

“I want my club to be a place where actors are away from the glamour of the theater.”

In 1888, Edwin Booth, America’s pre-eminent Shakespearean actor, and 15 other incorporators, including Mark Twain and General William Tecumseh Sherman, founded The Players.

Its purpose: “The promotion of social intercourse between members of the dramatic profession and the kindred professions of literature, painting, architecture, sculpture and music, law and medicine, and the patrons of the arts...”



**Edwin Booth, founder of The Players.**

## Members Past and Present (partial listing)

Edwin Booth \* James Cagney \* Humphrey Bogart  
 \* Walt Disney \* Angela Lansbury \* Peter O’Toole  
 \* Christopher Plummer \* Mark Twain \* L. Frank Baum \* Carol Burnett \* Tony Bennett \* Bebe Neuwirth \* Frank Sinatra \* Walter Cronkite \* Jason Robards \* Morgan Freeman \* Eli Wallach \* Liv Ullmann \* John Steinbeck \* Mary Tyler Moore \* Steve Guttenburg \* Bill Murray \* Jimmy Fallon \* Jose Ferrer \* Cole Porter \* J.P. Morgan \* Cornelius Vanderbilt \* William Tecumseh Sherman \* Stanford White \* Arthur Miller \* Norman Rockwell \* Richard Thomas \* Spencer Tracy \* Martha Plimpton \* Grover Cleveland \* Ernest Hemingway \* John Barrymore \* Bing Crosby \* John Drew \* Helen Hayes \* Rosemary Harris \* Laurence Olivier \* Fiorello LaGuardia \* Leonard Bernstein \* Martin Short \* Al Hirschfeld \* Charles Laughton \* Sherrill Milnes \* Noel Coward \* John Singer Sargent \* Edward Albee \* Pete Hamill \* Ben Gazzara \* Bill Pullman \* Julia Stiles \* Jerry Stiller \* Robert Vaughn \* Ethan Hawke \* Judy Collins \* Julie Harris \* Tommy Lee Jones \* Bert Lahr \* Jack Lemmon \* Harold and Fayard Nicholas \* Eugene O’Neill \* Richard Rodgers \* Irving Berlin \* Lionel Barrymore \* John Carradine \* Timothy Hutton \* Dwight D. Eisenhower \* John V. Lindsay \* Lauren Bacall \* Harry Belafonte \* Dick Cavett \* David N. Dinkins \* Gregory Peck \* Tony Randall \* Jack Klugman \* Fredric March \* Clark Gable \* John Gielgud \* Judith Malina \* Marian Seldes \* Tatsuya Nakadai \* Sir Roger Moore

Created by Jeanna Ritto

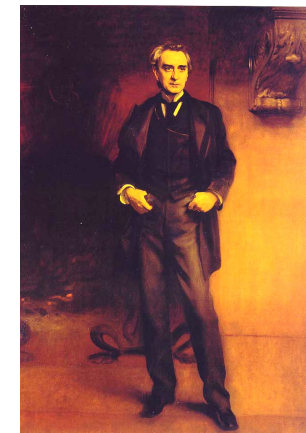
## The Players

Embracing the Future,  
Preserving the Past

*A Certain Club*



“I like this place. And willingly could waste my time in it.” -*As You Like It*



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**“We do not mingle enough with minds that influence the world.”**

***Edwin Booth***

In 1888, Edwin Booth purchased a mansion in the center of Gramercy Park and had it redesigned by famed architect Stanford White to become the home of The Players. For generations, The Players has brought actors into contact with people of different professions and served as a gathering place for painters, art patrons, journalists, authors, intellectuals, sculptors, architects, and professionals within the business community. In addition to being a home for social interaction, The Players continues to preserve its heritage by remaining a repository of both American and British theater history, memorabilia, and theatrical artifacts. Visitors can view one of the finest collections of theatrical art extant including John Singer Sargent’s great portraits of actors Lawrence Barrett and Joseph Jefferson, second president of The Players. Theatrical memorabilia like rare playbills from the 19th and 20th centuries, the Savonarola chair used by John Barrymore when playing Hamlet and Mark Twain’s pool cue are also on display.



**The Booth Room**

Other must-sees are the Booth Room (the bedroom kept for Edwin Booth in the club for his New York visits), virtually unaltered since his death there in 1893 and the Hampden-Booth Theater Library, dedicated to Booth’s dream of creating “a library of the American stage and the preservation of pictures, bills of the play, photographs, and curiosities connected with such history..”

### **Benefits**

The Players has always been a club where people meet and mingle with individuals from a variety of professions and businesses. Although those in the theater will find many others in artistic occupations, a large percentage of members come from fields outside the theatrical world, creating a diverse and compelling group of extraordinary people.

One way to enjoy the warm camaraderie is by having a delicious meal and relaxing with fellow Players at the Players Grill, “one of the best bars in New York.” Members may also gain entrance to the Players’ reciprocal clubs, including London’s Garrick Club, New York’s Friar’s Club, and some 30 other clubs throughout the world.

We also offer many different types of events throughout the year from readings and lectures to musical evenings and theatrical presentations. Every month the club holds a “Meet Your Fellow Players” cocktail party where one can enjoy the company of the club’s captivating community. In addition, the Players hold frequent Pipe Nights to honor significant cultural figures, as well as an annual Hall of Fame ceremony in which past and present members are honored for their great accomplishments.

### **Becoming a Member**

It’s a fairly simple process:

- 1) Pick up a Membership Kit at the front desk or call our office at (212) 475-6116.
- 2) Be sure to read all paperwork included and complete the required application and contact sheet.
- 3) You must be nominated and seconded by two current members in good standing. If you don’t think you know any members, please call our office and speak with someone from our Admissions Committee. They can help guide you through the process.
- 4) You’ll be issued a guest card to use while getting to know the club’s customs and meeting members.
- 5) Meet with the Admissions Committee.
- 6) If the Committee approves your application, and the Board agrees, welcome! Now enjoy the Players for years to come!

