Guide to the
Martha-Bryan Allen papers
1924-1925
*T-Mss 2003-048

Summary

Creator: Allen, Martha-Bryan

Title: Martha-Bryan Allen papers

Date: 1924-1925

Size: (1 portfolio)

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

Preferred citation: Martha-Bryan Allen papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History
Martha-Bryan Allen (also known as Martha Bryan-Allen) was an actress who enjoyed several Broadway successes during the 1920s. Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Martha-Bryan Allen came to New York as a young woman and studied acting at the American Academy of the Dramatic Arts. Her Broadway debut was in HE WHO GETS SLAPPED (1922) opposite Richard Bennett, followed by a role in the premiere production of Bernard Shaw's BACK TO METHUSELAH. In March 1925 she created the title role in ALOMA OF THE SOUTH SEAS prior to the play's Broadway run, but was replaced by Vivienne Osbourne before the production reached New York. Martha-Bryan Allen's greatest Broadway success came with THE MONKEY TALKS, which opened at the Sam H. Harris Theatre on December 28, 1925, and ran for 98 performances.

The Martha-Bryan Allen papers consist mostly of congratulatory telegrams coinciding with the Baltimore opening of ALOMA OF THE SOUTH SEAS in March of 1925. There is also a letter dated May 29, 1924, from a young man who lives in Nashville, Tennessee, and wonders if the prominent Broadway actress Martha-Bryan Allen is the same Martha Allen he knew in childhood.
Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Correspondence

Subjects
Theater -- Maryland -- Baltimore

Names
Allen, Martha-Bryan