



The Albee alumni

Edward F. Albee Stock Company

THE ALBEE ALUMNI

A HISTORY
OF ELEVEN
SEASONS OF
THE EDWARD
F. ALBEE
STOCK CO. AT
KEITH'S THEATRE
PROVIDENCE R.I.



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A HISTORY ^{of} _{the} ELEVEN YEARS

... of the ...

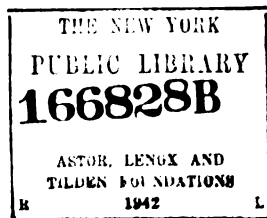
Edward F.

ALBEE STOCK CO.



DEDICATED TO THE THEATRE-GOERS OF PROV-
IDENCE WHOSE LOYAL SUPPORT HAS MADE
THE CONTINUATION OF THIS ORGANIZATION
POSSIBLE. ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁ ❁

By the "The Girl Behind the Pen" with an introduction by
Johnson Briscoe, the noted dramatic authority.



PUBLISHED—APRIL 13, 1912
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PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Preface

The remarkable record of the Albee Stock Company, has carried wide-spread interest, not alone through Rhode Island and its environs, but the country at large, for no other city of its size can boast of an organization of the calibre of the Albee Company. In point of age, and in the class of plays presented and the various actors associated with the company from time to time, the Albee Stock is in a class practically by itself and small wonder that it has achieved a record practically unsurpassed in the history of the modern American theatre.

The catholicity of the plays presented, ranging from broad farce to heavy tragedy and from the costume play to those of the present moment, is a splendid commentary upon the capabilities of the company, with their readiness to assume roles of any and every sort, and that leading Broadway producing managers are conversant with this fact is proven by the many excellent engagements filled by the various members during the regular season. Indeed, there is a slogan among actors to the effect, "An Albee engagement is the 'open sesame' to Broadway."

Providence theatregoers are to be envied that the opportunity is theirs each Summer to witness the latest and best plays, interpreted by a cast equal to, and in many cases better than, the originals, and the note of personal interest attached to the players themselves makes the season all the more delightful and entertaining.

Nor must one overlook the educational advantages afforded by a Summer stock season like the Albee, when there is the opportunity to become conversant with the best class of plays of all ages, to learn of the times, customs and peoples, ranging from the Christian Era through all the succeeding centuries at prices within reach of even the limited pocketbook.

All in all it is a pleasant task to pay tribute, to render homage where it is justly due, as in the case of the Albee company, which has built up its record through perseverance and integrity, through splendid ideals and high purposes, and the long distinguished record behind it speaks for itself. We are living in an age of commercialism in the theatre, a time when too little attention is paid to the artistic, the really worth while side of the stage, and any tendency towards the drama's betterment should be fostered and encouraged.

Having made a close study of the modern stock company system, I think I can safely say that the Albee company stands among the three foremost organizations in the country to-day, and in point of age, there are but three companies with a greater record of age to their credit, these being the Alcazar, San Francisco, the Harry Davis, Pittsburgh, and Elitch's Gardens, Denver. I should think theatregoers of Providence would feel a keen personal pride in this fact, a real sense of proprietary interest, and they are, indeed, to be envied by less fortunate playgoers elsewhere.

We are rapidly growing away from the pernicious system of "stars" in the American theatre, the exploiting of some one particular actor's personality, and reverting to the time when one can truly say, "the whole company as well as the play's the thing." The dramatist is the more important factor to-day, with the well-balanced ensemble, and undoubtedly the day of the stock company, as a permanent institution, is at hand. With the excellent founda-

tion firmly built by the Albee company, who can say what its future may be, what rich possibilities lie before it? With its distinguished record as a criterion, however, I think we may feel assured it will be in every way worthy of the splendid record it has upheld throughout its long and prosperous career.

Johnson Briscoe,
April 13, 1912.





MR. EDWARD F. ALBEE



HELEN REIMER



WM. INGERSOLL



ANGELA McCAULL



LORA ROGERS



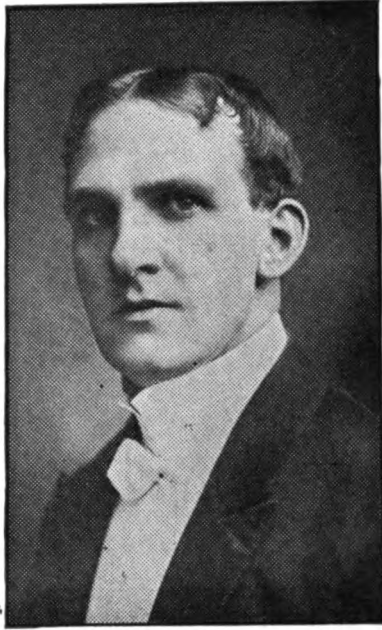
GEO. STUART CHRISTIE



ADELE BLOCK



LEAH WINSLOW



ROBT. M. CUMMINGS



DeWITT NEWING

The Season of 1907.

The Albee Stock Company's season of 1907 was preceded by four weeks of comic opera by the Milton and Sargent Aborn Company. The stock season opened May 27th, with nine new members. These new members were Adele Block, leading woman, Leah Winslow, May Stockton, Robert Cummings, Scott Cooper, Lora Rogers, Dennis Harris, George Stuart Christie, DeWitt Newing and Harry McRae Webster, stage director. John Flemmings was re-engaged, this season to be Mr. Webster's assistant, and other old favorites were William Ingersoll, Helen Reimer and Berton Churchill. The opening play was "The Heir to the Hoorah," followed by "A Lady of Quality;" "Glittering Gloria," in which Berton Churchill and Dennis Harris made such big laughing hits; and "Raffles." On June 24th one of the biggest—if not THE biggest—production ever made by a stock company was given—none other than David Belasco's great success, "The Darling of the Gods." This play had never been given in Providence and all the original costumes and elaborate stage accessories were secured at great cost. It was a tremendous undertaking for a stock company with but one week's rehearsals, but the verdict of everyone who saw it was that it was a real artistic triumph, the Providence Journal saying "It may easily be believed that the management will reap little if any financial gain from the week's production, even if the theatre be filled at every performance, but congratulations are due for the artistic success of the endeavor." The fact remains, however, that "The Darling of the Gods," from a box office standpoint, was a dismal failure, and the loss to the theatre that week ran well up into the thousands, an excellent example of how an emphatic artistic success does not always attract the public. However, the Keith management has always felt proud of its production of "The Darling of the Gods."

This was followed by "His Hilarious Honeymoon," "Fedora" and a revival of the first season success, "Peaceful Valley." Then came "A Modern Magdalen," with Jeanette Carroll, a Providence girl, in

the cast. July 29th, the farce comedy, "Before and After" was the attraction and on August 5th, "A Contented Woman" was given, with Miss Reimer making a particularly big hit as the suffrage advocate, Aunt Jim, and Mr. Harris very funny as her meek husband, Uncle Todie. "Letty," William Faversham's success, was given the week of August 12th, with Marion Ruckert engaged for that and "The Professor's Love Story," which was given the following week. Mr. William McVey was also engaged for "The Professor's Love Story," making such a favorable impression that he was continued the next, and last, week of the season, and re-engaged for the following Summer. The season came to an end the week of August 26th with the merry comedy, "Facing the Music."

Adele Block went from the Albee Company to an important role in "The Devil," on tour, and later played in stock in Denver. In 1909 she became Mrs. John J. Mooney and retired from the stage, now living in Toledo, Ohio, and devoting her time to John J. Mooney and John J. Mooney, Jr., who made his debut into the world a short time ago. Leah Winslow went to the Orpheum Stock Company of Philadelphia, where she played a long time, and at present she is leading woman of the Crescent Stock Company of Brooklyn. Miss Winslow, too, has married, being the wife of a prominent newspaper man of Philadelphia, their courtship beginning in discussions of dramatic criticisms of Miss Winslow's work, written by him. May Stockton's chief success since her Albee Company days has been in the leading role of Madge in "In Old Kentucky" and George Stuart Christie is playing an important role this season with William Hawtrey in "Dear Old Billy." Robert Cummings, who did such splendid character work with the Albee Company, returned to that organization another Summer and has made many notable New York hits since then, in "The Awakening of Helena Ritchie," with Margaret Anglin, as Time in "The Blue Bird," and several others and is at present appearing in vaudeville in a sketch. Scott Cooper is now in his second season with "Excuse Me" and Harry McRae Webster, after several seasons as stage director of stock companies in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, is now stage director for one of the

leading motion picture firms. Dennis Harris retired from the stage at the end of his season here, taking up the managerial end of the profession in Pittsburgh. DeWitt Newing came back for a second season with the Albee Company and has since been associated with stock companies in Troy, Winnepeg, New York and other cities. and for two seasons he played with Tom Wise in "The Gentleman From Mississippi." Lora Rogers came back to the company for three more seasons and in the Winter seasons has been with "Under Southern Skies," "The Straight Road," "The Turning Point" and the past season in vaudeville.



Another Group of
Providence Products
whose careers began with
the Albee Company.



FRED SUTTON



JOHN FLEMMINGS



HELEN McCABE



BERTON CHURCHILL

WEEK OF JULY 15, 1907.

"PEACEFUL VALLEY"

By Edward E. Kidder.

Jotham Ford.....	Mr. Cummings
Niobe Farquhar.....	Miss Stockton
Jack Farquhar	Mr. Christie
Virgie Rand.....	Miss Winslow
Hosea Howe	Mr. Ingersoll
Wilson.....	Mr. Flemmings
Leonard Rand.....	Mr. Cooper
Ward Andrews.....	Mr. Churchill
Charlie Rand.....	Mr. Harris
Phyllis Howe.....	Miss Reimer
Martha Howe.....	Miss Rogers

WEEK OF JULY 22, 1907.

"A MODERN MAGDALEN"

By Haddon Chambers.

Mrs. Jenkins, Jenkins' second wife.....	Miss Reimer	
Olivia, her daughter.....	Miss Carroll	
Katinka, their daughter.....	Miss Block	
Albert Lindsey, a suitor.....	Mr. Churchill	
Eric Hargraves, in love with Katinka.....	Mr. Christie	
Hiram Jenkins, Katinka's father.....	Mr. Ingersoll	
Brinker, a money lender.....	Mr. Cummings	
John Strong, the unimpeachable.....	Mr. Harris	
Bruce, Katinka's butler.....	Mr. Webster	
Susie L'Estrange....	Friends from the Theatre	Miss Rogers
Evelyn Tracy.....		Miss Stuart
May Blossom.....		Miss Semper
Harold Fisher, sowing his "wild oats".....	Mr. Flemmings	
Lizzette, Katinka's maid.....	Miss Nolan	
Fly, a messenger boy.....	Miss Pearl Semper	