

## 1958

*Holiday for Lovers* starring Bob Cummings, Ann B. Davis, Dwayne Hickman, Julie Bishop, Lyle Talbot, Olive Sturgess, and Lisa Davis opened February 3, 1958 as the initial offering at the brand-new playhouse.

*Picnic* starring Hugh O'Brian and Leora Dana ran February 9-14.

*A Visit to a Small Planet* starring Vincent Price ran February 17-22.

*Plaintiff in a Pretty Hat* starring Glynnis Johns, Hugh Williams, Paul and Hajla Stoddard, Eynon Evans, Iola Lynn, and Howard Morton ran February 24-March 1.

*The Happiest Millionaire*, starring Walter Abel, Luella Gear, and Marta Linden, ran March 3-8. Local Palm Beach resident Mrs. Raymond G. Emery was a member of the cast.

David Daniels starred in *The Boy Friend*.

Alexis Smith, Craig Stevens, and Murray Matheson starred in *King of Hearts* March 10-15.

*Lady of the House*, a new comedy by Paul Crabtree starring Billie Burke, Enid Markey, Raymond Van Sickle, Addison Richards, Hal Burdick, and Kaye Lyder in a pre-Broadway tryout that ran March 17-22.

Fernanda Montel, Marion Marlowe, and Danny Scholl starred in *Roberta* March 24-29.

*The Desk Set* starring Shirley Booth and Byron Sanders ran March 31-April 5.

When Hugh O'Brian starred at the Poinciana in February 1963, it was mentioned that he had been in *Picnic* at the RPP in 1958.

The *Mansfield News Journal* of Mansfield, Ohio, in its March 20, 1958 issue, printed a Walter Winchell "On Broadway" column that thanked to Mr. and Mrs. Laddie Sanford, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor "and all their high falutin' friends" for the large Polo Ball they put on benefiting the Runyon Cancer Fund the previous evening at the Royal Poinciana Playhouse.

*A Swim in the Sea* starring Peggy Wood and George Peppard ran April 28-May 3 and closed the Poinciana season.

*The Princess* was presented in December by the Academy Royale, with music by Mario Bragiotti and libretto and choreography by Jo Anna Kneeland. Guest stars were Violette Verdy and Michael Maule.

## 1959

Eva Gabor starred with Margaret Phillips, John Emery, and Bert Thorn in Noel Coward's *Private Lives* January 26-31<sup>st</sup>. Direction was by Romney Brent and set design was by James Riley.

Dody Goodman and Fay Bainter starred in *The Girls in 509*, which ran February 2-7 and was directed by Elaine Perry, who produced Broadway hits *King of Hearts* and *Anastasia*. Other actors were Parker Fennelly, Nydia Westman, Walter Klavun, William Lanteau, G. Wood, Bert Bertram, Gaylord Mason, John Hallow, and Chet London.

Edward Everett Horton, Ann Harding, and Reginald Owen in a pre-Broadway tryout of the mystery comedy *Not in the Book*, by Arthur Watkyn, which ran February 9-14. Also included in the cast were Ralph Purdum, John Irving, Herbert Voland, Val Avery and Claude Horton. The play was produced by Gilbert Miller and directed by Richard Bender under the personal supervision of Paul Crabtree. Settings of an English lounge hall in a wealthy home was done by Jim Riley.

Arthur Treacher, Algerian actress Fernanda Montel, and Carleton Carpenter starred in the pre-Broadway tryout of *Beachcombers*, written by Paul Crabtree, which ran February 16-21. Others having featured roles in the play included Enid Markey, Lawrence Fletcher, Nancy Carroll, Thesus George, Bert Bertram, Lucile Benson, G. Wood, William Lanteau and Ralph Purdum. A wonderful set by Jim Riley included a private beach with real sand, a beach house and bar, a tunnel under the road, and a Palm Beach mansion in the background.

Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians in *Hi-Fi Holiday* ran February 23-28.

A new version of the 1930s Rodgers and Hart's *Babes in Arms* starred Julie Wilson in its pre-Broadway tryout at the Royal Poinciana Playhouse. Also appearing with Wilson were Barbara Sharma, Harvey Hohnacker, Joan Hovis, Janet Pavek, and William Lanteau. The book of *Babes* was rewritten for the Poinciana production by George Oppenheimer. This production was directed by Stanley Prager, with musical director Peter Howard and choreographer Frank Wagner.

Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronyn starred in *Triple Play*, a series of three playlets that ran March 2-7 at the Poinciana and was scheduled to open on Broadway April 15<sup>th</sup>. Appearing with Cronyn and Tandy were Geoffrey Lamb, Francis Compton, Biff McGuire, and Helen Seamon. Irish playwright Sean O'Casey wrote two of the plays, *Bedtime Story* and *A Pound on Demand*. John Mortimer wrote the third, called *I Spy*.

Dody Goodman, Helen Gallagher, and Melville Cooper starred March 9<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> in the pre-Broadway tryout of *A Pound in Your Pocket*, by S. I. Abelow and Robert Cenedella. Music from this comedy about characters from Dickens was by Charles Strouse and lyrics were by Lee Adams. Philip Burton directed the Poinciana production, with settings by playhouse art director James Riley.

Celeste Holm, Andrew Duggan, Judson Laire, Jane Hoffman, James Karen, Howard Wierum, Ernest Graves, John Wagner, Irene Cowan, Parker McCormick and Harry Mehaffey starred March 16<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> in *Third Best Sport*, written by Eleanor and Leo Bayer and directed by Michael Howard.

## 1960

The Royal Poinciana Playhouse had its grand opening for the 1960 season on January 23rd with Helen Hayes starring in Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. The *Holland Evening Sentinel* of Holland, Michigan on February 22, 1960, noted that Jim Dyas, who was then operating the Red Barn Theater near Saugatuck, Michigan during summers, and his wife, Dorothy Lee Tompkins, were with the production staff. Another article noted that except for his three years as a paratrooper in the OSS during World War II, Dyas had devoted his entire life to the theater.

*The Nevada State Journal* of Reno announced in its November 4, 1959 issue that Lily Lodge, daughter of our Ambassador to Spain, had been “bitten by the show-biz bug” and was to be one of the cast at the Royal Poinciana Playhouse soon.

Paul and Mary Crabtree presented *The Fantasticks* (date?) at the Poinciana, giving the show its first production outside of New York City.

Francis Lederer and Vivian Vance starred in *Marriage-Go-Round* February 15-20.

Dame Judith Anderson with Cathleen Nesbitt and Margaret Phillips for a week starting February 22<sup>nd</sup> in *The Madwoman of Chaillot*.

Also appearing during the 1960 season were Gloria Swanson and Buddy Rogers in *Red Letter Day*.

The *Chronicle Telegram* of Elyria, Ohio, in its March 24, 1960 issue reported that stage star Kim Stanley suffered a miscarriage in the early stages of her pregnancy and had to cancel her appearance next week in Royal Poinciana's *Two For the Seesaw*. Taking her place was newcomer and standby Mary Tahmin.

*Holland Evening Sentinel* of March 28, 1960, noted that James Dyas had continued to be busy at Royal Poinciana Playhouse, now directing *Once More With Feeling* starring Chester Morris, Jan Sterling and Fred Clark.

Dyas also directed during this winter Palm Beach season *The Golden Fleecing*, a recently released comedy hit, which featured producing director Paul Crabtree in his first appearance on the stage of the Poinciana Playhouse.

Other stars of the 1960 season included Walter Slezak, Francis Lederer, John Emery, Ludi Claire, Vivian Vance, Cathleen Nesbitt, John Baragrey, Faye Emerson, David Wayne, Nancy Olson, and Kevin McCarthy.

## **1961**

Gerald F. Reidenbaugh was acting at the Royal Poinciana Playhouse with his wife Shirley in 1961.

The *Nevada State Journal* of Reno, Nevada, on March 15, 1961, announced that Arlene Francis, a regular panelist on the popular television show *What's My Line*, was starring in a revival of *Old Acquaintance* at the Royal Poinciana Playhouse.

## **1962**

Patrice Munsel starred in *Chrysanthemum* in 1962.

Hans Conried starred in *Critic's Choice*.

In early 1962, Dyas brought along to Florida with him from the Michigan theater scenic designer Richard Segar.

## **1963**

Eva Gabor starred in *A Shot in the Dark* running from January 21<sup>st</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Hans Conried, Ludi Claire, Elizabeth Ashley and her husband James Farentino in *Take Her, She's Mine* running from January 28<sup>th</sup> through February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Arlene Francis starred in *Janus* running February 4<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>.

*Write Me a Murder* running February 11<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Hugh O'Brian and Mary Ann Mobley starred in *The Tender Trap* running February 18<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Faye Emerson starred in Thornton Wilder's *The Matchmaker* running February 25<sup>th</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Jack Carter appeared with Penny Fuller, Dom DeLuise, Joseph Bernard, Michael Pressman, and Stephen Strimpell in *A Thousand Clowns* running March 4<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>, written by Herb Gardner and directed by Malcolm Black.

A night of music with Fred Waring and His Pennsylvanians ran March 11<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Howard Keel, Salome Jens, Stephen Brooks, Herbert Voland, Gaylord Mason, and Robert Blackburn appeared in N. Richard Nash's *The Rainmakers* running March 18<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Originally, Inga Swenson had been scheduled to do Jen's part.

Jeffrey Lynn starred in Jean Kerr's successful comedy *Mary, Mary* running March 25<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>.

During this season, James Riley was manager and art director of the Royal Poinciana Playhouse, which one newspaper of the time called "a 'showcase' theater featuring new plays and standard classics with professional guest directors and stars."

## **1964**

*Madly in Love*, a new play by Ruth Goetz starring Celeste Holm, Jean Pierre Aumont, and MacDonald Carey, ran from January 13<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. Also appearing in the play were Pat Hardy and Marty Huston.

*Strictly Dishonorable*, a new comedy written by Preston Sturgis starring Caesar Romero, ran from January 20<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Fair Game for Lovers*, starring Leo Genn, Maggie Hayes, Forrest Tucker and Alan Alda, written by Richard Dougherty, and directed by noted playwright/producer/director Paul Shyro, ran from January 27<sup>th</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Liberace appeared from February 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Norman Krasna's Broadway comedy hit, *Sunday in New York*, ran from February 10<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>, starring Susan Kohner, James Congdon, and John Voight.

Next, Fernando Lamas and Esther Williams appeared in *Kind Sir*, also written by Krasna (it had been made into the hit movie *Indiscreet* starring Ingrid Bergman and Cary Grant). Other stars included Mary Cooper, Henry Sutton, and Broadway actress Kay Loring, who lived in Palm Beach. *Kind Sir*, directed by Christopher Hewett, ran from February 17<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*Calculated Risk*, a big business “corporation thriller” written by Joseph Hayes, directed by Howard Erskine, and starring John Payne, ran from February 24<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>.

*Dear Me, the Sky is Falling*, written by Leonard Spigelgass, ran from March 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 7<sup>th</sup> and starred Gertrude Berg in her Broadway smash success. Berta Gersten, a famous star of the Yiddish Art Theatre in New York, filled in for her friend in several of the shows due to Berg’s illness. Spigelgass directed the show in Palm Beach.

*The Irregular Verb to Love*, which had been the first hit of Broadway’s 1963-4 season, ran from March 9<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> and starred Cyril Ritchard, Cornelia Otis Skinner, John Colenback, William Kinsolving, Margot Bennett, and Lynn Hamilton.

Rodgers and Hart’s *I Married An Angel* starring Elaine Stritch, Taina Elg, and Clifford David. Richard Rodgers personally supervised the musical comedy and added three new songs. The show ran March 16<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. It was directed by Christopher Hewett.

For a good part of the year 1964, the Zev Bufman-Stan Seiden Coconut Grove Playhouse in Miami and Hale’s Royal Poinciana Playhouse were on a “theatrical exchange” basis, with five productions being presented at each theater. Earl Wilson, writing in the March 26, 1964 *Times Recorder* of Zanesville Ohio, wrote that the "new Eddie Fisher" sang at the Royal Poinciana Playhouse at a tribute for deceased President John F. Kennedy. Fisher said that he wanted to become a band singer again, and, indeed, he sang with the dance band for a full hour. “He crooned his love tunes across the mike at Pamela Turnure, Jackie Kennedy's secretary.”

## 1965

Betsy Palmer and Walter Abel starred in *Affairs of State* running from January 25<sup>th</sup> through January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Claudette Colbert and Brian Aherne appeared at the Poinciana in *Diplomatic Relations* for one week running February 1<sup>st</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>. Dana Andrews and Albert Dekker starred in *A Man for All Seasons*, which ran from February 8<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>.

Arthur Godfrey and Maureen O’Sullivan made their Palm Beach stage debuts February 15<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> in the Broadway comedy *Never Too Late*, with Maureen repeating her original Broadway role. It was written by Sumner Arthur Long and was originally titled *Cradle and All*.

Zachary Scott and Ruth Ford appeared February 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> in the Broadway comedy, *Any Wednesday*.

March 1<sup>st</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> featured Hans Conried in *The Absence of a Cello*.

March 8<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> starred George Hamilton and Susan Watson in *Gigi*.

March 15<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> featured Molly Picon and Martyn Green in *A Majority of One*. The play was directed by Molly's husband, Jacob Kalich.

The *Coshocton Tribune* [Ohio] of March 16, 1965 reported that Jennifer Jones was rehearsing in New York for her part at Frank J. Hale's Palm Beach playhouse and had refused to grant any interviews or permit rehearsal photographs. She appeared onstage from March 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> in the world premiere of Patricia Joudry's *Goddess on the Couch*.

On April 1, 1965, the ballet *Coppelia* premiered at the Royal Poinciana Playhouse. Written and directed by Ted Kneeland and choreographed by JoAnna Kneeland, it was later transformed in 1968 into a wide-screen feature motion picture titled *Dr. ? ? Coppelius* and produced by Frank Hale.

## **1966**

The ninth season opened January 19, 1966 with Murray Schisgal's comedy, *Luv*, starring Barbara Bel Geddes, Gene Wilder, Larry Blyden. Prior to the Monday night opening, Frank Hale was presented with a plaque by William Johnson of the Florida Industrial Commission for his cultural contributions to the State of Florida. Following this opening performance, Peter Duchin and his orchestra provided music for dining and dancing in the Celebrity Room.

*Barefoot in the Park* starring Vivian Vance and Darryl Hickman ran January 24 through the 29<sup>th</sup>.

From January 31<sup>st</sup> through February 5th, *Remains to be Seen* was presented starring Hal Linden and Gisele Mackenzie.

Richard Chamberlain appeared in *The Philadelphia Story* at the Royal Poinciana with Joan Marshall.

Van Heflin starred in *Case of Libel* February 7<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup>, along with Paul McGrath, Frederic Tozere, and Richard McMurray.

June Allyson, Hugu Marlowe, and Dick Powell, Jr. appeared February 14-19, 1966 in a new comedy titled *Goodbye Ghost*. Powell was the son of June Allyson and Dick Powell.

February 21<sup>st</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> brought Joan Fontaine to the playhouse in *Dial "M" for Murder*, along with actors Jeffrey Lynn, Eric Berry, Richard Waring, and Richard Clark.

The romantic comedy *The Warm Peninsula* by Joe Masteroff will run February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 5<sup>th</sup>, and will star Tammy Grimes and Jeremy Slate in their Palm Beach debuts. It was directed for the Poinciana Playhouse by Christopher Hewitt. The

Broadway production starred Julie Harris. The play concerns a plain girl from Milwaukee who comes to Miami Beach for a vacation and stays with another young girl who is her complete opposite.

*The Well-dressed Liar*, written by Jack Sharkey and directed by George Abbott, ran March 7<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> and starred Tom Poston, Shari Lewis, Joe Bova, and Luella Gear.

## **1967**

The year 1967 featured many tryouts of new scripts at the Poinciana.

The season opened with Thomas Nord Riley's new farce, *The Armored Dove*, starring Joan Fontaine and Tom Ewell, running January 16<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>.

E. G. Marshall and Dennis O'Keefe starred in a comedy hit still on Broadway, Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple*, running at the Poinciana January 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>.

January 30<sup>th</sup> through February 4<sup>th</sup>—to be announced.

Bob Cummings starred with Melinda Cummings in William Goodheart's *Generation* running February 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ray Milland recreated his award-winning role in Jack Roffey's *Hostile Witness*, running February 13<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Dina Merrill and Kevin McCarthy starred in the world premiere of Lonnie Coleman's *A Warm Body*, running February 20<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Alan Young, Marjorie Lord and Russell Nye starred in William F. Brown's pre-Broadway comedy, *The Girl in the Freudian Slip*, running February 27<sup>th</sup> through March 4.

Maureen O'Sullivan starred in Robert Soderberg's *The Five – Oh – Seven* (formerly called *The Wednesday Problem*), running March 6<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Frederick Knott's Broadway smash thriller, *Wait Until Dark*, ran March 13<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>.

*The Impossible Years* by Bob Fisher and Arthur Marx ran March 20<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **1968**

In 1968, Jerry Lester, Edward Everett Horton, Mort Marshall and Phil Leeds appeared March 18<sup>th</sup> through March 23<sup>rd</sup> in the show, *Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*. It was directed by Christopher Hewett, who had stayed on after *The Guardsman* to do *The Forum*.

### **1969**

January 1969 included performances of *Your Own Thing*.

Cyril Ritchard and Cornelia Otis Skinner starred in *Halfway Up the Tree*.

### **1970**

*George M* began playing February 16, 1970 at the Royal Poinciana Playhouse. It had opened in Florida January 19<sup>th</sup> at the Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale and then moved to the Coconut Grove Playhouse in Miami on February 3<sup>rd</sup> before coming to Palm Beach.

### **1971**

Phil Silvers, Sandy Dennis, and Richard Mulligan starred in *How the Other Half Lives*.

### **1972**

Shirley Booth and Tom Poston starred in *Harvey*.

### **1973**

Anne Jackson and Eli Wallach appeared at the Royal Poinciana in *Waltz of the Toreadors*.

Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy starred in *Promenade, All*.

### **1974**

Richard Kiley and Tammy Grimes starred in *Private Lives*.

## **1975**

*Noel Coward in Two Keys* starring Anne Baxter, Hyume Cronyn, and Jessica Tandy ran from January 6-11, 1975. The *Syracuse Herald Journal* of October 16, 1974, mentioned that *Two Keys*, a pair of Coward's one act plays popular on Broadway in 1973, would begin a national tour January 6<sup>th</sup> at the Royal Poinciana with eleven cities to be visited, the finale being in Los Angeles.

*The Seven Year Itch* starring Jack Gilford and John McGiver ran from January 13<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>.

*The Hollow Crown* starring Michael Redgrave and The Royal Shakespeare Company of London ran from January 20<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Janus* starring Dana Andrews, Joan Bennett, and Jean Pierre Aumont ran January 27<sup>th</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Life with Father* starring Betsy Palmer and Fritz Weaver ran February 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>.

*The Sponsor* starring E. G. Marshall, Eli Wallach, and Betty Garde ran from February 17<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*The Great Sebastians* starring Eileen Herlie and Werner Klemperer ran from February 24<sup>th</sup> through March 1. It was directed by Stephen Porter, artistic director for New York's famed Phoenix Theatre. The play, a Howard Lindsay-Russel Crouse creation, had first appeared on Broadway in 1956.

*The Boy Friend* starring Terry Saunders, Maureen Maloney, Richard Bayne Cooper, and Isabelle Farrell ran from March 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>.

*My Fat Friend* starring Tammy Grimes and George Rose ran from March 10<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. It came to the Poinciana after a long run on Broadway that ended December 1974.

*Irene* starring Anita Gillette, Pat Carroll and Jonathan Harris ran from March 17<sup>th</sup> through March 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **1976**

The *Gettysburg Times* of March 10, 1976 announced that now that filming for *All In The Family* had concluded for this season, Bill Putch of Totem Pole Playhouse in Gettysburg was busy directing Jean Stapleton for *Mornings At Seven* which would open the following week at the Royal Poinciana Playhouse in Palm Beach, Florida. It was to have a two-week run there and then go on to Ontario, Canada, for a four week run.

## **1977**

Colleen Dewhurst starred in *An Almost Perfect Person*.

Myrna Loy and Jean Pierre Aumont starred in *Barefoot in the Park*.

## **1978**

### **1978-1979 season**

Patty Duke appeared with Melissa Gilbert March 1979 in *The Miracle Worker*.

The production was a rehearsal of sorts for an NBC Theater Presentation.

### **1979-1980 season**

The *Valley Independent* of Monessen, Pennsylvania of January 18, 1980, mentioned that Anita Gillette, Arlene Francis and Barry Nelson would costar the following week in Harold J. Kennedy's production of Terence Rattigan's courtroom melodrama *The Winslow Boy* at the Royal Poinciana Playhouse.

The *Valley Independent* of Monessen, Pennsylvania on January 26, 1980 reported that Barbara Rush would star the following week in George Furth's comedy *Twigs* at the Royal Poinciana Playhouse.

### **1980-1981 season**

The season presented *Anything Goes* December 4 through December 16, 1980.

*My One and Only* ran December 18-30, 1980.

*M. Butterfly* ran starting January 1, 1981 for a two-week engagement.

Next came *Guys and Dolls*.

### **1981-1982 season**

The national touring company of *Dancin'* performed December 28, 1981 through January 7, 1982.

*Othello* starring James Earl Jones and Christopher Plummer ran January 12-24, 1982.

### **1982-1983 season**

*The Pirates of Penzance* December 28, 1982 through January 8, 1983.

*A View from the Bridge* January 11-22, 1983.

*The Mitzi Gaynor Show* January 25<sup>th</sup> through February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1983.

*Crimes of the Heart* February 8-19, 1983.

*Amadeus* March 15-26, 1983.

6<sup>th</sup> show to be announced.

### **1983-1984 season**

*The Show-Off* ran December 27, 1983 through January 1, 1984.

*Jerry's Girls* starring Carol Channing, Leslie Uggams, and Andrea McArdle ran from February 27<sup>th</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup>. A live recording of the show at the Poinciana was cut onto a two-CD set of the same title, containing 39 tracks.

*In the Sweet Bye and Bye* by Donald Driver with director John Henry Davis starring Audra Lindley and her ex-husband James Whitmore ran March 20<sup>th</sup> through March 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **1984-1985 season**

*Peccadillo* starring Christopher Plummer, Glynis Johns and Kelly McGillis ran February 26<sup>th</sup> ? through March 12<sup>th</sup> ? This was the world premiere of a comedy written and directed by Garson Kanin.

*Requiem for a Heavyweight* starred George Segal, John Lithgow, and David Proval.

### **1985-1986 season**

Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* directed by Judd Hirsch was presented by Canada's Stratford Festival with Seana McKenna, Colm Feore, and Maria Ricossa, running from December 25, 1985 through January 1, 1986.

Shakespeare's *King Lear* directed by Judd Hirsch was presented by Canada's Stratford Festival with Douglas Campbell, Seana McKenna, James Blendick, and Patricia Collins running from January 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Loulou* by Ronald Clark and directed by Charles Nelson Reilly starred Line Renaud (who was a famous star in France), Stan Freeman, and John Fiedler and ran from January 23<sup>rd</sup> through February 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Biloxi Blues* by Neil Simon and directed by Gene Saks starred William Ragsdale, Ted Levine, Andrew Polk and ran from February 12<sup>th</sup> ?

*Run for Your Wife* by Ray Cooney and directed by Chris Johnston starred David McCallum, Kay Walbye, Jana Robbins and Michael Connolly and ran from March 3<sup>rd</sup> ? through the 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Heaven Sent* starring Jo Anne Worley and Roger Perry ran from March 25<sup>th</sup> through April 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **1986-1987 season**

*Stop the World—I Want to Get Off* starring Anthony Newley and Suzie Plaksin and ran December 17<sup>th</sup> ? through December 28, 1986. Newley's illness forced the cancellation of five performances.

*Legends*, written by James Kirkwood and directed by Clifford Williams, starred Mary Martin and Carol Channing and ran January 6-18, 1987.

*Run for Your Wife* written by David Wiltse and starring Gabe Kaplan, Martin Milner, Peter Shuman, and Peter Flint, ran January 22<sup>nd</sup> ? through February 1<sup>st</sup>.

*I'm Not Rappaport* written by Herb Gardner and directed by Daniel Sullivan starred Judd Hirsch and Cleavon Little and ran from February 12<sup>th</sup> ? through the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*Social Security* written by Andrew Bergman and directed by Peter Lawrence starred Lucie Arnaz and her husband Laurence Luckinbill and ran from March 4<sup>th</sup> through March 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Jesus Christ Superstar* written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice and directed by Scott Harris was a non-Equity production starring Paul Avedisian, Michael S. Proctor, and Anne Rickenbacher and ran March 27<sup>th</sup> ? through April 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **1987-1988 season**

*Broadway Bound* by Neil Simon directed by Gene Saks and starring Carole Shelley, Nathan Lane, and William Ragsdale ran December 29, 1987 through January 10, 1988.

The Goodspeed Opera House's (Connecticut) production of *Lady, Be Good* ran January 23<sup>rd</sup> ? through February 7<sup>th</sup>.

*Arsenic and Old Lace* written by Joseph Kesselring and directed by Elliott Woodruff starred Dody Goodman, James Macarthur, Edie Adams, Huntz Hall, Jonathan Frid and Kurt Knudson and ran February 16<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Come into My Parlor* by Joseph Hayes and directed by Neal Kenyan starred Elizabeth Ashley and David Hedison and ran March 2<sup>nd</sup> ? through the 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Two Into One* written and directed by Ray Cooney starred Cooney, Millicent Martin and Paxton Whitehead and ran March 29<sup>th</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **1988-1989 season**

*Into the Woods* starring Cleo Laine ran December 13-24, 1988.

*Driving Miss Daisy* by Alfred Uhry starred Julie Harris and Brock Peters and ran January 17<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>.

*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Rupert Holmes' musical version of Charles Dickens' novel, was directed by Joe Leonardo, starred Steven LeBlanc, Kris Montgomery, and Marie-Laurence Danvers, and ran January 5<sup>th</sup> ? through the 15<sup>th</sup>.

*Steel Magnolias* written by Robert Harling and directed by Pamela Berlin starred Barbara Rush and June Lockhart and ran February 7<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>.

*The Business of Murder* starring Van Johnson and Lee Meriwether starts around March 5<sup>th</sup> after a run in Ft. Lauderdale.

*Annie Get Your Gun* directed by Paul Blake starred Donna McKechnie, Nolan Van Way, and Norwood Smith and ran March 31<sup>st</sup>? through April 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **1989-1990 season**

*She Loves Me* by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick and directed by Paul Blake starred Joel Higgins, Victoria Mallory, Gary Sandy, Theodore Bikel and Nick Ullett and ran December 5-17, 1989.

*Me and My Girl* starring Adam Graham and Evy O'Rourke ran December 19-31, 1989.

*Rumors* by Neil Simon starring Peter Marshall and Patty McCormack ran January 2-17, 1990.

*My Fair Lady* starring David Holliday, Julia Davidson, and Steven Flaa ran for three performances one weekend in mid-January, 1990.

*A Midsummer Night's Dream* choreographed by Norbert Vesak for Ballet Florida with sets and costumes by Robert-Glay de la Rose was shown early February 1990.

*The Sunshine Boys* starring Donald O'Connor and Mickey Rooney ran February 6<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>, 1990.

*The Cocktail Hour* by A. R. Gurney starring Barry Nelson, Elizabeth Wilson, Mark Metcalf and Tandy Cronyn ran February 27<sup>th</sup> through March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1990.

*The Business of Murder* starring Van Johnson and Lee Meriwether ran March 12<sup>th</sup>? through the 24<sup>th</sup>?, 1990.

*Romeo and Juliet* by Ballet Florida choreographed by Vicente Nebrada and starring Steven Hoff, Eric Midgley, Janine Cherry, Gary McKenzie, and Donna Morgan ran the end of March 1990.

*Nunsense* starring Dody Goodman ran April 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1990.

*Portrait of Raoul Wallenberg*, Swedish composer Ulf Bjorlin's orchestral piece starring Cliff Robertson, Fritz Weaver, and Ruth Warrick, ran one night only on April 26, 1990.

### **1990-1991 season**

*Anything Goes* December 4<sup>th</sup> through December 16.

*My One and Only* December 18<sup>th</sup> through December 30<sup>th</sup>.

*M. Butterfly* written by David Henry Hwang and starring Philip Anglim, A. Mapa, Brian Reddy and Keven Cooney opened January 1, 1991 for a two-week run.

*Love Letters* starring Hal Linden and Dorothy Loudon ran February 5<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Shirley Valentine* written by Willy Russell and starring Loretta Swit in a solo role opened March 3<sup>rd</sup> ?

*Lend Me a Tenor* written by Ken Ludwig and directed by Jerry Zaks starred Ron Holgate and Barry Nelson and ran March 26<sup>th</sup> through April 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **1991-1992 season**

*An Evening with Burt Reynolds* starring Burt Reynolds in a one-man show ran for three shows November 1 and 2, 1991, with proceeds going to the Institute for Theatre Training, the graduate acting school that Reynolds founded.

*Tru* starring Robert Morse in a one-man show ran December 3<sup>rd</sup> ? for a two-week run.

*Gypsy* starring Karlah Hamilton, Allen Kendall, Jeannette Simpson and Moiah Snyder runs December 25, 1991 through January 5, 1992.

*Lost in Yonkers*, a drama written by Neil Simon, starred Mercedes McCambridge, Brooke Adams, Jeff Maynard and Alex Dezen and ran in January 1992. It won the 1991 Pulitzer Prize for best play.

*Ziegfeld...A Night at the Follies*, a non-equity, non-union production, ran in January 1992.

*Sammy Cahn Words & Music* featured lyricist Sammy Cahn together with his musical director Harper MacKay and three singers and ran in February 1992. In January 1993, Cahn was dead of congestive heart failure

*Starry Night* ballet by Ballet Florida choreographed by Bill Soleau, with actor Gordon McConnell playing the role of van Gogh's brother Theo and narrating the story, ran February 26-March 1, 1992.

*Those Were The Days*, a musical revue of Yiddish theater's greatest hits, starred Mike Burstyn, Mina Bern, Eleanor Reissa, Robert Abelson and Lori Wilner, and played March 17-22, 1992.

*The Lion in Winter* starring George Peppard and Susan Clark ran March 24<sup>th</sup>? through April 5, 1992.

### **1992-1993 season**

*The World Goes 'Round*, a review of music by John Kander and lyricist Fred Ebb, starred Joel Blum, John Ruess, and Valerie Wright and ran March 8? Through March 21, 1993.

*The Sheik of Avenue B* starring 76-year-old Mina Bern ran March 23-28, 1993.

*Six Degrees of Separation* by John Guare starring Marlo Thomas, Ned Schmidke, and Ntare Mwine, ran April 5? through the 18<sup>th</sup>, 1993.

### **1993-1994 season**

*Experiment* starred Mandy Patinkin in a one-man show running December 7<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>, 1993.

*Clarence Darrow*, adapted by David Rintels from Irving Stone's *Clarence Darrow for the Defense*, starred Mike Farrell in a one-man show starting December 21, 1993.

*Bubbe Meises, Bubbe Stories*, written by and starring Ellen Gould, ran in January 1994.

*Borscht Capades '94* starring Joey Grey recreated vaudeville shows of Mickey Katz, Grey's real-life deceased father, and ran February 1?-13, 1994.

*In Other Words* starred Ossie Davis and his wife Ruby Dee reading from some of their favorite works on February 21, 1994. They were both attending the Quest Theatre in West Palm Beach as part of Quest's Second Annual Stage and Screen Writers' Conference: An African-American Winter Celebration.

*Five Guys Named Moe*, a revue celebrating the music of jazz saxophonist Louis Jordan, was directed and choreographed by Charles Augins and featured former West Palm Beach resident Kevyn Brackett, Doug Eskew, and Jeffrey Polk. It ran March 22 through April 3, 1994.

### **1994-1995 season**

*A Grand Night for Singing*, a fresh look at the lyrics of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein starring Terry Burrell, Connie Kunkle, Kevin Ligon, Joseph Mahowaid, and Cheryl Stern, ran November 15-27, 1994.

*The Sisters Rosensweig* by Wendy Wasserstein and directed by Daniel Sullivan starred Nancy Dussault, Linda Thorson and Greg Mullavey and ran January 10-22, 1995.

*Funny, You Don't Look Like a Grandmother* by Lois Wyse and Sheilah Rae and directed/choreographed by Tony Stevens, starred Karen Morrow, Joy Franz, Marilyn Cooper, and Ron Holgate and ran January 24-February 5, 1995.

*Yiddle with a Fiddle*, directed/choreographed by Michael Allosso and starring Jeanne Montano, Danny Rutigliano, Bill Kocis, Jonathan Hadley, and Donald Grody, ran Feb. 8-19, 1995.

*Shlemiel the First* by Robert Brustein and directed/choreographed by David Gordon, starred and ran February 21-26, 1995.

*Bagels & Yox* starred Bruce Adler and Mal Z. Lawrence and ran March 1-12, 1995.

*Family Secrets* written by and starring Sherry Glaser ran March 14-26, 1995.

*The Rothchilds* by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Hamick arrived March 28<sup>th</sup> for a two-week run.

### **1995-1996 season**

*An Inspector Calls* directed by Stephen Daldry and designed by Ian MacNeil, starred Sam Tsoutsouvas and Jane Fleiss and ran beginning December 18<sup>th</sup>, 1995 for two weeks.

*Buddy Hackett in Concert* with comedian Buddy Hackett ran starting January 2, 1996 for several nights.

*Laughter on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor* written by Neil Simon, directed by Lewis J. Stadlen, and starring Ron Orbach, Ernie Sabella, and John Plumpis, ran January 9<sup>th</sup> through January 21, 1996.

*Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh* featuring the songs of Allan Sherman and starring Joanne Borts, Bill Perlach, and Jack Kirk ran January 29<sup>th</sup> through February 4<sup>th</sup>, 1996.

*Song of Singapore* starring Loretta Swit ran February 21<sup>st</sup> through February 25<sup>th</sup>, 1996.

*Stomp* written by Luke Cresswell and directed by co-creator Steve McNicholas ran February 27<sup>th</sup> through March 10<sup>th</sup>, 1996.

*Raisins and Almonds* ran March 13<sup>th</sup> through March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1996.

*The Mitzi Gaynor Show* ran March 19<sup>th</sup> through March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1996.

### **1996-1997 season**

*Barrimore* by William Luce and starring Christopher Plummer ran December 3-15, 1996.

*Three Tall Women* by Edward Albee and directed by Lawrence Sacharow starred Lois Merkle, Michael Rhodes, Laurie Kennedy, and Christine Rouner and ran Dec. 18-29, 1996.

*Greetings...Sholom Aleichem Lives!* (originally called *Greetings from Tevye*) written by Alan Knee based on Aleichem's writings starred Theodore Bikel, Bruce Adler and Judy Kaye and ran in early February 1997 before returning again for another run February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 9, 1997.

*Forever Tango* created and directed by Luis Bravo starred Carlos Gavito, Marcela Duran, Fabio Narvaez, Carols Morel, and Miriam Larici and ran February 6-23, 1997.

*Master Class* by Terrence McNally, written as a study of the opera great Maria Callas, starred Faye Dunaway, Kevin Paul Anderson, and Suzan Hanson and ran March 12-23, 1997.

### **1997-1998 season**

*Tap Dogs*, written and choreographed by Dein Perry and directed by Nigel Triffitt with Nathan Sheens as dance captain, ran December 21, 1997 through January 4, 1998.

*Full Gallop*, a one-woman study of Vogue editor-in-chief Diana Vreeland written by Mary Louise Wilson and Mark Hampton and starring Elizabeth Ashley, ran February 10-22, 1998.

*Romeo and Juliet*, a production by Ballet Florida starring Steven Hoff and Jessica Benton (Markus Schaffer and Janine Harris played the lead roles on Sunday) and choreographed by Vicente Nebrada, ran for several nights starting February 28, 1998.

*Here's to Danny!*, a revue of Danny Kaye songs, starred Yiddish theater star Bruce Adler and ran March 3-8, 1998.

*Picasso at the Lapin Agile* written by comedian Steve Martin and starring Mark Nelson as Einstein and Paul Provenza as Picasso, ran March 26-April 5, 1998.

### **1998-1999 season**

*Stomp!*, a non-verbal percussion show devised by Luke Cresswell and Steve McNichol, ran November 10-22, 1998.

*Moon Over Buffalo* written by Ken Ludwig and starring Gavin MacLeod, Nancy Marvy, and Connie SaLoutos, ran December 1-13, 1998.

*Forever Tango* ran December 22, 1998 through January 3, 1999.

In the 1990s??, Anne Jackson and Eli Wallach opened at the Poinciana March 28 (year??) in *Down the Garden Paths*. Also appearing in the show were their daughter, Roberta Wallach, and Amy Stiller, daughter of Jerry Stiller and the play's author, Anne Meara.

November 16 through December 5, 1999, Valerie Harper appeared in *All Under Heaven*.