



The New York Public Library Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Anne Nichols papers

1873-1965

*T-Mss 2001-012

Summary

Creator: Nichols, Anne, 1891-1966

Title: Anne Nichols papers

Date: 1873-1965

Size: 1.42 linear feet. (1 box + 1 oversized portfolio)

Abstract: Anne Nichols was a playwright best known for the highly successful comedy ABIE'S IRISH ROSE, which opened on Broadway in 1922, ran for five years, and inspired two movies and a radio series. Born in Dales Mill, Georgia, in 1891, Anne Nichols became an actress as a teenager and appeared on stage and in two early silent movies by the age of 20. Her first full-length work as a playwright was HEARTS DESIRE, written with Adelaide Matthews, with whom Nichols also co-authored JUST MARRIED (1922). Writing alone, Nichols provided the libretto for the musical LOVE DREAMS (1921). ABIE'S IRISH ROSE, a comedy about the romance between an Irish girl and a Jewish boy and the inter-family clash that results, received poor reviews from most critics when it opened in 1922, but audiences loved it, and kept the play running for over 2,300 performances until October 1927. A silent film adaptation starring Buddy Rogers was released in 1929, and a sound version, produced by Bing Crosby, in 1946. The premise was also adapted into a radio series, which ran from 1942 to 1944. Anne Nichols wrote several other plays and directed as well, and later managed property for the Actors' Fund. She died in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, on September 15, 1966, at the age of 74. The Anne Nichols papers contain correspondence and writings documenting a portion of her career, with the emphasis on ABIE'S IRISH ROSE. Other materials include legal files dealing with the will of William de Lignemare. There are also files and correspondence dealing with property belonging to the Actors' Fund that Anne Nichols managed for them.

Preferred citation: Anne Nichols papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Anne Nichols was a playwright best known for the highly successful comedy ABIE'S IRISH ROSE, which opened on Broadway in 1922, ran for five years, and inspired two movies and a radio series. Born in Dales Mill, Georgia, in 1891, Anne Nichols became an actress as a teenager and appeared on stage and in two early silent movies by the age of 20. Her first full-length work as a playwright was HEARTS DESIRE, written with Adelaide Matthews, with whom Nichols also co-authored JUST

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Scope and Content Note

The Anne Nichols papers contain correspondence and writings documenting a portion of her career, with the emphasis on ABIE'S IRISH ROSE. Other materials include legal files dealing with the will of William de Lignemare. There are also files and correspondence dealing with property belonging to the Actors' Fund that Anne Nichols managed for them.

Arrangement: I. ABIE'S IRISH ROSE; II. Estate of William de Lignemare; III. Actors' Fund Property; IV. Miscellaneous Papers; V. Writings; VI. Oversized Photographs

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Subjects

Motion pictures -- United States

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Women dramatists, American -- United States

Names

Nichols, Anne, 1891-1966

Lignemare, William de