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Billy Rose Theatre Division**

Guide to the

**New Theatre of Brooklyn records**

1982-1990

\*T-Mss 1992-023

Compiled by Leslie Reyman, August 2012

## **Summary**

**Creator:** New Theatre of Brooklyn

**Title:** New Theatre of Brooklyn records, 1982-1990

**Size:** 2.73 linear feet (8 boxes)

**Source:** Gift from Deborah Pope, 1992

**Abstract:** The New Theatre of Brooklyn was founded by Deborah Pope in 1983. The theatre produced seven seasons and closed in the Fall of 1990.

**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:** New Theatre of Brooklyn records, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** The collection consists of production files on performances produced throughout seven seasons and is arranged alphabetically by production.

## **Creator history**

The New Theatre of Brooklyn was founded by Deborah Pope in 1983. The theatre produced seven seasons and closed in the Fall of 1990.

From the beginning of The New Theatre's life, Lillie Bellin was the managing director. In 1984 Steve Stettler became the first paid staff person, when he was hired as associate artistic director, and later was named co-artistic director with Pope. The New Theatre was classified as a Showcase, Tier III theatre by Actors Equity Association.

In 1983, the first home of The New Theatre was a loft on Union Street in the Park Slope neighborhood of Brooklyn. In 1985 it moved to 465 Dean Street between Flatbush Avenue and Sixth Avenue.

The New Theatre of Brooklyn became synonymous with high artistic standards resulting in quality regional theater. In 1987 it was awarded the OBIE Award for outstanding overall artistic excellence. Several well-known actors performed in productions, including: Geraldine Fitzgerald, Geoffrye Owens, Boyd Gaines and Linda Hunt. Several premieres were mounted over the seven seasons, including plays by Tom Stoppard, Franz Xaver Kroetz, Bertolt Brecht and Ingmar Bergman.

At the close of the seventh season, co-artistic director Steve Stettler resigned. As the board began looking for a producing director, it became clear that financially the future of The New Theatre might not be secure. After several months of discussions and the inability to raise needed funds, the board and Pope decided that the best decision would be to close the theatre. The New Theatre of Brooklyn ended its seven year run in October 1990.

### **Scope and content note**

The records contain production files on performances produced throughout seven seasons. There are contracts, clippings, correspondence, schedules, lists, photographs, resumes, notes, technical drawings and blueprints, along with press releases and proposals. Also included is information about winning an OBIE Award, scripts, brochures, pamphlets and sheet music.

### **Arrangement**

The New Theatre of Brooklyn records are organized into the following series:

Series I: Productions, 1983-1990

Series II: Office Files, 1982-1990

Series III: Oversized Blueprints and Posters, 1984-1990

### **Key terms**

#### **Subjects**

Arts management

Not-for-profit organizations

Theater management

#### **Places**

Brooklyn (New York, N. Y.)

#### **Names**

New Theatre of Brooklyn

## Container list

### **Series I: Productions, 1983-1990** (4 boxes)

The material consists of contact sheets, schedules, notes, technical drawings, scripts, production books, house records, attendance records, sheet music, resumes and cover shots, and contracts. Alphabetical list of productions.

- b.1 f.1 *Annulla*, 1988
- b.1 f.2 *Artists and Adventurers*, 1984
- b.1 f.3-4 *The Dispute*, 1988
- b.1 f.5-6 *Donkey's Years*, 1987
- b.1 f.7-8 *Double Bass*, 1986
- b.1 f.9 *Flirtations*, undated
- b.2 f.1 *Jacques and His Master*, 1989
- b.2 f.2 *The Man Who Killed The Buddha*, 1985
- b.2 f.3 *Mitzi*, 1986
- b.2 f.4 *The Nest*, 1984
- b.2 f.5-7 *No Limits To Love*, 1989
- b.3 f.1-3 *Nora*, 1988
- b.3 f.4 *Nuclear Follies*, undated
- b.3 f.5 *Pantomine*, 1985
- b.3 f.6-7 *Parade*, 1986
- b.4 f.1-2 *Rough Crossing*, 1990
- b.4 f.3 Second Stage Cabaret, 1989 December
- b.4 f.4-6 *Spacewalk*, 1986
- b.4 f.7 *The Sunday Promenade*, 1989
- b.5 f.1 Board Meetings, ca. 1983

### **Series II: Office Files, 1982-1990** (2 boxes)

Series II contains files used in the day-to-day operations, including board meetings, contracts, correspondence, notes, press, and proposals. Also included are: newspaper clippings, magazine articles, *Playbills*, posters, handbills and brochures.

- b.5 f.2 Contracts and Agreements, 1985
- b.5 f.3 Correspondence, 1982-1984
- b.5 f.4 Obie Award, 1987
- b.5 f.5 Notes, undated
- b.5 f.6 Press Releases and Development Materials, ca. 1985
- Seasons
  - b.5 f.7 1983-1984
  - b.5 f.8 1984-1985
  - b.5 f.9 1985-1986
  - b.5 f.10 1986-1987
  - b.5 f.11 1987-1988
  - b.6 f.1 1988-1989
  - b.6 f.2 1989-1990

**Series II: Office Files, 1982-1990** (cont.)

- b.6 f.3 TNT at 4th Avenue Bath House: A Proposal, 1988-1989

**Series III: Oversized Blueprints and Posters, 1984-1990** (2 boxes)

Series III consists of oversized blueprints of buildings, along with technical and lighting blueprints for productions. There are also blueprints for stage props-including furniture, floor and wall coverings. Posters are of some of the productions.

- b.7 Blueprints and Posters, 1984-1990  
*Artists and Admirers, Annulla, Conversations In Exile, The Dispute, No Limits to Love, Pantomine, Rain. Some Fish, Rough Crossing, Space Walk, xxThe Sunday Promenadeyy,*
- b.8 Blueprints and Posters, 1984-1990  
*The Art of War, 465 Dean Street, Nora, Waiting For The Parade*