

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Normal Summer Theatre Collection**

Processed by Bill Kemp, Museum librarian  
Summer 2024

**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1969 to present
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives

## History

The High School Summer Theatre Program—now sponsored by the Town of Normal’s Department of Cultural Arts—dates to 1972. That year, the Normal Parks and Recreation Department supported a program to give area high school students experience with musical theater production. The first shows were “Fiddler on the Roof” and “The Music Man,” both staged at the auditorium of old Normal Community High School. Since the inaugural season, venues hosting the Summer Theatre Program include Uptown Normal, Maxwell Park Amphitheatre (1979 until it was lost in a May 2002 fire), Normal Community West High School, and—since 2008—the Connie J. Link Amphitheatre.

## Scope

This collection includes historical information, programs, newspaper articles, and miscellany.

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: History

- 1.1 “‘How It All Began’—A Cautionary Tale,” by Ruth Cobb, 5 July 2008, 6 pp. (introduction to slide deck program).
- 1.2 Normal Parks & Recreation High School Summer Theatre Program; Production List 1972 – 2022, by Ruth Cobb, compiled from Normal Parks and Recreation activity guides), 3 pp.

### Folder 2: Connie J. Link Amphitheater

- 2.1 Card, Town of Normal Amphitheater Open House, October 28, 2007 (2 copies).
- 2.2 Program, Dedicating the Connie J. Link Amphitheater; Honoring Performers Past and Future Show Stoppers, July 5, 2008, 1 sheet, 4pp. (2 copies—one yellow; the other pink).

### Folder 3: Programs, 1970s and 1980s

- 3.1 “The Music Man,” NCHS Auditorium, August 2-4, 1972 (2 copies).
- 3.2 “Fiddler on the Roof,” NCHS Auditorium, June 22-24, 1972 (2 copies—one red, one peach-colored)
- 3.3 “The Man of La Mancha,” NCHS Auditorium, June 21-23, 1973 (2 copies).
- 3.4 “Wizard of Oz,” NCHS Auditorium, July 26-28, 1973 (2 copies).
- 3.5 “Brigadoon,” NCHS Auditorium, July 24-26, 1975 (2 copies—one pink; one green-colored).
- 3.6 “The Sound of Music,” June 17, 23, 25, 1977; “Cinderella,” June 18, 22, 24, 1977; NCHS Auditorium.
- 3.7 “Oliver,” July 19, 21, 25, 27, 1979.
- 3.8 “Oklahoma!” Maxwell Park Amphitheatre, June 25-30, July 5-6, 1986.
- 3.9 “Little Shop of Horrors,” Maxwell Park Amphitheatre, June 22-25, 29-30, July 1-2, 1989.

**Folder 4: Programs, 1990s**

- 4.1 "Working," Maxwell Park Amphitheatre, July 26-29, August 2-5, 1990.
- 4.2 "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," Maxwell Park Amphitheatre, July 18-21, 25-28, 1991.
- 4.3 "Grease," Maxwell Park Amphitheatre, July 16-19, 23-26, 1992.

**Folder 5: Programs, 2000 to present**

- 5.1 "Urinetown, the Musical," Connie J. Link Amphitheatre, June 20-22, 25-29, 2008.
- 5.2 "Grease," Connie J. Link Amphitheatre, July 15-18, 22-25, 2010.
- 5.3 "Les Misérables, School Edition, Connie J. Link Amphitheatre, June 28-July 1, July 5-8, 12-25.
- 5.4 "Into the Woods," Connie J. Link Amphitheatre, July 14-17, July 21-24, 2011.

**Folder 6: Posters / Flyers**

- 6.1 Poster, 8½ by 11 inches, "Godspell," June 11-14, 18-21, no year.

**Folder 7: Newspaper Articles** (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 7.1 "Meredith Willson's 'The Music Man' in Three Presentations August 2, 3, 4," *Normalite*, July 21, 1972.
- 7.2 "Normal theatre in Jacques Brel at state festival," *Normalite*, January 1981.
- 7.3 Review of "The Wiz," *Community News*, June 26-July 2, 1991.
- 7.4 "Normal summer theater opens," *Community News*, June 17-23, 1992.
- 7.5 "Fire destroys Maxwell Park theater," May 20, 2002.
- 7.6 "The joys of outdoor theater," July 19, 2001.
- 7.7 "Reunion will honor theater's link," July 29, 2005.
- 7.8 "Educator recognized in retirement," November 30, 2005.
- 7.9 Two photos of Link Amphitheatre under construction, June 16, 2007.
- 7.10 "Stage almost set," August 15, 2007.
- 7.11 "Play in the park," and "Theater may honor longtime manager," May 8, 2008.
- 7.12 "Alumni to star in show," July 4, 2008 (with typed note from Ruth Cobb, dated July 6, 2008).
- 7.13 "Sounds of the Amphitheater," *McLean County News Bulletin*, June 11, 2014.
- 7.14 "The show goes on: high school theatre program marks 50 years," Ruth Cobb guest column, June 9, 2022.
- 7.15 "Theatre program marking 50 years," June 19, 2022.

**Other Articles**

- 7.16 "Students in show biz," *Bloomington-Normal Magazine*, July 1980.

**Folder 8: Miscellaneous.**

- 8.1 "Rituals to Robots," program, Children's Theatre Project of Normal Parks and Recreation, 1969, 3 pp.
- 8.2 Invitation form, Second Annual Alumni Night, July 27, 1991, 1 p.
- 8.3 "Parks & Rec Summer Theater Boasts Famous Alumni!" *Normal Now*, official newsletter for the Town of Normal, Illinois, Fall 1992, pp. 1, 12.
- 8.4 Program order for summer parks alumni show, July 5, 2008, 1 p.

8.5 NPARD Summer Theatre Program Alumni who have gone on to careers in professional theatre, television and film,” 1 p.