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nla.gov.au/support-us/PROMPT



A preservation staff member assesses performing arts scrapbooks from the PROMPT collection.

HELP PUT LILY BACK IN THE SPOTLIGHT



FRONT COVER: *Lily Brayton as Iseult in 1906*,
Oscar Ashe and Lily Brayton Scrapbooks
compiled by Maysie Hailes, nla.cat-vn1992586

2018 National Library of Australia
End of Financial Year Appeal

Fragile scrapbooks of performing arts ephemera dating from 1857 are a captivating part of the National Library's collection. They include records of performances by Dame Nellie Melba, Essendon Musical Society concerts and photos of circus and vaudeville performers.

Nestled within the brittle pages of two of the scrapbooks are images of British actress and singer Lily Brayton. On the brink of the First World War, Lily met and married Australian actor, producer and director Oscar Asche.

Together they starred in a series of successful shows, including Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* and musical comedy *Chu Chin Chow*, which was written and directed by Oscar.

A diligent fan lovingly collected images, programs, tickets and news clippings relating to this theatrical duo. The scrapbooks are now part of the PROMPT collection.



Fragile pages from *My Ballet Diary* compiled by S. Gans, between 1952 and 1956, nla.cat-vn1834543

The PROMPT collection is rich in material spanning theatre, vaudeville, ballet, opera and burlesque, all from a time when the stage provided a consistent source of entertainment.

The ephemera within the ageing scrapbooks is an irreplaceable record of social customs, popular culture and major events in our history. Some depict the impact of the First World War, while *My Ballet Diary* from the 1950s tells a more intimate tale of a young girl and the ballerinas she idolised.

But these scrapbooks are extremely fragile, so the beautiful images of Lily, Oscar and many others remain hidden from view. The pages are brittle and torn, the spines are cracked. They are too delicate for researchers to handle.

We need your help to put Lily and Oscar back in the spotlight where they belong. **DONATE NOW** to assist in stabilising the scrapbooks and digitising them for researchers around the world to discover.

Complete and return the attached form or visit nla.gov.au/support-us/PROMPT.



Donation Form

To support performing arts scrapbooks in the PROMPT collection, you can donate online at nla.gov.au/support-us/PROMPT, or return the donation form below. Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible.

This appeal closes on 31 July 2018. Any donations received after this date will be directed towards conservation, digitisation and online access to the Library's collection.

Thank you for supporting the National Library of Australia.

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- PROMPT performing arts scrapbooks
 Conservation and digitisation of the Library's collection

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(Continued overleaf)

