

Will It Play in Peoria?

The vaudeville era, 1880-1930

Course #	21FWIP
Format:	Seminar
Moderators:	Nancy Clune Robert Cohen
Date and Time:	Wednesday, 9:30-11:30 AM 10 weeks, starting 9/29/2021
Format:	Online
Maximum number of participants:	25
Auditors accepted:	Yes, up to 2

Purpose: In this seminar, we will explore the American theatrical spectacle known as vaudeville.

Description: From the 1880s through the 1930s, vaudeville shows featured a variety of dramatic scenes, comedy routines, ventriloquists, music and dance, beautiful girls, and circus acts. We will immerse ourselves in the culture of the time and view examples of some of the luminaries who got their start on the vaudeville stage, including Judy Garland, Jack Benny, The Four Cohans, Baby Rose Marie, Gypsy Rose Lee, Sophie Tucker, Fanny Brice, the Nicholas Brothers, Fred and Adele Astaire, and many more. Our goal is to enjoy ourselves as we learn about the history of American entertainment in the vaudeville era.

Role of participants: Participants will choose from a list of topics or propose a topic to the moderators for approval. Class members will prepare informal 15-to-20 minute presentations that may include video clips, photographs, and descriptions of the variety-show format that was vaudeville.

Resources: The moderators will provide a detailed list of recommended websites, books, and other materials covering the era.

About the Moderators: Nancy Clune was born in a trunk in the Princess Theatre in Pocatello, Idaho. Although at birth Bob Cohen could neither read nor write, he later became a man of too many words. He still hopes to write the Great American Couplet.