



## The New York Public Library Billy Rose Theatre Division

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)

**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