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Billy Rose Theatre Division**

Guide to the

Norman Beim papers

1957-2007

*T-Mss 2009-003

Compiled by Lauren Dzura, Palmer School, 2012, February 2012

Summary

Creator: Beim, Norman

Title: Norman Beim papers, 1957-2007

Size: 3.78 linear feet (9 boxes)

Source: Gift of Norman Beim, 2009.

Abstract: Norman Beim is a prize-winning playwright, actor, and director. Beim has produced and published dozens of plays, and acted on stage, television, and film. Focusing on his work as a playwright from 1952 to 2007, the Norman Beim papers contain play scripts, theater programs, correspondence, travel memorabilia, newspaper clippings, postcards, photographs, and scrapbooks.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photography and photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

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Preferred citation: Norman Beim papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Duplicate programs were removed and returned to the Library for the Performing Arts.

Creator history

Norman Beim is a Jewish-American playwright, actor, and director. Beim was born on October 2, 1923 in Newark, N.J. Originally intending to be a novelist, Beim attended Ohio State University from 1941 to 1942 and left to serve in the United States Army Field Artillery from 1942 to 1945 during World War II. While fighting in Germany, Beim was awarded second prize in the National Theater Conference competition for his first one-act play, *Inside*, which was first produced in 1951. After returning from the war, Beim continued writing and also worked as an actor.

Beim has won numerous awards for his plays, including the Robert J. Pickering Award, the David James Ellis Award, the Maxim Mazumdar Award, as well as the Samuel French Short Play Award for *The Deserter*. Beim's plays have been produced nationally and internationally. In the 1980s, *Pygmalion and Galatea* was produced in the Netherlands, as well as the play *Success*, which was also produced in Bruges, Belgium.

As an actor, Beim appeared in the Broadway production *Inherit the Wind*, which ran from 1955 to 1957, and Off-Broadway productions such as *Coriolanus* in 1954 and *Black Visions* in 1972. Beim also did some acting in television and film. Beim published two novels, *Hymie and the Angel* in 1999 and *Zygielbaum's Journey* in 2011, in addition to ten collections of his plays. Beim's play collections have been used as textbooks for an English course at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. In the 2000s, Beim worked as a resident playwright for two seasons at the Off-Broadway Turtle Shell Theatre in New York City, where several of his plays have run. Beim's plays continue to be produced in theaters around the country as of 2012.

Scope and content note

The Norman Beim papers (1952-2007) consist of play scripts, scrapbooks, photographs, newspaper clippings, theater programs, correspondence, maps, travel memorabilia, and postcards. The play scripts make up the bulk of the collection, serving as a catalog to Beim's lifelong career as a playwright. Most of the scripts are undated, with some dated between 1973 to 1978 and 2004 to 2007. There is an original copy of Beim's award-winning play, *Inside*, from 1952, with note cards that display comments from judges of the Philadelphia Art Alliance Playwrighting Contest and a single page playbill from the Columbia Theater Associates production. This collection includes copies of Beim's scripts in other languages. *Pygmalion and Galatea* is in English and Dutch and *Success* is in English, Dutch, and French. An early draft of Beim's first novel, *Hymie and the Angel*, is included as well.

This collection contains two scrapbooks. Contents include theater programs, maps of London and Amsterdam, correspondence and photographs relating to the Amsterdam production of *Success*, as well as travel photographs. Other notable items include clippings; theater programs; postcards from London, Amsterdam, Ashland, O.R., Princeton, N.J., San Francisco, C.A., and Minneapolis, M.N.; foreign coins; and other tourist memorabilia documenting Beim's travels.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by title.

Key terms

Subjects

Actors and actresses
Dramatists, American
Playwriting

Names

Beim, Norman

Special formats

Photograph albums
Photographs
Plays (document genre)
Postcards
Scripts (documents)
Theater programs

Container list

General

- b.1 f.1 Clippings and Programs, circa 1983
- b.1 f.2 Travel Memorabilia, 1983-1989

Novel

- b.3 f.4 *Hymie and the Angel*, undated

Play Scripts

- b.1 f.3 *After Sex, Then What?*, undated
- b.1 f.4 *All American*, undated
- b.1 f.5 *Archie's Comeback*, undated
- b.1 f.6 *An Audience of One*, undated
- b.1 f.7 *A Battle of Valor*, undated
- b.1 f.8 *Black and White*, undated
- b.1 f.9 *By the Rivers of Babylon*, undated
- b.1 f.10 *Chessman*, undated
- b.1 f.11 *Cock of the Walk*, undated
- b.2 f.1 *The Costume Ball*, undated
- b.2 f.2 *Dancing in the Dark*, undated
- b.2 f.3 *Deep in the Heart of Texas*, undated
- b.2 f.4 *The Deserter*, undated
- b.2 f.5 *The Disintegration of Della Longstreet*, undated
- b.2 f.6 *Dracula, a Modern Fable*, 1978
- b.2 f.7 *Dreams*, undated
- b.2 f.8 *An Emergency Meeting*, circa 2007
- b.2 f.9 *End of the Line*, undated (A Mini Play)
- b.2 f.10 *An Evening at the Villa Diodati*, undated
- b.2 f.11 *The Failure*, undated
- b.2 f.12 *Family Values*, undated
- b.2 f.13 *The Fandango Tango*, undated (A Comedy Noir)
- b.2 f.14 *The Female of the Species*, undated
- b.3 f.1 *Food Stamps*, undated
- b.3 f.2 *A Fool of Passion*, undated
- b.3 f.3 *The Hit*, undated
- b.3 f.5 *Inside*, Original, 1952
- b.3 f.6 *I Went to a Marvelous Party*, undated
- b.3 f.7 *If Love Were All*, undated
- b.3 f.8 *An Impossible Cure*, undated
- b.3 f.9 *It Tolls for Thee*, undated
- b.3 f.10 *Jewel Thieves!*, undated
- b.3 f.11 *Just the Echo of a Sigh*, undated
- b.4 f.1 *King of the Israelites*, undated
- b.4 f.2 *Kingdom by the Sea*, undated
- b.4 f.3 *A Leg of the Journey*, undated

Play Scripts (cont.)

- b.4 f.4 *The Legend of Alcestis or A Matter of Life and Death*, undated
- b.4 f.5 *The Liberation of Linda Dworkin*, undated
- b.4 f.6 *The Literary Lesson*, undated
- b.4 f.7 *Lonely Places*, undated
- b.4 f.8 *Looking at the Stars*, undated
- b.4 f.9 *Lost in Midian*, undated
- b.4 f.10 *A Love Story*, undated
- b.4 f.11 *Luck of the Draw*, undated
- b.5 f.1 *Lulu in Babylon*, undated
- b.5 f.2 *A Marriage of Convenience*, undated
- b.5 f.3 *My Dinner with Mark*, undated
- b.5 f.4 *On a Darkling Plain*, circa 2006
- b.5 f.5 *On Edge*, undated
- b.5 f.6 *Pickled Peppers*, undated
- b.5 f.7 *The Prince Who Ate in the Morning*, undated
- Pygmalion and Galatea*
- b.5 f.8 English, 1973
- b.5 f.9 Dutch, undated
- b.6 f.1 *The Queen of Persia*, 2007
- b.6 f.2 *A Queen's Revenge*, undated
- b.6 f.3 *The Reluctant Critic*, undated
- b.6 f.4 *A Rose of Sharon*, undated
- b.6 f.5 *A Serpent's Tooth*, undated
- b.6 f.6 *Shakespeare Revisited*, undated
- b.6 f.7 *Society Wife*, undated
- b.6 f.8 *Someday I'll Find You*, undated (A Comedy Noir)
- Success*
- b.6 f.9 English, undated
- b.6 f.10 English and Dutch, 2004
- b.7 f.1 French, undated
- b.7 f.2 *Tinsel on the Tree*, undated (A Mini Play)
- b.7 f.3 *The Tyranny of Love*, undated
- b.7 f.4 *Twenty Years Later*, undated
- b.7 f.5 *Un Cri de Couer*, undated
- b.7 f.6 *Unheard Melodies*, undated
- b.7 f.7 *Vampires in L.A.*, undated
- b.7 f.8 *A Walk Among the Flowers*, undated
- b.7 f.9 *Women Are Women*, undated
- b.7 f.10 *The Would-Be Opera Singer*, undated

Play Scripts (cont.)

- b.7 f.11 *Zygielbaum*, undated
- b.7 f.12 *Zygielbaum's Journey*, undated

Scrapbooks

- b.8 1982-1984
- b.9 1983-1985