STAGE DOOR

Footlights Club: The Rehearsal Club, on 53rd Street, between Fifth and Sixth, was a subsidized club, founded in 1913, for young actresses. Edna Ferber's niece, Janet Fox, resided there.

Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923) The great actress of the 19th century French stage; she toured America in stage classics and in vaudeville.

Kit Cornell: (1893-1974) Katharine Cornell, actress/manager and leading lady of the American stage in the 1920s and 30s, with shows including *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*. Famous for prioritizing the stage rather than film career.

Al Woods (1870-1951) Producer of such melodramatic plays as *The Shanghai Gesture* and risqué farces like *Up in Mabel's Room.*

Appleton: The childhood Wisconsin home of Edna Ferber.

Rachel: Stage name of Elisa Felix (1821-1858), petite but passionate classical actress in France's early 19th Century.

Nazimova: Stage name of Alla Nazimova (1879-1945) Russian leading actress in New York and London from 1905; famous for portrayals of Chekhov, Ibsen, and O'Neill heroines.

The Emperor Jones: One-act Expressionist play by Eugene O'Neill (1920), set in the Caribbean with a nearly all-black cast.

Winter Garden: Theater built by the Shubert Brothers on Broadway between 50th and 51st Streets in 1911. Large musical house, made famous by Al Jolson's numerous performances in the '10s and '20s; in 1937, it was playing *The Ziegfeld Follies of 1936.*

Edwin Booth (1833-93): America's greatest classical actor of the 19th Century, famous for Shakespearean portrayals, he retired in 1891; brother of Jon Wilkes Booth.

14th Street Theatre Built in 1866, it was revived in 1926 by actress Eva Le Galliene as a home for her Civic Repertory Company. Clifford Odets' roof-raising one-act agitprop play, "Waiting for Lefty," made its debut there on 6 January 1935. Indeed, the character of Keith Burgess is based largely on the personality and career of Odets, the most famous political playwright of the 1930s.

Topsy: Young slave girl in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which was successfully dramatized by George L. Aiken in a version played around the country from from 1852 to the late 1920s.

Klein's: Women's apparel shop in Union Square, famous for its appeal to ladies on a budget.

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Walter Hampden: (1879-1955) American classical actor. In addition to Shakespeare and Ibsen, he played Edmond Rostand's eponymous hero, Cyrano de Bergerac more than a thousand times, on Broadway and on tour, between 1923 and 1938.

Photoplay: Glossy magazine devoted to film actresses and Hollywood personalities (dates?)

Ringling Brothers/Passion Play: In 1935, impresario Billy Rose took over the immense 5,000 seat Hippodrome Theater to produce *Jumbo*, an extravagant musical about a circus, written by Rodgers and Hart, that featured Jimmy Durante and a live elephant, among much else.

Seventh day: Actors Equity allows producers to fire an actor at the end of the seventh day without severance pay.

Elisabeth Bergner: (1897- ?) Austrian-born actress who, after major career in Germany, made an international career as Shaw's St. Joan; frequent New York appearances after 1935.

Helen Hayes (1900- ?) Diminutive, but impressive America actress, known as "The First Lady of the American Theatre." Mostly known for serious commercial drama, she won great acclaim for portrayal of Queen Victoria in *Victoria Regina* (1935). Terry's final lines from *Stage Door* are quotes from the first act of that play—Victoria's words (in history as well) upon learning she has become Queen.

Alfred Lunt (1892-1977) and **Lyn Fontanne** (1887-1983) The great acting couple of the American theater; married in 1922, they performed in more than two dozen plays together—Shakespeare, Chekhov, Sherwood, Coward—on Broadway and national tour and made only one film together, an adaptation of their stage success, *The Guardsman*, in 1931.

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