Guide to the Mason Opera House Playbills

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Note
Geographical (By Place)--California--Los Angeles Area
History--California History--Los Angeles Area
Arts and Humanities--Theater--Theater History and Criticism
Arts and Humanities--Theater--Acting
Arts and Humanities--Music
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Collection number: MS-P040

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Mason Opera House playbills,
Date (inclusive): 1912-1918
Collection number: MS-P040
Creator: Mason Opera House (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Extent: 0.1 linear feet (1 oversize folder)
Repository: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.

Abstract: This collection consists of a consecutive run of approximately 175 playbills from 1912 through 1918 for dramatic and musical performances held at the Mason Opera House in Los Angeles. During these six years, a number of Broadway musicals were performed at the Mason, featuring noted international figures such as Maude Adams, Isadora Duncan, Minnie Maddern Fiske, Anna Held, Helena Modjeska, and Anna Pavlova. The full-page playbills, which include some folding playbills, are mounted on 171 leaves of a contemporary ledger. The playbills were published for the Mason by the Program Publishing Company of Los Angeles through 1916 and later by the Mason Program Company. They were apparently distributed by the Peters Bill Posting Company of Santa Ana, California. Throughout the ledger are holograph notes in different hands recording accounting information, personal names, and the names of bill posting companies in the Los Angeles area.

Language: English.

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
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For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

Acquisition Information

Processing History

Organizational History
The Mason Opera House, located on the 100 block of South Broadway in Los Angeles, was a popular venue for internationally known drama and opera performers from the 1900s through the 1920s under the management of W.T. Wyatt. It was centered in one of Los Angeles's major entertainment districts on Broadway. The Mason was established some time before or at the turn of the century, along with the Regal, the Belasco, the Princess, the Hippodrome, and other theaters.

Collection Scope and Content Summary
This collection consists of a consecutive run of approximately 175 playbills from 1912 through 1918 for dramatic and musical performances held at the Mason Opera House in Los Angeles. During these six years, a number of Broadway musicals were performed at the Mason, featuring noted international figures such as Maude Adams, Isadora Duncan, Minnie Maddern Fiske, Anna Held, Helena Modjeska, and Anna Pavlova. The full-page playbills, which include some folding playbills, are mounted on 171 leaves of a contemporary ledger. The playbills were published for the Mason by the Program Publishing Company of Los Angeles through 1916 and later by the Mason Program Company. They were apparently distributed by the Peters Bill Posting Company of Santa Ana, California. Throughout the ledger are holograph notes in different hands recording accounting information, personal names, and the names of bill posting companies in the Los Angeles area.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

Subjects
Mason Opera House (Los Angeles, Calif.)--Archival resources.
Opera--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources.
Musical theater--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources.
Theater--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources.
Theaters--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources.
Modjeska, Helena, 1840-1909--Archival resources.
Pavlova, Anna, 1881-1931--Archival resources.
Duncan, Isadora, 1877-1927--Archival resources.
Actors--Archival resources.
Dancers--Archival resources.
Singers--Archival resources.
Theater--Archival resources.

Genres and Forms of Material
Playbills--California--Los Angeles.

Related Collections
Related Mason Opera House programs from 1909 through 1924 can be found in the Don Meadows Papers (MS-R01), Special Collections and Archives.

Box FB-25 : 1
Ledger containing playbills, 1912-1918