

John Waddington's Annual: The Book for the Playgoer (L 792.3 W117) – Beautiful book from 1902 full of photographs, illustrations and articles relating to Yorkshire theatre.

Online Resources

www.leodis.net

Online photographic archive including lots of images of Leeds theatres through the years. Can be searched by keyword or date, or browse by area. Copies of many images can also be purchased. Many theatre playbills area also available from all the main theatres in Leeds from 1781 – 1990s.

<https://discoveringleeds.wordpress.com/>

A history of Leeds by topic. The 'Leeds Theatres' subject area looks at the origins and development of theatre in Leeds and includes many images and prints as well, as references for further study.

Further Resources

As well as collections in Local and Family History, the Information and Research Library has a **loanable drama collection** with a strong Shakespeare presence. Search the library catalogue for specific items: https://leeds.ent.sirsiidynix.net.uk/client/en_GB/default

For plays by **local authors** like Alan Bennett, William Congreve and Dorothy Una Ratcliffe, remember that there are likely also to be reference copies available in Local and Family History. The **Drama Library** on the third floor of the Central Library has a large collection of plays that can be loaned to local drama groups, theatre companies and individuals.

Opening times

Monday – 9.00am – 8.00pm
Tuesday – 9.00am – 8.00pm
Weds – 9.00am – 8.00pm
Thursday 9.00am – 5.00pm
Friday – 9.00 – 5.00pm
Saturday – 10.00am – 4.00pm
Sunday - Closed

For more information:

Local and Family History
Leeds Central Library, Calverley Street,
Leeds, LS1 3AB
T: 0113 378 6982
E: localandfamilyhistory@leeds.gov.uk
W: www.leeds.gov.uk/libraries
Blog: secretlibraryleeds.net



Leeds Theatres

Our Research Guides list some of the most useful, interesting and unique items in **Local and Family History** at **Leeds Central Library**. Many others are listed in our online and card catalogues.

Please note: Items marked * may require an advance appointment and ID to view.



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General Histories of Local Theatre

“**Leeds and Its Industrial Growth: Stage and Screen**” by W.G. Rimmer, in *The Leeds Journal*, vol. 28 (Jan 1957) p. 7 (Shelf mark: L 381 L517) – excellent essay on the development of different forms of theatre in Leeds.

“**Where Sarah Siddons First Appeared**” in *Yorkshire Evening News*, Tercentenary Supplement, 9 July, 1926. Article based on *Chronicles of the Leeds Theatre* by Alf Mattison (SR 792 M435)*

The Illustrated History of Leeds by Steven Burt and Kevin Grady (LQ 942.819 BUR) and *The Story of Leeds* by David Thornton (L 942.819 THO) are both full of information about individual theatres and trends in the art form (see indexes in each).

Leeds Theatres Remembered by Robert E. Preedy (LP 792 PRE).

Material for a History of the Theatre in Leeds (18th century) by Alfred Mattison – original manuscript* (SRQ 792.094275 M435 Appointment needed) and microfilm.

“**History of Theatre in Yorkshire**” by Anselm Heinrich, in *Entertainment, Propaganda, Education: Regional Theatre in Germany and Britain between 1918 and 1945*, p. 25-76 (Y 792.09 HEI).

The Northern Music Hall by G.J. Mellor (Y 792.7 MEL).

For more extensive coverage of our stock and resources – and books about individual theatres such as **The Grand** and **City Varieties** – see our online catalogue (https://leeds.ent.sirsidynix.net.uk/client/en_GB/default) and visit the library to view our card catalogue.

Newspapers and Trade Directories

Copies of all the Leeds newspapers including the *Leeds Mercury*, *Yorkshire Post* and *Yorkshire Evening Post*, are kept on microfilm. Search for advertisements for theatre productions and reviews of performances. 19th century newspapers can be searched online by using your library card: www.leeds.gov.uk/onlineresources

Leeds Newspaper Cuttings on the subject of **Music and Drama, 1955-61** (FL942.819 NEW – Yorkshire Room Glass Cabinet) – largely drawn from *Yorkshire Post*, *Evening Post* and *Yorkshire Evening News*.

Leeds Playhouse Newscuttings, 1964-1970 (LF 792 L517).

Trade Directories (1784-1947)

These list all local theatres, as well as the names of the theatre proprietors. Local dramatic societies may also be listed.

Programmes, Brochures and Other Material

Large collection of **programmes** from a range of theatres including:

- The Grand, 1892 to date.
- The Empire Palace, 1948-1960.
- Leeds Playhouse and West Yorkshire Playhouse, 1970 to date.
- Opera North, 1979 to date.
- Theatre Royal, 1920-1956.

(Please note: None of these give *complete* coverage.)

Programmes from **local dramatic societies** including Adel Players, Leeds Sylvians, Headingley Townswomen’s Guild Dramatic Group and the Leeds Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society (various dates – see card catalogue).

Collection of **souvenir brochures** commemorating jubilees and opening nights such as *Scala Theatre Opening Night, 1922* (LQP 792 SCA) and *Leeds Playhouse Opening Night, 1970*.

(See card catalogue under THEATRE for more.)

Selection of **newsletters and annuals** including:

- *Yorkshire Owl Pantomime Annual, 1893-95* (Y 793.3 YOR).
- *The Yorkshire Harlequin, 1896-99* (YQ 792 YOR).
- *West Yorkshire Playhouse Newsletter, 1990-96* (LQ 792 C333).

Leslie Popplewell’s **Autograph Collection*** (SRQ 091.5P819) – letters and autographs of stars of stage, film, music and TV from the late 1940s to early 1970s (including a small collection of bills and programmes from Leeds and London stage productions of the time). **Appointment needed.**

Alfred Mattison’s **Leeds Theatrical Memoranda 1771-1818** – extracted from Leeds newspapers. Original manuscripts* (SRQ 792.094275 M435) and copy on microfilm. **Appointment needed.**