



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Naked Angels records**

1987-2013

\*T-Mss 2017-030

Collection processed by Amelia Carlin, 2018.

## Summary

**Creator:** Naked Angels (Theater company)

**Title:** Naked Angels records

**Date:** 1987-2013

**Size:** 7.01 linear feet (18 boxes, 1 oversize folder); 17.8 gigabytes (3,928 computer files)

**Source:** Collection was donated by the Naked Angels Theater Company in 2017.

**Abstract:** Naked Angels is a New York City based company of actors, producers, playwrights, and designers who create and perform works primarily for theater. The collection provides a record of the company's performance activities from 1987 to 2012 through programs; scripts; photographs; flyers, posters; administrative material; lighting plots; and some stage and costume notes.

**Status note:** Electronic records are currently unavailable.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Sound and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization. Electronic records are currently unavailable.

**Preferred citation:** Naked Angels records, \*T-Mss 2017-030. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Collection processed by Amelia Carlin, 2018.

## Creator History

Naked Angels is a New York City based company of actors, producers, playwrights, and designers who create and perform works primarily for theater. Alongside stage productions, the group also runs regular

readings of new works, educational events for students, and a podcast. A number of its members have moved on to Broadway, television, and Hollywood careers. Originally formed with a collective-based decision making framework, they hired an artistic director, Jenny Garsten, in 2005. Their original headquarters was a theater on 17th Street in New York City that became known as "The Space," which they occupied until 1995.

The company is known for its Issues Projects, an ongoing series of works on socially relevant and controversial topics, often produced in collaboration with social justice organizations. From 2004 to 2006, Naked Angels partnered with the Fox Broadcasting Company to form "Naked TV," a series of original one-act plays that showcased playwrights and actors. Plays were also developed through Angels in Progress workshops, and Tuesdays@9, which is an ongoing cold-reading series.

To raise money for its operations, over the years Naked Angels has organized galas and benefits that have taken the form of play readings, themed dances, character roasts, and other events.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The collection provides a record of the company's performance and publicity activities from 1987 to 2012. The paper files are composed of programs; scripts; photographs; flyers, mailings and posters; contracts and financial records (including annual reports for 2001 to 2007); lighting plots; and some staging and costume notes. There is a small amount of administrative correspondence. The majority of the files are organized by theatrical season, and are arranged under the title of the production or event. The collection also contains audio and moving image recordings, arranged chronologically.

Files for productions in the early years often only contain programs and scripts. Files for performances from the late-1990s onwards are more robust and may include a production book. These were created for internal use, and are a compilation of the administrative, casting, script, set, costume, and financial records from a particular production. The files from the 1980s to the late 1990s have less administrative and financial material than those that follow.

There is an abundance of photographs and contact sheets, especially in the electronic records. The photographs document performances, rehearsals, readings, and benefit events, with some candid images of company members.

The sound and video recordings include a large component of non-commercial footage. This includes benefit events (such as "Fish Fry," a roast of Fisher Stevens), table reads, and actual productions, such as "Naked TV" plays. Commercial footage includes promotional material and television spots, podcast episodes, and radio advertisements. These recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Contact sheets

Electronic records (digital records)

Photographs

Posters

Programs (documents)

Scripts

Slides (photographs)

**Subjects**

Plays-in-progress

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Theater -- Production and direction

Theater and society -- United States

**Names**

Naked Angels (Theater company)

## Container List

### 1987-1988 Season

- b. 1 f. 1 The Boxing Match 1987-1988  
Benefit event.
- b. 1 f. 2 *Chelsea Walls Reading* 1988
- b. 1 f. 3 Programs 1987-1988

### 1988-1989 Season

- b. 1 f. 4 The Auction 1988-1989  
Benefit event.
- b. 1 f. 5 *Aven'U Boys* 1989
- b. 1 f. 6 Ground Plans 1988-1992  
Includes photographs of company members during renovations for "The Space."
- b. 1 f. 7 Homeless Project 1988-1989
- b. 1 f. 8 o. 1 *I'd Rather Be Punch Drunk* 1988-1989
- b. 1 f. 9 *The Myth Project* 1989
- b. 2 f. 1 New Works 1988-1989
- b. 2 f. 2 *We Bombed in New Haven* 1988-1989

### 1989-1990 Season

- b. 2 f. 3 *Chelsea Walls* 1989-1990
- b. 2 f. 4 Get Down to Earth Day 1989-1990
- b. 2 f. 5 *Machinal* 1989-1990
- b. 2 f. 6 Shorts in the Dark 1990
- b. 2 f. 7 *Woyzeck* 1989-1990

### 1990-1991 Season

- b. 3 f. 1 *Angel Sent Me* 1990
- b. 3 f. 2 *A Darker Purpose* 1990-1991
- b. 3 f. 3 *The King of Connecticut* 1991
- b. 3 f. 4 *Kolesco* 1991
- b. 3 f. 5 Naked Rights 1991  
A Naked Angels Issues Project.
- b. 4 f. 1 The Naked Truth 1990-1991  
Ten plays on censorship.
- b. 4 f. 2 *Nebraska* 1991
- b. 17 f. 1
- b. 4 f. 3 *The Substance of Fire* 1990-1991
- b. 4 f. 4 *The Summer Winds* 1991

### 1991-1992 Season

- b. 4 f. 5 *The Big Swing* 1991-1992
- b. 5 f. 1 Press 1990-1992

### 1992-1993 Season

- b. 5 f. 2 *American Buddha* 1992
- b. 5 f. 3-5 Angels in Progress 1993

1992-1993 Season (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 6 *Big Plans* 1992
- b. 5 f. 7 *Bluebird Special* 1993
- b. 5 f. 8 Box Office Reports 1993
- b. 5 f. 9 *Busted and Heartsick Pioneer* 1993
- b. 5 f. 10 Industria 1993  
Benefit event.
- b. 5 f. 11 *My Left Breast* 1992
- b. 5 f. 12 Naked Angels Takes on Women 1992-1993
- b. 5 f. 13-14 *A Suffering Colonel* 1992

1993-1994 Season

- b. 6 f. 1-4 Angels in Progress 1993-1994
- b. 6 f. 5 *Claus* 1993
- b. 6 f. 6 Dr. Valentine's Delirium Waltz 1993  
Benefit event. Includes script, floor plans, invitations, and photographs.
- b. 7 f. 1 East Hamptons Benefit 1992-1993
- b. 7 f. 2 *Escape From Happiness* 1993
- b. 7 f. 3 *Fair Fight* 1993
- b. 7 f. 4 *Fat Men in Skirts* 1994
- Naked at the Coast
- b. 7 f. 5 1993-1994
- er. 1 1994  
(2 computer files 52 kilobytes)
- b. 7 f. 6 *The Stand-In* 1993-1994
- b. 7 f. 7 *Three Hotels* 1993

1994-1995 Season

- b. 7 f. 8 East Hamptons Benefit 1994
- b. 7 f. 9 *A Fair Country* 1994
- b. 7 f. 10 *Funky Crazy Boogaloo Boy* 1995
- b. 8 f. 1 *Love is Red* 1995
- More Naked at the Coast
- b. 8 f. 2 1994
- b. 17 f. 2 Box 17 contains a photograph of "Instant Girl" performing.
- er. 2 1994-1995  
(16 computer files 62.75 kilobytes)
- b. 8 f. 3 Naked Faith 1995
- b. 17 f. 3
- b. 8 f. 4 Photographs 1994-1995
- b. 8 f. 5 Saturday Mourning Cartoons 1994-1995

1995-1996 Season

- b. 8 f. 6-7 Angels in Progress 1995-1996
- b. 8 f. 8 East Hampton Benefit 1995
- b. 8 f. 9 Naked and Hate Free 1995-1996
- b. 9 f. 1 A Naked Angels Issues Project.

1996-1997 Season

b. 9 f. 2 *Black Comedy* 1996-1997

b. 9 f. 3 *Easter* 1997

b. 9 f. 4 *Flyovers* 1996

*Gunplay*

b. 9 f. 5 1997

b. 17 f. 4

er. 3 1996-1997

(14 computer files 1.4 megabytes)

b. 9 f. 6 *Stray Cats* 1997

b. 9 f. 7 Winter Shorts 1997

1998-1999 Season

Angels in Progress

b. 9 f. 8 1997-1999

er. 4 1999

(7 computer files 205.5 kilobytes)

*Hesh*

b. 9 f. 9 1998

er. 5 1998

(4 computer files 245 kilobytes)

Moomba 13th Anniversary

b. 9 f. 10 1999

er. 6 1998

(9 computer files 343 kilobytes)

er. 7 *Shyster* 1999-2000

(62 computer files 4.19 megabytes)

*Snakebit*

b. 9 f. 11 1998

er. 8 1998-2000

(11 computer files 688.5 kilobytes)

2000-2001 Season

er. 9 Jockey Promotion Event 2001

(214 computer files 242.4 megabytes)

b. 9 f. 12 *Signature* 1999-2002

2002-2003 Season

b. 10 f. 1 Actor's Equity 2002-2012

b. 10 f. 2 Fear: An Issues Project 2002-2003

b. 10 f. 3 Grant Proposals 2002

*Meshugah*

b. 10 f. 4-5 2002-2003

er. 10 2003

(164 computer files 81.14 megabytes)

b. 10 f. 6 Radio Plays 2003

*Tape*

2002-2003 Season (cont.)

Tape (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 7      2002
- er. 11      Party Photographs 2002  
(20 computer files 1 megabyte)

2003-2004 Season

*Democracy*

Also called "The Democracy Project."

- b. 11 f. 1-4      2003-2004
- er. 12      2005  
(219 computer files 165 megabytes)

2005-2006 Season

Annual Appeal

- b. 11 f. 5      2005
- er. 13      2005  
(7 computer files 380.5 kilobytes)

Fish Fry

- b. 11 f. 6      2005
- er. 14      2005  
(2 computer files 1.24 gigabytes)

*His Girl Friday*

- b. 11 f. 7      2005
- er. 15      2006  
(25 computer files 107.9 megabytes)

*Mistakes Madeline Made*

- b. 11 f. 8-9      2006
- b. 12 f. 1
- er. 16      2006  
(405 computer files 1.04 gigabytes)

Naked TV

- er. 17      2005  
(226 computer files 373.5 megabytes)
- b. 12 f. 2      2005-2006

2006-2007 Season

*All the President's Men*

- b. 12 f. 3-5      2006
- er. 18      2006  
(352 computer files 1.1 gigabytes)

Armed and Naked in America

A Naked Angels Issues Project.

- b. 12 f. 6      2006-2007
- b. 13 f. 1-3
- er. 19      2007-2008  
(167 computer files 5.77 gigabytes)

- b. 13 f. 4      First Mondays 2006-2007

The Mag-7

2006-2007 Season (cont.)

The Mag-7 (cont.)

- er. 20      2006  
              (89 computer files 420.5 megabytes)
- b. 13 f. 5      2006-2007
- b. 13 f. 6      Production History 2007  
              Short inventory of archives as of 2007.
- b. 13 f. 7      Public Theater - 365 Days/ 365 Plays 2007  
              *Spalding Gray: Stories Left to Tell*
- b. 13 f. 8      2006-2007
- er. 21      2007  
              (10 computer files 67.62 megabytes)

2008-2009 Season

Angels in Progress: Old School at the New School

- b. 13 f. 9      2008
- er. 22      2008  
              (348 computer files 1.64 megabytes)
- er. 23      *The Black Crook* 2008  
              (13 computer files 55.9 megabytes)  
              *Fault Lines*
- er. 24      2008  
              (357 computer files 2.95 gigabytes)
- b. 13 f. 10      2009
- er. 25      Press and Publicity 2008  
              (136 computer files 28.7 megabytes)
- b. 13 f. 11      *The Talk* 2008  
              Contact sheets from a cancelled production.

2009-2010 Season

- b. 14 f. 1      *The Issues Projects: Collected Plays* 2009  
              Published collection of "Issues Projects" scripts.
- b. 14 f. 2      *A Long and Happy Life* 2009-2010
- b. 14 f. 3      Madame CJ Project 2009-2010  
              Material for a 2012 production.  
              *Next Fall*
- er. 26      2009  
              (172 computer files 104.3 megabytes)
- b. 14 f. 4-5      2009-2010  
              Includes production book.
- er. 27      Press and Publicity 2009  
              (163 computer files 92.41 megabytes)  
              *Oh, The Horror*
- b. 14 f. 6      2009
- er. 28      2009  
              (7 computer files 77.49 megabytes)
- This Wide Night*
- b. 14 f. 7      2010
- b. 15 f. 1-3



2009-2010 Season (cont.)  
This Wide Night (cont.)

- er. 29      **2010**  
(84 computer files 26.04 megabytes)

## 2011-2012 Season

- b. 15 f. 4      **One Big Ball 2011**  
Benefit event for 2011-2012 season.

## 2012-2013

- er. 30      *The Rest of Our Lives*  
(15 computer files 1.69 megabytes)

## Unsorted Material

### Administrative

- er. 31      **1995-2002**  
(119 computer files 1.49 gigabytes)

- er. 32      **Biographies 1991-2002**  
(41 computer files 4.54 megabytes)

- er. 33      **Board Documents 1998-2001**  
(28 computer files 1.99 megabytes)

### Financial

- er. 34      **1998-2001**  
(25 computer files 4.45 megabytes)

- b. 15 f. 5      **Annual Reports 2000-2007**

b. 16 f. 1

- er. 35      **Summer School 1999-2001**  
(21 computer files 863.9 kilobytes)

### Photographs

- er. 36      **1980s-2000s**  
(284 computer files 750.5 megabytes)

- b. 16 f. 2-3      **1990s-2000s**

- er. 37      **Benefit Events 1980s-1990s**  
(146 computer files 75.84 megabytes)  
*Angel Sent Me, The Big Swing, Dr. Valentine's Delirium Waltz.*

- er. 38      **Contact Sheets 1980s-2000s**  
(23 computer files 251.4 megabytes)

- b. 18 f. 1-2      **Posters 1991-2010**

### Programs and Publicity

- b. 16 f. 4-8      **1995-2014**

- er. 39      **1996-2008**  
(84 computer files 14.02 megabytes)

- b. 17 f. 5-6      **Unlabeled Artwork undated**  
Pen drawings and painted logo.

## Audio and Moving Images

Sound and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.