



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Empire Theatre records**

1911-1953

\*T-Mss 2001-009

## Summary

**Creator:** Empire Theatre (New York, N.Y.)

**Title:** Empire Theatre records

**Date:** 1911-1953

**Size:** .41 linear feet. (1 box of material)

**Abstract:** The Empire Theatre stood at 1430 Broadway at 40th Street in New York City from 1892 until its demolition in 1953. Artistic home to theatrical producer Charles Frohman (1860-1915), the theatre opened on Jan. 25, 1893, with the production THE GIRL I LEFT BEHIND ME. Frohman's Empire Theatre Stock Company produced a number of star performers. After Frohman's death, the Empire continued its successful operation as a booking house, hosting LIFE WITH FATHER among other hits. TIME OF THE CUCKOO was the Empire's last production. The theater's location was a major factor in the northward shift of New York's theater district from Union Square to Times Square. The Empire Theatre records span 1911-1953, and consist of box office statements, sales reports, promotional materials, a pay sheet for backstage crew, and other items related to the operations of the theater. Materials are sketchy, random and incomplete.

**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:** Empire Theatre records, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

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the northward shift of New York's theater district from Union Square to Times Square.

## **Scope and Content Note**

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## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

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

### **Names**

Empire Theatre (New York, N.Y.)

Frohman, Charles, 1860-1915