



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Michael Ellis letters

1950-1970

*T-Mss 2013-125

Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2014

Summary

Creator: Ellis, Michael, 1917-2008

Title: Michael Ellis letters

Date: 1950-1970

Size: .21 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of Michael Ellis, 2007.

Abstract: Michael Ellis (1917-2008) was a theatre producer, stage manager, and actor. Ellis was the managing director and owner of the Bucks County Playhouse in New Hope, Pennsylvania from 1954 to 1964, where he became known for his support of up-and-coming playwrights. The Michael Ellis letters date from 1950 to 1970 and contain letters received by Ellis from new playwrights seeking his assistance or advice in having their work staged. The content of the letters reveal the struggles experienced by unknown playwrights attempting to gain recognition in the theatre. Many letters date from Ellis's tenure at Bucks County Playhouse. Enclosures such as synopses, publicity sheets, and plot summaries are included, and the collection holds letters from multiple playwrights who maintained contact with Ellis following their initial query.

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Key Terms

Subjects

Dramatists, American
Playwriting

Names

Bucks County Playhouse (Organization)