



## IN ENGLAND WITH GROWING SUCCESS

A major change occurred for Bea in 1912 when her sister Muriel quit her music training and married local merchant and politician Jack Burnett without her parents' permission. Mrs. Lillie was not impressed and took Muriel to France to renew her music training. But the threat of war forced them instead to England where Bea, with money from father, soon joined them. Two hard years followed as Bea sought work in the entertainment business.

## BEA'S CAREER BLOSSOMS

Finally, in August 1914, on the day that war was declared in Europe, Bea Lillie was given her first contract by the man who would guide her for the next twenty years. At £15/week Andre Charlot added her to his London revue in which she sang a coy number, "I Want a Toy Soldier".

Music hall entertaining was not an easy life, but Bea was a quick study. She wasn't great at learning lines but was great at reading an audience. She learned to turn mistakes to her advantage and throw out double-entendres with style. A simple pillbox hat became her stylistic cliché.

Bea made her London, West End debut in 1914 in a show called "Not Likely!" Another dozen London shows and revues followed. By the end of the year Bea had begun to establish herself.

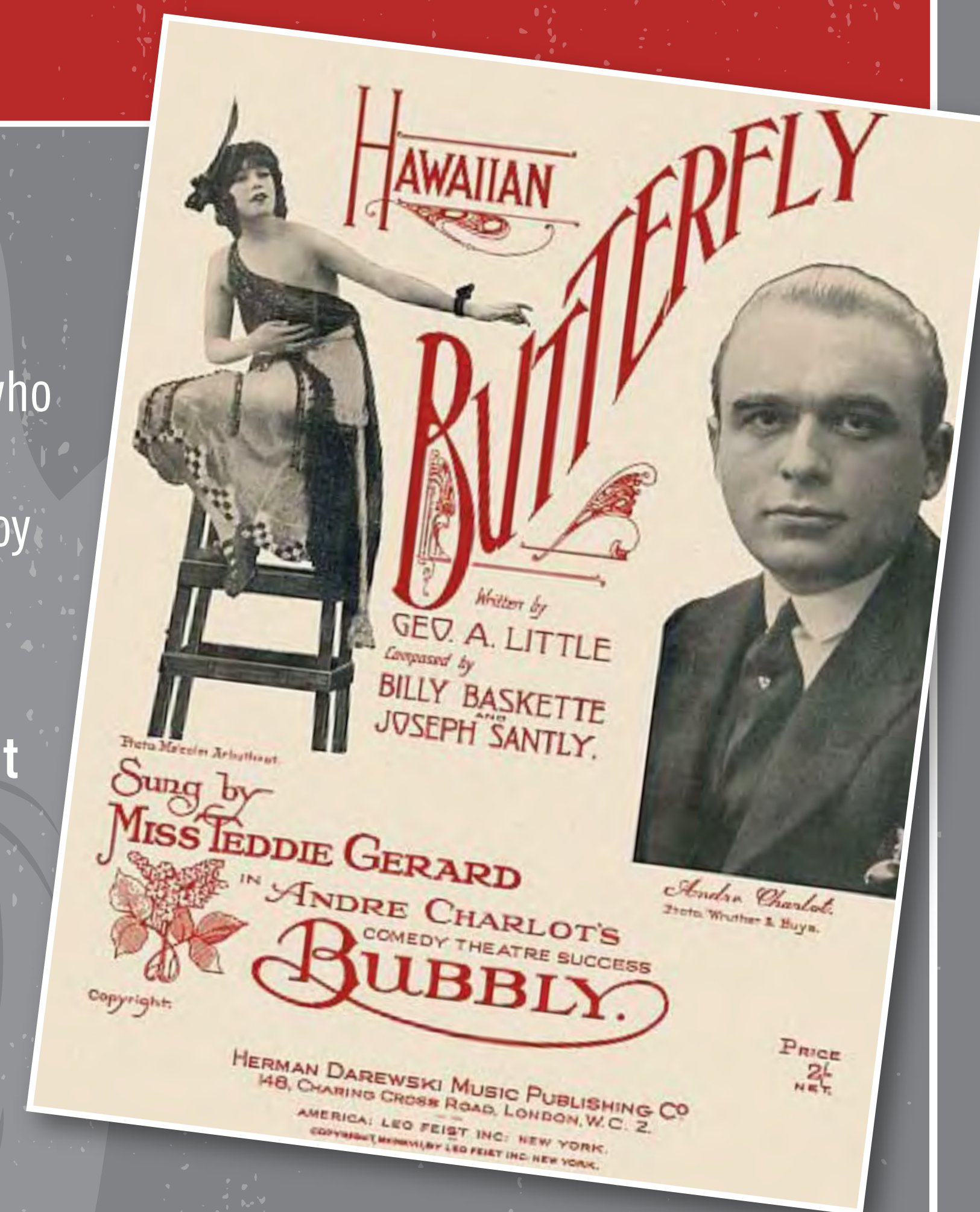


Photo by Yousuf Karsh

