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**University of Memphis Libraries**  
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## **Memphis Open Air Theatre collection**

**Title:** Memphis Open Air Theatre collection

**Collection No:** MSS.431

**Extent:** 1.25 cubic feet

**Inclusive Dates:** 1939-1951

**Abstract:** The collection comprises programs from the Memphis Open Air Theatre (MOAT) from 1940 to 1951 and a scrapbook of clippings about MOAT productions in 1939 and 1940.

**Processed by:** James Montague, 2003; Gerald Chaudron, 2017.

**Access:** Open to all researchers.

**Language:** English

**Preferred Citation:** Memphis Open Air Theatre collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

**Publication date:** August 2017

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## Scope and contents

The collection comprises programs from the Memphis Open Air Theatre (MOAT) from 1940 to 1951 and a scrapbook of clippings about MOAT productions in 1939 and 1940.

MOAT was founded in 1938 under the sponsorship of the Junior League and performed summer productions of operettas at the Overton Park Shell in Memphis, Tennessee. Between 1938 and 1951, MOAT produced an impressive range of productions from 19th century operettas to contemporary musicals like *Brigadoon*. In its last years, MOAT attracted smaller audiences and its seasons ended in growing deficits that meant the 1951 season was its last.

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## Subject terms

Theater—Tennessee—Memphis.

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## Related materials

Memphis Open Air Theater Programs, Memphis and Shelby County Room, Memphis Public Libraries, Memphis, Tennessee.

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## Inventory

### Box 1

Folder

Programs:

- 1      The Merry Widow, 1940 July 8-13.  
       Little Jesse James, 1940 July 15-20.  
       The Chocolate Soldier, 1940 August 5-10.  
       Robin Hood, 1941 July 7-12.  
       Mlle. Modiste, 1941 July 14-19.  
       Rio Rita, 1941 July 28-August 2.  
       The Pink Lady, 1941 August 4-9.  
       Rosalie, 1946 July 29-August.  
       The Student Prince, 1946 August 5-10.  
       Countess Maritza, 1946 August 12-17.  
       Rose Marie, 1946 August 19-24.
- 2      Naughty Marietta, 1947 August 4-9.

- The New Moon, 1947 August 18-23.  
 The Great Waltz, 1948 June 28-July 3.  
 Bittersweet, 1948 July 19-24.  
 No, No Nanette, 1948 July 5-10.  
 The Student Prince, 1949 July 11-16.  
 The Mikado, 1949 August 1-6.  
 The New Moon, 1949 August 15-20.  
 3 Sweethearts, 1950 July 17-22.  
 Sari, 1950 July 24-29.  
 Rio Rita, 1950 July 31-August 5.  
 The Vagabond King, 1950 August 14-19.  
 The New Moon, 1950 August 21-26.  
 4 Brigadoon, 1951 July 16-21.  
 Trial by Jury and HMS Pinafore, 1951 August 6-11.
- Fliers:  
 Memphis Open Air Theatre, Under the Stars, Overton Park Shell, 1946 July 1-  
 August 24.  
 Memphis Open Air Theatre, Stars Under the Stars, Overton Park Shell, 1948 June  
 28-August 21.
- Reservation blank, 1950 season.
- OS** Clippings:  
 "Vagabond King Swaggers Into MOAT This Week With Top Favorite Stars",  
*The Commercial Appeal*, 1950 August 13.  
 Ahrens, Louise Nolan, "Vagabond King Stands Out As a Royal Performance",  
*Memphis Press-Scimitar*, 1950 August 15.  
 McGee, Mike, "First Night Audience of 1826 is Thrilled by Vagabond King",  
*The Commercial Appeal*, 1950 August 15.
- 2 Scrapbook: Contains clippings related to MOAT from Memphis newspapers, 1939-  
 1940.