

Guide to the Dr. Lizzie May Ulmer Dramatic Co. account book, September 18-October 31, 1885

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Title Statement

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Author: Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Beckman

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Profile Description

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2019-02-13 Converted to schema conforming EAD by dtd2schema.vh.xsl.

Descriptive Summary

Collection Number

C0314

Date

September 18-October 31, 1885

Language

English

Abstract

This collection consists of an account book listing the finances of the Dr. Lizzie May Ulmer Dramatic Company as it traveled around the United States in fall 1885.

Creator

Dr. Lizzie May Ulmer Dramatic Co.

Physical Characteristics

0.25 linear ft.

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions on personal use. Permission to publish material from the Dr. Lizzie May Ulmer Dramatic Co. account book must be obtained from the Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries.

Acquisition Information

Purchased by the Special Collections Research Center before June 2018.

Processing Information

Processing completed by Elizabeth Beckman in July 2018. EAD markup completed by Elizabeth Beckman in July 2018.

Preferred Citation

Dr. Lizzie May Ulmer Dramatic Co. account book, C0314, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries.

Biographical note

Lizzie May Ulmer and George T. Ulmer were actors and theater impresarios in the second half of the 19th century, travelling and performing across the United States. According to his memoir, George Ulmer served as a drummer boy in the 8th Maine Regiment of the Union Army during the Civil War, including at the Battle of Cold Harbor and the Siege of Petersburg (Ulmer 38, 46). After the war, he married his stepsister, Lizzie May, and they "adopted the stage as a profession" (Ulmer 76). Lizzie May achieved a degree of notoriety, and Nelson A. Primus, an African-American artist from Connecticut who was living in Boston, painted her portrait in 1876 (See Jenn Phelps, 'Me and Lizzie May,' and Samella S. Lewis, 37).

Scope and Content

This account book records the cash intake and expenditures of the Dr. Lizzie May Ulmer Dramatic Co. from September 14, 1885 to October 31, 1885. The company traveled to cities across the Southern and Eastern United States during that time - the first entry is for Savannah, GA, and the final entry is for Philadelphia, PA. Expenditures documented include percentages paid to staff, cost of advertising in various forms, etc. The intake side of each entry lists number of tickets sold, different prices of tickets, and total cash intake from each type of ticket sales.

Related Material

SCRC holds other collections related to 19th century American theater, such as the [Guide to the stage direction and dialogue for Oliver Twist manuscript](#) and the [North American 19th Century broadside collection](#).

Index Terms

Subjects:

Actors--United States.
Theater--United States.

Document Types:

Account books.

Bibliography

[Lewis, Samella S. 'Nelson A. Primus,' in 'African American Art and Artists,' Berkley: University of California Press, 2003.](#)

[Phelps, Jenn, 'Me and Lizzie May,' https://meandlizziemay.wordpress.com, accessed July 24, 2018.](https://meandlizziemay.wordpress.com)

[Ulmer, George T. 'Adventures and Reminiscences of a Volunteer Drummer Boy from Maine,' Washington, DC: George T. Ulmer, 1892.](#)

Arrangement

Entries in the account book are arranged chronologically.