

**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

Jacob Ben-Ami scripts

1927-1967

*T-Mss 1984-004

Compiled by David A. Olson, New York University/Palmer School of Library and Information Science,
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Summary

Creator: Ben-Ami, Jacob

Title: Jacob Ben-Ami scripts, 1927-1967

Size: 1.26 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Unknown, 1984

Abstract: Jacob Ben-Ami (1890-1977) was an actor and director, and prominent figure in American Yiddish theater. The collection contains thirty-four theatrical scripts dating from 1927 to 1967.

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

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Preferred citation: Jacob Ben-Ami scripts, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Materials were received without discernible order and were arranged alphabetically by author.

Related collections

Jacob Ben-Ami correspondence. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Jacob Ben-Ami: photographs [graphic]. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Creator history

Jacob Ben-Ami was a twentieth century actor and director and prominent figure in American Yiddish theater. Ben-Ami was born on November 23, 1890, in Minsk, then a part of the Russian Empire. Before immigrating to the United States, he performed with Yiddish theater troupes throughout Russia and in London.

In the United States, he worked with prominent figures on the Yiddish theater scene, including at Maurice Schwartz's Irving Place Theatre. He was a leading figure in the founding of the Jewish Art Theatre (1919-1920). This small company, and many others that he was involved with, attempted to add artistic sensibilities to a Yiddish theater scene focused on providing popular entertainment. In the 1940s to 1960s, Ben-Ami was involved in television and cinematic productions as well. Ben-Ami also performed in English-language productions and acted in shows in the United States, Europe, South America, and South Africa. He died on July 2, 1977, in New York.

Scope and content note

The collection contains theatrical scripts dating from 1927 to 1967, some for plays in which Ben-Ami performed. Also included are television scripts, play synopses, clippings, and an essay. Jacob Ben-Ami's varied cultural influences are represented here, with many scripts in English translation from languages including Yiddish, Russian, and French, while others remain in their original language.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged alphabetically by script author.

Key terms

Subjects

Off-Broadway Theater
Yiddish drama

Names

Ben-Ami, Jacob

Special formats

Scripts

Container list

- b.1 f.1 Benavente, Jacinto--*La Malaquerida*
- b.1 f.2 Berelejis, Tobias--*Maria del Campo*
- b.1 f.3 Bourdet, Paul--*The Pauper*
- b.1 f.4 Bramson, Karen--*The Envied Ones*
- b.1 f.5 Bramson, Karen--*The Godless: From the French L'Orgueilleux*
- b.1 f.6 Cass, Maurice--*The Perfect Knight or The Woman Eternal or The Way of Life: A Drama of Sacred and Profane Love*
- b.1 f.7 Dostoyevski, Theodor--*The Idiot* (Translated by Slava and Arnon Ben-Ami)
- b.1 f.8 Eichelbaum, Samuel--*I Belong to Your Life*
- b.1 f.9 Froeschel, George and Levin, Meyer--*One Big Family*
- b.1 f.10 Gluckman, Leon--Untitled Play
- b.1 f.11 Goldberg, B.Z.--*Jesus of Nazareth: A Passion Play*, 1930
- b.2 f.1 Gorki, Maxim--*Yegor Bulitchov* (Translated and adapted by G.B.B.)
- b.2 f.2 Hara, Lillian--*Isabel*, 1967
- b.2 f.3 Ibsen, Henrik--*Ghosts*
- b.2 f.4 Juhn, Kurt--*There is a Ship*, 1941
- b.2 f.5 Koestler, Arthur--*Thieves in the Night* (Adapted by Slava Ben-Ami)
- b.2 f.6 Korembliit, Bernardo Ezequiel--"Los Primeros Cien Anos de Las Flores del Mal", 1959 (Essay)
- b.2 f.7 Krumgold, Joseph--*Dream No More* (Adapted by Herman A. Miller)
- b.2 f.8 Lieberman, Herman--*Hell on Earth*, 1935
- b.2 f.9 Miller, Arthur--*Death of a Salesman* (Willy Loman side)
- b.2 f.10 Odets, Clifford--*The Flowering Peach*, 1954
- b.2 f.11 Orleneff's Russian Lyceum--Synopsis of Victor Kryloff's *Petty Persecution and David Pinski's The Zwee Family*
- b.2 f.12 Perl, Arnold--*The World of Sholem Aleichem*
- b.3 f.1 Reese, Jay S.--*The Better Half*, 1963
- b.3 f.2 Richter, Irving--*The Mask*, 1966
- b.3 f.3 Robbins, Leo--*Kadesh*, 1927
- b.3 f.4 Rostworowski, Carl Hubert--*Charity* (Adapted by J.J. Robbins)
- b.3 f.5 Ruben, Jose--*The Idiot*
- b.3 f.6 Shakespeare, William--*Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* (Adapted by Irving Fiske)
- b.3 f.7 Simon, Mayo--*Happiness: A Romance in One Scene*
- b.3 f.8 Solomon, Louis--*The Mope*
- b.3 f.9 Unknown Author--*At the Gates of a Kingdom*
- b.3 f.10 Zcyzcmos, Max--*Beethoven* (Translated by Arnon and Slava Ben-Ami)
- b.3 f.11 Zollinger, James Peter--*The Holy Juggler*, 1927
- b.3 f.12 Zweig, Max--*King Saul*