

**Performing Arts Ephemera Subject Files
1889-2018
(bulk 1974-2018)**

Collection Summary

Creator: Intentionally assembled by Special Collections Division staff, beginning at an unknown date, probably in the late 1960s, and collected on an ongoing basis.

Title: Performing Arts Ephemera Subject Files

Inclusive Dates: 1889-2018 (bulk 1974-2018)

Summary/Abstract: Includes programs, brochures, flyers, invitations, posters, handbills, and a variety of other materials by and about Nashville area performing arts, including venues and specific performances and performers in the areas of dance, music, and theater.

Physical Description/Extent: 1 cu. ft.

Language: In English.

Stack Location: Closed stacks workroom

Repository: Special Collections Division, Nashville Public Library, 615 Church St., Nashville, TN 37219

Scope and Contents of the Collection

Includes programs, brochures, flyers, invitations, posters, handbills, newsletters, and a variety of other materials by and about Nashville area performing arts, including venues and specific performances and performers. The vast majority of materials throughout the collection are programs or promotional flyers and posters. Quantity of materials ranges from a single item to several folders. Some items are photocopies.

The collection covers the three major performing arts of dance, music and theater, with emphasis on Nashville. A general category includes materials which are not limited to just one of the arts, as well as performances in the nature of variety shows or vaudeville. The Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC) and other multi-function venues can also be found in the general category, since they host a variety of entertainments in all three areas of the arts.

Highlights of the collection include: a few programs from late 19th-century and early 20th-century performances held at The Tabernacle, a venue that would later gain fame as the Ryman Auditorium; programs for Nelson Eddy's concerts in 1936 and 1938 at West End Methodist Church; and three items relating to the 1914 Greek Pageant. This spectacle featured a performance of "The Mysteries of Thanatos" by Sidney M. Hirsch (a future member of the Fugitives) and included a chariot race on the Parthenon grounds. The latter is captured in a photograph on a letterhead and envelope from H. Anderson to Miss Elizabeth Walter. It is assumed that the writer is Harry Anderson, business manager for the pageant. Another small grouping of materials relating to a specific play, "The Perfect 36," about Tennessee's role in women's suffrage, also is included in the collection.

There are numerous early 21st-century materials concerning TPAC, Nashville Ballet, Nashville Opera, and the Nashville Symphony. Of special note are a few items relating to the fundraising, construction, and opening of the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in 2006 and the Noah Liff Opera Center in 2009, including a DVD featuring highlights from the Opera's 2008-2009 season. Other early 21st-century items include a poster from the world premiere of Jerry Lewis and Marvin Hamlisch's collaborative musical, "The Nutty Professor;" several posters, most from the Nashville Shakespeare Festival, featuring former Tennessee Titans football player and actor, Eddie George; and a few items promoting performances by Nashville In Harmony, a chorus for "people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and their allies."

In addition to providing an overview of a wide variety of the performing arts in Nashville, many of the items in this collection are an excellent and often overlooked resource for Nashville business history. Numerous programs include advertisements for area businesses, especially those located near a particular venue, and include clothiers, restaurants, arts-related businesses such as musical instruments dealers, and many others.

Materials relating to performances by or at schools and universities can be found in the Schools Ephemera Subject Files.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Organization:

Organized into four series: I. General; II. Dance; III. Music; IV. Theater.

Arrangement:

At the start of each series is a miscellaneous section followed by materials filed alphabetically by name of organization, venue, or title.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: In library use only. Available by appointment.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction: Some items may be restricted by copyright law or donor restriction.

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Eddy, Nelson 1901-1967

George, Eddie, 1973-

Lewis, Jerry, 1926-2017

Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616 -- Stage history -- Tennessee -- Nashville

Corporate Names/Organizations:

Circle Players, Nashville

Community Concerts, Inc.

Nashville Academy Theatre

Nashville Ballet

Nashville Children's Theatre
Nashville Community Playhouse
Nashville in Harmony (Musical group)
Nashville Opera
Nashville Shakespeare Festival
Nashville Symphony Orchestra
Parthenon (Art museum: Nashville, Tenn.)
Ryman Auditorium (Nashville, Tenn.)
Tennessee Performing Arts Center
Tennessee Players (Theatrical company)
Tennessee Repertory Theatre
Tennessee Women's Theater Project

Conference Names:

Southeastern Regional Ballet Festival (9th : 1964 : Nashville, Tenn.)

Subjects:

Acting – Study and teaching – Tennessee – Nashville
Ballet – Tennessee – Nashville
Ballet companies – Tennessee – Nashville
Benefit performances – Tennessee – Nashville
Business enterprises – Tennessee – Nashville
Centers for the performing arts – Tennessee – Nashville
Children's theater – Tennessee – Nashville
Choral societies – Tennessee – Nashville
Community theater – Tennessee – Nashville
Dance – Tennessee – Nashville
Entertainment events – Tennessee – Nashville
Gay choirs – Tennessee
Gay culture – Tennessee -- Nashville
Gays – Tennessee – Nashville
Gays and the performing arts – United States
Music – Tennessee – Nashville
Musicians – Tennessee – Nashville
Music-halls (Variety-theaters, cabarets, etc.) – Tennessee – Nashville
One-person shows (Performing arts) – Tennessee – Nashville
Opera – Tennessee – Nashville
Pageants – Tennessee - Nashville
Performing arts – Tennessee – Nashville
Popular culture – Tennessee - Nashville
Popular music – Tennessee – Nashville
Repertory theater – Tennessee – Nashville
Singers – Tennessee – Nashville
Theater – Tennessee – Nashville
Theater and society – Tennessee – Nashville
Theaters – Tennessee – Nashville
Theatrical companies – Tennessee - Nashville
Traveling theater – Tennessee – Nashville

Vaudeville – Tennessee – Nashville
Vocal music – Tennessee – Nashville

Places:

Nashville (Tenn.) – Buildings, structures, etc.
Nashville (Tenn.) – Commerce
Nashville (Tenn.) – History – Sources
Nashville (Tenn.) – Intellectual life
Nashville (Tenn.) – Social life and customs

Genre/Document Types:

Advertisements
Brochures
Handbills
Invitations
Newsletters
Posters
Programs (documents)
Theater programs

Occupations:

Actors
Ballet dancers
Dancers
Dramatists
Musicians
Performers
Singers

Added entries – Persons:

Anderson, Harry, correspondent
Hirsch, Sidney M. (Sidney Mtttron)
Walter, Elizabeth, recipient

Added entries – Titles:

The mysteries of Thanatos
Nutty professor (Musical)
The perfect 36

Separated Material

Some items may have been separated for storage to an oversize box, drawer, or the Nashville Room Photographs Collection. Separation notices have been used to indicate such removals.

The following materials were removed from the Performing Arts Ephemera Subject Files in 2012 to form their own collection, cataloged and accessed separately:

Orpheum Theatre Programs and Newsletters, 1913-1933

Administrative Information

Copyright: This material may be protected by copyright law (Title 17 U.S. Code)

Preferred Citation: [organization name, folder title, or item description], [Series], Performing Arts Ephemera Subject Files, Ephemera Collections, Nashville Room, Nashville Public Library.

Processing Information: Weeded by staff members Linda Barnickel and Carol Kaplan, 2003. Rehoused and reprocessed by staff member Linda Barnickel, 2006. All actions part of overall ephemera subject files reprocessing project. Additions processed 2020 by Linda Barnickel.

Accruals: Additional accruals are expected.

Detailed Description of the Collection

I. GENERAL & VENUES

Miscellaneous and variety, 1889-2009

2 regular folders, 1889-2009

Oversize Box 2, Folder 5:

1. Poster: Centennial Arts Summer Intensive, 2008

Belcourt Theatre, 2008

oversize only:

Oversize Box 2, Folder 5:

1. Poster, The Oxford Imps, 2008

Tabernacle, The, 1893-1904 [*predecessor to the Ryman Auditorium*]

1 regular folder, 1893-1904

Tennessee Performing Arts Center, 1974-2014

4 regular folders, ca. 1974-2014

Oversize Drawer BB-1 Folder 9:

1. Poster: "Applause '82" TPAC

War Memorial Auditorium, 1928-2010

1 regular folder, 1928-2010

Oversize Box 2, Folder 5:

1. Anderson Design Group, "Spirit of Nashville" poster, ca. 2010

II. DANCE

Miscellaneous, 1936-2006

2 regular folders, 1936-2006

Centennial Youth Ballet

oversize only:

Oversize Box 2, Folder 5:

1. "The Sorcerer's Apprentice, 2006"
2. "Toppelia," 2008

Nashville Ballet, 2005-2015

3 regular folders, 2005-2016

Oversize Box 1, Folder 11:

1. "Swan Lake," 2007

Oversize Box 4, Folder 10:

1. "Peter Pan," 2015

2. "Midsummer Night's Dream," 2015
Nashville Ballet, School of, 2006-2010
1 regular folder, 2006-2010

III. MUSIC

Miscellaneous, 1898-2009

2 regular folders, 1898-1945, 1977-1994

Oversize Box 2, Folder 1:

1. Dick Clark's Caravan of Stars (The Byrds, We Five, Bo Diddley, The Duchess, Paul Revere and the Raiders), ca. 1965
2. Kate Smith, Pat Paulsen, 1968

Oversize Box 2, Folder 3:

1. Save a Child, Change a Life, 2007
2. Red Caboose Concerts, 2008
3. Nashville Public Library songwriting workshop, 2008
4. Music City Soul Series, 2009

Alias Chamber Ensemble, 2011

1 regular folder, 2011

American Guild of Organists, 1956-2008

1 regular folder, 1956-1985

Oversize Box 2, Folder 3:

1. Vincent Dubois, 2008

Cathedral Singers, 1955-1956

1 regular folder, 1955-1956

Community Concert Association, ca. 1930s-1980

3 regular folders, 1930s-1980

Concert Chorale of Nashville, 1999-2006

1 regular folder, 1999-2006

Oversize Box 1, Folder 11:

1. John Rutter's Magnificant, 2004
2. Poster, c. 2006
3. Christmas program, c. 2004

Music City Community Chorus, 2008-2010

1 regular folder, 2008-2009

Oversize Box 2, Folder 2:

1. American Choral Classics, 2008
2. A Ceremony of Carols, 2008
3. The Messiah, 2010

Nashville In Harmony, 2016-2018

1 regular folder, 2017-2018

Oversize Box 4, Folder 11:

1. Poster: Mapping Stars, 2017
2. Poster: Holiday Road, 2016

Nashville Jazz Workshop, 2008-2016

1 regular folder, 2008-2012

Oversize Box 4, Folder 11:

1. Poster: Life and Work of Tito Puente, perf. Lalo Davila, 2016

Nashville Opera, 2005-2013

5 regular folders, 2005-2013

Oversize Box 1, Folder 11:

1. Poster: The Mikado (n.d.)

Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra, 2012-2016

1 regular folder, 2012-2016

Nashville Symphony, 1922-2017

6 regular folders, 1922-2006

Oversize Box 1, Folder 5:

1. Poster: Hurricane Katrina benefit concert with Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, 2005
2. Poster: Porgy and Bess, 2006
3. Nashville Symphony Notes newsletter, April 1980
4. Poster: Petzushka, 1982-1983
5. Poster: 1st season at Andrew Jackson Concert Hall, TPAC, 1980-1981
6. "Coming Soon to a Park Near You," 2017

Oversize Drawer BB-1, Folder 7:

1. Poster: Schermerhorn Symphony Center – Future Home of the Nashville Symphony, 2006
2. Poster: "Nashville Platinum," Mar. 11, 1986

Folder 7-A, Inside Folder 7 Above:

1. Poster: 1983-84 Season

IV. THEATER

Miscellaneous, 1901-2018

4 regular folders: 1901-2016

Oversize Box 1, Folder 10:

1. Pipeline Collective, "There are Others," 2016
2. Pipeline Collective, "Constellations," 2016

Oversize Box 2, Folder 4:

1. Sophocles' Antigone, 2007
2. "Nashville Here I Am," (n.d.)
3. "Pretty Fire," 2008
4. Sacred Space for the City, "Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Literary Soldier," 2008
5. "The Nutty Professor" musical, world premiere (Marvin Hamlisch and Jerry Lewis), 2012

Oversize Box 4, Folder 7:

1. "William Shakespeare Presents: Terminator the Second" by Husky Jackal Productions – 2 posters, 1 program, 2011

Oversize Box 4, Folder 8:

1. Blackbird Theatre, "Arcadia," 2011
2. Blackbird Theatre, "G.K. Chesterton's Magic," 2011

Oversize Box 4, Folder 9:

1. "The Flu Season," Act1, ca. 2015
2. "Motel Noel," 2016
3. "The Continuum," Fisk University, ca. 2016
4. "My Fair Lady," Larry Keeton Theatre, ca. 2018

Advent Theatre, n.d., 1978

1 regular folder: n.d., 1978

Oversize Drawer BB-1, Folder 9:

1. Antigone, c. 1978-79

Circle Players, 1962-2013

5 regular folders: 1962-2012

Oversize Box 1, Folder 10:

1. High School Musical, 2007
2. A Raisin in the Sun, 2011
3. Brighton Beach Memoirs, 2012
4. Titanic, the musical, 2012
5. The Piano Lesson, 2013

Cumberland County Playhouse, 1981, 1983

1 regular folder: 1981, 1983

Ensemble Theatre Company, ca. 1978

1 regular folder: ca. 1978

Oversize Box 1, Folder 10:

1. Ensemble Theatre Company, poster/flyer for 1978-79 season
2. We Bombed in New Haven, n.d.
3. Uncle Vanya, n.d.

"Mysteries of Thanatos" (Greek Pageant), 1914

1 regular folder: 1914

Nashville Academy Theatre, 1978-1996

(See also Nashville Children's Theatre)

2 regular folders: ca. 1979-1996

Oversize Box 1, Folder 10:

1. "It's Not 'Just for Kids' Anymore" poster, 1978-1980 season

Nashville Children's Theatre, 1968-2018

(See also Nashville Academy Theatre)

1 regular folder: 1968-2012

Oversize Box 4, Folder 4:

1. Seussical 2005-2006
2. Wind in the Willows, 2006
3. Jason and the Golden Fleece, 2011
4. Don't Tell Me I Can't Fly, 2013
5. Charlotte's Web, 2015
6. Tuck Everlasting, 2018

Oversize Box 1, Folder 10:

1. Richard II (Lipscomb University), 2017

Nashville Community Playhouse, 1937-1949

2 regular folders: 1937-1949

Nashville Shakespeare Festival, ca. 2007-2018

1 regular folder: 2007-2008

Oversize Box 4, Folder 6:

1. Love's Labour's Lost, 2010
2. Romeo and Juliet, 2011
3. Shakespeare's Case, 2011
4. Julius Caesar (with Eddie George), 2012
5. As You Like It, 2014
6. Othello (Eddie George), 2014
7. Henry V, 2015
8. King Lear, 2016
9. Comedy of Errors and Macbeth, 2016
10. Romeo and Juliet, 2017
11. Midsummer Night's Dream, 2018

"The Perfect 36," 1990

1 regular folder: 1990

Street Theatre, 2007

oversize only:

Oversize Box 1, Folder 10:

1. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, 2007

Tennessee Players, 1999-2005

1 regular folder, 1999-2005

Tennessee Repertory Theatre, 1999-2017

1 regular folder: 1999-2010

Oversize Box 1, Folder 9:

1. Repartee newsletter, Fall 1999
2. Poster: The Santaland Diaries, 2005
3. Poster: Oleanna, 2006
4. Poster: Dearly Departed, 2006
5. Poster: I Hate Hamlet, 2007
6. Poster: The Crucible, 2007
7. Poster: Clara's Hands, 2007
8. Poster: A Raisin in the Sun (with Eddie George), 2017

Tennessee Women's Theater Project, 2007-2014

1 regular folder: 2007-2014

Theatre Nashville, 1965-1969

1 regular folder: 1965-1969