



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Louise Evans Briggs-Hall theatre collection**

1941-1992

Sc MG 501

## Summary

**Creator:** Briggs-Hall, Louise Evans, 1921-1992

**Title:** Louise Evans Briggs-Hall theatre collection

**Date:** 1941-1992

**Size:** 0.01 linear feet (1 folder)

**Source:** Gift of Kathy A. Perkins, July 2008.

**Abstract:** Louise Evans Briggs-Hall (1921-1992) was the first African-American woman to become a member of the United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829, in the early 1950s. She began her career directing children's theatre. She later added stage scenic production and costume and lighting design to her list of accomplishments. Considered an African-American pioneer in the field of costume and set design, Briggs-Hall also directed theatrical productions. The Louise Evans Briggs-Hall Theatre Collection consists of funeral programs, playbills, flyers, and reviews for productions directed and designed by Briggs-Hall.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Louise Evans Briggs-Hall theatre collection, Sc MG 501, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Accessioned by Miranda Mims, October 2011.

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: set and costume designs.

## Creator History

Louise Evans Briggs-Hall (1921-1992), born in St. Louis, Missouri was the first African-American woman to become a member of the United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829, in the early 1950s. She began her career directing children's theatre with the Children's Theatre of Evanston, the Thalian

Society, and the Chicago Park District. She later added stage scenic production and costume and lighting design to her list of accomplishments. Considered an African-American pioneer in the field of costume and set design, Briggs-Hall also directed theatrical productions such as *The Life We Live* and was designer and technical director for productions such as *As You Like It* and *George Washington Slept Here*.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Louise Evans Briggs-Hall Theatre Collection consists of funeral programs (1992), playbills, flyers, and reviews for productions directed and designed by Briggs-Hall. Additionally, there are materials that relate to the United Scenic Artists' Costume Designer's exam (1952-1954), and various identification cards, some relating to her professional memberships. Some items are photocopies.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American actresses  
African Americans in the performing arts  
Theater -- Production and direction -- United States  
Theater management -- United States

### **Names**

Briggs-Hall, Louise Evans, 1921-1992  
United Scenic Artists. Local USA 829