



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Lemuel Ayers theatrical designs

1944-1951

*T-Vim 1991-022

Summary

Creator: Ayers, Lemuel, 1915-1955

Title: Lemuel Ayers theatrical designs

Date: 1944-1951

Size: 2 boxes (18 paintings), col, 60 x 88 cm; 2 boxes (18 paintings), col, 60 x 88 cm

Source: Designs: gift, 05/28/91

Abstract: Award winning designer of sets and costumes and a theatrical producer, Lemuel Ayers had a brief but brilliant career with extensive Broadway credits including HIGH BUTTON SHOES and OKLAHOMA! He was born in New York City and received a degree in architecture from Princeton University and one in drama from the University of Iowa. He died in 1955 at the age of forty. Collection consists of six costume and twelve set designs by Lemuel Ayers for the following productions: KISS ME KATE (1948), OUT OF THIS WORLD (1950), BLOOMER GIRL (1944), CYRANO DE BERGERAC (1946), INSIDE U.S.A. (1948), MUSIC IN THE AIR (1951), and ST. LOUIS WOMAN (1946). Executed in paint, ink and pencil on paper or illustration board, some have mat frames, a few are signed by Ayers, most are undated.

Preferred citation: Lemuel Ayers theatrical designs, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Award winning designer of sets and costumes and a theatrical producer, Lemuel Ayers had a brief but brilliant career with extensive Broadway credits including HIGH BUTTON SHOES and OKLAHOMA! He was born in New York City and received a degree in architecture from Princeton University and one in drama from the University of Iowa. He died in 1955 at the age of forty.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Costume design drawings

Set design drawings

Subjects

Theaters -- Stage-setting and scenery

Names

Ayers, Lemuel, 1915-1955

Arlen, Harold, 1905-1986

Porter, Cole, 1891-1964