Collection Information 1
Historical Sketch 2
Scope and Content Note 3
Contents 4

Processed by
Maire Gurevitz
June 2018

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 boxes of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1959-1965

PROVENANCE: Orvella Fields, Central Library [Indianapolis Public Library], Indianapolis, IN; Barry C. Allen, Indianapolis, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: Related Holdings: Addition to Avondale Playhouse Collection, P0067

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2003.0577X; 2016.0343

NOTES:
HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Avondale Playhouse (1954-1966), also known as “Avondale-in-the-Meadows,” was a popular summer stock theater located at The Meadows Shopping Center on E. 38th Street in Indianapolis. The theater-in-the-round hired out-of-town headliners, such as Margaret O’Brien, Jack Palance or Dorothy Lamour, to lead casts of local talent. The plays spanned light comedies to modern drama. Movie actresses Frances Farmer, Esther Williams and Vivian Vance were among those national names that toured in summer stock and performed here.

Its rival, Starlight Musicals, also offered summer entertainment at that time. Two founding fathers and long time members of the Board of Directors were Indianapolis residents Allen W. Clowes and W. Taylor Wilson. When the Board tried to expand to other cities in 1965, which proved to be a failure, the company was forced to sell its assets. A proposed Avondale “Playhouse on the Lake” (Keystone at 116th) was never constructed.

Sources:
Collection Guide for P0067
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is an addition to Avondale Playhouse Collection (P 0067). The collection contains cast and rehearsal photographs of shows put on at the playhouse from 1959–1965 and has been organized in chronological order by production dates. Many of the photographs are fully or partially identified, and some productions have commentary about that particular show was received by the public. Some photographs are stamped as being taken by Julius Marx, a sound engineer with the theater company, but others are unmarked.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>CONTAINER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Father of the Bride, 1959</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dream Girl, 28 June- 3 July 1960</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present Laughter, 26-31 July 1960 (1 of 2)</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present Laughter, 26-31 July 1960 (2 of 2)</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gazebo, 9-14 Aug. 1960</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphitryon 38, 23-28 Aug. 1960</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of the Cuckoo, 11-15 July 1961</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monique, 17-23 July 1961</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Candle, 1-6 Aug. 1961 (1 of 2)</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Candle, 1-6 Aug. 1961 (2 of 2)</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Melting, 8-13 Aug. 1961</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Bird of Youth, 15-20 Aug. 1961</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Best Man, 14-19 Aug. 1962</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critic’s Choice, 28 Aug.-2 Sept. 1962</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shot in the Dark, 2-7 July 1963</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The County Girl, 9-14 July 1963</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Come Blow Your Horn, 23-28 July 1963</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculated Risk, 20-25 Aug. 1963</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Hole in the Head, 25-30 Aug. 1963</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romanoff &amp; Juliet, 27 Aug.- 2 Sept. 1963</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days of the Dancing, 12-20 June 1964</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kind Sir, 23-28 June 1964</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Her, She’s Mine, 30 June-5 July 1964</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Happiest Years, 7-12 July 1964  
Mr. Roberts, 14-19 July 1964  
George Washington Slept Here, 21-26 July 1964  
Sabrina Fair, 28 July-2 Aug. 1964  
Everybody Loves Opal, 4-9 Aug. 1964  
Picnic, 11-16 Aug. 1964  
Teahouse of the August Moon, 25-30 Aug. 1964  
Tall Story, 1-6 Sept. 1964  
Three Men on a Horse, 11-20 June 1965  
Peter Pan, 22-27 June 1965  
Two Dozen Red Roses, 6-11 July 1965  
Strictly Dishonorable, 13-18 July 1965  
On Borrowed Time, 17-21 Aug. 1965  
The World of Suzie Wong, 23-28 Aug. 1965  
Heaven Can Wait, 27 July-1 Aug. 1965  
Mary, Mary, 3-8 Aug. 1965  

Box 1, Folder 22  
Box 2, Folder 1  
Box 2, Folder 2  
Box 2, Folder 3  
Box 2, Folder 4  
Box 2, Folder 5  
Box 2, Folder 6  
Box 2, Folder 7  
Box 2, Folder 8  
Box 2, Folder 9  
Box 2, Folder 10  
Box 2, Folder 11  
Box 2, Folder 12  
Box 2, Folder 13  
Box 2, Folder 14  
Box 2, Folder 15