

**STAGE DOOR CANTEEN**  
**March 1942- July 1946 .25 linear feet**  
**Mss. No. 147**

**Scope & Content:**

Stage Door Canteen collection consists of a 23 page lecture on its history, 35 photocopies of pictures, and 35 photographs.

**History:**

The Stage Door Canteen was started by the American Theatre Wing in 1942 and ended in 1946. Its location was the basement of the 44<sup>th</sup> Street Theater in New York City. Caterers and local merchants provided food and beverages while performers entertained the crowd. There were about 1,700 performers and service staff members who were in charge of keeping the Canteen in operation even during black-outs and curfews. About 3,000 to 4,000 servicemen from all over came to the Canteen to sing, dance, eat and drink before they went off to war. These servicemen, who had different ethnic and racial backgrounds, could socialize at the Canteen without fear of being discriminated against.

**Provenance:**

The collection was donated by SLU Performance and Communication Arts Associate Professor Andrea Nouryeh following her lecture on the Stage Door Canteen April 3, 2006. (2006 Piskor Faculty Lectureship)

**Description of Collection:**

BOX/FOLDER

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|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | 23 page lecture<br>35 photocopies  |
|   | 2 | 35 photographs   |
|   | 3 | Stage Door Canteen materials donated by Mr. Ronald Schneider of Springfield, MA. Material consists of photos, newspaper articles, posters and documents on CD on the Mount Holyoke College "V-8s", an a cappella singing group that performed at the New York Stage Door Canteen |