



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Johnson-Liff Casting Associates Ltd. records**

1978-2006

\*T-Mss 2019-005

Processed by Valerie Wingfield in 2019.

## Summary

**Creator:** Zerman, Andrew

**Title:** Johnson-Liff Casting Associates Ltd. records

**Date:** 1978-2006

**Size:** 18.75 linear feet (45 boxes)

**Source:** The collection was donated by Lenore Zerman, sister of Andy Zerman, March 2019.

**Abstract:** Andrew "Andy" Zerman (1956-2019) was a casting director at Johnson-Liff and Zerman and a long-time volunteer at the Library of Performing Arts. The Johnson-Liff Casting Associates Ltd. records, dating 1978 through 2006, (bulk dates 1980s-1990s), reflects about thirty years of Broadway and Off-Broadway productions worked on by Andy Zerman. The collection includes critical reviews of productions, photographs, playbills resumes and video recordings.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Inquiries regarding audio and moving image materials in the collection may be directed to the Billy Rose Theatre Division ([theatre@nypl.org](mailto:theatre@nypl.org)). Audio and moving image materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

**Preferred citation:** Johnson-Liff Casting Associates Ltd. records, \*T-Mss 2019-005. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Valerie Wingfield in 2019.

## Creator History

Andrew "Andy" Zerman (1956-2019) was a casting director at Johnson-Liff and Zerman and a long-time volunteer at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. Early in his career, Zerman was a casting director for the Manhattan Theatre Club. Other casting positions would follow with many

Broadway and Off-Broadway productions, most notably the original Broadway hits *Cats*, *Les Misérables* and *The Phantom of the Opera*. Outside of New York theater, Zerman would develop a working relationship with the Yale Repertory Theatre, casting many of their productions. He also travelled extensively around the United States to evaluate senior performing arts classes at universities. Zerman occasionally worked as a casting director for television and cinematic productions, notably *Little Gloria...Happy at Last*, and *Sister Act*.

Zerman died in New York City in 2019.

Johnson-Liff Associates was a casting agency established in 1975 by casting director and former stage manager Geoffrey Johnson and Vincent Liff. From its inception, Johnson-Liff was employed by high profile Broadway productions, such as hit musicals like *The Wiz* (1975), *Ain't Misbehavin'* (1978) and *Dreamgirls* (1981) as well as prestigious plays, including Tom Stoppard's *Night and Day* (1979) and Peter Schaffer's *Amadeus* (1980).

## Scope and Content Note

The Johnson-Liff Casting Associates Ltd. records, dating from 1978 through 2006 (bulk dates 1980s-1990s), reflect about thirty years of Broadway and Off-Broadway productions worked on by casting director Andy Zerman.

These files were generated by Zerman during pre-productions, the stage productions, and the revival productions. The records reflect his key role as casting director from his contemporaneous commentaries about the actors' auditions and memorandums with talent agencies. Other files include character-breakdown information, submissions by talent agencies, self-promotion by actors, and correspondence between principles responsible for the productions. Zerman's work as a casting director for touring companies, touring productions, and television and film productions is illustrated through critical reviews of productions, photographs, playbills, and resumes.

Some productions of note are *Aspects of Love*, *The Boys in the Band*, *Cats* (extensively represented), *City of Angels*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Sister Act*, and *Three Penny Opera*.

The collection also holds the Manhattan Theatre Club files, contact lists of talent agents, and files of Zerman's evaluations of the senior class of performing arts students at Fordham University Theatre Company, North Carolina School of the Arts, University of California, Irvine and others.

There are also video auditions for *Sister Act*.

**Arrangement:** The collection is grouped into the following categories: Theatrical Productions, Television Broadcasts and Film, Related Materials, and Sound and Moving Image Recordings.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Acting Auditions

Photographs

Rásumás (Employment)

Theater Casting

**Occupations**

Casting directors

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Video recordings (physical artifacts)

**Names**

Zerman, Andrew

Johnson-Liff Associates

## Container List

### Theatrical Productions, Television Broadcasts, and Film 1978-2006

The productions are arranged alphabetically. The Manhattan Theatre Club files have a separate alphabetical arrangement.

- b. 1 f. 1-7 *Aspects of Love* 1989-1990
- b. 1 f. 8-9 *Baby* 1982-1984
- b. 2 f. 1-5
- b. 2 f. 6 *The Baker's Wife* 1983
- b. 2 f. 7-9 *Becoming Memories* 1982
- b. 3 f. 1 *Betrayal* 1999
- b. 3 f. 2-11 *Big* 1995-1996
- b. 4 f. 1-3 *Big Night* 2001
- b. 4 f. 4-7 *The Black Monk* 2002-2003
- b. 4 f. 8-11 *Blood On The Dining Room Floor* 2000
- b. 5 f. 1-5 *The Boys In The Band* 1996
- b. 5 f. 6-8 *Breath, Boom* 2002
- b. 5 f. 9-12 *Bunny, Bunny* 1996
- Cats* 1981-1994
- b. 6 f. 1-7 Audition Notices, Cast, and Memorandums
- b. 7 f. 1-8 New York and National Auditions 1982-1986
- b. 8 f. 1-6 Los Angeles Auditions 1982-1986
- b. 8 f. 7-9 Nationwide Auditions 1987-1994
- b. 9 f. 1-3
- b. 9 f. 4-7 Broadway Company Resumes 1982-1988
- b. 10 f. 1-4 Los Angeles Company Resumes 1982-1987
- The first national company.
- b. 10 f. 5-7 Bus and Truck Company Resumes 1985-1995
- b. 11 f. 1-2 Bus and Truck Company is a theatrical term applied to small traveling companies.
- b. 11 f. 3 *Century City* 1997
- b. 11 f. 4-5 *Cet Amour-là* 2001
- Film is also known as This is Love.
- b. 11 f. 6-9 *Chess* 1986-1988
- b. 12 f. 1-3
- b. 12 f. 4-10 *City Of Angels* 1989-1992
- b. 13 f. 1-6
- b. 13 f. 7-9 *Cocoanuts* 1993
- b. 13 f. 10-11 *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* 1995
- The Compleat Works Of Willm Shkspr*
- b. 14 f. 1-4 *Crimes Of The Heart* 2000-2001
- b. 14 f. 5 *A Cup Of Coffee* 1999-2000
- b. 14 f. 6-10 *The Curse Of An Aching Heart* 1979-1982
- b. 14 f. 11 *Curse Of The Starving Class* 1999
- b. 15 f. 1-3 *Dark Rapture* 1996
- b. 15 f. 4 *A Doll's House* 1986

Theatrical Productions, Television Broadcasts, and Film (cont.)

- b. 15 f. 5-11 *Execution Of Justice* 1985-1986
- b. 15 f. 12 *Fanny Hackabout Jones* 1991
- b. 16 f. 1 *Fighting Words* 2002
- b. 16 f. 2-5 *The Floating Light Bulb* 1980-1981
- b. 16 f. 6-7 *Flotsam And Days* 1995
- b. 16 f. 8-11 *Gemini* 1998-1999
- b. 17 f. 1-2
- b. 17 f. 3-5 *The Glass Menagerie* 1990
- b. 17 f. 6-9 *Grease II* 1981
- b. 17 f. 10 *Hundreds Of Hats* 1995
- b. 17 f. 11 *The Imaginary Invalid* 1999
- b. 18 f. 1-3 *Iphigeneia At Aulis* 2002
- b. 18 f. 4-5 *It Pays To Advertise* 2001
- b. 18 f. 6-9 *Jar The Floor* 1998-1999
- b. 18 f. 10-12 *Jeffrey* 1992-1995
- b. 19 f. 1-3 *Jolson And Company* 2000-2002
- b. 19 f. 4 *King Hedley II* 1999
- b. 19 f. 5-10 *King Lear* 2003-2004
- b. 19 f. 11-13 *The King Stag* 2004
- b. 20 f. 1 *Kingdom Of The Earth* 2001
- b. 20 f. 2-6 *Kiss Of The Spider Woman* 1989-1990  
The files refers to the development of the production at the Performing Arts Center, State University of New York at Purchase in 1990.
- b. 20 f. 7-11 *Legends!* 1985-1986
- b. 21 f. 1-6 *Lend Me A Tenor* 1988-1990  
*Les Misérables* 1986-1989
- b. 21 f. 6-10 Auditions 1986-1989
- b. 22 f. 1-4 The auditions were held in New York and Los Angeles.
- b. 22 f. 5-9 Open Casting Multiple Cities, Related Materials 1986-1996
- b. 23 f. 1-6 San Francisco Company, First National Company; Bus and Truck Company 1987-1989
- b. 23 f. 7 Resumes Los Angeles 1980s
- b. 24 f. 1-3 *Lettice And Lovage* 1988-1990
- b. 24 f. 4-9 *Little Gloria...Happy At Last* 1982
- b. 25 f. 1 *Liza* 1991
- b. 25 f. 2 *Loot* 1982
- b. 25 f. 3-7 *Macbeth* 1980
- b. 25 f. 8-12 *A Madhouse In Goa* 1997
- b. 26 f. 1-2 *Marty* 2002
- b. 26 f. 3-6 *Mass Appeal* 1981-1982
- b. 26 f. 7-9 *Me And My Girl* 1987-1989
- b. 27 f. 1-4 *Medea, Macbeth And Cinderella* 2002
- b. 27 f. 5-9 *The Moony Shapiro Songbook* 1980-1981

Theatrical Productions, Television Broadcasts, and Film (cont.)

- b. 27 f. 10-11 *Moon Over Buffalo* 1995
- b. 28 f. 1-2
- b. 28 f. 3-4 *Moose Murders* 1982
- b. 28 f. 5 *Music From Down The Hill* 1994
- b. 28 f. 6 *The Naked Truth* 1994
- b. 28 f. 7-9 *New York Rock* 1994
- b. 29 f. 1 *Night Mother* 1994
- b. 29 f. 2-7 *The Octette Bridge Club* 1985
- b. 29 f. 8-13 *Oliver!* 1984
- b. 30 f. 1-2
- b. 30 f. 3-9 *Phantom of the Opera* 1987-1994
- b. 31
- b. 31 f. 6-10 *The Philadelphia Story* 1980
- b. 32 f. 1-4 *Poppy* 1985
- b. 32 f. 5 *The Potsdam Quartet* 1981-1982
- b. 32 f. 6-8 *The Psychic Life Of Savages* 2002
- b. 32 f. 9-11 *Queen Amarantha* 1996-1997
- b. 33 f. 1-10 *Rage Of Angels... The Story Continues* 1986
- b. 34 f. 1-2 *The Rat Pack* 2004-2005
- b. 34 f. 3-6 *Red, Hot And Cole* 1979-1982
- b. 34 f. 8-10 *Rice Boy* 2000
- b. 35 f. 1-7 *The Rink* 1983-1984
- b. 35 f. 8-10 *Shangri-La Plaza* 1990
- b. 36 f. 1-5 *Sister Act* 1991
- b. 36 f. 6-10 *Smell Of The Kill* 2002-2003
- b. 37 f. 1 *Snowing At Delphi* 1993
- b. 37 f. 2-5 *Solomon's Child* 1981-1982
- b. 37 f. 6-9 *Song And Dance* 1983-1986
- b. 37 f. 10 *Songs For A New World* 1995
- b. 38 f. 1-2 *Spread Eagle* 1998-1999
- b. 38 f. 3-5 *Sympathetic Magic* 1996-1997
- b. 38 f. 6-8 *Take Flight* 2001, 2004
- b. 38 f. 9-11 *The Taming Of The Shrew* 2002-2003
- b. 39 f. 1-3 *13 Days To Broadway* 1984-1985  
The production's former titles: *10 Days To Broadway* and *Sets and Costumes*.
- b. 39 f. 4-6 *This Is Our Youth* 1998-1999
- b. 39 f. 7-12 *Three Penny Opera* 1989
- b. 40 f. 1-3 *Til The Rapture Comes* 1998
- b. 40 f. 4-6 *Total Eclipse* 1984
- b. 40 f. 7-9 *Traveler In The Dark* 1983
- b. 40 f. 10 *Voices In The Dark* 1996-1997
- b. 40 f. 11-13 *Waiting In The Wings* 1999-2000
- b. 41 f. 1-7
- b. 41 f. 8-10 *The Way Of The World* 2000-2001

Theatrical Productions, Television Broadcasts, and Film (cont.)

- b. 42 f. 1-2 *When I Was A Girl I Used To Scream And Shout* 1986-1988
- b. 42 f. 3 *When Something Wonderful Ends* 2006
- b. 42 f. 4-8 *Whodunnit* 1981-1983
- b. 42 f. 9-12 *The Wind In The Willows* 1985
- b. 43 f. 1 *Wonderful Time* 1985
- b. 43 f. 2 *You Never Can Tell* 2001
- Manhattan Theatre Club 1978-1980
- Theatrical and other performances at the Manhattan Theatre Club.
- b. 44 f. 1 *Artichoke* 1978
- b. 44 f. 2 *Dusa, Fish, Stas And VI* 1979-1980
- b. 44 f. 3 *Grand Magic* 1978-1979
- b. 44 f. 4 *The Jail Diary Of Albie Sachs* 1979
- b. 44 f. 5 *Just A Little Bit Less Than Normal* 1979
- b. 44 f. 6 *A Lady Needs A Change* 1979
- b. 44 f. 7 *Losing Time* 1979
- b. 44 f. 8 *Mass Appeal* 1979
- b. 44 f. 9 Musical Theatre Lab And Cabaret 1979-1980
- Discussions between Zerman and others about workshops and works-in-progress.
- b. 44 f. 10 *Nongogo* 1978
- b. 44 f. 11 *One Wedding, Two Rooms And Three Friends* 1979-1980
- b. 44 f. 12 *Sidewalkin* 1980
- b. 44 f. 13 *Songs From The City Streets* 1979
- b. 44 f. 14 *Styne After Styne* 1980
- b. 44 f. 15-18 General Correspondence 1978-1980
- Related Materials 1980-2005
- b. 43 f. 3-10 Senior Class Evaluations 1997-2005
- b. 45 f. 1 Andy's Agent Lists 2002
- b. 45 f. 2 List Of Casting Agents, Yale's Long Wharf, The Royal Family 2002
- b. 45 f. 3-6 Production Ideas 1980s-1990s
- b. 45 f. 7-9 Various Plays And Entertainment 2000s
- Sound and Moving Image Recordings 1991