

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
Showtimers Collection**

Collection Description:

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Historical Note:

Showtimers, a nonprofit community theater organization, was founded in 1951 with Betty Ross Garretson, a speech and drama professor at Roanoke College, as its president. Its first home was at the Laboratory Theater, Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia. The organization also provided acting classes. By 1960 it was averaging paid admission of 1,000 persons at its performances. In 1963 musicals were added to its yearly slate of productions. In 1971 productions moved to a former church on McVitty Road, Roanoke, Virginia, which was renovated to suit the Showtimers's needs. In late 1970s and early 1980s productions were stage at Olin Hall, Roanoke College; they later returned to a renovated and expanded facility on McVitty Road. The Footlighters were founded in 1952 and merged with the Showtimers after their 1953 season.

Scope and Content:

The bulk of the collection is comprised of show programs, from 1951 through 1993. Not all years are complete; few programs are available for 1968, 1969, 1970 and 1984 through 1993. Programs from The Footlighters 1953 productions are included in the collection. Three anniversary publications that include written histories and photographs of Showtimers productions are available for 1960 (10th Anniversary), 1975 (25th Anniversary), and 1990 (40th Anniversary). A financial report that documents Showtimers's receipts and expenses, 1951-1959 is part of the collection.

Container List:

Box 1

Folder 1: 1951—Show programs: *Arsenic and Old Lace*; *The Bat*; *Anna Christie*; *The Late George Appley*; *Blithe Spirit*; *My Heart's in the Highlands*

Folder 2: 1952—Show programs: *The Lady's Not for Burning*; *See How They Run*; *The Glass Menagerie*; *The Tavern*; *Winterset*; *On Borrowed Time*

- Folder 3: 1953—Show programs: *Engaged; An Inspector Calls; Skylark; Out of the Frying Pan; Shadow and Substance; The Happy Time*
- Folder 4: 1954—Show programs: *The Madwoman of Chaillot; Pygmalion; Bell, Book, and Candle; The Show-Off; Ladies in Retirement; Private Lives; You Can't Take It with You*
- Folder 5: 1955—Show programs: *Goodbye, My Fancy; The Moon Is Blue; Come Back, Little Sheba; Time Out for Ginger; Sabrina Fair; Rebecca; The Curious Savage;*
- Folder 6: 1956—Show programs: *The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial; Gigi; The Desperate Hours; Holiday; Anastasia; Born Yesterday; Life with Father; The Little Foxes*
- Folder 7: 1957—Show programs: *Stalag 17; Don Juan in Hell; Bus Stop; Angel Street; The Great Sebastians; Heaven Can Wait; The Winslow Boy; The Man Who Came to Dinner*
- Folder 8: 1958—Show programs: *Solid Gold Cadillac; Major Barbara; The Teahouse of the August Moon; The Loud Red Patrick; Kind Lady; Three Men on a Horse; The Heiress; Arsenic and Old Lace; The Moon Is Blue*
- Folder 9: 1959—Show programs: *Visit to a Small Planet; The Taming of the Shrew; Witness for the Prosecution; The Fourposter; The Reluctant Debutante; The Seven Year Itch; Diary of Anne Frank; State of Mind.*
- Folder 10: 1960—Show programs: *Romanoff and Juliet; Mister Roberts; Separate Tables; My Three Angels; Death Takes a Holiday; Kind Sir; Inherit the Wind; The Girls in 509; I Knock at the Door*
- Folder 11: 1961—Show programs: *The Tender Trap; Summer and Smoke; I Knock at the Door; Once More, with Feeling; Laura; Light Up the Sky; Royal Gambit; Rain; Harvey; Animal Farm*
- Folder 12: 1962—Show programs: *The Happiest Millionaire; I Capture the Castle; The Gazebo; The Warm Peninsula; Picnic; Edwin Booth; Silent Night, Lonely Night; Roman Candle*
- Folder 13: 1963—Show programs: *Under the Yum-Yum Tree; The Boy Friend; King of Hearts; Ring Round the Moon; A Streetcar Named Desire; The Rainmaker; Dial "M" for Murder; Auntie Mame*
- Folder 14: 1964—Show programs: *Come Blow Your Horn; Little Mary Sunshine; The Miracle Worker; The Browning Version; Send Me No Flowers; Death of a Salesman; The Marriage-Go-Round; The Crucible; The Philadelphia Story*
- Folder 15: 1965—Show programs: *A Shot in the Dark; Middle of the Night; The King and I; Janus; The Night of the Iguana; Dark of the Moon; The Tunnel of Love; A View from the Bridge; Two for the Seesaw*
- Folder 16: 1966—Show programs: *The Pleasure of His Company; All the Way Home; Oklahoma!; Critic's Choice; I Am a Camera; The Happy Time; The Bad Seed; Ninotchka; The Private Ear / The Public Eye*
- Folder 17: 1967—Show programs: *Any Wednesday; You Can't Take It with You; Show Boat; Cat on a Hot Tin Roof; A Thousand Clowns; Blithe Spirit; Take Her, She's Mine; Five Finger Exercise*

- Folder 18: 1968—Show program: *The Odd Couple*. Audition announcement for *Anything Goes*
- Folder 19: 1969—April 1969 Showtimers newsletter
- Folder 20: 1971—Show programs: *Oliver*; *Sheep on the Runway*; *Generation*; *Don't Drink the Water*; *The Lion in Winter*
- Folder 21: 1972—Show programs: *The Mousetrap*; *The Streets of New York*; *The Killing of Sister George*; *Chicago or The Trial of Roxy Hart*; *The Yeomen of the Guard*; *The Visit*; *Showtimers Showcase*
- Folder 22: 1973—Show programs: *Forty Carats*; *Promenade*; *Candida*; *My Sister Eileen*; *The Fantasticks*; *The Rope Dancers*; *The Skin of Our Teeth*; *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*; *Ruddigore*. Season ticket order form.
- Folder 23: 1974—Show programs: *Hay Fever*; *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; *The Importance of Being Earnest*; *Henry, Sweet Henry*; *Private Lives*; *Patience*; *Gideon*

Box 2

- Folder 1: 1975—Show programs: *Finishing Touches*; *Spoon River Anthology*; *Stop the World—I Want to Get Off*; *The Madwoman of Chailot*; *Arms and the Man*; *The Gondoliers*
- Folder 2: 1976—Show programs: *The Gingerbread Lady*; *One Hundred and Ten in the Shade*; *The Subject Was Roses*; *The Roar of the Greasepaint—The Smell of the Crowd*; *Mary, Mary*; *Iolanthe*; *Celebration*. Season ticket order form
- Folder 3: 1977—Show programs: *Of Mice and Men*; *Sugar*; *Charley's Aunt*; *The Beggar's Opera*; *6 Rms Riv Vu*; *Once Upon a Mattress*
- Folder 4: 1978—Show programs: *The Fantasticks*; *Fiddler on the Roof*; *The Mikado*; *Detective Story*; *I Remember Mama*; *Much Ado About Nothing*; *Two by Two*; *Philemon*; *Jacques Brel is Alive & Well & Living in Paris*
- Folder 5: 1979—Show programs: *Bye Bye, Birdie*; *The Heiress*; *God's Favorite*; *The Music Man*; *Yes, My Darling Daughter*; *Babes in Arms*; *New Girl in Town*. Fundraising material; *Music Man* postcard
- Folder 6: 1980—Show programs: *The Children's Hour*; *Brigadoon*; *California Suite*; *See How They Run*; *A Man for All Seasons*
- Folder 7: 1981—Show programs: *Pippin*; *The Man Who Came to Dinner*; *My Fair Lady*; *Night Must Fall*; *I Do! I Do!*
- Folder 8: 1982—Show programs: *The Telephone* and *Trial by Jury*; *The Chalk Garden*; *Damn Yankees*; *On Golden Pond*; *L'il Abner*; *The Solid Gold Cadillac*; *Cabaret*
- Folder 9: 1983—Show programs: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; *Fallen Angels*; *Pal Joey*; *The Play's the Thing*; *South Pacific*; *Morning's at Seven*; *They're Playing Our Song*;
- Folder 10: 1984, 1986, 1987—Show programs: *Table Manners* (1984); *Living Together* (1987); *Round and Round the Garden* (1988); *The Foreigner* (1988)
- Folder 11: 1988—Show programs: *Something's Afoot*; *Nine*; *By Jupiter*. Show announcements: *Something's Afoot*; *The Medium*

- Folder 12: 1990, 1993—Show program: *The 40th Season Anniversary Gala* (1990); *Follies* (1993). A 52-page booklet,
- Folder 13: 1993—Show program: *Follies*
- Folder 14: Missing Programs List—“List of plays for which there are no programs in our files”
- Folder 15: 10-Year Anniversary (1960)—“Showtimers at 10: Souvenir Album, 1951-1960” History of the organization and photographs of productions.
- Folder 16: 25-Year Anniversary (1975)—“Showtimers Twenty-Fifth Season: Souvenir Scrapbook” History of organization, photographs of productions, list of all works produced, 1951-1975.
- Folder 17: 40-Year Anniversary (1990)—“1990 Showtimers 40th Season Anniversary: A Souvenir Program of the First Forty Years.” History of organization, photographs of productions, list of all works produced, 1951-1990, list of officers and members of board of directors, 1951-1990, list of life members, memories and anecdotes.
- Folder 18: 1951-1959 Financial Report
- Folder 19: Newspaper Clippings (copies)
- Folder 20: Newspaper Clippings—Originals with many photographs
- Folder 21: 1953 *The Footlighters*—Show programs: *The Philadelphia Story*; *Night Must Fall*; *Years Ago*