

Woods Hole Historical Museum Archives
P.O. Box 185
Woods Hole, MA 02543

REGISTER
Theater in Woods Hole
1927-2005

1 box

THEATER IN WOODS HOLE

HISTORY

The following brief histories are partially: taken from DeWitt Jones III's article in *Sprintsail*, Volume 9, Number 2, Summer 1995.

University Players: Charles Leatherbee and Bretaigne Windust began the University Players in Woods Hole and Falmouth in 1927. They recruited undergraduates from Harvard, Princeton and Radcliffe. The group was supported by donations and subscribers. Many of the young players went on to distinguished theater and film careers. They used the Elizabeth Theater in Falmouth initially but knew they needed a theater venue of their own. A theater was built from old bathhouses at Old Silver Beach in North Falmouth. The group lasted 4 summer seasons, till 1932. Famous alumni are Henry Fonda, Jimmy Stewart, Margaret Sullavan.

The Calico Players: 1934-1946. A group of 7 young people formed the group in 1934, which included Charlotte Griffin, Madeline Peck, Barbara Vallis, Mrs. & Mrs. Gardner W. Handy, Robert C. Neal and Michael Meara.

Woods Hole Theater Company: There was a brief attempt to form a Woods Hole Theater Festival in 1973. It has one season which was not very well received after its first performance and its founder, Grant Bishop, left for England, leaving large debts behind.

In 1974 three of the women who had been involved in the Festival got help from some Woods Hole residents and formed the Woods Hole Theater Company. They eventually paid off Bishop's debt. They began using the Woods Hole Community Hall for performances. The group celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1999 and 30th anniversary in 2004. The company still exists and gives occasional performances at the Community Hall (as of 2018-19).

Karl and Ruth Schleicher were some of the major people involved in acting, directing and keeping the organization going for many years. Lydia Sargent, Dan Tritle and Cleo Zani have been later major participants.

SCOPE

The collection in this box includes the Calico Players (Accession Number 06-15), University Players and Woods Hole Theater Company. The Penzance Players Collection is contained separately in 2 boxes, Accession Number 93-21

Each collection contains playbills, some posters, performance notes and occasional scripts. The Woods Hole Theater Collection includes its incorporation papers (1974), inspection certificate (1974), playbills, posters, meeting minutes and fund-raising solicitations.

THEATER IN WOODS HOLE

Folder 1: UNIVERSITY PLAYERS

1-1. Playbills (Accession Number 93-16). *Playbills are glued together, no order.*

- a. The University Players Guild. The Thirteenth Chair by Bayard Heiler at the Elizabeth Theater, Falmouth, Evenings of August 27 and 28, at 8:30, 1928.
 - b. The University Players Guild. In the Next Room by Eleanor Robson and Harriet Ford at the Elizabeth Theater, Falmouth, Evenings of August 6 and 7, at 8:30, 1928.
 - c. The University Players Guild. The New Way by Annie Nathan Meyer at the Elizabeth Theater, Falmouth, Evenings of August 13 and 14, at 8:30, 1928.
- 1-2. Newsclipping. Norris Houghton Writes History Of University Players, Falmouth *Enterprise*, January 25, 1952. Copy.
- 1-3. Newsclipping. Falmouth's Ivy League Theater. *Yankee*, July 1968. 2 copies.

Folder 2: CALICO PLAYERS COLLECTION 06 – 15.

Donated by David Nailor, August 2006

- 2.06-15.1 Calico Players Constitution (two legal-sized typewritten sheets), n.d.
- 2.06-15.2 Wareham Savings Bank (Falmouth Branch) Savings Deposit Book, 1936.
- 2.06-15.3 Bill from H.V. Lawrence, Falmouth, Mass., October 1, 1938, for Bouquet of Mixed Cluster Chrysanthemums.
- 2.06-15.4 Receipt (handwritten) for \$40.00 from Edward Pearlstein, November 9, 1938, for lights.
- 2.06-15.5 Receipt (handwritten) for \$69.70 from Bruce K. Jerauld (?) to Madeleine Broadbent, November 14, 1938, for candle lights
- 2.06-15.6 Cape Cod Drama League, Treasurer's Report of the Production "Candlelight", on Nov. 1, 2 and 4th, November 18, 1938.
- 2.06-15.7 Bill from Walter H. Bakers Company (Dramatic Publications), 178 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass., November 18, 1938, for 8 copies of "Penny Wise".
- 2.06-15.8 Letter from Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York, January 4, 1939, to Miss Frances Ingraham, re royalty for "Penny Wise"
- 2.06-15.9 Bill from Eastman's Hardware, Falmouth, Mass., March 2, 1939, for 1 lb. of ?
- 2.06-15.10 Tickets for The Calico Players: "Penny Wise", March 9, 1939, Community Hall, Woods Hole.
- 2.06-15.11 Receipt of March 11, 1939. (Wolff, Fording & Co., Inc.?, not marked on reverse)
- 2.06-15.12 Letter from Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York, March 13, 1939, to Miss Frances Ingram (sic), Treasurer, Calico Players, re royalty paid for "Penny Wise".
- 2.06-15.13 Bill from Wm. C. Davis Company, Falmouth, Mass., March 15, 1939, for rental of furniture.
- 2.06-15.14 Bill from the Falmouth Publishing Company, Inc. (Falmouth Enterprise) for printing of tickets, programs and advertising, March 1939.
- 2.06-15.15 Bill from the Falmouth Publishing Company, Inc. (Falmouth Enterprise) for printing of tickets and programs, November 1939.
- 2.06-15.16 Clipping, Falmouth *Enterprise*, "Calico Players in Celebrated Comedy", ("The Importance of Being Ernest"), n.d., also xerox copy. *Apparently November 1939.*
- 2.06-15.17 Envelope, labeled "Importance of Being Ernest", from Wolff, Fording & Co., Inc. (Theatrical Supplies-Costumes-Favors), postmarked November 22, 1939, addressed to Mrs. H.H. Broadbent, Box 2, Woods Hole, Mass., which enclosed the following items:
- 2.06-15.18 Bill from Wolf, Fording & Co., Inc. for the rental of butler's costume, dated November 6, 1939, marked Paid November 22, 1939.
- 2.06-15.19 Receipt of November 13, 1939, Wolff, Fording & Co., Inc.

- 2.06-15.20 Bill from Harvey's Hardware Store, Falmouth, Mass. to Madeline Broadbent, marked Paid November 28, 1939.
- 2.06-15.21 Bill from Oscar R. Hilton, Woods Hole, Massachusetts (Carpenter and Builder – Marine Railways), December 1, 1939, for 2 Bundles furring and 16 Sq. Ft. Tile Board.
- 2.06-15.22 Wareham Savings Bank (Falmouth Branch) Savings Deposit Book, 1940-1946.
- 2.06-15.23 Receipt for deposit on mss. from Walter H. Baker Company, for "Square Crooks", March 19, 1940. Includes envelope for receipt and outer envelope.
- 2.06-15.24 Bill from the Falmouth Publishing Company, Inc. (Falmouth *Enterprise*) for printing of tickets and programs, May 1940. Includes envelope.
- 2.06-15.25 Receipt, stamped May 13, 1940, Wolff, Ford & Co., Inc. (?)
- 2.06-15.27 Application-receipt for use of facilities in Henry W. Hall School, evening of May 15, 1940.
- 2.06-15.28 Ticket for "Square Crooks", Hall School Auditorium, May 15, 1940.
- 2.06-15.29 Play Production License for "Square Crooks" from Walter H. Baker Company, May 15, 1940.
- 2.06-15.30 Typewritten list of expenditures for "Square Crooks", n.d.
- 2.06-15.31 Receipt for Insured Mail, stamped May 18, 1940.
- 2.06-15.32 Memo slip from Paul Peters Insurance Agency for postage and money order (n.d. but attached to the two pervious items).
- 2.06-15.33 Bill from Harvey's Hardware Store, May 31, 1940, with envelope.
- 2.06-15.34 Tax Receipt for Safety Deposit Box for The Calico Players, December 18, 1940.
- 2.06-15.35 Play Production License for "Laff That Off" from Walter H. Baker Company, December 18, 1940. Includes envelope and ad for dramatic version of Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and receipt for royalty stamped December 17, 1940.
- 2.06-15.36 Bill from Falmouth Publishing Company, Inc., (Falmouth *Enterprise*) for printing of tickets and programs and advertising, December 1940.
- 2.06-15.37 Bill from Ten Acre, Inc. Falmouth, (S.S. Pierce Specialties-Fruit, Vegetables, Wines, Liquors, Fresh Meats, Poultry), January 1, 1941.
- 2.06-15.38 Bill from H.V. Lawrence, Inc. for 4 Laurel Wreaths with ribbon, Jan. 1, 1941.
- 2.06-15.39 Receipt from H.V. Lawrence for Two Dollars paid by Henry Hauston, Calico Players, January 17, 1941.
- 2.06-15.40 Receipt from Falmouth Publishing Company, Inc. for account rendered, May 1941.
- 2.06-15.41 Play Production License for "To My Husband" from Walter H. Baker Company, May 19, 1941.
- 2.06-15.42 Handwritten Treasurer's Report, December 5, 1946.
- 2.06-15.43 Typed list of Calico Players members (?) with checked off columns, n.d.
- 2.06-15.44 Handwritten list of Calico Players members (?), with money amounts listed by names, n.d.
- 2.06-15.45 Sheet music for "Beautiful Woods Hole Down By The Sea" (cover includes the two right-hand sections of Coolidge's Little Harbor panorama and a picture of the Glidden Tower), n.d.

3: WOODS HOLE THEATER COMPANY

Folder 3-1. Certificate. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Incorporation of Woods Hole Theater Festival, Inc. given to Grant Bishop, June 13, 1974. *Kept in rear of box to protect oversized edge.*

- Folder 3-2. Letter (in frame). Marine Biological Laboratory: To Grant Bishop and Company, The Woods Hole Theater Festival: Greetings, June 26, 1974. *Welcome letter from the MBL for the use of The MBL Mess Hall (corner of Albatross and Water, Woods Hole).*
- Folder 3-3. Certificate (in frame). Town of Falmouth Building Department Inspection Certificate, Woods Hole Theater Festival, Inc. for building at corner of Albatross and Water Streets, Woods Hole. June 26, 1975.
- Folder 3-4. Woods Hole Theater Company posters and artwork for posters and playbills
- a. Artwork pasteup. The Woods Hole Theater Company Presents Vanities, A Play By Jack Heifner (1979).
 - b. Printed copy of The Woods Hole Theater Company Presents Vanities, A Play By Jack Heifner (1979).
 - c. Artwork for poster. Woods Hole Theater Company Presents Ted Tally's Hooters (1979).
 - d. Artwork pasteup. The Woods Hole Theater Company Presents The Little Foxes by Lillian Hellman, staged by Joe Hoffenberg (1982).b. Artwork pasteup. The Woods Hole Theater Company Presents Moliere's The Learned Ladies Translated in verse by Richard Wilbur (1983).
 - e. Printed copy of The Woods Hole Theater Company Presents Moliere's The Learned Ladies Translated in verse by Richard Wilbur (1983).
 - f. Black ink on poster board. Figure of woman with mask. Artwork by Gil Rapoza. ND.
- Folder 3-5. Karl and Ruth Schleicher Collection
- a. Playbill. The Imaginary Invalid by Moliere (1978).
 - b. Playbill. Seascape by Edward Albee (1980). 2 copies.
 - c. Typed letter and ms. Woods Hole Theater Company, Karl Schleicher to the Board, October 6, 1983. Guide for directors attached to letter.
 - d. Playbill. Lovers Winners & Losers by Brian Friel (1984).
 - e. Playbill. Three One-Act Plays: I Can't Imagine Tomorrow; I'm Herbert, The Wooing of Lady Sunday (1984).
 - f. Playbill. Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You; The Actor's Nightmare (1988).
 - g. Playbill. Two One-Act Plays: O'Flaherty, V.C. by George Bernard Shaw; The Typists by Murray Schisgal (1991).
 - h. Typed script. The Diary Of Ruth Anna Hatch, production designed by Bobbi Clark with slides shown (1994?)
 - i. Playbill. A Thurber Carnival by James Thurber (1995).
 - j. Newsclipping. 'Blue Sky' Has Brilliant Satire, Skillful Directing, Falmouth *Enterprise*, (1995).
 - k. Photo montage. Photos from 1978-1998 productions (B/W, folded letter sized sheet).
 - l. Folded brochure. 1974-1999 A Birthday Celebration, October 3, 1999. List of all plays performed during those years, inserts of color photos from performances and events.
 - m. Folded brochure. The Woods Hole Theater Company Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary (1999).
 - n. Typed letter. Woods Hole Theater Company, To Ruth Schleicher to from Nominating Committee, May 20, 1999.
 - o. Typed letter. Cleo Zani to past and present board members, Woods Hole Theater Company, looking for original documents. September 7, 1999.
 - p. Poster. I Read About My Death In Vogue Magazine by Lydia Sargent (2000).
 - q. Newsletter. Woods Hole Theater Company News, February 2000.

- r. Newsletter. Woods Hole Theater Company News, May 2000.
- s. Typed notice. Notice of Annual Meeting, Woods Hole Theater Company on August 21, 2000.
- t. Newsletter. Woods Hole Theater Company News, October 2000.
- u. Newsletter. Woods Hole Theater Company Newsletter, Winter 2003.
- v. Typed letter. Lydia Sargent, Woods Hole Theater Company, 30th Anniversary (2004).
- w. Typeset list. List of Woods Hole Theater Company productions 1974-2004. 4 copies.
- x. Newsletter. Woods Hole Theater Company Newsletter, Winter 2005.

FOLDER 4: MISCELLANY

- 4-1. Typed script. Script for play-parody about oceanography and oceanographers. ND.