

The Musical 'Chicago' and All That Genealogical Jazz

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Structure of this Presentation

- Compare Chicago (the Musical) to Real Life Event
 - Plot of the musical
 - What really happened?
- Chicago: the Prequel (how did they get there?)
 - Beulah (Roxie)
 - Belva (Velma)
- Chicago: the Sequel (what happened afterwards?)
 - Beulah (Roxie)
 - Belva (Velma)
- Summarize



Beulah Annan



Belva Gaertner

Chronology of events

11 March 1924: Belva Gaertner kills Robert Law

3 April 1924: Beulah Annan kills Harry Kolsted

25 May 1924: Beulah found not guilty

6 June 1924: Belva found not guilty

30 Dec 1926: Play (comedy) "Chicago" opens on Broadway

13 March 1928: Beulah Annan dies in Chicago

1927: Silent film released (produced by Cecile B. DeMille)

1942: Warner Bros made 2nd movie now titled "Roxie Hart" starring Ginger Rogers, Adolphe Menjou, Spring Byington, and George Montgomery

May 1965: Belva Gaertner dies of natural causes in CA at age 80

1969: Maurine Watkins dies (rights released for play)

3 June 1975: B'way musical opens starring Chita Rivera, Gwen Verdon, and Jerry Orbach.

27 December 2002: Film released starring Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Richard Gere, and Queen Latifah (won Oscar for best movie).

1996: B'way revival opens (wins Tony for best revival).

2002: Chicago, the movie, released.

Websites (Beulah)

- IL archives website: **www.cyberdriveillinois.com**
- Chicago Records: **ChicagoGenealogy.com**
- Chicago Tribune Historical Archive 1849-1985 : **Proquest**
(available at libraries)
- Chicago Tribune Historical Archive: 1849-1985: **Newsbank**
(available at libraries)
- SSDI via Family Tree Legends:
www.familytreelegends.com/ssdi
- Birthdates: **stevemorse.org/birthday**
- Wikipedia: **en.wikipedia.org**
- National geographic: **www.nationalgeographic.com/**

Websites (Belva)

- Chicago Homicide database: **homicide.northwestern.edu/database**
- Google Books: **books.google.com**
- Google News Archive: **news.google.com/archivesearch**
- Cook County Assessor's Office: **www.cookcountyassessor.com**

References

- Chicago: 1926 play by Maureen Watkins
- Roxie Hart: 1942 Movie
- Chicago by Bill Condon
- Murder City by Michael Lesy
- "Butterfly Goes Free" short story by Maureen Watkins about death of girl whose life is similar to Beulah Annan

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