

100 YEARS AT 50 WEST

% Irene Fenwick

Moved to 50 West in 1917

Malcolm E. Smith and Rudolph C. Culver have rented apartments in 50 West Sixty-seventh street to Frank Hemstreet, Clara Guttman, Irene Fenwick, Louise Kellogg and Mary E. Lothrop.

Sun, September 6, 1917, p. 7





From obituary, Chicago Tribune, December 25, 1936:

Irene Fenwick, Wife of Lionel Barrymore, Dies

Beverly Hills... Mrs. Lionel Barrymore, known in motion pictures as Irene Fenwick, died today... Her actor-husband was at her bedside....

Barrymore married Miss Fenwick July 14, 1923, in Rome, following their appearance together in "The Claw" and in several of the actor's most successful Broadway plays.

The couple continued to appear together in New York plays with Miss Fenwick as her husband's leading lady until Barrymore deserted the stage for the screen. Their marriage had been considered among the more successful ones of Hollywood. Both had been married before....

Mrs. Barrymore was 49 years old.... Born Irene Frizzel in Chicago, Mrs. Barrymore began her stage career there when 17 years old. Her first role was a small part in the play Peggy from Paris," in which she played under her real name.





From advertisement in *The Theatre*, August 1916:

In a comparatively short time, Miss Irene Fenwick has loomed up as one of our most popular comediennes. Her recent success in "the Family Cupboard" and "The Song of Songs" are still fresh in the minds of playgoers. Miss Fenwick is shown in a Knox Hat....



THE THEATRE





From Cosmopolitan, April 1915:

Irene of the Saving Grace

When, last season, the producers of "The Family Cupboard" were in search of an attractive "skeleton" who could admit that she was an utterly unmoral little baggage and do so without serious shock to the conservatively decent sisters and brothers in the audience, they sent for Irene Fenwick.

And when, this season, they were looking for some one who could play, without the aid of police protection, the rather lurid heroine of "The Song of Songs," they again called in Irene Fenwick.

She has, in the managerial mind, become a sort of first aid to the daring drama – a small but effective feminine shockabsorber. Her public...[feel that] Irene is a good girl and one who would not – nay, could not – do wrong. And in fact nothing about her does suggest the sensual type of city siren....



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Trene of the Saving Grace



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From *The Sun*, May 11, 1923:

Actress Who Is To Wed Lionel Barrymore Abroad

Miss Irene Fenwick, prominent actress, last seen in "The Claw," when she played with Lionel Barrymore and his then wife, Miss Doris McKee Rankin, today confirmed a report that she and Mr. Barrymore are to be married within a short time.... "Heaven knows how the newspapers learned of my divorce," said Miss Fenwick today. "Now that the secret's out, however, I shan't try to conceal the rest. Mr. Barrymore will join me in Europe next month and we will be married abroad."