



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Letters to Fay Tunis

1926-1951

*T-Mss 1950-001

Summary

Creator: Tunis, Fay

Title: Letters to Fay Tunis

Date: 1926-1951

Size: (1 portfolio)

Source: papers: unknown, 1950

Abstract: Fay Tunis (1887-1967) was a dancer who appeared in two Broadway shows in the 1910s, and later danced in various burlesque houses in New York and elsewhere. In addition to her stage appearances, Fay Tunis appeared in at least one silent film, a 1915 version of CARMEN which starred Theda Bara. Most of the Fay Tunis correspondence consists of fan mail from persons who had seen her dance, and wanted to meet her. The majority of the fan letters are from men, but one is from a woman who notes that she was recently divorced. There are five postmarked envelopes from a man named George W. Pughe which feature elaborately colored cartoon art, but the letters are not present. There is also a job offer from Nickel's Gayety, "Baltimore's Famous Burlesque Theatre." All but one of these items date between 1926 and 1931, the exception being a brief note from producer Max Gordon dated 1951, in which he remarks that he remembers Miss Tunis and recalls "how he used to chase her".

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

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Creator History

Fay Tunis (1887-1967) was a dancer who appeared in two Broadway shows in the 1910s, and later danced in various burlesque houses in New York and elsewhere. In addition to her stage appearances, Fay Tunis appeared in at least one silent film, a 1915 version of CARMEN which starred Theda Bara.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

Burlesque (Theater) -- United States
Dancers -- United States -- 20th century
Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Names

Tunis, Fay