

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

- Chris Draper, *Islington Cinemas and Film Studios*, Islington Libraries, 1991.
- Eva Griffith. *A Jacobean company and its playhouse: The queen's servants at the Red Bull theatre (c. 1605-1619)* Cambridge University Press, 2013.
- Bill Manley, *Islington Entertained*, Islington Libraries, 1990.

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

- D F Cheshire, *Music Hall in Britain*, David & Charles Ltd, 1974.
- Robert Elkin, *The Old Concert Rooms of London*, Edward Arnold Ltd, 1955.
- Allen Eyles. *Odeon Cinemas: 1: Oscar Deutsch entertains our nation*. Biddles Limited, 2002.
- Allen Eyles. *Odeon Cinemas 2: From J Arthur Rank to the multiplex*. BFI, 2005.
- S Theodore Felstead, *Stars Who Made the Halls: A Hundred Years of English Humour, Harmony and Hilarity*, T Werner Laurie Ltd, 1947.
- Richard Gray. *Cinemas in Britain*, Lund Humphries, 2011.
- Diana Howard, *London Theatres and Music Halls 1850-1950*, The Library Association, 1970.
- Peter Leslie, *A Hard Act to Follow: A Music Hall Review*, Paddington Press, 1978.
- Jack Read, *Empires, Hippodromes and Palaces*, The Alderman Press, 1985.
- Paul Sheridan, *Penny Theatres of Victorian London*, Dobson Books Ltd, 1981.
- David Trigg. *Cinema uniforms: sartorial elegance at the picture palace*, Pen2Print, 2014.
- Malcolm Webb, *The Amber Valley Gazetteer of Greater London's Suburban Cinemas 1946-86*, Erdington, 1986.
- Gavin Weightman, *Big Lights, Big City: London Entertained 1830-1950*, Collins and Brown Ltd, 1992.

THEATRES (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.)

Islington Local History Centre, Finsbury Library, 245 St John Street, London EC1V 4NB

Tel: 020 7527 7988 **Email:** local.history@islington.gov.uk **Web:** www.islington.gov.uk/heritage