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Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the
Junior Programs, Inc. scrapbooks

1935-1942

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Compiled by L. Reyman, August 2012

Summary

Creator: Junior Programs, Inc.

Title: Junior Programs, Inc. scrapbooks, 1935-1942

Size: 3.38 linear feet (13 boxes)

Source: Unknown

Abstract: Junior Programs, Inc., brought good cultural entertainment for children. Founded as a part of the National Music League in 1933, it became its own organization in 1937. A nonprofit arts organization, it sent out traveling companies-opera, stage and ballet-to schools and communities, first in the Eastern United States and then throughout the country.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying and photography will apply. Advance notice may be required.

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Preferred citation: Junior Programs, Inc. scrapbooks, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Scrapbooks have been arranged chronologically.

Creator history

Junior Programs, Inc., brought good cultural entertainment for children. Founded by Dorothy L. McFadden, who had been formerly in charge of the junior programs for the National Music League in 1933, it became its own organization in 1937. A nonprofit arts organization, it sent out traveling companies-opera, stage and ballet-to schools and communities.

Junior Programs, Inc. was created when Maplewood, New Jersey mothers decided to sponsor through their own hometown women's club a series of cultural children's programs. These programs would include operas, plays, ballets and scientific lectures. The programs were so popular that soon other towns in New Jersey and then in the surrounding region wanted to establish their own series also. In the early days the programs were mostly in the Eastern United States but eventually spread throughout the country.

The *Bumble Bee Prince* had its premiere before an audience of children. Other operas and musicals include *Hansel and Gretel*, *Robin Hood*, *Doodle Dandy*, and *Pinocchio*. Several famous people in the world of theater, music and dance participated in several different productions, including Ruth St. Denis and Edwin Strawbridge, Kathrine Cornell and Ethel Barrymore Colt.

Scope and content note

The collection contains scrapbooks of newspaper clippings and small posters. The clippings contain reviews and press releases of opera, stage and ballet productions sponsored by Junior Programs, Inc. The clippings also contain information about the formation of the organization.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

Key terms

Subjects

Children's theater
Education in the theater
Traveling theater

Names

Junior Programs, Inc.

Special formats

Scrapbooks

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- b.11 undated
- b.12 f.1 *The Adventures of Marco Polo*, 1940
- b.12 f.2 *The Adventures of Puck*, 1940
- b.12 f.3-4 *The Adventures of Robin Hood*
- b.12 f.5 *The Bumble Bee Prince*
- b.12 f.6 *Doodle Dandy of the USA*
- b.12 f.7 *The Emperor's Treasure Chest*
- b.13 f.1 *Hansel and Gretel*
- b.13 f.2 *The Reward of the Sun God*
- b.13 f.3 *Run, Peddler, Run*
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