

Inventory of the Harold Clurman Papers, 1935-1978

*T Mss 1978-005

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Billy Rose Theatre Division

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Harold Clurman papers, 1935-1978

Collection ID: *T Mss 1978-005

Provenance: Clurman, Harold

Extent: 4 lf. (10 boxes)

Repository: Billy Rose Theatre Division
40 Lincoln Center Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10023-7498

Administrative Information

Access: : Collection is open to the public. Photocopying prohibited.

Preferred [Identification of item], Harold Clurman papers, *T Mss 1978-005, Billy
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Biographical Note:

Harold Clurman, director, critic, author and lecturer was born in New York City in 1901. He started his career on the stage at the age of 13 in a production of *The Saint*. Clurman worked as actor and stage manager before making his directorial debut with the Clifford Odets play *Awake and Sing* (see photograph scrapbook on this production, Box 10, Folder 1). Harold Clurman was a founder of the Group Theatre and directed many of their productions during the years 1931-1941. Some plays which he directed include: *Paradise Lost*, *Golden Boy*, *Rocket to the Moon*, *Night Music*, *All My Sons*, *The Member of the Wedding*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *The Ladies of the Corridor*, *Bus Stop*, *Tiger at the Gates* and *Heartbreak House*, among others.

In 1963, Harold Clurman became the executive consultant for the Repertory Theater of Lincoln Center and directed *Incident at Vichy* by Arthur Miller. He also directed plays in Europe, Japan and Israel.

Harold Clurman was also a noted writer contributor to *The Nation* as a theater critic and wrote articles for the London Observer and New Republic as well. His books include: *All People Are Famous*, *On Directing* and *Ibsen*

Harold Clurman was married to the actress, Stella Adler and later to the actress Juleen Compton. Harold Clurman died in 1980.

Scope and Content Note:

The Harold Clurman papers contain notebooks and journals, director's annotated scripts, manuscript drafts and annotated typescripts of Clurman's books, and photograph scrapbooks documenting his career as a director, writer and critic. The materials span from 1935 through 1978 and give an interesting look at Clurman's work and thought process as a director. Notebooks contain his ideas on plot and character development, as well as casting notes and ideas for plays which he directed, while the scripts contain his director's annotations and compliment the notebooks for research and study of Clurman's techniques as a director. Drafts and typescripts of his writings show his three books, *Ibsen*, *On Directing* and *All People Are Famous* as they evolved. Finally, the photograph scrapbooks give a pictorial representative of specific plays including *Awake and Sing*, *The Iceman Cometh* and *Long Day's Journey Into Night*.

Organization

The Harold Clurman Papers are organized into four series:

- Series I: Notebooks and Journals
 - Sub-series 1: Director's notebooks
 - Sub-series 2: Daily journals
- Series II: Director's Scripts
- Series III: Writings
- Series IV: Photograph Scrapbooks

Series Description:

Series I: Notebooks and Journals

This series contains handwritten notebooks and journals containing information on plays and production ideas or trips, events and subjects.

Sub-series 1: Production Notebooks, [1938-1966]

Arranged alphabetically.

Notebooks in this series contain Harold Clurman's notes and thoughts on characters, casting notes and plot action for plays which he directed. Some titles included in these notebooks are: *The Autumn Garden* by Lillian Hellman, *The Bird Cage* by Arthur Laurents, the Tel-Aviv production of *Caesar and Cleopatra* by George Bernard Shaw and *Montserrat* by Emmanuel Robles, *Rocket to the Moon* and *Night Music* by Clifford Odets, *The Ladies of the Corridor* by Dorothy Parker, *Incident at Vichy* by Arthur Miller, *Judith* by Jean Giraudoux, *Touch of the Poet* by Eugene O'Neill, *The Trojan War Will Not Take Place* (produced as *Tiger at the Gates*) by Jean Giraudoux and *The Waltz of the Toreadors* by Jean Anouilh, among others. Of special interest is a notebook for the Repertory Theater of

Lincoln Center production of *The Madwoman of Chaillot* which was never produced.

Sub-series 2: Daily Journals [1941-1975]

Arranged chronologically.

Journals in this series contain Harold Clurman's daily entries about his trips, his work and activities, comments and thoughts on films and plays he had seen as well as one on the Group Theatre. Included are his trips to Europe and Japan in the 1960's.

Series II: Director's Scripts, [1949-1969]

Arranged alphabetically.

This series contains annotated scripts belonging to Harold Clurman for many of the productions that he directed through the years. Included are: *The Bird Cage* by Arthur Laurents, *Birth Day* by William Inge, *The Iceman Cometh* by Eugene O'Neill, *Incident at Vichy* by Arthur Miller, *Judith* by Jean Giraudoux, *The Madwoman of Chaillot* by Jean Giraudoux, *The Time of the Cuckoo* by Arthur Laurents, *A Touch of the Poet* by Eugene O'Neill, *The Trojan War Will Not Take Place* (produced as *Tiger at the Gates*) by Jean Giraudoux, *Uncle Vanya* by Anton Chekhov and *The Waltz of the Toreadors* by Jean Anouilh. Many of these scripts are complemented by corresponding notebooks in the notebook series which contain notes and information on Clurman's production ideas.

Series III: Writings

Arranged alphabetically.

This series contains handwritten drafts, annotated typescripts and galley proofs for books written by Harold Clurman. Included are: *All People Are Famous*, *Ibsen* and *On Directing*. There are also some miscellaneous writings.

Series IV: Photograph Scrapbooks, [1935-1968]

Arranged alphabetically

This series consists of scrapbooks of photographs documenting some of the plays that Harold Clurman directed. There is also a scrapbook given to him by Habimah Theatre in Tel Aviv, honoring him for work he had done there in 1949. It should be noted that some of the

scrapbooks have been disassembled for conservation purposes. The Habimah Theatre scrapbook cover has been preserved and separated into the Theatre Collection T-Cabinet.

Container Listing

Series I: Notebooks and Journals

Sub-series 1: Director's notebooks

b. 1 f. 1	<i>The Autumn Garden</i> by Lillian Hellman[January 1951]
b. 1 f. 2	<i>The Bird Cage</i> by Arthur Laurents1949-1950
b. 1 f. 3	<i>Caesar and Cleopatra</i> by Bernard Shaw[May 1953]
b. 1 f. 4	<i>Heartbreak House</i> by Bernard Shaw [1959-1960]
b. 1 f. 5	<i>Incident at Vichy</i> by Arthur Miller[July 1964]
b. 1 f. 6	<i>Jeannette</i> by Jean Anouilh[1959-1960]
b. 1 f. 7	<i>Judith</i> by Jean Giraudoux[1961-1962]
b. 1 f. 8	<i>Ladies of the Corridor</i> by Dorothy Parker[1953-1954]
b. 1 f. 9	<i>Long Day's Journey Into Night</i> by Eugene O'Neill [1965]
b. 1 f. 10	<i>Mademoiselle Columbe</i> by Jean Anouilh October-November 1953]
b. 1 f. 11	<i>The Madwoman of Chaillot</i> by Jean Giraudoux[1964-1965]
b. 1 f. 12	<i>Montserrat</i> by Emmanuel Robles [May-June 1949]
b. 1 f. 13	<i>Night Music</i> by Clifford Odets [1939-1940]
b. 1 f. 14	<i>Rocket to the Moon</i> by Clifford Odets [1938-1939]
b. 1 f. 15	<i>Saint Joan</i> by Bernard Shaw
b. 2 f. 1	<i>Time of the Cuckoo</i> by Arthur Laurents [1952-1953]
b. 2 f. 2	<i>A Touch of the Poet</i> by Eugene O'Neill [1958-1959]
b. 2 f. 3	<i>The Trojan War Will Not Take Place</i> by Jean Giraudoux
b. 2 f. 4	<i>The Waltz of the Toreadors</i> by Jean Anouilh

- b. 2 f. 5 *Where's Daddy* by William Inge [1966]
- b. 2 f. 6 Unidentified production notebook belonging to Harold Clurman

Sub-series 2: Daily journals

- b. 2 f. 7 Group Theatre daily journal [1941]
- b. 2 f. 8 Daily journal [1960-1961]
- b. 2 f. 9 Journal from Europe and Japan trip [1963]
- b. 2 f. 10 Journal from Tokyo, Japan trip
- b. 2 f. 11 Japan trip journal [July 11, 1963]
- b. 2 f. 12 Daily journal [1971-1975]
- b. 2 f. 13 Notebook
- b. 2 f. 14 Journal log of films, plays and concerts attended [1963-1964]
- b. 2 f. 14 Journal log of performances attended [January -June 1968]

Series II: Director's scripts

- b. 3 f. 1 *The Bird Cage* by Arthur Laurents[1949-1950]
- b. 3 f. 2 *Birth Day* by William Inge
- b. 3 f. 3 *The Iceman Cometh* by Eugene O'Neill [1968]
- b. 4 f. 1 *Incident at Vichy* by Arthur Miller[1965]
- b. 4 f. 2 *Judith* by Jean Giraudoux[1961-1962]
- b. 4 f. 3 *The Madwoman of Chaillot* by Jean Giraudoux
- b. 4 f. 4 *Montserrat* by Emmanuel Robles [1949]
- b. 5 f. 1 *Time of the Cuckoo* by Arthur Laurents
- b. 5 f. 2 *A Touch of the Poet* by Eugene O'Neill [1958-1959]
- b. 5 f. 3 *The Trojan War Will Not Take Place* by Jean Giraudoux[1955-1956]
- b. 5 f. 4 *Uncle Vanya* by Anton Pavlovich Chekhov [1969]

b. 5 f. 5 *The Waltz of the Toreadors* by Jean Anouilh

Series III: Writings

b. 6 f. 1-5 *All People Are Famous (instead of an autobiography)* by Harold Clurman - 1st draft

b. 6 f. 6-10 *All People Are Famous (instead of an autobiography)* by Harold Clurman - 2nd draft

b. 7 f. 1-4 *All People Are Famous (instead of an autobiography)* by Harold Clurman - 1st annotated typescript

b. 7 f. 5-8 *All People Are Famous (instead of an autobiography)* by Harold Clurman - 2nd annotated typescript

b. 8 f. 1-2 *All People Are Famous (instead of an autobiography)* by Harold Clurman - 2nd draft

b. 8 f. 3 *All People Are Famous (instead of an autobiography)* by Harold Clurman - pages of rewrites

b. 8 f. 4-5 *All People Are Famous (instead of an autobiography)* by Harold Clurman - galley proofs

b. 8 f. 6-9 *Ibsen* by Harold Clurman - 1st handwritten draft

b. 9 f. 1-4 *Ibsen* by Harold Clurman - annotated typescript - 1st draft

b. 9 f. 5-9 *Ibsen* by Harold Clurman - 2nd draft

b. 9 f. 10-11 *On Directing* - 1st draft

b. 9 f. 12 Article fragment on *Paradise Lost*

b. 9 f. 13 *A note on the director's problem in Paradise Lost* by Harold Clurman

b. 9 f. 14 Unsorted notes

Series IV: Photograph Scrapbooks

b. 10 f. 1 *Awake and Sing* by Clifford Odets [1935-1936]

b. 10 f. 2 *The Iceman Cometh* by Eugene O'Neill [1968]

b. 10 f. 3 *Long Day's Journey into Night* by Eugene O'Neill - Tokyo production [1965]

b. 10 f. 4

Photograph scrapbook about the Habimah Theatre (Tel Aviv, Israel) [1950]