

Collection #
P 0678

**AVONDALE PLAYHOUSE
PHOTOGRAPHS ADDITION, 1959–1965**

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

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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

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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

Bodenhamer, et al. *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, c1994. Reference Room Collection: E534.I55 E4 1994

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.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Father of the Bride, 1959

Dream Girl, 28 June- 3 July 1960

Present Laughter, 26-31 July 1960 (1 of 2)

Present Laughter, 26-31 July 1960 (2 of 2)

The Gazebo, 9-14 Aug. 1960

Amphitryon 38, 23-28 Aug. 1960

Time of the Cuckoo, 11-15 July 1961

Monique, 17-23 July 1961

Roman Candle, 1-6 Aug. 1961 (1 of 2)

Roman Candle, 1-6 Aug. 1961 (2 of 2)

Mrs. Melting, 8-13 Aug. 1961

Sweet Bird of Youth, 15-20 Aug. 1961

The Best Man, 14-19 Aug. 1962

Critic's Choice, 28 Aug.-2 Sept. 1962

Shot in the Dark, 2-7 July 1963

The County Girl, 9-14 July 1963

Come Blow Your Horn, 23-28 July 1963

Calculated Risk, 20-25 Aug. 1963

A Hole in the Head, 25-30 Aug. 1963

Romanoff & Juliet, 27 Aug.- 2 Sept. 1963

Days of the Dancing, 12-20 June 1964

Kind Sir, 23-28 June 1964

Take Her, She's Mine, 30 June-5 July 1964

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 16

Box 2, Folder 17

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12

Box 1, Folder 13

Box 1, Folder 14

Box 1, Folder 15

Box 1, Folder 16

Box 1, Folder 17

Box 1, Folder 18

Box 1, Folder 19

Box 1, Folder 20

Box 1, Folder 21

The Happiest Years, 7-12 July 1964	Box 1, Folder 22
Mr. Roberts, 14-19 July 1964	Box 2, Folder 1
George Washington Slept Here, 21-26 July 1964	Box 2, Folder 2
Sabrina Fair, 28 July-2 Aug. 1964	Box 2, Folder 3
Everybody Loves Opal, 4-9 Aug. 1964	Box 2, Folder 4
Picnic, 11-16 Aug. 1964	Box 2, Folder 5
Teahouse of the August Moon, 25-30 Aug. 1964	Box 2, Folder 6
Tall Story, 1-6 Sept. 1964	Box 2, Folder 7
Three Men on a Horse, 11-20 June 1965	Box 2, Folder 8
Peter Pan, 22-27 June 1965	Box 2, Folder 9
Two Dozen Red Roses, 6-11 July 1965	Box 2, Folder 10
Strictly Dishonorable, 13-18 July 1965	Box 2, Folder 11
On Borrowed Time, 17-21 Aug. 1965	Box 2, Folder 12
The World of Suzie Wong, 23-28 Aug. 1965	Box 2, Folder 13
Heaven Can Wait, 27 July-1 Aug. 1965	Box 2, Folder 14
Mary, Mary, 3-8 Aug. 1965	Box 2, Folder 15