



**Smithsonian Institution**

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

## **Playbill for Duke Ellington's Sophisticated Ladies**

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 07:30:01

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Part of the art of being a woman is knowing when not to be too much of a lady.

[[image - full-page colour photograph of a woman wearing a black top and earrings]]

Epris [[symbol - the dot of the 'i' in Epris is a bird-like shape]]

[[inserted image - a bottle of Max Factor perfume]]

A most provocative fragrance by Max Factor.  
©1981 Max Factor & Co. , A Norton Simon Inc. Company. Available in Canada.

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AT THIS THEATRE

[[image - illustration of the Lunt-Fontanne by Stan Stark]]

THE LUNT-FONTANNE

On January 10, 1910, a play called The Old Town opened a theatre called the Globe. Another opening took place on May 5, 1958, when the theatre was renamed for the royal couple of the American theatre. Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne were on hand for the opening - not in the royal box, but onstage, in a play called The Visit. In the fall of 1959 John Gielgud played opposite Margaret Leighton in Much Ado About Nothing.

Starting on November 16, 1959, the Lunt-Fontanne was alive with The Sound of Music. The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, with book by Lindsay and Crouse, starred Mary Martin and Theodore Bikel. As invincible as the Trapp family itself, the musical lasted 1443 performances, and added at least a dozen songs to our musical heritage.

Sid Caesar played no fewer than seven roles in Little Me, a show put together by Neil Simon, Cy Coleman and Carolyn Leigh, based on Patrick Dennis' book. In the fall of 1963, Brecht's The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui starred Christopher Plummer and Madeline Sherwood. On April 9, 1964, Hamlet moved in, with one of the most famous Hamlets of recent times - Richard Burton. Burton was supported by a remarkable cast, including Eileen Herlie, Linda Marsh, the voice of Sir John Gielgud (who also directed), William

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Redfield, George Voskovec, Robert Milli, Alfred Drake and Hume Cronyn.

In the fall of 1964 Ben Franklin in Paris, with book and lyrics by Sidney Michaels, starred Robert Preston as Ben Franklin. Marlene Dietrich was a musical unto herself in her one-woman show, with musical direction by Burt Bacharach. How Now, Dow Jones followed, starring Anthony Roberts, Marilynne Mason and Brenda Vaccaro. Her First Roman, Ervin Drake's musical based on Shaw's Caesar and Cleopatra starred Richard Kiley and Leslie Uggams. Come Summer (music by Will Holt/David Baker) starred Ray Bolger.

In the spring of 1969, another illustrious Hamlet appeared at the Lunt-Fontanne: Nicol Williamson. The Rothschilds, a Bork and Harnick musical which opened October 19, 1970, starred Hal Linden and Keene Curtis, both of whom won Tonys.

[[image - Playbill front cover with an image of 'The Sound of Music' on it]]

Like the family of the title, the show knew how to make money, and ran until the 1971-72 season. Later that season, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum was revived. Another revival, The Pajama Game, opened in 1973 with a cast that featured Cab Calloway, Barbara McNair and Hal Linden. For the next few years the theatre had several hit shows, including The Sunshine Boys, Good Evening, Raisin, and My Fair Lady, all of which transferred from other houses. In 1978 Carol Channing recreated her original role in Hello, Dolly! and in 1979 Sandy Duncan started flying through the theatre as a new Peter Pan.

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