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Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Richard Rychtarik costume and set designs**

1925-1960s

\*T-Vim 2014-119

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Rychtarik, Richard, 1894-1982

**Title:** Richard Rychtarik costume and set designs

**Date:** 1925-1960s

**Size:** 2.4 linear feet (7 boxes)

**Source:** Unknown.

**Abstract:** Richard Waslav Rychtarik (1894-1982) was a costume and set designer. This collection, dating from 1925 to the 1960s, contains blueprints, drawings and photographs.

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**Processing note:** Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2014

## Creator History

Richard Rychtarik (1894-1982) was a costume and set designer. He emigrated from the former Czechoslovakia to the United States in 1923. Early in his career, he designed costumes and sets for the Cleveland Playhouse.

Rychtarik then moved on to focus strictly on set design. Project locations included Central Park's skating rink; Great Lakes Expo of Cleveland, 1936-1937; Studio One for CBS; and the grand ballroom stage at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

He occasionally partnered with Leon Leonidoff (1894-1989) a producer on several projects mounted at the New Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas and Radio City Music Hall. Rychtarik was also CBS's chief scenic designer, from 1949 to 1964.

Richard Rychtarik died in 1982 in New York City.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The collection, dating from 1925 to the 1960s, documents Richard Rychtarik career as a costume and set designer. Many of the files are from the 1950s and contain set designs for clients that included the Deauville Hotel in Miami Beach; Great Lakes Exposition; the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel; Studio One for CBS; and the Havana-Riviera Hotel in Cuba.

These set designs are primarily blueprints that Rychtarik prepared for his projects, which may be accompanied by the original scaled drawings, notes, photographs and postcards, promotional material for the various venues, and sketches. Some of these files were from projects that Rychtarik worked on with Leonidoff. There is also a small amount of sketches of costume designs.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged in two groups: Set Designs and Costume Designs.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Blueprints  
Drawings & graphics  
Photographs  
Storyboards

### **Occupations**

Costume designers  
Set designers

### **Subjects**

Great Lakes Exposition -- 1936-1937 -- Cleveland, Ohio

### **Titles**

Studio One (Television program)

### **Names**

Leonidoff, Leon, -1989

## Container List

### Set Designs

- b. 1 f. 1 Baker's Wife
- b. 1 f. 2-3 Blue Skies 1960
- b. 1 f. 4 CBS Television
- b. 1 f. 5 Camera Angles 1960s
- b. 1 f. 6 Central Park. Skating Rink and Stage 1947
- b. 1 f. 7 Cottage for Dr. Maschke; Rodzinski Chapel
- b. 1 f. 8-11 Deauville Hotel 1957
- b. 1 f. 12 Floating Stage 1950  
Washington, D.C.
- b. 1 f. 13-15 Great Lakes Exposition 1936-1937
- b. 2 f. 1-3 Great Lakes Exposition 1936-1937
- b. 1 f. 16 Havana-Riviera 1957  
Cuba.
- b. 1 f. 17 Hunter College
- b. 3 f. 1 Madison Square Gardens 1950s
- b. 3 f. 2 Manhattan School of Music
- b. 3 f. 3 Olson and Johnson. Theatre Tent 1953
- b. 3 f. 4 Le Pere Chopin. Dining Room
- b. 3 f. 5 Riviera Casino 1950s  
Fort Lee, New Jersey.
- b. 3 f. 6-7 Sleeping Beauty 1937
- b. 3 f. 8 Small Productions and Commercials 1950s-1960s
- b. 3 f. 9 Stock Designs. CBS
- b. 3 f. 10-11 Storyboards 1959
- b. 3 f. 12-14 Studio One. CBS 1950s
- b. 4 f. 1-3 Studio One. CBS 1950s
- b. 4 f. 4 Theatre Ideas
- b. 4 f. 5 United Nations 1947
- b. 4 f. 6-7 Waldorf-Astoria Hotel 1930s-1950s  
Projects with Leon Leonidoff
- b. 4 f. 8 Buick Television Project
- b. 4 f. 9 New Frontier Hotel c. 1955  
Las Vegas.
- b. 4 f. 10 Radio City Music Hall and Other Projects
- b. 4 f. 11 Television Sets by Other Designers 1950s

### Costume Designs

- b. 5 f. 1-3 Androcles and the Lion
- b. 5 f. 4-6 Arabian Nights
- b. 7 f. 1-2 Arabian Nights

Costume Designs (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 7     **Costume Sketches**  
                 Unidentified.
- b. 6 f. 1-3   **Christmas Card Sketches 1925-1940s**