

**The New York Public Library
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center
Billy Rose Theatre Division**

Guide to the

Joel Grey papers

1904-2001 (bulk 1949-2001)

*T-Mss 2000-018

Compiled by Diana Bertolini, March 2012

Summary

Creator: Grey, Joel, 1932-

Title: Joel Grey papers, 1904-2001 (bulk 1949-2001)

Size: 10.95 linear feet (29 boxes)

Source: Donated by Joel Grey, 2001.

Abstract: Joel Grey (1932-) is an American actor, singer, dancer and director, working in theatre and film from the 1950s through the present. The Joel Grey Papers contain publicity and general production files, scripts, photographs and memorabilia on stage productions Joel Grey appeared in. There are also production materials on television, radio and film projects he did and solo acts/personal appearances.

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

Preferred citation: Joel Grey papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: The Joel Grey Papers arrived in three approximate runs of Production Files (publicity, contracts, etc.) Scripts and Photographs These materials were all merged into one run of Production Files. The materials on solo acts, recordings, benefits, and concerts were grouped together in the Special Appearances section.

Creator history

Joel Grey was born Joel David Katz on April 11, 1932, in Cleveland, Ohio. His father Mickey Katz was a musician and comedian, well-known for his parody songs and routines, usually written for a Jewish audience, sometimes in Yiddish. Joel Grey began his career in his father's shows, as a child actor.

Grey spent the 1950s appearing in stock productions and two Broadway revues, Borscht Capades (1951) and The Littlest Revue (1956). He also had roles in a few film and television projects. In the early 1960s he moved up to replacing a lead role on Broadway in the Neil Simon comedy, Come Blow Your Horn. His next job was replacing Anthony Newley in Stop the World--I Want to Get Off! Grey also replaced Newley in his next star vehicle, The Roar of the Greasepaint-The Smell of the Crowd, this time on tour though. He also replaced Tommy Steele in Half a Sixpence on Broadway.

At this point in his career, it was clear that Grey could carry a show, but he was growing impatient of replacement gigs and dreaming of originating his own starring role. This opportunity came in the form of a new musical written by John Kander, Fred Ebb and Joe Masteroff and directed by Harold Prince, based on John Van Druten's play *I am a Camera*, which had been based on Christopher Isherwood's *Berlin Stories*. The show was *Cabaret* and Grey was cast as the Master of Ceremonies, a role which made him a star and won him the 1967 Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical. When Bob Fosse directed the film version of *Cabaret* in 1972, Grey re-created his role and won the Academy Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role, joining a select group of nine actors who have won the Tony and the Oscar for the same role.

After *Cabaret*, Grey had no trouble getting starring roles in new musicals, and he followed it with *George M!*, (1968) a musical biography of the legendary performer and song-writer George M. Cohan. In the 1970s he starred in two more musicals. *Goodtime Charley*, by Larry Grossman, Hal Hackaday and Sidney Michaels, was an original musical based on the Joan of Arc legend starring Grey as the Dauphin and Ann Reinking as Joan. Grey's next show was Jerry Herman's *The Grand Tour*, based on Franz Werfel and S. N. Berman's play *Jacobowsky and the Colonel*. Though the show only had a short run, Grey's nuanced and sensitive performance was universally praised.

In the 1980s Grey took a chance by breaking away from his song and dance man image to tackle a challenging role in a controversial new play when he was cast as the highly strung whistle blower Ned Weeks in Larry Kramer's harrowing drama about AIDS, *The Normal Heart* (1985) which played off-Broadway at The Public Theater. He also starred in a revival of *Cabaret* in 1987.

In 1996 Grey appeared in a revival of another Kander and Ebb show, *Chicago*, in the City Center Encores! Series, on Broadway and in London. Grey played Amos Hart opposite his *Goodtime Charley* co-star Ann Reinking. In 2003 he originated the role of The Wizard of Oz in *Wicked*. In 2011, he appeared as Moonface Martin in a revival of *Anything Goes* and directed the first Broadway production of *The Normal Heart*, for which he won the Tony as Best Director of a Play.

Throughout his theatre career, Grey has continued to appear regularly in various films and television series.

Grey was married to actress Jo Wilder from 1958 to 1982. They have two children, a son, James and Actress Jennifer Grey.

Scope and content note

The Joel Grey Papers consist mainly of production materials on plays, musicals, films and television programs Grey appeared in. These files include scripts, correspondence, awards, background research files, set design drawings and blueprints, sheet music and production information such as contact sheets, agreements, casting notes, call sheets and rehearsal schedules. Correspondence usually is made up of opening night telegrams and cards and occasionally fan mail. Scripts are often annotated with notes about technical and creative aspects of production. Photographs in this collection are both posed and live production shots, backstage and rehearsal candid and in one case, a series of photographs documenting Grey's hair and make-up routine. There are also publicity materials such as clippings, press releases, interviews, reviews, flyers, souvenir books and programs and copies of Al Hirschfeld drawings. The Special Appearances Files cover not production-specific performances, such as nightclub acts, solo shows, benefits, concerts and recordings and Grey's career in general. The materials on these appearances include scrapbooks, publicity files, negotiations and correspondence.

The Joel Grey papers have a substantial audio/visual component. There are over 70 items in a variety of formats such as VHS videocassettes, audiocassettes, reel to reels and long-playing records. These are recordings of live performances, television appearances, commercial recordings, award shows and press reel footage. Audio/visual materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access. Inquiries regarding audio materials in the collection may be directed to the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound at rha@nypl.org.

Arrangement

The Production files in the Joel Grey Papers are arranged in alphabetical order by show title. Some of the files on special appearances are arranged chronologically, to maintain original order.

Key terms

Subjects

Musicals
Nightclubs
Television
Theater -- New York (N.Y.)

Occupations

Actors -- Television
Actors -- Theater
Dancers
Singers

Names

Cohan, George M. (George Michael), 1878-1942
Ebb, Fred
Grey, Joel, 1932-
Grossman, Larry
Hackady, Hal
Herman, Jerry, 1931-
Kander, John
Wilder, Jo

Special formats

Clippings
Correspondence
Photographs
Programs
Scrapbooks
Scripts

Container list

Productions, 1904-2001

- b.18 f.6 *About Face*-Photographs, undated
- b.1 f.1 *Benya the King*-Script, 1979 (By Richard Schotter)
- b.18 f.7 *Borscht Capades*, 1993-1994
Correspondence, publicity, outlines, notes, etc.
- b.24 f.1 *The Boyfriend*-Photographs, ca. 1955
- b.15 f.9 *Brooklyn Bridge*-Publicity Files, 1992
Buffalo Bill and the Indians or Sitting Bull's History Lesson
Screenplay by Alan Rudolph and Robert Altman
- b.15 f.10 Production Information, 1975
- b.15 f.11 Publicity Files, 1976
- b.15 f.12-14 Research Files, 1973, undated
- b.1 f.2 Scripts, 1975 July 17
- Cabaret*
- b.3 f.1 Contact Sheets/Casting Files, 1986-1987
- b.3 f.2 Contracts, 1971
- b.3 f.3 Costumes Designer, Casting Information-Film, 1971
- b.3 f.4 Costume Plots, Mailing List, etc., 1986-1987
- b.24 f.2 Hirschfeld Drawing, undated
- b.3 f.4 Photographs, 1970, 1988, 1989
Publicity Files
Publicity Files include clippings, reviews, flyers and programs.
- b.1 f.3 Original Production, 1966-1967
Tours/Stock
- b.1 f.4 Ohio, 1970
- b.1 f.5 Indiana, 1970
- b.1 f.6 Atlanta, St. Louis, 1971
- b.1 f.7 Film Version, 1972
- b.2 f.1-4 20th Anniversary Production/Tour, 1985-1987
Scripts
- b.3 f.6 Broadway, undated
- b.3 f.7 Starlight Theater, 1971 (With tech cues)
- b.3 f.8-9 Film Screenplays, undated (First Draft and Revised First Draft)
- b.3 f.10 Souvenir Gift from Cast Members
This memento is a key (labeled "Ze Key," in tribute to a lyric from the show) given to Grey by his "Two Ladies" co-stars when he left the show.
- b.18 f.8 *Calypso Heat Wave*-Photographs, 1957
- b.4 f.1 *Candide*-Script, 1974 January
- b.16 f.1 *A Capitol Fourth*-Publicity File, 1994
- Chicago*
- b.4 f.2 Cast Album, 2001
- b.4 f.3-5 Correspondence, 1997-1998
- b.24 f.3 Photograph, undated

Productions, 1904-2001 (cont.)

Chicago (cont.)

- b.4 f.6-10 Publicity Files, 1996-1998
 - b.4 f.11 Rehearsal Photographs, undated
 - b.4 f.12 Script Excerpts, undated
 - b.16 f.2 *A Christmas Carol*-Publicity and Photographs, 1999
 - Come Blow Your Horn*, 1961
 - b.18 f.9 Publicity and Photographs
 - b.4 f.13 Script
 - b.18 f.10 *Come September*-Photographs, 1961
 - b.16 f.3 *Dallas*-Publicity and Photographs, 1991
 - b.4 f.14 *The Fantasticks*-Published Script and Score, 1994
 Autographed by Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones
 - b.18 f.11 *The Fool and Her Fortune*, 1994 August
 Includes programs, publicity and script excerpts
- George M*
- b.5 f.1 Contract, 1971
 - b.5 f.2 Correspondence
 - b.5 f.3 Memorabilia, 1925, 1984, undated
 - b.5 f.4 Photograph-National Tour, undated
 - b.24 f.4 Photographs, undated
 - b.24 f.5 Photograph Montage used for credits on Television Special, undated
 - b.5 f.5 Production Information, undated (Rehearsal schedules and staff lists)
 - b.5 f.6-10 Publicity Files, 1968-1984
 - b.16 f.4 Research-Photos of Cohan and Family, undated
 - b.6 f.1 Reunion, 1998
 - b.6 f.2-8 Scripts, 1967-1976
 Includes first and second and third drafts, licensed version and the script of the television
 adaptation
 - b.24 f.6 Sheet Music--Vintage Cohan Songs, 1904-1923
 - b.16 f.5 St. Louis MUNY Production, 1992
 - b.16 f.6 Westbury, CT Production, 1984
- Give Me Your Answer, Do!*
- b.7 f.1 Drama Desk Nomination, 2000
 - b.7 f.2 Memorabilia, 1999
 - b.7 f.3 Opening Night Cards and Notes, 1999
 - b.7 f.4 Photograph, 1999
 - b.7 f.5 Production Information and Notes, 1999
 - b.7 f.6 Publicity Materials, 1999
 - b.7 f.7 Script, 1996
- Goodtime Charley*
- b.7 f.8 Contracts, 1974-1975

Productions, 1904-2001 (cont.)

Goodtime Charley (cont.)

- b.7 f.9-10 Correspondence, 1975
Opening night notes and telegrams from Boston and New York
- b.7 f.11 Photograph, undated
- b.7 f.12 Production Information, 1975
- b.7 f.13 Programs, 1975
- b.7 f.14 Publicity Files, 1975
- b.8 f.1-3 Scripts, 1975
- b.8 f.4 Sheet Music and Parody Lyric for "I Leave the World Behind", 1975

The Grand Tour

- b.8 f.5 Correspondence-Opening Night Telegrams, 1979 March
 - b.8 f.6 Photographs from *Jacobowsky and the Colonel*, undated
 - b.8 f.7 Programs, 1979
Publicity Files
 - b.8 f.8 Chicago, 1979 March-April
 - b.9 f.1 New York, 1978 August-1979 February
 - b.9 f.2 San Francisco, 1978 October-1979 January
 - b.9 f.3-5 Scripts, 1978 May, August, October
 - b.9 f.6 Sheet Music-VariouS Songs, undated
Sketches
 - b.9 f.7 Hirschfeld Copy, undated
 - b.9 f.8 Set Design by Ming Cho Lee, 1979
 - b.18 f.12 *Half a Sixpence*-Correspondence and Publicity, 1965
 - b.13 f.1 *Harry, Noon and Night*-Mounted Photograph, undated
- Herringbone*
Presented at Hartford Stage Company; Book by Tome Cone, Music by Walter Edgar Kennon,
Lyrics by Ellen Fitzhugh
- b.20 f.1 Correspondence, Production Information and Publicity, 1992-1993
 - b.10 f.1-3 Scripts, 1993
 - b.10 f.4 Vocal Score, 1993

How About You?, 1980-1990

This uncompleted film project (possibly a documentary or a fictional work) about the heyday of Catskills entertainers was written by Grey and his wife, Jo Wilder and playwright John Guare.

- b.19 f.1-5 General and Research Files
Unsorted folders include script drafts, outlines, correspondent and mostly background research materials on the Catskills, Irving Berlin and Jewish entertainers, including Joel Grey's father Mickey Katz.
 - b.24 f.8 Irving Berlin Research
- Jack and the Beanstalk*
- b.16 f.7 Correspondence and Publicity, 1956-1957
 - b.10 f.5 Script, 1956 August 27 (NBC Television musical)
 - b.13 f.2 *Joe My Friend*-Cast Photograph, 1995

Productions, 1904-2001 (cont.)

- b.16 f.8 *Jubilee*-Correspondence, 1976
- b.19 f.6 Lorenz Hart Project-Workshop Outline, Sheet Music and Information, 1995
The Man on the Swing: A True Tale of Murder
- b.24 f.7 Photographs, 1974
- b.16 f.10 Production Information, 1974-1977
- b.16 f.11 Publicity Files, 1974
- b.16 f.12 Research, 1972
- b.10 f.6 Script, 1973 August (Screenplay by David Zelag Goodman)
Marco Polo Sings a Solo
- b.11 f.1 Correspondence and Production Information, 1977
- b.25 f.1 Photograph, 1977
- b.11 f.2 Publicity Files, 1977
- b.11 f.3 Script, 1976, 1977
- b.12 f.1 Script, 1976
- b.19 f.7 *Mardi Gras*-Correspondence, Programs and Publicity, 1966
- b.16 f.13 *Marilyn and Me*-Photographs and Publicity Files, 1991
- b.16 f.14 *Matlock*-Publicity File, 1991
- b.19 f.8 Milk Project-Notes, 1978-1980 (Possibly about Harvey Milk)
- b.11 f.4 *The Music of Chance*-Script, 1992 April 12
Screenplay by Philip and Belinda Haas, Based on the novel by Paul Auster
The Normal Heart, 1985
- b.11 f.5 Correspondence
- b.11 f.6 Publicity Files
- b.11 f.7-8 Scripts
- b.19 f.9 *Now You See Me...*-Film Treatment, undated (By Billy Merrit and Lorna Myers)
On Borrowed Time
- b.16 f.15 Casting Ideas and Floorplan, 1986
- b.17 f.1 Scripts, undated
- b.16 f.16 *The Outer Limits*-Call Sheet, 1999
Pal Joey, 1983
- b.12 f.2 Script
- b.16 f.17 Production Information
- b.16 f.18 Publicity Files
- b.17 f.2 *La Perichole*-Production Information and Photograph, 1992 (San Antonio Festival)
Platonov, 1977
- b.12 f.3 Contract and Correspondence
- b.12 f.4 Publicity Files
- b.12 f.5-6 Scripts
- b.19 f.10 *Pontroy's Complaint*-Script, 1994 September 19 (By Philip Roth, adapted by Alice Gordon)

Productions, 1904-2001 (cont.)

- b.17 f.13 *Queenie*-Notes, Photograph and Correspondence, 1987
- Remo Williams:the Adventure Begins*
- b.12 f.7 Awards-Golden Globe Nomination Certificate, 1985
- b.17 f.3 Correspondence, 1985-1986
- b.17 f.4 Makeup Sketches, undated
- b.17 f.5 Photographs, 1985
- b.17 f.6 Production Information, undated
- b.17 f.7-11 Publicity Files, 1985-1986
- b.12 f.8-9 Scripts, 1984, 1987
- b.17 f.12 Script Notes, 1984
- The Roar of the Greasepaint--The Smell of the Crowd*, 1966
Grey co-starred in the West Coast Premiere with original Broadway star Cyril Ritchard
- b.13 f.3 Correspondence
- b.25 f.2 Photograph
- b.13 f.4 Programs
- b.13 f.5 Publicity Files
- b.18 f.1 *The Seven-Percent Solution*-Correspondence, Production Information and Publicity, 1973-1975
- b.18 f.2 *1776*- Photographs and Publicity Files, 1972
- Silverlake*
- b.13 f.6 Opening Night Note/Gift from Beverly Sills, 1980 March
- b.13 f.7 Photographs of Grey's Make-Up Application, undated
- b.13 f.8 Production Information, 1980-1990
Contracts, rehearsal schedules, cast album, etc.
- b.13 f.9 Programs, 1980
- b.13 f.10 Reviews, 1980
- b.25 f.3-4 Scores, 1980
- b.14 f.1 Scripts, 1980
- b.18 f.3 *Star Trek*-Photographs and Publicity, 1996
- Stop the World--I Want to Get Off!!*
- b.14 f.2 Correspondence, 1963-1964
- b.25 f.5 Photographs, undated
- b.26 f.1 Photographs, undated
- b.14 f.3 Publicity Files, 1963
- b.26 f.2-3 Scores, undated
- b.14 f.4 Scripts, undated
- b.14 f.5 Technical Plots and Notes, undated
- When We Dead Awaken*
- b.18 f.4 Production Information, 1991
Photographs, brochures and paraphernalia for production in San Paulo, Brazil

Productions, 1904-2001 (cont.)

When We Dead Awaken (cont.)

- b.15 f.1 Script, 1990 December 12
- b.15 f.2 *The Wind in the Willows*-UCLA Workshop Script, 1958
The Yeomen of the Guard
- b.18 f.5 Production Information, Photographs, etc., 1982 May
- b.15 f.3 Score, undated
- b.15 f.4 Scripts, undated

Zorba

- b.15 f.5 Correspondence, 1985-1986
- b.15 f.6 Production Information and Notes, 1986
- b.15 f.7 Publicity Files, 1985-1986
- b.15 f.8 Script, undated
- b.20 f.2-4 Miscellaneous Productions, 1949-1990, undated

Special Appearances, 1940s-1990s

Nightclub acts, solo shows, benefits, concerts and recordings

Appearances (Arranged alphabetically)

- b.22 f.9 Americana Concert, 1986 July 4
 - b.22 f.5 Benefit for Kander and Ebb at the Waldorf Astoria, 1988
Sheet music for *Cabaret* medly arranged by Fred Barton
 - b.22 f.10 Independence Day Celebration, 1975
 - b.22 f.6-8 Joel and Liza Tour-Publicity and Interviews, 1981
 - b.27 f.4 Mock-Up for Souvenir program for Grey's Solo Act
 - b.27 f.3 *Mozart Soft Shoe*-Score
Double act for Joel Grey and Beverley Sills
 - b.22 f.11 Norwegian Cruise, 1977
 - b.22 f.12 Radio-Garrison Keillor, 1995
- Television Appearances
- b.22 f.13-15 Publicity Files, 1963-1986
 - b.23 f.8 Publicity Files, 1954
 - b.27 f.1 Photographs, undated
 - b.27 f.2 Scrapbook of Photographs and Programs, undated (Made for Grey by a fan)
 - b.22 f.1 Interviews, 1970-1979
- Recording Sessions
- b.23 f.1 *Cabaret*, 1967
 - b.23 f.6 *Only the Beginning*, 1967
 - b.23 f.2 *George M*, 1968
 - b.23 f.3 Black Sheep Boy, 1969
 - b.23 f.7 Columbia Records, 1969
 - b.23 f.4 London Script, 1973
 - b.23 f.5 *Joel Grey Live at the Waldorf*, 1973

Special Appearances, 1940s-1990s

Nightclub ac... (cont.)

Solo Acts (Arranged chronologically)

- b.20 f.5-6 Publicity Files, 1950s
- b.20 f.7 Publicity Files, 1960s
- b.20 f.8-16 Publicity Files, 1970s (Arranged by location)
- b.21 f.1-27 Publicity Files, 1970s
- b.21 f.28-25 Publicity Files, 1980s
- b.22 f.2-4 Publicity Files, 1990s
- b.26 f.4 Photographs and Posters, 1970s-1980s

General Career Scrapbooks

- b.28 Early Career, 1940s-1950s
- b.29 Early Career, 1940s-1950s