



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Caffe Cino posters

1960-1968

*T-Vim 2011-300

Summary

Creator: Caffe Cino

Title: Caffe Cino posters

Date: 1960-1968

Size: 26 posters in 22 oversized folders, 22 oversize_folder : mixed media on paper ; 76 x 100 cm. and smaller

Source: These posters were donated to the New York Public Library by the artists and other figures associated with the Caffe Cino. Most, if not all, were donated between 1982 and 1985, in advance of a major exhibition at the Library for the Performing Arts on the Caffe Cino, co-curated by Magie Dominic, an alumni of Caffe Cino, and Dorothy Swerdlove, curator of the Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Abstract: Caffe Cino, a coffee house at 31 Cornelia Street in New York City's Greenwich Village, was at the center of the nascent Off Off-Broadway movement. Founded by Joe Cino in 1958, the Cino staged hundreds of plays, poetry readings, and musical revues. It closed in 1968, a year after the death of Joe Cino. Twenty-six oversized posters for productions at the Caffe Cino; many designed by Ken Burgess, but others by the playwrights themselves. Includes mixed media works of collage using pieces of glass, photos, paper cut-outs, newsprint, stickers, paint and aluminum foil. Productions represented include plays by Soren Agenoux, Diane Di Prima, Tom Eyen, Robert Heide, H.M. Koutoukas, David Starkweather and Lanford Wilson, among others.

Conditions Governing Access:

Before requesting physical access, patrons are encouraged to consult the digital surrogates in the library's Digital Collections portal, available onsite at the library. Due to their size and fragility, posters are available for consultation by appointment only. Please email theatre@nypl.org to arrange an appointment.

Preferred citation: Caffe Cino posters, *T-Vim 2011-300. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

Caffe Cino, a coffee house at 31 Cornelia Street in New York City's Greenwich Village, was the birthplace of Off Off-Broadway theatre. Founded by Joe Cino in 1958, the Cino staged hundreds of plays, poetry readings, and musical revues. It closed in 1968, a year after the death of Joe Cino. Caffe Cino is especially recognized as a site for significant LGBTQ performance and culture.

Scope and Content Note

Twenty-six oversized posters for productions at the Caffe Cino; many designed and created by artist Ken Burgess, but others created by the playwrights themselves. Includes mixed media works of collage using pieces of glass, photos, paper cut-outs, newsprint, stickers, paint and aluminum foil. Productions represented include plays by Soren Agenoux, Diane Di Prima, Tom Eyen, Robert Heide, H.M. Koutoukas, David Starkweather and Lanford Wilson, among others.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Collages (visual works)
Posters

Subjects

Experimental theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Gay theater
Off Off-Broadway theater
Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Names

Agenoux, Soren, 1936-
Borske, Haal
Burgess, Ken (Kenneth Emerson), 1935-1989
Caruana, Jerry
Cino, Joe, 1931-1967
Di Prima, Diane
Eyen, Tom
Hartman, Peter
Heide, Robert, 1939-
Howard, James
Koutoukas, H. M. (Haralambos Monroe), 1937-2010
Krauss, Ruth
LaBar, Tom
Perkinson, James W.
Starkweather, David (Playwright)
Stevens, Wallace, 1879-1955
Wilson, Lanford, 1937-2011
Caffe Cino

Container List

- o. 2 *The Bed* 1965
Heide, Robert, 1939- (Artist)
Play by Robert Heide.
- o. 3 "Caffe Cino is Resting" 1965
Burgess, Ken (Kenneth Emerson), 1935-1989 (Artist)
Poster used while Caffe Cino was temporarily closed following a major fire.
- o. 1 *The Cantilever Rainbow* 1965
Borske, Haal (Artist)
Play by Ruth Krauss.
- o. 4 *Carlos Among the Candles* 1966
Burgess, Ken (Kenneth Emerson), 1935-1989 (Artist)
Play by Wallace Stevens.
- o. 5 *Chas. Dickens Xmas Carol* 1966
Burgess, Ken (Kenneth Emerson), 1935-1989
Play by Soren Agenoux.
- o. 6 *Donovan's Johnson* 1967
Burgess, Ken (Kenneth Emerson), 1935-1989 (Artist)
Play by Soren Agenoux.
- o. 7 *Empire State* 1968
Lynn (Artist)
Play by Tom La Bar.
- o. 8 *Eyen on Eyen* 1966
Burgess, Ken (Kenneth Emerson), 1935-1989 (Artist)
Play by Tom Eyen.
- o. 9 *Flyspray* 1960
Play by James Howard.
- o. 10 *French Gray* 1967
Bush, Josef, 1933- (Artist)
Play by Joseph Bush.
- o. 11 *Frustrata* 1964
Burgess, Ken (Kenneth Emerson), 1935-1989 (Artist)
Play by Tom Eyen. Full title is "Frustrata, or The Dirty Little Girl With the Paper Rose Stuck in her Head is Demented!."
- o. 12 *Home Free* 1964
Wilson, Lanford, 1937-2011
Play by Lanford Wilson.
- o. 13 *Love Pickle* 1966
Starkweather, David (Playwright) (Artist)
Play by David Starkweather.
- o. 14 *The Madness of Lady Bright* 1964
Burgess, Ken (Kenneth Emerson), 1935-1989 (Artist)
Play by Lanford Wilson. Also signed by cast and crew members.
- o. 15 *Melancholia* 1962
Play by Jerry Caruana.
- o. 16 *Moon* 1968
Burgess, Ken (Kenneth Emerson), 1935-1989 (Artist)
Play by Robert Heide.

- o. 17 *Monuments* 1968
Play by Diane Di Prima.
- o. 17 *Poet's Vaudeville* 1965
Play by Diane de Prima.
- o. 18 *A Recollection of Cabbage Roses* 1963 Aug
Perkinson, James W. (Artist)
Play by Jim Perkinson.
- o. 18 *Sex Is Between Two People* 1966
Wilson, Lanford, 1937-2011 (Artist)
Play by Lanford Wilson.
- o. 18 *So Who's Afraid of Edward Albee?* 1963
Stanley, Charles, d. 1977 (Artist)
Play by David Starkweather.
- o. 18 *Spirit of Xmas Past* 1963
Stanley, Charles, d. 1977 (Artist)
- o. 19 *Thanksgiving Week Horror Show* 1966
Burgess, Ken (Kenneth Emerson), 1935-1989 (Artist)
Play by H. M. Koutoukas.
- o. 20 *This Is the Rill Speaking* 1965
Wilson, Lanford, 1937-2011 (Artist)
Play by Lanford Wilson.
- o. 21 *Vistas of the Heart Unveiled* 1966
Stanley, Charles, d. 1977 (Artist)
Play by Peter Hartman.
- o. 22 *With Creatures Make My Way* 1965
Burgess, Ken (Kenneth Emerson), 1935-1989 (Artist)
Play by H. M. Koutoukas.