



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Soho Repertory Theatre prompt books**

1975-1989

\*T-Mss 1990-016

Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2015

## Summary

**Creator:** Soho Rep. (Theater company)

**Title:** Soho Repertory Theatre prompt books

**Date:** 1975-1989

**Size:** 6.8 linear feet (17 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Soho Repertory Theatre, 1990.

**Abstract:** Soho Repertory Theatre is an Off-Broadway theater company in New York City. The Soho Repertory Theatre prompt books date from 1975 to 1989, and document the development process for theatrical productions from their first fourteen seasons.

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**Processing note:** Compiled by Joyce Joseph, 2015

**Related Materials:**

Soho Repertory Theatre ephemera, 1975-1996. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

## Creator History

Soho Repertory Theatre, commonly known as Soho Rep, is an Off-Broadway theater company in New York City. It was founded in 1975 by Marlene Swartz and Jerry Engelbach in the SoHo neighborhood of Manhattan. In the mid-1980s, Soho Rep had to leave its original home, and moved a few times before settling in Manhattan's Tribeca neighborhood in 1991.

Soho Rep's original mission was to produce adaptations of classics and rarely staged plays. Its first

season, 1975-1976, opened with such productions as Maxwell Anderson's *Key Largo* and Henrik Ibsen's *The Master Builder*. Other productions from its formative seasons include Frank Marcus's *The Killing of Sister George* (1977-1978, Season 3); John Osborne's *Inadmissible Evidence* (1978-1979, Season 4); and William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* (1979-1980, Season 5).

## Scope and Content Note

The Soho Repertory Theatre prompt books date from 1975 to 1989, and document the development process for theatrical productions from their first fourteen seasons. The prompt books contain a list of the cast and crew, annotated scripts, rehearsal schedules, and some tech notes. The collection does not hold a prompt book for every production from these formative seasons, and there are no materials from Season 11 (1985-1986) and Season 12 (1986-1987). All the included scripts are the stage director's copies. There is also sheet music from the Blitzstein Project (1988-1989, Season 14).

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged by season in the order of production. The order numbers are retained under notes in the container list; and any unnumbered prompt books were placed at the end of each season in alphabetical order. It was not clear to what season a few scripts belonged, so those are listed separately at the end of the collection.

## Key Terms

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Promptbooks  
Sheet music

### Subjects

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York  
Theater -- Production and direction  
Theatrical companies

### Occupations

Theatrical producers and directors

## Container List

### 1975-1976, Season 1

- b. 1 f. 1 *Key Largo*  
1
- b. 1 f. 2-4 *Coriolanus*  
3
- b. 1 f. 5 *Anna Christie*  
5
- b. 1 f. 6 *Infernal Machine*  
6
- b. 2 f. 1 *Heartbreak House*  
7
- b. 2 f. 2 *The Father*  
8
- b. 2 f. 3 *Abelard and Heloise*  
11
- b. 2 f. 4 *Bimbos in Paradise*  
11
- b. 2 f. 5-6 *Candida*  
12
- b. 2 f. 7 *Private Lives*  
13
- b. 3 f. 1 *The Congresswomen*
- b. 3 f. 2 *The Imaginary Invalid*

### 1976-1977, Season 2

- b. 3 f. 3 *Birthday Party*  
1
- b. 3 f. 4 *July 2 and Thanksgiving*  
2
- b. 3 f. 5 *Ghosts*  
3
- b. 3 f. 6 *Under Milk Wood*  
4
- b. 3 f. 7 *Dracula*  
5
- b. 4 f. 1 *The Merchant of Venice*  
7
- b. 4 f. 2 *The Dock Brief / The Public Eye*  
9-10
- b. 4 f. 3 *Black Comedy*  
10
- b. 4 f. 4 *What the Butler Saw*  
11
- b. 4 f. 5 *Faustus X7*  
12

1976-1977, Season 2 (cont.)

b. 4 f. 6 *Spring's Awakening*  
14

b. 4 f. 7 *Billy Lair*  
16

b. 5 f. 1 *Rain*  
17

1977-1978, Season 3

b. 5 f. 2 *The Killing of Sister George*  
1

b. 5 f. 3 *Peer Gynt*  
5

b. 5 f. 4-5 *Mr. T*  
6

b. 5 f. 6 *The Play's the Thing*  
7

b. 5 f. 7 *Abelard and Heloise*  
8

b. 5 f. 8 *The Four Little Girls*  
9

b. 6 f. 1 *Philadelphia Here I Come*  
10

b. 6 f. 2 *The Magistrate*  
11

b. 6 f. 3 *Cyrano DeBergerac*  
16

b. 6 f. 4 *Poe in Person*  
16

b. 6 f. 5 *The Real Inspector Hound*  
18

b. 6 f. 6 *The Miser*

b. 6 f. 7 *Traveler Without Luggage*

1978-1979, Season 4

b. 7 f. 1 *Fallen Angels*  
1

b. 7 f. 2 *The Servant*  
2

b. 7 f. 3-4 *Richard III*  
3

b. 7 f. 5 *Overruled*  
6-7

b. 7 f. 6 *Guernica / Only Ten Minutes to Buffalo*  
8-9

b. 7 f. 7 *Deathwatch / Action*  
11-12

b. 7 f. 8 *The Poet and the Woman*  
15

b. 8 f. 1-2 *Inadmissible Evidence*

1978-1979, Season 4 (cont.)

- b. 8 f. 3-5 *The Knights of the Round Table*

1979-1980, Season 5

- b. 8 f. 6 *The Barber of Seville*  
3

- b. 8 f. 7 *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*  
4

- b. 8 f. 8 *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats and Gamblers*  
11

- b. 9 f. 1 *The Tricycle / The Party*  
14-15

- b. 9 f. 2-4 *Fairy Tales of New York*  
18

- b. 9 f. 5 *Feathertop*

- b. 9 f. 6 *The Insect Comedy*

- b. 9 f. 7 *The Second Man*

- b. 10 f. 1 *Tom Thumb*

1980-1981, Season 6

- b. 10 f. 2-3 *Desire Caught by the Tail*  
1

- b. 10 f. 4 *Dark Ride*

- b. 10 f. 5 *The Doctor and the Devils*

- b. 10 f. 6-7 *The Idol Makers*

- b. 10 f. 8 *Love in the Country*

- b. 11 f. 1-2 *Love in the Country*

1981-1982, Season 7

- b. 11 f. 3-5 *Barbarians*

- b. 11 f. 6 *The Girl Who Ate Chicken Bones*

- b. 11 f. 7 *Nathan the Wise*

- b. 11 f. 8 *Subject to Fits*

- b. 12 f. 1-2 *Subject to Fits*

1982-1983, Season 8

- b. 12 f. 3-5 *Fanshen*

- b. 12 f. 6 *Kid Twist*

- b. 12 f. 7-8 *Rape Upon Rape*

- b. 12 f. 9 *The Silver Tassie*

1983-1984, Season 9

- b. 13 f. 1 *Bertha, Queen of Norway*

- b. 13 f. 2-3 *The Business of Good Government*

- b. 13 f. 4 *The Dwarfs*

- b. 13 f. 5 *Lenz*

- b. 13 f. 6-8 *Mandrake*

- b. 13 f. 9 *Under the Gaslight*

- b. 14 f. 1 *The Wood Painting*

1983-1984, Season 9 (cont.)

b. 14 f. 2 *Yes is for a Very Young Man*

1984-1985, Season 10

b. 14 f. 3 *The Crimes of Vautrin*

b. 14 f. 4 *Energumen*

1987-1988, Season 13

b. 14 f. 5-6 *The Girl of the Golden West*

1988-1989, Season 14

b. 14 f. 7-9 *The Blitzstein Project*

b. 15 f. 1-4 *The Blitzstein Project*

b. 16 f. 1-17 *The Blitzstein Project*

b. 17 f. 1-6 *The Blitzstein Project*

b. 15 f. 5 *The Cezanne Syndrome*

b. 15 f. 6 *Antigone*

b. 15 f. 7 *Chelsea Square*

b. 15 f. 8 *With Green Stockings*