

Transcribed Pages from the Charles Dickson Papers

Box 3

Binder 3: Mobile Theaters, vol. 3

1. Miss Virginia Harned

One can readily understand she feels her part. She was well-received last evening, there being much applause given her, etc.

The Mobile Register, Dec. 26, 1903

Miss Harned appeared on the Mobile stage January 31, 1897, in her first engagement as a star, although she had made her debut ten years previous on the stage in 1887 with George Clark in the "Corsican Brothers," "False Shame," etc. At a later date she became leading lady of E.H. Southern, taking the place of Miss Kimball in "The Enemy of The King," Miss

2. Eddie Foy

Monday, Feb. 8, 1897

One of the funniest of funny men in the stage today is the emperor of musical comedies

Eddie Foy was born in Greenwich Village, No. 3, Eighth Ave., New York City, March 7, 1856.

On both occasions, large and well-pleased audiences were present. Both plays are comedies and are well-suited to Mr. Goodwin, whose reputation as a comedian is well-earned. His drolity is refreshing.

Miss Elliott, besides being a handsome woman, is an emotional actress of ability and, like Mr. Goodwin, has merited her enviable reputation.

'When We Were Twenty One' was presented here several weeks ago by an exceptionally good company and was seen by theatergoers in large numbers, yet last night, on its reputation, the house was filled which goes to prove that play and players are equally good. The scenery was fresh and artistic and the costumes worn by Miss Elliott were beautiful."

The Mobile Item, Feb. 23, 1909

6. Guy Woodward and Bessie Warren

The Woodward-Warren Stock Company made a number of appearances on the Mobile Stage during the "Gay Nineties" and were very popular as a team of comedian and comedienne. It is not the purpose of mentioning every stock company who appeared on the Mobile Stage, but Woodward-Warren Stock Company is here mentioned as appearing in this city in February, 1897 and September 28, 1895, after appearing before the theatergoers of the city on prior dates.

Mention of them is for the reason that yours truly feels that he has known Guy Woodward and his wife Bessie Warren personally because a boyhood acquaintance happened to be one of the actors in this stock company. Mr. Guy Woodward himself rose to higher levels and prominent in his profession, as for instance: he was seen in Mobile by the city theatergoers in the supportive cast, with Marie Cahill, when Miss Cahill presented "Marrying Mary" on the Mobile stage, Feb. 26 – 1907.

7. John Jack

April 7, 1897 - The Mobile Daily News, in referring to the Joseph Jefferson Company, speaks of John Jack, "A veteran actor who's still popular with theatergoers; he is one of the principal members of Joseph Jefferson Company and an excellent and successful actor. He

has just passed his sixty-first year, but it is his length of service on the stage that more

Henry Miller appeared on the Mobile stage March 1899, his first time in the city, in his romantic play "Heartcase," [after] appearing two hundred nights [in this play] at the Garden Theatre, New York.

"It is said that Henry Miller, in his costume of Eric Temple in "Heartcase," which he plays here, is a striking resemblance to the best known portrait of the compose Mozart, etc. The fact that the character Mr. Miller assumes is that of a young musician composer may also have its influence in the supported similarity. "Heartcase," which was the play Mr. Miller as a star presented to the public, is the work of Chas Klein and J.I.C. Clark, etc.

Mobile Daily News, Mar 5, 1899

10.

The Empire Picture Theater makes the announcement of Douglas Fairbanks appearing at

11.

Madame Modjeska 1887, 1901-1906

The Madame, in her first appearance on the Mobile stage presenting "As You Like It," the

Madame playing the role of "Rosaline." "She speaks so quickly, that the wording isT6<6.5(6)]TJ 0 Tc 0 d7

the kingdom and all but possession of the woman he loved and who loved him, she being of royal blood and could not marry a commoner.

14.

Ignace Jan Paderewski

Mr. Paderewski made his first appearance on the stage in Mobile, Feb. 24, 1900 and the Mobile Register of Feb. 23 states in part: "There were people from everywhere, as far as Montgomery, Selma, Pensacola, Meridian, Columbus, etc. Of Course all the lovers of music of Mobile who had the price were on hand, etc. The performance began at 8:25 and closed at 10:00. There were but two re-appearances to the call for encore.

In all his work, the player effects a rapid tempo, and yet seems to have time to spare. The Etudes were played at extra speed."

Mobile Register, Dec. 12, 1900

Strauss' Orchestra Entertains A Large Audience

Edward Strauss, son of the Vienna "Waltz King" made his bow last night to the Mobile audience. The theater was well filled. There were a few empty chairs in the back row downstairs. The dress circle seats all were taken.

15.

Miss Isabel Irving made her first appearance on the Mobile stage Nov. 3-4, 1900 and at that time the Mobile Register states: "'Self and Lady,' Charles Frohman's comedians including the original cast: E.M. Holland, May Robson, Arnold Daily, and other."

"One cannot detail the plot of last night's play. The title of it is 'Self and Lady,' etc. The costumes must be praised without stint. Miss Isabel Irving, a beauty in face and form, takes the leading role, that of the young wife, etc. Miss May Robson, as Paquita, has some character work of exacting order, and makes a great bit worth it. Mr. Arnold Daily, as Haconli, is an ideal and artist, etc. Miss Maggie Fisher is the part of wife of "Dupiatim" [a part played by Holland] [and] she is a picture from real life. Not the least amusing is Miss Maggie Fisher in the part of Duplantim, etc."

Mr. William Morris made his first appearance in the Mobile stage March 8, 1900, and at that time the Mobile Register of March 8 of that year states in part:

"One of the most delightful comedy performances of the season was witnesses at the theater last night, the play being Anthony Hope's "The Adventure of Lady Ursula," with Mr.

Morris and Francis Drake in the principal parts, etc. Miss Drake cannot, of course, completely efface her femininity in disguise as "Walter Barsinger," but she carries the part off with a remarkable degree of resemblance, especially fiery imitation of the voice and air

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Miss Anna Held was born in Paris. Her father died when she was twelve years old and her mother took her to London. They secured rooms next to the Princess Theatre and one day on the streets, Anna's beauty attracted the theatre manager's attention and he gave her a place in the chorus. Soon, she was singing Chansonette in French, German, Swedish, Polish, and Spanish, in the music halls of Europe.

17.

Mobile Theatre, Feb. 18, 1902
Gertrude Coghlan in "Old Vincennes" as "Alice"

"Gertrude Coghlan in this play has been marked [on her tour of the country] by the most flattering appreciation and applause from both the critics and the audiences and her personal popularity has increased to a remarkable degree, although she has been a great favorite ever since she made her first starring tour.

The scenery, especially that which pictures Alice's home at Vincennes, with the Wabash River in the distance, has been spoken of as a most brilliant example of the scenic painters art"

The Mobile Item, Feb. 12, 190(?)

"Miss Coghlan, as 'Becky Sharp'" – "Fairly good audiences were present at the performances yesterday afternoon and evening of Gertrude Coghlan and company in J.H. Neiven's dramatization of Thackeray's novel 'Vanity Fair,' etc.

Miss Coghlan has a very striking appearance and her idea of 'Becky Sharp' is very close to that described by Thackeray. Her costumes were also very becoming, especially the

PAGE 18 IS MISSING

19. Mobile Theatre, Nov. 18, 1901
"Florodora" Draws a Crowded House

"Florodora," the English musical comedy which has "caught on" so well in this country, was seen here last night, the theatre being packed with people anxious to witness it. There is a large number of people who participate, mostly women, and some of them are pretty and others are not. The brilliant costumes and the fresh scenery cover many defects, however, as charity covers a lot of sins. The music is catchy, most of it, and there are some very good voices in the company.

Mr. Charles H. Bowers' singing "Under the Shade of the Palms" was done very cleverly and the double sextet "Tell Me Pretty Maidens" was encored several times.

Mr. W. T. Carleton, who has been on the stage a long time, was Cyrus W. Gilfain, the proprietor of the island. MR. W. J. Smith took the part of Captain Arthur Donegal, Charles H. Bowers, that of Frank Abercoed [and etc. omitted].

Mobile Daily Item, Nov. 19, 1901

20. Mobile Theatre, Feb. 8, 1902
"Florodora"

"The return engagement of the comic opera success 'Florodora' drew a large audience at the theatre last night and matinee.

22.

Wilton Lackye as Svengali in "Trilby"

Oct. 5, 1907

Wilton Lackye was born in Loudon County, Virginia, in 1862. He was one of the few Southern actors of his time and made his first appearance in the year 1883 on the American stage in support of Lawrence Barrett in Booker's "Francis de Remini." In 1885, he appeared in MacKay's "Dokolov"; in 1892 in Howard's "Aristocracy," and later on various occasions he played opposite Tammy Devenport. Lackye toured England in 1891 with George Alexander in "Idler." He was in "New Blood" as Van Buren Crandall, and in Potter's "Trilby," where he created the role of "Svengali." He played this role for two years, and the following year he toured with Nance O'Neal in East Lynn.

Lockaye was in "The Children of Ghetto" in 1899. In "Quo Vadis," he played the role of Petronius, in "Chambers" he played the role of Richard Sterling; in "Les Miserable," of his own dramatization, he played Jean Valjean and Mr. Madeline.

In "Oliver Twist," he played Fagin; in "Jim the Penman," he played the role of James Ralston. He was the doctor in "Damaged Goods," in 1913 and in "Five Feathers," in the same year.

23.

Bijou Theatre, Nov. 11, 1922

Henry E. Dixey, who played the part of a deserted husband and father, gave a faithful portrayal of a man who has survived great trouble, including scandal w

in possession of the stolen money, about which the story travels and denounces himself as the thief, arresting himself, put on the handcuffs, and delivers himself over to justice. Jerome Sykes has this part and played it without gross exaggeration, so common with comic opera comedians. Mr. Jules Stege

26.

Ethel Barrymore, the only offspring of Maurice Barrymore to star on the Mobile stage, first

"Fates(?) little jokes find a striking illustration in the announcement that John Drew is coming to Mobile Theatre Saturday night in 'A Single Man.' For there is not a happier or more enthusiastic family man on the stage today than the same John Drew.

The Drews, father, mother [Molly – Pop] and daughter are inseparable. Louise, the daughter, is this season appearing on the stage with her father [John Drew Jr.]

It will ease the shock to the sensibilities of those who have heretofore refused to believe in any John Drew but the one of August Daily's "Big Four," Drew, Rehan, Lewis, and Mrs. Gilbert together.

Louise, the daughter, is appearing not as a daughter but her father's sister-in-

Lyric Theatre, April 13, 1907

Mary Mannering in "Glorious Betsy"

"It has been quite a long while since Mary Mannering has appeared in Mobile, and with her re-appearance at the Lyric yesterday matinee and night, she received acquaintances with her many admirers here. 'Glorious Betsy' should find no trouble in making a hit. Why? Because 'Glorious Betsy' is a woman's play.

With a dramatic force reaching the tragic, Miss Thurs

32.

"In the Way of the World," Nov. 24, 1902

Elsie DeWolf and her excellent company, including John Mason, achieved equally as great success in Clyde Fitch play called The Way of the World.

The production is really a great one, it is a play ao 0.6(a)2

that Cook had discovered the pole; of the sadness when there was a doubt raised [and he]

35.

Lyric Theatre, Dec. 17, 1913
"Fine Feathers," Robert Edison

"What was perhaps the largest audience of the present season saw Eugene Walter's 'Fine Feathers' at the Lyric Theatre Wednesday evening.

There are seven parts in the drama, six of which are taken by more or less well known 'stars.' Wilton Lackye [who made his first appearance on the American stage in support of Laurence Barrett in the year 1883, when an English-born Virginia resident] , Robert Edison [who first appeared in the Mobile stage in 1904 in 'Ranson's Folly'], Rose Coghlan [who also appeared on the Mobile stage in the year 1904]

'The Herfords' handles with startling thoroughness a marital problem that is distinctly modern, distinctly American, and distinctly vital and peculiar to the present generation. Miss Allen in this play has the best role of her career."

The Mobile Register, March 30, 1912

Miss Viola Allen made her first appearance on the Mobile stage Dec. 7, 1903, in "The Twelfth Night" and at that time the newspaper's critic reports on the performance of Miss Allen as following, in part: "The most poetic of Shakespeare's drama, 'Twelfth Night' was never before given here as it was last night. To describe its many excellences would take more time and space than a newspaper can well afford. Foremost, however, and that which must have struck the patrons of last night's performance, as the chief characteristic feature of the entertainment was the perfection of the poet's ideal of the beautiful, etc. James Young, who has been here before as Hamlet, Lord Byron, etc., came now as Miss Allen's support, etc."

37.

Marie Cahill
and
The Prince of Pilson

Miss Cahill made her first appearance on the Mobile stage Dec. 29, 1903, with the "Prince of Pilson" musical opera.

Mobile Theatre, Feb. 25, 1907

Marie Cahill in
"Marrying Mary"

"The musical comedy play 'Marrying Mary,' as presented at the Mobile Theatre last night by Miss Cahill and her company, was the nest of its kind presented to Mobile theatergoers this season from whatever point it may be taken.

The company contains an unusual number of people, so far as musical plays go, who can both sing and act. The costumes of the women are elegant, and the stage setting artistic, while the star of the evening won everybody by her musical meth

"Maude Adams, who is perhaps the most popular woman on the American stage today, will appear at the Mobile Theatre Monday matinee and night in her great success, the whimsical play by J.M. Barrie, 'Peter Pan.'

The coming of Miss Adams and the concession she made to the public of this city in agreeing to a matinee, contrary to her custom where she appears for one night only, is a compliment to Mobile, etc."

Mobile Register, Nov. 17, 1912

Mobile Register, Jan. 3, 1932

Maude Adams and Otis Skinner

NO event in the theatrical calendar holds more sentimental interest than the coming of Maude Adams to the Lyric Theatre January 5, 1932, for one nights engagement only, during which she will appear as "Portia" with Otis Skinner and an able cast in Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice."

Reports from the Lyric Theatre box office declare that never in the history of the theatre has so many mail orders come in advance of an attraction.

41.

"The Mobile Theatre makes the announcement that J.E. Dodson will appear in his new comedy of smart life in London called 'The House Next Door,' which will be seen at the Mobile Theatre one night Saturday, March 19, 1910. [Mr. Dodson] is an actor who respects his calling and has made its study his life vocation, etc. [He said:] 'Acting in the old stock days when the provisional theatre of Great Britain were the schools from which the London stage (illegible) its material was very different from what it is today. We used to support all the famous stars who came down to London. Among those whom I played were Samuel Phelps, Charles Mathews, J.L. Toole, Ellen Terry, Adelaide Neilson, Barry Sullivan, and many others. Some of the American celebrities with whom I toured were Joseph Jefferson, J. K.

42.

Mobile Theatre, Jan. 31, 1905
"Davy Crockett" by James J. Jeffries

"James J. Jeffries, the 'big fellow,' disappointed about one thousand persons at the Mobile Theatre last night.

The large audience went to the theatre expecting to see more of a burlesque on 'Davy Crockett' than anything else. This is where they were disappointed, and agreeably so.

Jeffries gave a very clever impersonation of Davy Crockett, so much so the he was rewarded with frequent applause and twice called before the curtain.

The champion knows his lines – not once did he make a break – and he carries himself very well. Indeed, it is remarkable the exhibition the big pugilist gives. He has in Miss Anna Roberts, who played the part of Eleanor Vaughn, a decided clever leading woman who is as pretty and graceful as the most captious critic would care to see. The balance of the cast is far above the average of 'Davy Crockett' companies as a general rule. After the performance, Jeffries put on the mitts for three interesting rounds with his sparring partner, Yank Kenny.

Delaney, the well-known trainer of Jeffries, and the latter's brother, Jack, are with the company."

The Mobile Daily Item, Feb. 1, 1905

43.

Miss Friganza, who was first seen on the Mobile stage, appeared December 2, 1905, supporting Marie Dressler, along with Joe Webber and Sam Collins, in the comedy-musicals "Higley-Pigley" and "The College Widow."

Miss Friganza will be seen at the Mobile Theatre Feb. 7, 1910, when she will star in Cohaus' "The American Ideal."

Miss Friganza, at a later date, joined up with the moving pictures and became very famous there.

Miss Friganza will be supported by a company of 75 in this musical comedy "The American Ideal."

Trixie Friganza

Miss Friganza, who will be remembered in Cohaus' "American Ideal," February 1910 along with Marie Dressler, will appear in the musical extravaganza "The Sweetest Girl in Paris," Friday matinee and night, states the Mobile Item of Jan. 20, 1912.

Mr. Carle made his first appearance on the stage in Mobile Feb. 1906, presenting "The Maids and the Mummy"; his next appearance was in Jan. 1907, at which time he presented the dT 1 >>BD(1z TD

UNNUMBERED PAGE

Feb 18, 1912 – Joe Cawthorne supporting Elsie James

Feb 8, 1913, Marie Dressler supporting Weber and Field

Mary marble supporting Eddie Foy, Feb. 18, 1897

45.

Madame Mordeska plays the part of "Patsy" with Billy Van and a cast of a dozen or so, including Rose Beaumont, of the famous Beaumont sisters, whose names were positive magnet during the long reign of Wever Field will be seen at the Mobile Theatre tomorrow night in the "Errand Boy."

Mobile Register, Mar 16, 1906

John Drew and Doris Keene

Doris Keene, one of the young actresses who appeared at Mobile, February 1906, in the supporting cast of John Drew in the play "DeLacey" was born in Michigan. Her parents moved to Chicago, when she was a mere child and she spent the early years of her life there. She attended school in New York and in European cities, taking finally a course in acting at the American. .

Shields and Rogers, in their act at the Lyric Theatre, proved themselves experts with lassos, doing stunts which appeared impossibilities. Chas. B. Ward attempted coatless to give some reminiscences of the Bowery. He received applause, especially from the gallery.

48.

Mr. Faversham and Miss Opp coming in for special attention.

Mr. Faversham's characterization of "Captain James Wynnegate" and of Jim Carston, was equally pleasing. His method is poised in action and at times presents strong points. Even and careful in his work, he does not tare (*sic*) a passion to tatters, yet there are, at times, a lack of finish which detracts from the characterization as a whole.

The cynosure of all eyes was Miss Julia Opp as "Diana," who had made an unhappy marriage and was in love with "Captain Wynnegate," superb in appearance, graceful in movement, and blest with a melodious voice, tuned to sweet accents here, every movement was a subject of much pleasing comment, etc.

The reception given Mr. Faversham and Miss Opp in "The Squaw Man" at the Mobile Theatre was warm enough to well please both these well-known favorites of the stage.

The play was well-staged, the scenic setting and the electric effects capturing much attention.

The elegant costumes of the ladies and the brilliant uniforms of the army officers worn in the country house scene in the first act lent a harmonious blending which the correctness in

Miss Scheff will be seen and heard next Monday night, February 4, 1907, at the Mobile Theatre under the management of Charles Dillingham, presenting "Mlle Modiste," the opera in which the celebrated diva made the song "Kiss Me Again" famous.

Mobile Item

Fritizi Scheff will be remembered in the role of Fifi in Victor Herbert's operetta "Mlle
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51.

John Drew and Margaret Illington

"John Drew will make his first bow here in what is declared to be author Wing Pinero's greatest success, 'His House in Order.'

He plays the part of Jesson magnificently and from the beginning to the end has the admiration and support of his entire audience.

Hillery is a hero after the fair sex's own heart.

He takes sides with a rebellious wife aiding her in a conflict with her husband's relatives and helping her to set them aside and re-establish herself as the rightful mistress of her own home, etc.

Margaret Illington, who plays the part of the rebellious wife, gets her share of admiration, for she gives what is considered to be splendid impersonation of the heroine."

Mobile Item, Mar 21, 1907

Mary Boland

Miss Boland made one of her first appearances on the stage, supporting Robert Edison January 8, 1907, after which time she co-starred with John Drew and is mentioned as with Drew March 10, 1912 when "The Single Man" was presented on the stage in Mobile.

52.

Lyric Theatre, Jan. 23, 1913

Margaret Illington

"There was some applause for 'Kindling.' Charles Kindling's great play presented by Margaret Illington at the Lyric Theatre Thursday night, but the audience enjoyed the silence of the packed house; it was more eloquent than any demonstration could have been. It is a play that is not pleasant in the common acceptance of the term: it is too charged with primal suffering and primal human instinct to merely entertain. It is more a sinner(?) for it carries the listener with irresistible force of an avalanche, made him think, and suffer and hope and fear with poor Maggie Schultz and Henrich Schultz.

"Mr. Walter Damrosch, Conductor New York Symphony Orchestra, Whose Forthcoming Engagement at the Lyric Theatre Mobile, is Arousing Much Interest"

Mrs. Leslie Carter was born Louise Dudley, and married Leslie Carter of the Chicago Railway Streetcar company, Chicago.

54.

Henry Woodruff as "Brown of Harvard"

Henry Woodruff in "Brown of Harvard" and under the direction of the eminent actor-manager Henry Miller, will be presented in Mobile next Saturday night at the Mobile Theatre.

This delightful comedy of college life in its four acts was written by Rida Johnson Young, etc. Mr. Woodruff's role is that of "Tom Brown," a wealthy, handsome chap who is going his own way merrily through college and incidentally, unknown to his beneficiaries, is helping other students more ambitious than he, but less able pecuniarily to pay their college expenses. One of these is Gerald Thorne, who beats Brown in the contest for the position of stroke car on the varsity crew. Thorne's sister is in love with a student who forged a check by signing Brown's name to it.

[A happy ending finally takes place after Brown wins the girl or she wins him]

Mobile Item, Nov. 17, 1907

Henry Woodruff

Henry Woodruff, who has appeared on the Mobile stage in 1907, 1910, will be seen again at the Lyric Theatre tomorrow matinee and night, Jan. 13, 1912, presenting "The Prince of Tonight," a musical comedy.

"While he is playing the part of prince and singing, one may hear the sweet young thing in the box whisper to her companion: 'Isn't he a dear.'"

"How have I preserved my youth? Huh-ha!" and Henry Woodruff, the "Prince of Tonight" and a prince of good fellows, laughed his low musical laugh, a laugh which permeates the atmosphere, making all near him feel glad that they are living.

55.

George Arlis

Mr. Arliss made his first appearance on the stage in Mobile in "Kleschua," Oct. 27, 1907, supporting Mrs. Fiske.

At the Lyric Theatre, Feb. 15-16, 1915

George Arliss in "Disraeli"

"Georg

The farcical romance (WORDS MISSING?) beautiful and witty American woman, who meets the man of her choice abroad.

She marries him and a half hour later, finds him bidding farewell to an old sweetheart with such fervor that she indignantly leaves him, returns to America and poses as a widow whose husband died of enlargement of the heart on her wedding day.

At a house party at Palm Beach, Florida, she meets her husband, who was one of the invited guests, and as both are really attractive to each other, the wooing begins all over again, etc.

"A dramatization of Augusta Evans' powerful romance of Southern life, 'St. Elmo,' made by Mr. Neil Tuomey, will be seen at the Mobile Theatre today matinee and night, interpreted by a case of more than ordinary merit. Mr. Tuomey is favorably known as a dramatic author, a master of stage craft, and his version of 'St. Elmo' is a sympathetic and faithfully translation of the fiction characters into flesh and blood. A car load of special scenery and properties will be carried-11.8(rL1231.8(r)0.6(A)I)-18.d

Miss Marinoff was the leading lady supporting J.E. Dodson in the play "The House Next Door," recently presented at the Mobile Theatre March 19, 1910.

62.

Margaret Anglin

Miss Anglin makes her first appearance on the Mobile stage October 24, 1910 presenting her "The Awakening of Hellen Richie," and her fame on the American stage precedes her.

Lyric Theatre, Feb. 8, 1915

Margaret Anglin in "Lady Windermere's Fan"

Margaret Anglin played a highly appreciative but rather small audience at the Lyric Monday evening. She was well-supported by the feminine members of the cast; the actors in the

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Margaret Anglin and William Faversham presents "Foot Loose" at the
Lyric Theatre, Nov. 8, 1924

Except that manners are better and customs different in the old world, Rome, Paris, and London, they are essentially the same as New York, Mobile, and Chickasaw [a suburb of

Among American actresses, Billie Burke is second only to Maude Adams in point of personal charm and charming stage personality, and she has a remarkable speaking voice that recalls immediately the haunting tremolo of Maude Adams' voice.

Miss Burke is distinctly an artist and could play other roles as bewitchingly as she does that of the mad-cap roisterer.