

OHIO VALLEY CHAPTER
sponsors
GAYLORD CARTER
APPEARANCE IN
CINCINNATI, OHIO

Sunday April 17th, was indeed "C DAY" in the Queen City, ushering in none other than "Flicker Fingers" Carter for his initial appearance in Cincinnati. Sponsored by the Ohio Valley Chapter-A.T.O.E. Gaylord was slated to play a pop organ concert along with the score to the silent film THE MARK OF ZORRO, starring the famed Douglas Fairbanks, Sr.

The focal point of the activity was Cincinnati's famous and last remaining cinema palace, the R.K.O. ALBEE Theatre located at 13 E. - Fifth Street opposite Fountain Square...situated in the heart of the downtown area. Built in the late 1920's the ALBEE has a seating capacity of 3000. The main lobby constructed of marble and generously garnished with gold and crystal, is large enough to house a modern moon rocket. The chandelier that originally hung in this area, up until world war two, was of immense proportions and hung from an electric winch to facilitate cleaning and changing of bulbs. The house was a study of plush carpets and Objects 'D Art; some of which have since been removed.

The ALBEE's three manual Wurlitzer is still intact, but unplayable due to the need for major repairs. The owners of the property have as yet shown no interest in having the organ restored.

In view of the existing situation, the D. H. BALDWIN Company were kind enough to supply their HT-2 theatre model and through the good offices of Eddie "Fabulous" Osborn, an excellent installation resulted. The white and gold console was mounted on the band car with four of their new transistor tone cabinets located on each side. In addition, a total of four tone cabinets were situated in the box seats, the results of which packed a real wallop throughout the house.

Show time was 9:30 P.M., and by 8:30.. a goodly crowd had started to assemble out in front. It had been announced in the papers that the star of the evening would arrive at the theatre about 8:45 P.M. in a 1927 ROLLS-ROYCE, so the interested crowd had come early to get a good look. The ROLLS was driven by Ted McKay, locally well-known program director of radio station W K R C. Gaylord was accompanied on his "trip" to the ALBEE by his host in Cincinnati, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Strader. Upon arrival, flash bulbs snapped and the onlookers loved every minute of it.

Spring '66



Gaylord Carter plays to a full house in Cincinnati



A shot of the crowd waiting in the Albee Theatre Lobby

Promptly at 9:30 P.M. 1500 people had seated themselves to take in what was to come. As soon as John Strader introduced Gaylord, the audience heard the familiar overture theme, The Perfect Song, as the band car slowly rose up from the pit. Upon reaching concert level, the overture was completed and the audience broke into an ovation in an expression of their appreciation for Gaylord's presence, and for the memories brought back by his rendition of the theme. From the moment the pop concert started, until the film ended at 11:50 P.M.-you could have heard a pin drop in the massive auditorium. For the last ten minutes that remained, Gaylord played a set of "sleepy time tunes" and not a soul budged.

At twelve Midnight, the spell was broken and the show was over: the magic

aura of the 1920's that had been so skillfully woven had vanished into the night. Certain members of the audience who had come from as far away as Detroit, Michigan, Indianapolis, Indiana, Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio made their way to the stage in order to greet Gaylord and wish him well for his upcoming performance in Detroit on the 19th. Within a short time the audience was gone, the ALBEE was dark....save for the cleanup crew, preparing for another day of talking pictures. But all who had been present to hear "Flicker-Fingers" knew that the organ and the silent screen had triumphed once again.

John J. Strader for -
 Ohio Valley Chapter-A.T.O.E.