GOALS

• Increase access to minimally-processed archives
• Generate database of Yale theater history
• Answer reference questions:
  • “How many Shakespeare plays have been staged at the School of Drama?”
  • “Which plays did Meryl Streep appear in while she was a student?”
  • “Which actors have played Hamlet at Yale?”
YALE THEATER HISTORY

- Department / School of Drama dates to 1925
- Yale Repertory Theatre founded 1966
  - 100+ world premieres
IDEAS FROM NYPL LABS

- Projects
  - Building Inspector
  - What’s on the Menu?
  - Emigrant City
- Limits of OCR and importance of human judgment
- Semantic relationships latent in print material
  - Hard for computers to see
  - Easy for humans to intuit
SCRIBE AS PLATFORM

- Zooniverse + NYPL Labs + UMN + NEH ODH
- [http://scribeproject.github.io](http://scribeproject.github.io)
- Abstracted platform for crowdsourced transcription with customizable and extensible workflows:
  - **Mark** the area on a page that contains information
  - **Transcribe** the information in the mark
  - [Verify conflicting transcriptions]
Yale School of Drama Presents

THE LOWER DEPTHS

by

MAXIM GORKY

Directed by

EARLE R. GISTER

Feb. 4, Feb. 9-11 at 8 p.m.
TRANSCRIBE

Type the title of the play.
Title
The Lower Depths
Subtitle (Optional)

Type the name of the actor and the name of the character.
Character
Bubnov
Character Description (Optional)
a capmaker
Actor
Dylan Baker
DIGITIZATION

• One semester to digitize all of the programs with student scanners funded by Yale Rep

• Challenges:
  • What counts as a program?
  • Keeping track of filenames, spreadsheets, progress, QA
  • Orientation (shifts from page to page)
  • What about two-page spreads and inserts?
  • Certain seasons had standardized programs with minimal (yet important) variation
May 11, 2 p.m. and May 12, 10 a.m.

UNCLE VANYA by Anton Chekhov
SCENES FROM COUNTRY LIFE
Translated by Ronald Hingley
Directed by WALT JONES
Settings Designed by LOREN SHERMAN
Costumes Designed by ANDREW JACKNESS
Lighting Designed by WILLIAM M. ARMSTRONG

CAST (in order of appearance)
MARINA .......................... MARY VAN DYKE
an old nurse
MIKHAIL ASTROV .............. WARRREN MANZI
a doctor
VANYA VOYNTISKY  ............ THOMAS DERRAH
son of Marya Voyntisky
ALEXANDER SEREBRYAKOV .... WILLIAM J. KE LLER
a retired professor
SONYA .......................... KRISTINE NIELSEN,
daughter of Serebryakov by his first wife
ILYA TELESIN ................... DAVID WILES
a impoverished landowner
YELENA .......................... POLLY DRAPER
wife of Serebryakov, aged 37
MARYA VOYNTISKY ............ ROBIN MERRITT CLARK
widow of a high official, mother of Serebryakov's first wife
WORKMAN ...................... RANDOLPH N. F E R S T E R

The action takes place on the Serebryakov estate,
Late summer, 1897.
There will be one ten-minute intermission.

Company Manager: Domenick
Dramaturg: ................... WALTER JONES
Production Assistant (Uncle Vanya): THOMAS DERRAH
Technical Director: ............ WILLIAM J. KE LLER
Costumer: ................. WARREN MANZI
Master Electrician: .......... POLLY DRAPER
Publicity: ..................... WILLIAM J. KE LLER
Wardrobe Mistress: ............ DAVID WILES
Set Crew: ...................... THOMAS DERRAH
Lighting Crew: .............. WILLIAM J. KE LLER
Publicity Assistant: .......... WALTER JONES
ORGANIZATION & PRESENTATION

• Yale School of Drama and Yale Repertory Theatre ephemera collection has a box / folder organization
• Roughly chronological, but with exceptions for format
• Modified “Dean/Artistic Director” structure simplifies interface and allows browsing
• Structure doesn’t apply to other theatrical archives at Yale (Cabaret, Dramatic Association, etc.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>start_year</th>
<th>name</th>
<th>key</th>
<th>end_year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Department of Drama</td>
<td>department_of_drama</td>
<td>1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>Founding Era</td>
<td>founding_era</td>
<td>1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Robert Brustein</td>
<td>robert_brustein</td>
<td>1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Lloyd Richards</td>
<td>lloyd_richards</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Stanley Wojewodski Jr.</td>
<td>stanj_wojewodski</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>James Bundy</td>
<td>james_bundy</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Years Covered:**
- 1925 - 1955: Department of Drama
- 1955 - 1966: Founding Era
- 1966 - 1979: Robert Brustein
- 1979 - 1991: Lloyd Richards
- 2002 - 2016: James Bundy

**Images:**
- 1925 - 1955: Department of Drama
- 1955 - 1966: Founding Era
- 1966 - 1979: Robert Brustein
- 1979 - 1991: Lloyd Richards
- 2002 - 2016: James Bundy
TRANSCRIPTION
USER EXPERIENCE

• Users transcribe diplomatically and we store that
• No type-ahead or auto-fill affordances
• Accurately reflects their interpretation
• Does not require domain-specific knowledge
• Avoids false precision
  • Is this “Jos. Smith” Joseph or Josiah?
DATA NORMALIZATION

• Will take place “backstage”
• Can use IMDB, Playbill Vault, LoC Name Authority, etc. as research tools
• We will probably extend the existing Admin views of Scribe, or build our own tools
Our diplomatic transcription system captures shift from ‘scenery’ to ‘settings’ to ‘set design’

For researchers, we need an authority file to bring together the underlying production staff function these names represent

AusStage provides such a list: “Set Designer”
LOOKING AHEAD: COMMUNITY & CONTENT

• Engage Yale’s sizable theater community
  • Current students, faculty, alumni/æ
  • 2016-17 is 50th Anniversary Season of Yale Rep

• Adding new collections
  • Yale Cabaret & Summer Cabaret
  • Dramat (Yale Dramatic Association)
  • Yale Drama Coalition
LOOKING AHEAD: OPEN DATA + VISUALIZATIONS

- Towards an interoperable database of theater history
- Institutional data sharing
  - New York Public Library
  - British Library
- Visualization of ‘big theatrical data’
  - Network graph demo
Live Demo
THANK YOU + QUESTIONS?

Acknowledgments
Doug Duhaime (Dev)
Monica Ong Reed (UX)

Ben Vershbow  
Paul Beaudoin  
Mauricio Giraldo  
Doug Reside  

Cathy DeRose  
Steven Padla  
Francesca Livermore  
Maria Zapata  
Danielle Reay  
Alexandra Provo