



Resource 1

From Dewberry, Jonathan. "The African Grove Theatre and Company," *Black American Literature Forum* v.16 [1982] pp.129

The African Grove Theatre and Company had to be mobile when they started doing plays because the police were constantly raiding their performances and pressuring them to stop performing, due to the rowdiness of the white members of the audience.

William Over states that the whites had initially found it curious and amusing that a company of black actors was attempting to do Shakespeare, but that they later became very hostile.

The African Theatre attempted to remedy the situation by creating a partitioned area for whites at the back of the theatre, but the hostile whites continued to create disturbances which eventually closed the theater.