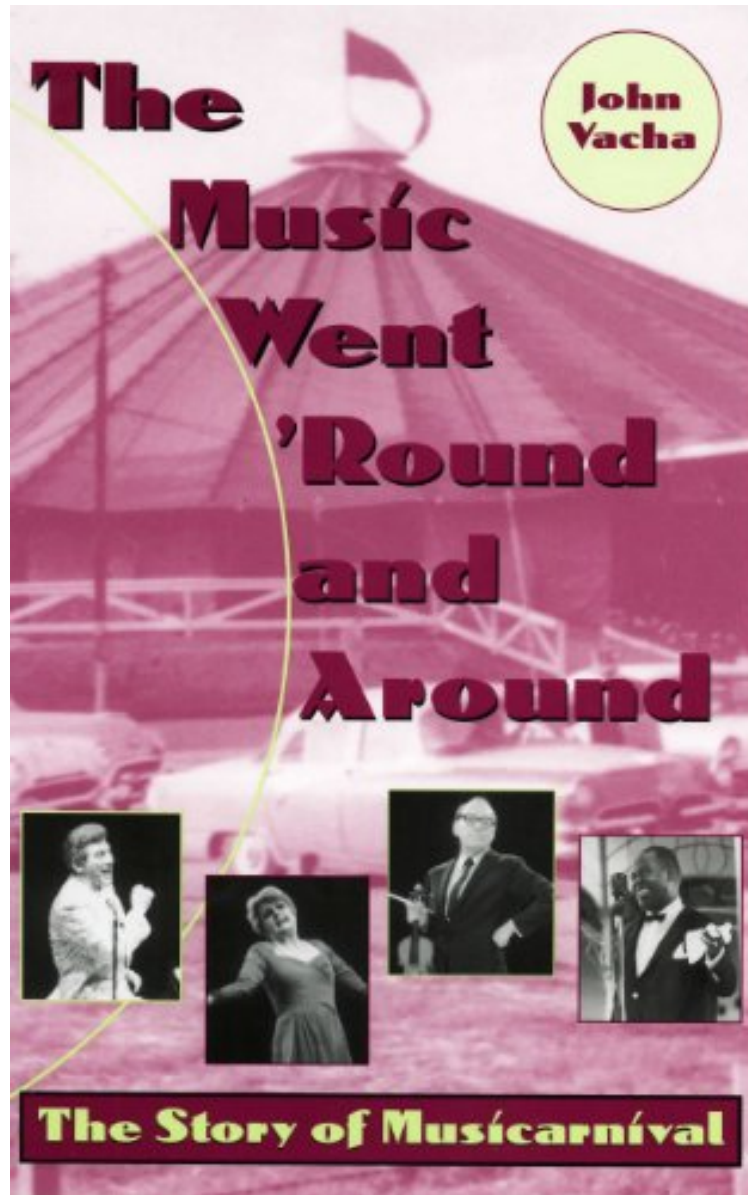


(Library ebook) The Music Went 'Round and Around: The Story of Musicarnival (Cleveland Theater)

The Music Went 'Round and Around: The Story of Musicarnival (Cleveland Theater)

John E. Vacha

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CustomerSpotting a trend in the early 1950s of staging summer theater in the round under tents, Clevelander John L. Price Jr. decided to give it a try. Consulting a local statistician to determine the geographical center of the culturally inclined population, the bull's eye fell in Warrensville Heights, a Cleveland suburb that was also the home to Thistledown Race Track. Price opened his Musicarnival there, on the grounds of the race track, with a production of Oklahoma! in the summer of 1954. The Music Went 'Round and Around tells the story of this unique summer theater and of its ebullient founder John L. Price Jr. Price's venture was one of the last commercial legitimate theaters established in Cleveland. In its heyday the Musicarnival had a capacity of 2500 and presented an average of eight to ten shows1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Music Went Round and Around: The Story of MusicarnivalBy Deanna M. GentileThis book is a very one-sided picture of Musicarnival. There is absolutely NO reference to the technical aspect of running Musicarnival. Many aspects of the tent are not mentioned and many people who were equally involved in the success of the tent and the shows that is before the packaged shows ... are completely left out of the book. The author obviously did very little additional research other than John Price's materials. If you want to read a true book about theatre in Cleveland in the 1938 to 1960's I suggest you read "Halcyon Days" by Dina Reese Evans.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Music Went 'Round and AroundBy Gary DarrowThis book brought back so many memories for me. I was lucky enough to visit Musicarnival during the Production Years and the Concert Years. The book is easy to read and has many remarks by people who lived the "Musicarnival years". It is an easy book to pick up and read any particular section that piques your interest. I recommend it for any musical theatre fan, especially if you are in the Cleveland area.

Spotting a trend in the early 1950s of staging summer theater in the round under tents, Clevelander John L. Price Jr. decided to give it a try. Price opened his Musicarnival in the summer of 1954 with a production of Oklahoma! His venture was one of the last commercial legitimate theaters established in Cleveland. In its heyday Musicarnival presented an average of eight to ten shows each summer, with the backbone of its repertoire consisting of such classics as Carousel; Kiss Me, Kate; Wonderful Town; Fanny; Paint Your Wagon; and The Unsinkable Molly Brown. This is the first book in the Cleveland Theater Series.

About the AuthorJohn Vacha received the Herrick Memorial Award from the Early Settlers Association of the Western Reserve, given in recognition of his recent theatrical history, Showtime in Cleveland (The Kent State University Press, 2001), as well as his service as a district coordinator for History Day.