



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Edward Kleban papers

1960-1986

*T-Mss 1988-007

Processed by Francesca Pitaro.

Summary

Creator: Kleban, Edward

Title: Edward Kleban papers

Date: 1960-1986

Source: Gift, Estate of Edward Kleban, 1988

Abstract: The Edward Kleban Papers include correspondence, scripts, lyrics, production materials and ephemera. The bulk of the papers document Kleban's involvement in the creation of A Chorus Line. A Chorus Line, one of Broadway's most successful musicals, won both a Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1976. Various versions of the script and lyrics illustrate the progression of the show from the original production at the New York Shakespeare Festival (1975) to Broadway (1975). Also included are several drafts of the screenplay, and lyrics for the new song created for the film which was released in 1985. Transcripts of early taped sessions with cast members also help to document the evolution of the story. The scripts, lyrics and production materials series are exclusively related to A Chorus Line.

Conditions Governing Access:

Photocopying prohibited.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Preferred citation: Edward Kleban Papers, *T-Mss 1988-007, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Processing note: Processed by Francesca Pitaro.

Separated Materials:

Audiovisual materials separated from archival collections are cataloged individually and can be found in the Library catalog. Search CATNYP, The New York Public Library catalog.

The following material has been separated from the Edward Kleban Papers:

Cassette tapes - Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound [9 tapes of sessions with *Chorus Line* performers]

Musical scores - Music Division [unbound piano-vocal score; bound piano-conductor score; photocopy of the piano-conductor score]

Three dimensional objects - Theatre Collection three-dimensional cabinet [small Tony Award 4/18/76; New Year's Eve box office sign for *Chorus Line* with list of prices 12/31/80] Playbills (except *Chorus Line*) and

poster - Theatre Collection [Irene, 3/73 & 4/74; *The Desert Song* 9/73; long *Chorus Line* poster with dates and names of performers, 1975-1983]

Caricature - Theatre Collection/Originals [Photoreproduction of Hirshfield drawing of original *Chorus Line* cast]

Related Materials:

Kleban, Edward Papers

Creator History

Edward Kleban was born in New York City. He studied at the High School of Music and Art, and Columbia University, and worked as a record producer at Columbia Records before turning to writing lyrics full time. Kleban, who is best known as the lyricist for *A Chorus Line*, also wrote for television and films.

Custodial History

The Edward Kleban Papers were given to the Billy Rose Theatre Division of The New York Public Library in 1988 by the Estate of Edward Kleban.

Scope and Content Note

The Edward Kleban Papers include correspondence, scripts, lyrics, production materials and ephemera. The bulk of the papers document Kleban's involvement in the creation of *A Chorus Line*. *A Chorus Line*, one of Broadway's most successful musicals, won both a Tony Award and the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1976. Various versions of the script and lyrics illustrate the progression of the show from the original production at the New York Shakespeare Festival (1975) to Broadway (1975). Also included are several drafts of the screenplay, and lyrics for the new song created for the film which was released in 1985. Transcripts of early taped sessions with cast members also help to document the evolution of the story. The scripts, lyrics and production materials series are exclusively related to *A Chorus Line*.

Arrangement: Series I: Correspondence Series II: A Chorus Line Scripts Series III: A Chorus Line Lyrics Series IV: A Chorus Line Production Materials Series V: Ephemera

Key Terms

Subjects

Lyricists

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Lyrics

Names

Kleban, Edward

Hamlisch, Marvin

Container List

Series I: Correspondence, 1972-1985 (9 folders)

Correspondence (incoming only) is primarily made up of notes, letters and telegrams of congratulations. A few letters of a more personal nature are also included. Two major events sparked the largest volume of correspondence: the critically successful opening of *A Chorus Line* at the Public Theater in May 1975, and Kleban's Tony Award in April, 1976. The most frequent correspondents are friends and colleagues delighted to hear of Kleban's success. The collection also includes some fan letters.

Chronological

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence "A-Z", 1972-April 1975 (1 folder)
Letters to Edward Kleban, 1972-April 1975.
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence "A-Z", May 1975 (1 folder)
Letters to Edward Kleban, May 1975.
- b. 1 f. 3 Correspondence "A-Z", June-August (1 folder)
Letters to Edward Kleban, June-August 1975.
- b. 1 f. 4 Correspondence "A-Z", September-December (1 folder)
Letters to Edward Kleban, September-December 1975.
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence "A-Z", January-April (1 folder)
Letters to Edward Kleban, January-April 1976.
- b. 1 f. 6 Correspondence "A-Z", May-December (1 folder)
Letters to Edward Kleban, May-December 1976.
- b. 1 f. 7 Correspondence "A-Z" 1977, 1985 (1 folder)
Letters to Edward Kleban, 1977; 1985.
- b. 1 f. 8-9 Correspondence "A-Z" (2 folders)
Letters to Edward Kleban, undated.

Series II: *A Chorus Line* Scripts 1974-1984 (20 folders)

Scripts for *A Chorus Line*, including various versions for stage and publication. Many of the scripts have handwritten annotations. Also included are several versions of Arnold Schulman's screenplay for the movie of *A Chorus Line*, which was released in 1985.

Chronological

- b. 1 f. 10 *A chorus line (Musical) / Marvin Hamlisch*, 9/23/1974 (1 folder)
Revised version of script, 9/23/74.
- b. 1 f. 11 *A chorus line (Musical) / Marvin Hamlisch* 1974 (1 folder)
Script, with corrections, 1974.
- b. 1 f. 12 *A chorus line (Musical) / Marvin Hamlisch* 4/25/1975 (1 folder)
Working draft, 4/25/75.
- b. 1 f. 13-14 *A chorus line (Musical) / Marvin Hamlisch* (2 folders)
Pages 1-1 to 1-27 (2 versions), undated.
- b. 1 f. 15 *A chorus line (Musical) / Marvin Hamlisch* (1 folder)
Pages 60-75, undated.
- b. 2 f. 1-2 *A chorus line (Musical) / Marvin Hamlisch* (2 folders)
Incomplete photocopy of script, with corrections, undated. (2 versions)
- b. 2 f. 3 *A chorus line (Musical) / Marvin Hamlisch* (1 folder)
Miscellaneous script pages, undated.

Series II: A Chorus Line Scripts (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 4 *A chorus line (Musical) / Marvin Hamlisch* (1 folder)
Photocopy of script as it was being prepared for publication.
- b. 2 f. 5 *A chorus line (Musical) / Marvin Hamlisch* 1976
Corrected lyrics for published version of script, and typed note from Edward Kleban on style issues.
- b. 2 f. 6 *A chorus line (Musical) / Marvin Hamlisch* (1 folder)
Marnay, Eddy
French translation of the script, by Eddy Marnay. (incomplete)
- b. 2 f. 7 *A chorus line (Screenplay) / Arnold Schulman* 11/17/1982 (1 folder)
First draft of screenplay for *A Chorus Line*, 11/17/82.
- b. 2 f. 8 *A chorus line (Screenplay) / Arnold Schulman* 4/24/1984 (1 folder)
Composite draft of screenplay for *A Chorus Line*, 4/24/84.
- b. 2 f. 9 *A chorus line (Screenplay) / Arnold Schulman* 6/13/1984 (1 folder)
Screenplay for *A Chorus Line*, 6/13/84.
- b. 2 f. 10 *A chorus line (Screenplay) / Arnold Schulman* 6/27/1984 (1 folder)
Screenplay for *A Chorus Line*, 6/27/84.
- b. 3 f. 1 *A chorus line (Screenplay) / Arnold Schulman* 7/26/1984 (1 folder)
Screenplay for *A Chorus Line*, 7/26/84.
- b. 3 f. 2 *A chorus line (Screenplay) / Arnold Schulman* 9/12/1984 (1 folder)
Screenplay (final draft) for *A Chorus Line*, 9/12/84.
- b. 3 f. 3 *A chorus line (Screenplay) / Arnold Schulman* 1984 (1 folder)
Revised pages for *A Chorus Line* screenplay.
- b. 3 f. 4 *A chorus line (Screenplay) / Arnold Schulman*. (1 folder)
Undated screenplay for *A Chorus Line*.

Series III: A Chorus Line Lyrics,. 1974-1975 (20 folders)

Handwritten and typescript lyrics for *A Chorus Line*, including some numbers that were deleted or changed significantly during rehearsals. A few of the folders also contain musical notation for the songs.

Alphabetical

- b. 3 f. 5 *And.. / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics; photocopy of piano-vocal with lyrics.
- b. 3 f. 6 *At the ballet / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics, and pencil music sketch (untitled).
- b. 3 f. 7 *Broadway boogie woogie / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics.
- b. 3 f. 8 *Cassie / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics for *Cassie*; unused *Music and the Mirror* lyrics, lyrics for deleted number *Inside the Mirror*, and lyrics for deleted number *I'm at the Corner...*
- b. 3 f. 9 *Confidence / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Kleban, Edward
Typed and handwritten lyrics for two deleted numbers written for minor characters: Confidence and Token.
- b. 3 f. 10 *I am a dancer / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics for *I Am a Dancer*, also titled: *Let Me Dance For You*. Also includes typed lyrics for *Inside the Music*.
- b. 3 f. 11 *I can do that / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics for *I Can Do That*. Also includes photocopied lead sheet without lyrics.

Series III: A Chorus Line Lyrics,. (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 12 *It's all in here / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics for *It's All In Here*, also called *Resume*. This was the original opening number which was replaced by *I Hope I Get It*. Also includes music.
- b. 3 f. 13 *Montage / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics, and some dialogue pages.
- b. 3 f. 14 *Joanne / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics for *Joanne*; folder title is "New Wayne" as number was written for Wayne Cilento who played Mike. It was performed at one preview.
- b. 4 f. 1 *Nothing / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics for *Nothing*. Also includes leadsheet with lyrics.
- b. 4 f. 2 *One / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics for *One*. Also includes lead sheet.
- b. 4 f. 3 *I hope I get it / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics for *I Hope I Get It*. Folder is titled "Opening" and also includes lyrics for *It's All In Here*, which was replaced by *I Hope I Get It* as the opening number. Typed and handwritten lyrics for *I Hope I Get It*. Folder is titled "Opening" and also includes lyrics for *It's All In Here*, which was replaced by *I Hope I Get It* as the opening number.
- b. 4 f. 4 *Paul / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics and notes for *Paul*. Also includes several dialogue pages.
- b. 4 f. 5 *Sing / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics for *Sing*, which was introduced by Rene Baughman. Also includes photocopy of piano-vocal with lyrics.
- b. 4 f. 6 *Shoes / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics for *Shoes*, an early number written for Candy Brown. The number was dropped from the show.
- b. 4 f. 7 *Tits and ass / Edward Kleban*. (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics for *Tits and Ass*. Includes much deleted material.
- b. 4 f. 8 *Surprise, surprise / Edward Kleban* (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics for *Surprise, Surprise*, written for the film version. Includes piano-vocal with lyrics.
- b. 4 f. 9 *What I did for love / Edward Kleban*. (1 folder)
Typed and handwritten lyrics for *What I Did For Love*. Also includes piano-vocal with lyrics, and Edward Kleban corrections.
- b. 4 f. 10-11 *Miscellaneous lyrics / Edward Kleban*. (2 folders)
Two folders: one contains miscellaneous lyrics, fragments and notes; the other includes "clean and current" versions of various songs from A chorus line.

Series IV: A Chorus Line Production Materials,. 1974-1977 (23 folders)

Production materials include resumes of original cast members, transcripts of taped sessions with performers, research notes, liner copy for the cast album, and contracts, all related to the stage and film versions of *A Chorus Line*.

- b. 4 f. 12 *Resumes for A chorus line* (1 folder)
Resumes and head shots for many of the original cast members of *A Chorus Line*.
- b. 4 f. 13 *Audtion notes for A chorus line* 1974 (1 folder)
Audition notes and lists of credits for original cast of *A Chorus Line*, with notes by Edward Kleban and Marvin Hamlisch.
- b. 4 f. 14-16 *Transcripts of sessions with A chorus line performers* (3 folders)
Typed transcripts, ca. 1975, of taped sessions with performers in early stages of the development of *A Chorus Line*.
- b. 4 f. 17-19 *Production notes for A chorus line*. (3 folders)
Includes notes on research, flowers for cast, running order, and lyric "fixes".
- b. 4 f. 20 *A chorus line cast album*. (1 folder)
Liner notes and proofs for the cast album of *A Chorus Line*, ca. 1975.

Series IV: A Chorus Line Production Materials,. (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 21-22 ***A chorus line film sound track*** (2 folders)
Notes and correspondence, ca. 1983 relating to the sound track album for the film version of *A Chorus Line*.
- b. 5 f. 1-12 **Miscellaneous contracts** ca. 1974-1977 (12 folders)
Miscellaneous contracts including contracts with The New York Shakespeare Festival, CBS Records, and Universal Studios.

Series V: Ephemera,. 1960-1986

Ephemera includes clippings, invitations, photographs, programs, and playbills. Most of the clippings are reviews and related articles covering the stage and screen productions of *A Chorus Line*. Other *Chorus Line* material includes 3 photographs, a calendar, programs, and playbills. Miscellaneous items include programs from other Kleban work, the earliest being a review at Brooklyn College in 1960.

- b. 5 f. 13 **BMI Music Awards program and materials**,. 1976 (1 folder)
Program from the BMI Music Awards, and BMI publication, Spring 1976 containing an article on Edward Kleban.
- b. 5 f. 14 **Miscellaneous clippings** 1961-1977 (1 folder)
Miscellaneous clippings relating to Edward Kleban.
- b. 5 f. 15-20 **A chorus line clippings** 1975-1986 (6 folders)
Chorus line Hamlish, Marvin
Clippings including reviews and related articles for the stage and film versions of A Chorus Line.
- b. 6 f. 1-2 ***Chorus line (Motion picture)***. (2 folders)
Invitations and miscellany relating to the premiere of *A Chorus Line* (1985) and the Academy Awards ceremony (1986).
- b. 6 f. 3 **Miscellaneous invitations** ca. 1975-1977 (1 folder)
Miscellaneous invitations received by Edward Kleban.
- b. 6 f. 4-10 **Programs for A chorus line** 1975-1977 (7 folders)
Hamlish, Marvin
Programs, Playbills, and flyers for A Chorus Line, including material from the Public Theater, the Shubert Theater, and other venues.
- b. 6 f. 11 **Programs for Edward Kleban projects** ca. 1960-1977 (1 folder)
Programs and flyers for various Edward Kleban projects.
- b. 6 f. 12 **Program / Tony Awards** 1976 (1 folder)
Program for the Tony Awards with notes from Kleban's neighbor attached.
- b. 6 f. 13-14 **Personal ephemera / Edward Kleban**. (2 folders)
Personal ephemera (ca. 1975-1977) including several articles about Edward Kleban sent to him for approval.
- b. 7 **A chorus line ephemera** (4 items)
Hamlish, Marvin
Box contains a 1986 Chorus Line calendar with photos from the film, and 3 black and white photographs: autographed photo of Joe Papp, photo of Joe Papp hugging Michael Bennett at the Chorus Line Gala, photo of Shubert Theatre marquee.