



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Papers of Marguerite and Reta Shaw**

1954-1970

\*T-Mss 1993-033

## Summary

**Creator:** Shaw, Marguerite, 1916-1983

**Title:** Papers of Marguerite and Reta Shaw

**Date:** 1954-1970

**Size:** 2 boxes and 2 reels of microfilm

**Source:** Papers: gift, Mary Anne Wallace, 08/12/1993

**Abstract:** The collection is mostly scrapbooks of photographs and clippings documenting the acting careers of the two Shaws. The scrapbooks also contain correspondence, programs and ephemera. The collection also has Marguerite's annotated actor's side for the part of Mabel in THE PAJAMA GAME and a doll dressed in the Cecil Beaton designed costume for Marguerite's role of Nellie Burns in TENDERLOIN which is stored in the Theatre Collection's T-cabinet, shelf #4.

**Alternative Form Available:** 3 of the scrapbooks are available on microfilm; Billy Rose Theatre Collection, the New York Public Library; call number \*ZC-540, 1-2

**Preferred citation:** Papers of Marguerite and Reta Shaw, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

## Creator History

Marguerite Shaw, a character actress from South Paris, Maine, made her professional debut as Mabel in THE PAJAMA GAME (1955) and made her Broadway debut replacing her sister, Reta, in that role. She repeated this role on national tour and in various productions, including a tour of South Africa. She appeared again on Broadway as Nellie Burns in TENDERLOIN (1960) and also appeared in summer stock, regional theater and television commercials. Marguerite Shaw, a graduate of Bates College with a Masters degree from Columbia University, was a dean at American University at the time of her professional debut. She was later a professor at Sarah Lawrence College.

Reta Shaw, the older sister of Marguerite and also a character actress from South Paris, Maine, attended acting school after high school and had her first major appearance with the national touring company of ANNIE GET YOUR GUN. She was on Broadway in IT TAKES TWO, GENTLEMEN

PREFER BLONDES, PICNIC and THE PAJAMA GAME. Her films include THE PAJAMA GAME, MARY POPPINS, POLLYANNA and BACHELOR IN PARADISE. Her best known roles were on television as the housekeeper in THE GHOST AND MRS. MUIR and Aunt Lil in MR. PEEPERS.

## **Scope and Content Note**

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## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Actresses

### **Names**

Shaw, Marguerite, 1916-1983

Shaw, Reta, 1912-1982