



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

More Fire! Productions records

1980-2006

*T-Mss 2008-003

Processed by Elisabeth Elkind.

Summary

Creator: More Fire! Productions

Title: More Fire! Productions records

Date: 1980-2006

Size: 1 linear foot (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of Robin Epstein, May, 2008.

Abstract: Scripts, photos and publicity document the eight plays produced by the women's theater collective, More Fire! productions, in New York City's East Village from 1980-1987.

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

Preferred citation: More Fire! productions records, *T-Mss 2008-003. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Processing note: Processed by Elisabeth Elkind; Machine-readable finding aid created by Elisabeth Elkind.

Separated Materials:

6 cassettes pertaining to the following shows: *Junk Love*, *The Godmother*, *Art Failures*, *Epstein on the Beach* and two for *Beyond Bedlam* were transferred to the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archive of Recorded Sound.

One VHS video and its transfer to DVD for *Junk Love* and another VHS-DVD set for *Art Failures* were separated to Theatre on Film and Tape (TOFT).

Creator History

More Fire! Productions was a women's theater collective founded in 1980 by Robin Epstein and Dorothy Cantwell and based in the East Village of New York City. More Fire! Productions created and

produced eight full-length plays between 1980-1988, becoming known as "one of the city's leading women's theatre groups" for its contributions to downtown, experimental theater and women's and lesbian theater scenes of the 1980s. Epstein and Cantwell co-wrote, produced and performed in the company's first three plays: *As the Burger Broils*(1980), *The Exorcism of Cheryl*(1981), and *Junk Love* (1981), which had numerous runs and became a neighborhood cult classic, "the longest running show on Avenue A." Epstein then wrote and produced *The Godmother* (1983). Novelist Sarah Schulman joined the company in 1983 and collaborated with Epstein on writing and performing the next three plays: *Art Failures*(1983), *Whining and Dining*(1984), and *Epstein on the Beach*(1985). The final play, *Beyond Bedlam* (1987), was written and produced by Epstein.

Scope and Content Note

The collection, containing scripts in various drafts; notes; research materials; rehearsal, performance and publicity photographs; programs; press releases; flyers; clippings; an article by Epstein; and the transcript of a talk, 2006, by Epstein and Cantwell about their experiences with More Fire! Productions, provides thorough documentation of the work of this experimental theater collective.

Arrangement: Series I. Historical information Series II. Scripts Series III. Photographs Series IV. Programs and publicity Series V. Clippings and reviews

Key Terms

Subjects

Experimental theater

Feminist theater

Lesbian theater

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographic prints

Scripts

Names

Cantwell, Dorothy

Epstein, Robin, 1972-

Schulman, Sarah, 1958-

More Fire! Productions

Container List

Series I. Historical information 1982-2006, n.d (3 folders)

Consists of background information Robin Epstein sent with the collection including her summary of More Fire! Productions, a wikipedia article about it, an article Epstein submitted to *Heresies Magazine* in 1982 or later, and the transcript of a talk she and Dorothy Cantwell gave at the Modern Language Association in 2006.

- b. 1 f. 1 **Historical information on More Fire! Productions** n.d.
Epstein's historical summary and a wikipedia article about the theater collective, More Fire! Productions.
- b. 1 f. 2 ***Drafts of article by Robin Epstein for Heresies Magazine*** n.d.
Includes excerpts from the play, *Junk Love*.
- b. 1 f. 3 ***More Fire! Productions in the East Village by Robin Epstein and Dorothy Cantwell*** 2006 Dec. 29
A talk delivered at the Modern Language Association in Philadelphia.

Series II. Scripts (18 folders)

Various drafts of scripts, typed with some handwritten notes, revisions and cues, for all eight of the plays.

Chronological

- b. 1 f. 4 ***As the Burger Broils or More Fire!!!, a restaurant saga by Robin Epstein*** 1980
Photocopied typescript with some handwritten cues and revisions.
- b. 1 f. 5 ***The Exorcism of Cheryl*** n.d.
Dorothy Cantwell's notebook of notes and scripting.
- b. 1 f. 6 ***The Exorcism of Cheryl*** n.d.
Script with notes and cues.
- b. 1 f. 7 ***The Exorcism of Cheryl by Dorothy Cantwell, Robin Epstein and Marianne Willtorp*** 1981
Script called "newer version."
- b. 1 f. 8 ***Junk Love*** n.d.
Various drafts.
- b. 1 f. 9 ***Junk Love--a play about hunger conceived by Robin Epstein and Dorothy Cantwell*** 1981 Nov.
Typescript written in collaboration with Robin Epstein, Dorothy Cantwell, Jerry Turner, Stephanie Doba, Paul Walker and Marianne Willtorp.
- b. 1 f. 10 ***Junk Love--a play about hunger conceived by Robin Epstein and Dorothy Cantwell*** 1982
Typescript with some handwritten additions, written in collaboration with Robin Epstein, Dorothy Cantwell, Jerry Turner, Stephanie Doba, and Paul Walker. Includes inkblots used by Dr. Deadheart.
- b. 1 f. 11 ***The Godmother by Robin Epstein*** 1983
Typescript with handwritten revisions. Also includes song, rhetoric by stage manager, Sarah Schulman, and research materials.
- b. 1 f. 12 ***Art Failures by Sarah Schulman and Robin Epstein*** n.d.
Script for first production.
- b. 1 f. 13 ***Art Failures by Sarah Schulman and Robin Epstein*** 1983
Script for second production; typescript with handwritten revisions.
- b. 1 f. 14 ***Art Failures by Sarah Schulman and Robin Epstein*** 1983
Typescript with handwritten revisions.

Series II. Scripts (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 15 *Art Failures* n.d.
Script changes by Stephanie Doba; typescript with handwritten revisions.
- b. 1 f. 16 *Art Failures* 1983
Photocopies of postcards mailed to *The Village Voice* asking it to review the show.
- b. 2 f. 1 *Whining and Dining by Robin Epstein and Sarah Schulman* n.d.
Typescript called early draft includes handwritten notes. Earlier title: *Disorderly Conduct*.
- b. 2 f. 2 *Whining and Dining* n.d.
Script pages and changes, typed and handwritten. Includes menu from Grossinger's.
- b. 2 f. 3 *Whining and Dining by Robin Epstein and Sarah Schulman* 1985
Clean typescript called second typed script.
- b. 2 f. 4 *Epstein on the Beach by Sarah Schulman and Robin Epstein* 1987
Script with some revisions, original notes and earlier ending.
- b. 2 f. 5 *Beyond Bedlam by Robin Epstein* 1987
Original script pages, typed with handwritten revisions.

Series III. Photographs 1980-1987 (8 folders)

Contains rehearsal, performance and publicity photos.

Chronological

- b. 2 f. 6 *As the Burger Broils photos* 1980 Oct.
- b. 2 f. 7 *Exorcism of Cheryl photos* n.d.
- b. 2 f. 8 *Junk Love photos* n.d.
- b. 2 f. 9 *The Godmother photos* 1983
- b. 2 f. 10 *Art Failures photos* n.d.
- b. 2 f. 11 *Whining and Dining photos* n.d.
- b. 2 f. 12 *Epstein on the Beach photos* n.d.
- b. 2 f. 13 *Beyond Bedlam photos* n.d.

Series IV. Programs and publicity 1980-1987 (2 folders)

Includes programs, press releases and flyers.

- b. 2 f. 14 More Fire! Productions programs and press releases 1980-1987
- b. 2 f. 15 More Fire! Productions flyers 1980-1987

Series V. Clippings and reviews 1981-1987 (2 folders)

- b. 2 f. 16 *Article about Junk Love by Barbara Barracks in The Flue* 1982
- b. 2 f. 17 More Fire! Productions clippings 1981-1987