



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

Guide to the

Leonard Hayward papers

1959-1984

Sc MG 693

Summary

Creator: Hayward, Leonard

Title: Leonard Hayward papers

Date: 1959-1984

Size: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Salvaged from apartment following Hayward's death by Jonathan Brahms, October 2001.

Abstract: Leonard Hayward was a stage actor and a dramatic baritone who sang in operas, nightclubs, religious choirs, musicals, and television shows. This collection consists, for the most part, of biographical material, Hayward's writings, memorabilia from his acting career, and partitions for various songs arranged by or for the artist.

Preferred citation: [Item], Leonard Hayward papers, Sc MG 693, 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 Andre Elizee, October 2001.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: advertising panel

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio material. For more information, please contact the division at schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

Creator History

Born of humble circumstances in Alexandria, Louisiana, in 1934, Leonard Hayward was a stage actor and a dramatic baritone who sang in operas (*Aida*, *La Traviata*), nightclubs, and religious choirs.

Theater Inc. in Houston cast him as Joe in a 1957 production of the musical *Show Boat*, a part that he continued to play in various venues until 1974. He appeared on Broadway in *Porgy and Bess*, *House Party*, and *Lost in the Stars*. He was featured in television and radio commercials, and among other occupations was a voice teacher, an inventor, a private detective, and a writer. In 1974, he patented a cigarette holder he invented to help people quit smoking. His writing efforts include: a how-to book, *An Easy Step-by-Step Guide to Singing with Your Eyes Open* (1974); a playscript, *Forty-Eight Plus Two* (1984); a screenplay, *Breaking Bread with the Devil* (n.d.); and an unfinished novel, "White No More". He also owned and operated a laundromat, a fish store, and a building maintenance business. He died in 2001.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists, for the most part, of biographical material, Hayward's writings, memorabilia from his acting career, and partitions for various songs arranged by or for the artist.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American actors
African American authors
African American entertainers
African Americans -- Music
African Americans in the performing arts

Names

Hayward, Leonard

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence
- b. 1 f. 3 Scrapbook
- b. 1 f. 4 Membership and contracts
- b. 1 f. 5 Financial
- b. 1 f. 6 Inventions
 - Acting career
- b. 1 f. 7 *The Best of Broadway*
- b. 1 f. 8 *Porgy and Bess*
- b. 1 f. 9-10 *Show Boat*
 - Includes playscript and musical score.
- b. 1 f. 11 Commercials
 - Writing
- b. 1 f. 12 "The Rattlesnake and the Maypop"
- b. 1 f. 13 *An Easy Step-by-Step Guide to Singing with Your Eyes Open*
- b. 1 f. 14 "The Black General"
- b. 1 f. 15 *Breaking Bread with the Devil*
- b. 1 f. 16-17 *Forty-Eight Plus Two*
 - b. 2 f. 1 Includes drafts and a script with an alternate title, *Forty-Eight Plus Two: A Geographical Rap*.
- b. 2 f. 2-6 "White No More"
- b. 2 f. 7 Miscellaneous
- b. 2 f. 8-9 Musical arrangements and partitions