



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Louise Kerz Hirschfeld collection

1928-2017

*T-Vim 2017-036

Processed by Thea Constantine and Heather Lember in 2019.

Summary

Collector: Hirschfeld, Louise Kerz, 1936-

Title: Louise Kerz Hirschfeld collection

Date: 1928-2017

Size: 0.98 linear feet (4 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

Source: Gift of Louise Kerz Hirschfeld, October 2017.

Abstract: Louise Kerz Hirschfeld is the founder and former president of the Al Hirschfeld Foundation, and has worked as a historian, research consultant, production assistant, and curator in the film and theatre industries. Her collection contains artwork, posters, photographs, and memorabilia from film and theatre productions in Austria, Germany, Poland, and the United States.

Preferred citation: Louise Kerz Hirschfeld collection, *T-Vim 2017-036. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: Multiple languages Contains materials in English, German, Hebrew, and Polish.

Processing note: Processed by Thea Constantine and Heather Lember in 2019.

Creator History

Louise Kerz Hirschfeld has worked in the theatre and film industries since 1960, where she has served as a historian, research consultant, production assistant, and curator. She began her career as a production assistant at Leo Kerz Productions in New York City, a position she held for fourteen years. Hirschfeld has also held various theatrical curator positions at such institutions as The New York Cultural Center, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, and the California Museum of Science and Industry. Between 1987 and 1996 she worked as a research consultant at Smith-Hemion TV Productions in Los Angeles, California. Hirschfeld was married to caricaturist, Al Hirschfeld from 1996 until his death in 2003. In 2004, she founded the Al Hirschfeld Foundation, and served as the foundation's president until 2015. Beginning in 2007, Hirschfeld also worked as an ambassador of the

Theatre Collection at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, and served as board director for the Martin E. Segal Theatre at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from 1928 to 2017, and contains Designs and Drawings; Photographs; Posters; and Programs and Memorabilia related to film and theatre productions in Austria, Germany, Poland, and the United States. Materials are arranged alphabetically by name, title, or subject matter within each category.

Designs and Drawings include an assortment of illustrations dating from 1965 to 2015. There are four costume design sketches from a 1965 production of *Der Gute Mensch von Sezuan*, a reproduction of an Al Hirschfeld illustration, two unidentified Japanese drawings, a Robert Wilson *Peter Pan* sketch, and a set of three Tony Walton illustrations from *The Wiz*. Both the *Peter Pan* and *The Wiz* drawings are inscribed to Hirschfeld.

The Photographs contain three images dating from 1940 to 1960, which depict Pierre Olaf, Erwin Piscator, and Max Reinhardt. The Olaf portrait is by Carl Van Vechten, the Piscator is by Robert Lackenback, and the Reinhardt was taken by Lotte Jacobi.

The Posters date from 1928 to 2010, and comprise the largest portion of the collection. All the posters are arranged into the following categories: Film; Museum Exhibitions; American Theatre; Austrian Theatre; German Theatre; and Polish Theatre. Items are further arranged alphabetically by title within each category. There is a large selection of theatrical posters from Germany and Poland, as well as an original 1928 poster from the Salzburger Festspiele in Austria. Five of the German posters are from productions directed by Erwin Piscator that were performed in Berlin. There are also two posters present from the Volkstheater in Rostock, East Germany, one of which is for a production of Bertolt Brecht's *Mann ist Mann*. Posters from Polish theatrical productions mostly contain prints from performances in Warsaw between 1959 and 1963. More detailed information about each poster is located in the container list.

The Programs and Memorabilia contain souvenir programs from productions of *Der Gute Mensch Von Sezuan*, *Samson and Delilah*, and *Tygrys Pietrek*. Of special interest is a 2017 handwritten letter from Julie Andrews to Hirschfeld.

Key Terms

Occupations

Collectors.

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Film posters

Lobby cards

Theater programs

Subjects

Posters, Austrian

Posters, German

Posters, Polish

Theatrical posters
Window Cards

Names

Brecht, Bertolt, 1898-1956
Hirschfeld, Al
Hirschfeld, Louise Kerz, 1936-
Piscator, Erwin, 1893-1966

Container List

Designs and Drawings

- b. 3 f. 1-4 *Der Gute Mensch von Sezuan [The Good Person of Szechwan]* 1965
Contains four hand colored costume designs for a 1965 production of Brecht's *Der Gute Mensch von Sezuan* at the Württembergische Staatstheater in Stuttgart, Germany. Included are designs for "Die 3 Götter," "Bonze," "Der Hinkende," and "Die Schwangere."
- b. 1 f. 1 *Ernest Hemingway Reads Ulysses at the Stork Club*
Contains a reproduction of the Al Hirschfeld illustration for an exhibit at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin, Texas.
- b. 3 f. 5
b. 4 f. 1 Japanese Drawings
- b. 1 f. 2 *Peter Pan* 2013
Contains a drawing by Robert Wilson that is inscribed to Hirschfeld.
- b. 3 f. 6 *The Wiz* circa 1978
Contains three illustrations from *The Wiz* that are inscribed to Hirschfeld from Tony Walton.

Photographs

- b. 1 f. 3 Olaf, Pierre 1960
Contains a Carl Van Vechten portrait of Pierre Olaf in costume in the Broadway production of *La Plume de Ma Tante*.
- b. 1 f. 4 Piscator, Erwin
Contains a photograph of Erwin Piscator by Robert Lackenback.
- b. 1 f. 5 Reinhardt, Max circa 1940
Contains a portrait of Max Reinhardt by Lotte Jacobi.

Posters

Film

- b. 4 f. 2 Berlin Film Festival 1983
Contains a poster for the 33rd annual Berlin Film Festival.
- b. 1 f. 6 *The Clown* 1953
Contains a lobby card.
- b. 2 f. 1 *Samson & Delilah* 1949
Contains a window card for the Cecil B. DeMille film.
- b. 2 f. 2 *Unconquered* 1947
Contains a window card for the Cecil B. DeMille film.

Museum Exhibits

- b. 2 f. 3 "Brits on Broadway" at Theatre Museum, London 2005
Contains a poster that features an Al Hirschfeld illustration and includes an inscription to Louise Hirschfeld from Tony Walton.
- b. 3 f. 7 The Mark Goodson Seminar Series at the Museum of Broadcasting 1989
Contains a poster with an Al Hirschfeld illustration for a Gary Smith and Dwight Hemion seminar at the Museum of Broadcasting.

American Theatre

- b. 2 f. 4 *Broadway Scrapbook* 1947
Contains a poster illustrated by Al Hirschfeld to promote a book by Brooks Atkinson.
- b. 1 f. 7 *Equus* 2010
Contains a mailer-sized poster designed by Tony Walton for a revival production at the John Drew Theatre in Easthampton, New York.
- b. 2 f. 5 *Holiday* 1980
Contains a window card for the Robert Allan Ackerman directed production of *Holiday* for the Center Theatre Group in Los Angeles, California.

Posters (cont.)

American Theatre (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 6 *Listen to the Mocking Bird* 1959
Contains a window card for The Playwrights' Company production of the Edward Chodorov comedy.
- b. 2 f. 7 *Where's Charley* 2004
Contains a window card, which features an Al Hirschfeld illustration, for the revival of *Where's Charley* at Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut. The poster includes an inscription to Louise Hirschfeld from Tony Walton.

Austrian Theatre

- b. 2 f. 8 *Die Fledermaus [The Bat]* 1991
Contains a poster for the Israel tour of the Johann Strauss production.
- o. 1 *Salzburger Festspiele* 1928
Contains a poster designed by Leopoldine Wojtek for the film festival in Salzburg, Austria.

German Theatre

- b. 3 f. 9 *Androklos und der Löwe [Androcles and the Lion]* circa 1962-1963
Contains a poster for the Erwin Piscator production at Freie Volksbühne in Berlin, Germany.
- b. 3 f. 10 *Die Atriden-Tetralogie [The Atriden Tetralogy]* 1962
Contains a poster for the Erwin Piscator production at Theater am Kurfürstendamm in Berlin, Germany.
- b. 3 f. 11 *Fuhrmann Henschel* circa 1962-1963
Contains a poster for the Erwin Piscator production at Freie Volksbühne in Berlin, Germany.
- b. 3 f. 12 *Der Kaufmann von Venedig [The Merchant of Venice]* circa 1962-1963
Contains a poster for the Erwin Piscator production at Freie Volksbühne in Berlin, Germany.
- b. 3 f. 13 *Robespierre*
Contains a poster for the Erwin Piscator production at Freie Volksbühne in Berlin, Germany.
- b. 4 f. 3 *Die Stachelschweine [The Porcupine]* circa 1960
Contains two posters, one of which was designed by Heinz Hajek-Halke, for the Berliner Literarisches Kabarett.
- b. 2 f. 9 *Mann ist Mann* circa 1959
Contains a poster for a performance of the Bertolt Brecht play at the Volkstheater in Rostock, East Germany.
- b. 2 f. 10 *Volkstheater* circa 1959
Contains a poster promoting various performances at the Volkstheater in Rostock, East Germany.

Polish Theatre

- b. 3 f. 14 *Andorra* 1962
Contains a poster for a performance at Teatr Ateneum in Warsaw, Poland.
- b. 3 f. 15 *Biale Noce [White Nights]* 1963
Contains a poster for a performance at Teatr Ateneum in Warsaw, Poland.
- b. 3 f. 16 *Demony [The Devils]* 1963
Contains a poster for a performance at Teatr Ateneum in Warsaw, Poland.
- b. 4 f. 4 *Czerwone Pantofelki [The Red Shoes]* 1963
Contains a poster for a performance of the Hans Christian Andersen play at Teatr Klasyczny.
- b. 4 f. 5 *Dzika Kaczka [The Wild Duck]* 1963
Contains a poster designed by Henryk Chylinski for a performance at Teatr Rozmaitości.
- b. 4 f. 6 *Ficyzy [The Physicists]* 1962
Contains a poster designed by Jerzy Srokowski for a performance at Teatr Dramatyczny in Warsaw, Poland.
- b. 4 f. 7 *Frank V*
Contains a poster designed by Franciszek Starowieyski for a performance at Teatr Dramatyczny in Warsaw, Poland.

Posters (cont.)

Polish Theatre (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 8 *Grupa Laokoona [Laokoon Group]*
Contains a poster designed by Roman Cie_lewicz for a production at Teatr Dramatyczny in Warsaw, Poland.
- b. 3 f. 17 *Kariera Artura Ui [The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui]* 1963
Contains a poster for the Bertolt Brecht production at Teatr Współczesny in Warsaw, Poland.
- b. 4 f. 9 *Ksi_dz Marek [Father Marek]* 1963
Contains a poster designed by Roman Cie_lewicz for a performance at Teatr Dramatyczny.
- b. 4 f. 10 *M_cze_stwo Piotra Oheya [The Martyrdom of Peter Ohey]* 1959
Contains a poster for a performance at Teatr Groteska in Kraków, Poland.
- b. 3 f. 18 *Trzy Siostry [Three Sisters]*
Contains a poster for the Anton Chekhov production at Teatr Współczesny in Warsaw, Poland.
- b. 4 f. 11 *Tymon Ate_czyk [Timon of Athens]* 1963
Contains a poster designed by Henryk Chyli_ski for a performance of the William Shakespeare play at Teatr Klasyczny in Warsaw, Poland.
- b. 4 f. 12 *Zwyrtala dewr Musikant [Zwyrtala the Musician]* 1959
Contains a poster designed by Adam Kilan for a performance at Teatr Lalka in Warsaw, Poland.

Programs and Memorabilia

- b. 1 f. 98 *Der Gute Mensch Von Sezuan [The Good Person of Szechwan]* circa 1960s
Contains a paper fan program for the Berliner Ensemble's production of *Der Gute Mensch Von Sezuan* at Theater am Schiffbauerdamm in Berlin, Germany.
- b. 1 f. 9 Letter from Julie Andrews to Louise Kertz Hirschfeld 2017
- b. 1 f. 10 *Samson and Delilah* 1949
Contains a program for Cecil B. DeMille's film.
- b. 1 f. 11 *Tygrys Pietrek [Peter the Tiger]* 1958
Contains a program for a performance at the Pa_stwowý Teatr in Warsaw, Poland.