

For immediate release:

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March of the Black Hussars: Viennese Operetta in America
Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 6 pm at Tampa Theatre

Tampa, FL – Henry B. Plant Museum and Tampa Theatre are pleased to announce the premiere of the documentary, *March of the Black Hussars: Viennese Operetta in America*, on Sunday, April 27, at 6 pm. Tampa Theatre will host the premiere of the documentary film, followed by a live performance of a song from the operetta and a brief conversation with the film’s director and producers.

Why would Gilded Age audiences flock to theaters in American cities to see a Viennese operetta that celebrated German nationalism and militarism? A team of University of Tampa faculty and students from the disciplines of history, music, and musical theater set out to answer this question. Local filmmaker Steven Nye followed the project, which culminated in a live performance of songs from Carl Millöcker’s *The Black Hussar*. Filmed at the historic Tampa Theatre, the reenactment used the libretto, stage manager’s notes, and conductor’s score from the original American production to bring this forgotten work back to life. Commentary from the research team explains why the musical comedy spent over a decade at the center of U.S. popular culture.

Admission to the premiere is free. Doors open to the public at 5:30 pm.

Stay for Tampa Theater’s second feature, *The Pirates of Penzance*, the hit 1983 film adaptation of the Gilbert and Sullivan classic by director Wilford Leach. General admission is \$10 and will start approximately at 7:15 pm. Purchase tickets for the second feature at tampatheatre.org.

Funding for *March of the Black Hussars: Viennese Operetta in America* was provided by a grant from the University of Tampa Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry. Additional support came from the Henry B. Plant Museum and the University of Tampa College of Social Sciences, Mathematics, and Education.

This special event is offered in conjunction with the Henry B. Plant Museum’s newest exhibit, *Dressed for Success: Fashioning Manhood at the Tampa Bay Hotel*. The exhibit will run through December 23, 2025.

Dressed for Success is graciously underwritten by:

Amalie Motor Oil, The Beck Group, The Frank E. Duckwall Foundation, Charles and Elizabeth Harris, and Raymond James.