

**Some of the earliest
theatre groups to
become established in
the aftermath of the
Civil War were in
northern California, far
from the battle.**

**The Hyers Sisters
were important
performers of
musical theatre in
northern
California.**

**The Hyers Sisters
were apparently the
earliest black
theatre ensemble to
stage a musical set
in Africa.**

**The Hyers Sisters
were precursors to
black musical
theatre in America.**

**Robert E. Ford, a
successful playwright
of the time, went to the
Old Testament for the
source of his historical
drama *Ham, the
Accursed.***

**Henrietta Vinton
Davis was the premier
actor of all 19th
century black
performers on the
dramatic stage.**

The olio, a favorite stage element of the time, consisted of of specialty acts by various song-and-dance performers.

The Creole Show, brainchild of manager Sam T. Jack, was a burlesque entertainment fest featuring lavish costumes, minstrelsy/vaudevillian acts, and veteran black performers.

The Creole Show
premiered in
Haverhill,
Massachusetts and
then opened in NYC
later 1890.

The Creole Show went on to have a major influence on black musical theatre, and offered alternatives to the tiresome black folk caricatures.