



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Theatre Program for As Thousands Cheer

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12 THE NEW YORK MAGAZINE PROGRAM

"Glamour." [[Image – stylish women in knee-length foundation garments]]

A New Foundation by EDDY • FORM

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-

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CHAS. READER'S DANCE MUSIC
Tino Valenti
Patricia Palmer

SMALL TALK

The story of the acting Jefferson family, on tour through the West in the Roaring Forties, comes close to approximating the story of the frontier theatre in America. Joseph Jefferson in his autobiography tells the tale of this trek (from the viewpoint of a precocious boy of twelve) with a priceless wealth of detail, devoting considerable attention to the building of a theatre at Springfield, Illinois, where the company elected to spend one winter while the state legislature was in session.

"The new theatre, when completed," he writes, "was about ninety feet deep and forty feet wide. No attempt was made at ornamentation; and as it was unpainted, the simple lines of architecture upon which it was constructed gave it the appearance of a large dry-goods box with a roof..."

But in the midst of all the excitement, a cruel blow fell. The church dignitaries of Springfield contrived to pass a new law placing a prohibitive tax on theatrical enterprises, and the handsome new theatre became a white elephant overnight. The situation was saved in the end by the intervention of a young lawyer, a native of the town, who came to offer his services for no greater fee than the satisfaction of seeing justice done.

"The case," writes Jefferson, "was brought up before the council. The young lawyer began his harangue. He handled the subject with tact, skill, and humor, tracing the history of the drama from the time when Thespis acted in a cart to the stage of today. He illustrated his speech with a number of anecdotes, and kept the council in a roar of laughter; his good humor prevailed, and the exorbitant tax was taken off.

"This young lawyer was very popular in Springfield, and was honored and beloved by all who knew him, and after the time of which I write he held rather an important position in the Government of the United



States. He now lies buried near Springfield, under a monument commemorating his greatness and his virtues — and his name was Abraham Lincoln."

THE MUSIC BOX 13

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THE WALDORF ASTORIA

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Black or brown suede or black kid with matching trim.

[[Image – NRA stamp with Eagle]]

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