, Tuesday February 12 [1907]

York State Folks, by Arthur Sidman, Friday, February 15 [1907]

The American present A Voice of Nature, Wednesday, January 23 [1907]

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The Time, the Place and the Girl, book and lyrics by Will M. Hough and Frank R. Adams, music by Joseph E. Howard, Monday, April 23 [1906]

Tilly Olson, by Adra LaCroix, Friday, March 29 [1907]

Denounced by the Dead, D'Ormond Stock Co., Monday, April 1 [1907]

The Americans present Price of Honor, Tuesday, January 22 [1907]

The Tie That Binds, D'Ormond Stock Co., Friday April 5 [1907]

A Woman of Mystery, featuring Miss Courtney Morgan, Tuesday, February 26 [1907]

Mrs. Temple's Telegram by Frank Wyatt and William Morris, Wednesday, January 9 [1907]

Hickman-Bessey Co. in Wayside Inn, Saturday, February 9 [1907]

A Double Life presented by the Dora Woodruff Co., Friday, April 19 [1907]

Hickman-Bessey Co. in The Blue and the Gray, Wednesday, February 6 [1907]



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Lost in New York, Friday, May 3 [1907]

The Belle of Mayfair, by Charles H.E. Brookfield and Cosmo Hamilton, music by Leslie Stuart [Colonial Theater, Chaicgo, Ill]