



The New York Public Library Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Broadway Angel cards

1965-1989

*T-Mss 1999-012

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2014

Summary

Title: Broadway Angel cards

Date: 1965-1989

Size: 9.2 linear feet (9 boxes)

Source: Donated by Elizabeth Block, 1999.

Abstract: Broadway Index cards, dating from 1965 to 1989, document the fundraising history of Broadway and Off-Broadway plays. The index cards identify the names of plays, the monetary offering, the producer(s) and the legal representation.

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Creator History

In 1978, William Wetze, a former professor at the University of New Hampshire, coined the term "angel" to describe investors of Broadway plays. Investing thousands of dollars was a risky undertaking because there was no guarantee that the investor would receive a monetary return. If the play proved to be a success, the investor received their original investment plus a profit based upon ticket sales.

Scope and Content Note

The index cards, dating from 1965 to 1989, holds information about financial backing needed to launch a Broadway or Off-Broadway play. The cards may have had multiple creators over time.

The index cards contain only basic information: the name of the play; the producer or production

company; the attorney or law firm involved; amount of financial offering, and dates of additional financial transactions.

Many of the index cards have only a "see reference" to another index card with additional information about the play.

Arrangement: The cards are arranged alphabetically by the name of the play, the play's company or individual donor. Unsorted cards may be found at the end of the alphabet.

Key Terms

Subjects

Angels (Investors)

Theater -- New York (N.Y.)

Genre/Physical Characteristic

index cards

Container List

- b. 1 A - B
- b. 2 C - E
- b. 3 F - H
- b. 4 I - M
- b. 5 M - P
- b. 6 P - S
- b. 7 S - T
- b. 7 Angel Cards
- b. 8 Angel Cards
- b. 9 Angel Cards