

## **Review with Ruth: 1920's Theatre (Grades 9-12 Lesson Plan)**

### **Overview:**

Students will examine Ruth Dorcas Gates' scrapbook, particularly with an eye to the programmes of the theatre shows she attended and the notes she took concerning any shows she had seen. Students will research one of the performances, generating a bibliography of at least four sources (which can include theatre reviews, information touching on where it was first presented, and text, musical recordings, or adaptations pertaining to the play or musical). They will also read the script of the play or musical, and will write a critical review of the show from the perspective of Ruth, as if they had actually seen it, along with a brief historical background.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Students will learn how to conduct research using primary and secondary sources.
- Students will learn to think critically, and imagine how a person such as Ruth might have experienced theatre shows in the 1920's.
- Students will learn more generally about theatre in the 1920's.

### **Resources:**

- The Ruth D. Gates Digital Scrapbook
- School library
- Internet access
- Access to a public library
- Secondary historical material concerning pertinent Plays and Musicals
- Theatre reviews
- Scripts of plays and musicals

### **Procedure:**

- 1.) Review the assignment.
- 2.) Schedule time for students to examine the digital scrapbook and select a theatre programme about which to research and write. (10 -15 minutes)
- 3.) Remind students about primary and secondary sources, and what constitutes an appropriate secondary source. (15 min.)
- 4.) Review how to cite various kinds of secondary sources (15 min).
- 5.) Schedule a visit from the school librarian to review how to use the computers to search for appropriate sources. (15 min.)
- 6.) Schedule a class period in the library specifically for searching for secondary sources. (50 min.)
- 7.) Allow students three weeks to complete their review before handing it in.