Theatre, cinema and music hall collections

Islington Local History Centre holds various materials related to local cinemas and theatres. Most photographs and illustrations are exterior views, except in the Sadler’s Wells collection.

Islington reference books


General reference books (refs A786.185, N241 and L4.5)


TREATURES (mainly refs N241 and L4.2)

Sadler’s Wells collection (1730s-present)

Our main theatre collection contains material representing the six theatres that have occupied the Sadler’s Wells site since 1683, including programmes, reviews, photographs, posters, scrapbooks and newspaper cuttings, as well as administrative records relating to buildings, performances and management.

A separate leaflet is available which describes this collection in greater detail.

Other theatre material includes:

- Almedia Theatre, Almeida Street - photographs, cuttings, flyers, posters
- Anna Scher Children's Theatre, Barnsbury Road - annual reports 1978-1991, photographs, cuttings
- Corner Theatre (later Hen and Chicken Theatre Bar), St Paul’s Road - posters, cuttings
- Finsbury Park Empire, St Thomas’ Road - photographs, cuttings, programmes 1911-1959
- Fortune Playhouse, Golden Lane - cuttings, illustrations
- Grand Theatre (formerly Philharmonic Hall, Philharmonic Theatre, later Islington Empire), Islington High Street - photographs, programmes 1883-1902 (incomplete), cuttings
- Grecian Theatre, City Road - playbills 1839-1882 (incomplete), newspaper cuttings, illustrations
- Holloway Empire, Holloway Road - photographs, programmes 1910-1914 (incomplete), cuttings
- King’s Head Theatre Pub, Upper Street (ref I980) - photographs, cuttings, posters, flyers
- Little Angel Theatre, Dagmar Passage - pamphlet, cuttings
- Marlborough Theatre, Holloway Road - photographs, programmes 1912-1920s (incomplete), cuttings
- Odyssey Theatre Club, Tufnell Park Tavern, Tufnell Park Road - posters, cuttings, flyers
Old Red Lion Theatre Pub, St John Street (ref L4.6) - photographs, cuttings
Parkhurst Theatre, Holloway Road - front cover of programme 1898, cuttings
Philharmonic Hall (formerly Philharmonic Theatre, later Grand Theatre, Islington Empire), Islington High Street - illustrations, programmes 1874
Pleasance Theatre - cuttings
Red Bull Theatre, St John Street - cuttings, illustrations
St George’s Theatre, Tufnell Park Road (ref J852) - photographs, cuttings, posters
Tower Theatre, Canonbury Place - programmes (undated)

CINEMAS (refs A786.185 and L4.5)

ABC Cinema (formerly Carlton Cinema), Essex Road - photographs, cuttings
Angel Cinema, Islington High Street - photographs, cuttings
Astoria Cinema, Finsbury Park - photographs, cuttings
Avenue Picture Palace, Rosebery Avenue - Italian advert
Blue Hall Cinema (part of Royal Agricultural Hall collection) - correspondence and plans re building alterations 1923-1946, photographs
Carlton Cinema (later ABC Cinema), Essex Road - photographs, cuttings
Coronet Cinema, Essex Road - photographs, cuttings
Electric Palace, Highgate Hill - photographs, cuttings
Electric Theatre, Upper Street - photographs
Essoldo Cinema, Caledonian Road - cuttings
Exxon Cinema (later Fantasy Cinema), Danbury Road - cuttings
Finsbury Park Cinematograph Theatre (later Rink Cinema), Seven Sisters Road - cuttings
Gainsborough Theatre, Poole Street - photographs
Gaumont Cinema, Holloway Road - photographs, cuttings
Gaumont Cinema, Upper Street - photographs, cuttings
Highbury Picture Theatre (formerly Imperial Picture Theatre), Holloway Road - cuttings
Highgate Odeon, Junction Road - cuttings
Imperial Picture Palace (later Highbury Picture Theatre), Holloway Road - photograph, cuttings
Islington Empire (formerly Grand Theatre), Islington High Street - photographs, cuttings
Odeon Cinema, Holloway Road - photographs, cuttings
Rainbow Cinema, Seven Sisters Road - photograph, cuttings
Rex Cinema (later Screen on the Green), Upper Street - illustration, cuttings
Rink Cinema (formerly Finsbury Park Cinematograph Theatre), Seven Sisters Road - photograph
Rio Cinema, Skinner Street - photographs
Screen on the Green (formerly Rex Cinema), Upper Street - photographs, cuttings
Victoria Cinema, New North Road - photographs

MUSIC HALLS (refs N242 and L4.5)

Collins Music Hall - photographs, programmes 1879-1958 (incomplete, mostly 1930s and 1950s), cuttings
Deacons Music Hall - photographs
Islington Empire, Islington High Street (formerly Grand Theatre, Philharmonic Hall, Philharmonic Theatre) - photographs, programmes 1911-1930 (incomplete), cuttings

March 2017 (rev.)