



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Howard Atlee papers**

1950s-2004 [bulk 1958-1984]

\*T-Mss 1997-019

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2013

## Summary

**Creator:** Atlee, Howard, 1926-

**Title:** Howard Atlee papers

**Date:** 1950s-2004 [bulk 1958-1984]

**Size:** 10.33 linear feet (26 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Howard Atlee, 1997.

**Abstract:** Howard Atlee (b. 1926) was a theatrical press agent active from the 1950s to the 1990s. The Howard Atlee papers (1950s-2004) chiefly concern Broadway and Off-Broadway productions between 1958 and 1984. The collection holds photographs, press releases, clippings, theater programs, scripts, posters, and correspondence.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:  
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

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**Preferred citation:** Howard Atlee papers, \*T-Mss 1997-019. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2013 Most materials were placed in new folders. Original file headings were retained where possible. Scripts, programs, and some publicity files were arranged alphabetically for ease of use.

## Creator History

Howard Atlee was born Howard Atlee Heinlen in Bucyrus, Ohio in 1926. After graduating from Emerson College in 1950, Atlee initially worked as an actor and theater manager. He began his career as a press

agent in the early 1950s, joining the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers (ATPAM) in 1958.

Atlee's office represented productions ranging from Broadway to Off-Off-Broadway plays, including plays of the Black Arts Movement and Theater of the Absurd. Atlee represented many Edward Albee plays, and also served as press agent for Richard Barr and the production group Barr formed with Clinton Wilder. The production group, founded as Theater 1960 (its name changed annually, becoming Theater 1961, Theater 1962, etc.), was responsible for the original 1962 production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

From 1967 until the early 1990s, Atlee was press agent for the Negro Ensemble Company (NEC). He hired black associates to work with the NEC; many black press agents were able to meet the apprenticeship requirements for ATPAM membership through working in Atlee's office.

Atlee retired as a press agent and returned to acting in the 1990s.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Howard Atlee papers (1950s-2004) contain photographs, press releases, clippings, theater programs, scripts, posters, and correspondence. The material chiefly concerns Broadway and Off-Broadway productions between 1958 to 1984. Materials also relate to Off-Off-Broadway productions, touring productions, theater companies, art exhibits, and individual actors, singers, and dancers.

The bulk of the collection consists of Atlee's publicity files for productions, organizations, and individuals. Publicity files mainly hold photographs, press releases, clippings, and correspondence. Preparatory materials such as draft press releases and notes are present. Files for productions often contain photographs, resumes, and biographies of actors, playwrights, and other production staff, as well as publicity questionnaires filled out by actors. Correspondence includes requests regarding reviews, articles, interviews, and public appearances.

Productions represented in the collection include *America Hurrah* (1966), *Anything Goes* (1962), *Booth* (1982), *Brecht on Brecht* (1961), *Charley's Aunt* (1976), and *The Runner Stumbles* (1976). The collection holds unbound scrapbooks of clippings for *Brecht on Brecht* and *The Runner Stumbles*. There is a large amount of material concerning plays produced by Richard Barr and Clinton Wilder from 1959 (as Theater 1960) to 1967 (as Theater 1968). Edward Albee and his plays are well-represented, especially *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1962), the 1961 double bill of *The American Dream* and *The Death of Bessie Smith*, and *The Ballad of the Sad Café* (1963).

Material concerning the Negro Ensemble Company consists mostly of photographs dating from 1969 to the 1980s, many by photographer Bert Andrews. Other photographs by Andrews are present elsewhere in the publicity files.

Atlee was also press agent for the Women's Interart Center (WIC). WIC material concerns plays and exhibits from 1975 to 1977, and consists mostly of press releases, clippings, and promotional material.

Other subjects in the publicity files include the film *The Fume of Poppies*, actor Anne Meacham, actor and singer Roz Ryan, dancer Satoru Shimazaki, producer Craig Anderson and his plays, and plays produced by Woodie King, Jr. The publicity files also hold unsorted material, such as biographies, actor resumes, correspondence, and press releases. Subjects in the unsorted files include *Andorra* (1963), *The Might Gents* (1978), and APA Repertory productions of *The School for Scandal*, *The Tavern*, and

The Seagull.

Over 30 scripts for productions from the 1960s to the 1980s are held in the script files. A few of the scripts are accompanied by materials like letters, programs, press releases, or photographs.

The collection contains a group of theater programs from 1961 to 1983, mostly from shows represented by Atlee. In addition to these, programs can be found in the publicity files. The collection also holds 10 window card posters for theatrical productions from 1962 to 1979.

A small number of letters, greeting cards, and postcards from Atlee's friends and colleagues, dealing with personal and professional subjects, are held in the correspondence files. Among these are two letters from Jean-Claude van Itallie, letters regarding Japanese productions of Albee's plays in the early 1960s, and a 1970 letter from producer Ted Ritter about the film *The Fume of Poppies*. A short letter from Harold Prince, dated 2004, is present. Most professional correspondence is in the publicity files.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged in five categories: Correspondence, Posters, Programs, Publicity Files, and Scripts. Publicity files are alphabetized by subject. "General" publicity files consist of small files and unsorted materials. Scripts, programs, and posters are arranged alphabetically by title.

## Key Terms

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings  
Correspondence  
Photographs

### Occupations

Press agents

### Names

Albee, Edward, 1928-2016  
Andrews, Bert  
Barr, Richard  
Negro Ensemble Company  
Women's Interart Center (New York, N.Y.)

## Container List

- b. 18 f. 8-11 Correspondence 1960s-1984, 2004
  - Posters
    - b. 26 f. 1 Fly Blackbird 1962
    - b. 26 f. 2 The Golden Apple 1962
    - b. 26 f. 3 Malcolm 1966
    - b. 26 f. 4 The Mighty Gents 1978
    - b. 26 f. 5 Monteith and Rand 1979
    - b. 26 f. 6 The Runner Stumbles 1976
    - b. 26 f. 7 The Slave and The Toilet 1964
    - b. 26 f. 8 The Streets of New York 1963
    - b. 26 f. 9 Walk Down Mah Street 1968
    - b. 26 f. 10 What the Wine-Sellers Buy 1975
  - Programs
    - b. 22 f. 7-8 Edward Albee Plays 1961-1966
      - b. 23 f. 1 Edward Albee Plays 1963
    - b. 23 f. 2-7 42nd Street - Sidnee Poet Heroical 1966-1983
    - b. 24 f. 1-2 Survivor - Winterset 1963-1982
  - Publicity Files
    - General
      - b. 12 f. 1-17 People and Organizations, A - N 1958-1982
      - b. 13 f. 1-12 People and Organizations, N - Z 1963-1984
    - Productions
      - b. 14 f. 1-14 1000 - G 1962-1994
      - b. 15 f. 1-12 H - T 1963-1984
      - b. 16 f. 1-3 T - W 1966, 1976, 1979
    - Unsorted Material
      - b. 18 f. 1-7 1950s-1989
      - b. 17 f. 1-7 1952-1983
      - b. 16 f. 4-8 1959-1983
  - b. 9 f. 10-11 APA Repertory and American Conservatory Theater 1960s
    - b. 4 f. 8-10 America Hurrah 1966-1968
    - b. 10 f. 7-8 Andorra 1962-1963
      - Includes images from Nine Hours to Rama.
    - b. 25 f. 2 Bert Andrews Calendar 1991
    - b. 10 f. 4-6 Anything Goes 1962
    - b. 4 f. 4-7 The Ballad of the Sad Café 1963-1964
    - b. 9 f. 1-4 Booth 1981-1982
    - b. 11 f. 3 Brecht on Brecht 1961-1962
    - b. 25 f. 8 Brecht on Brecht Scrapbook 1961-1962
    - b. 8 f. 10-13 Charley's Aunt 1976

Publicity Files (cont.)

- b. 11 f. 6-7 Joan Hackett 1961-1966
- b. 6 f. 1-2 Henry Street Settlement New Federal Theatre 1972, 1978
- b. 5 f. 6-10 Henry Street Settlement New Federal Theatre 1972-1980
  - b. 25 f. 1 Robert Hooks in Hurry Sundown 1967  
Two photographs.
- b. 10 f. 1-3 Israel Horovitz 1967-1968, 1973
  - b. 11 f. 4 The Indian Wants the Bronx 1968
- b. 6 f. 3-11 Negro Ensemble Company 1967-1988
  - b. 7 f. 1-7 Negro Ensemble Company 1967-1990
- b. 10 f. 9-10 The Open Theatre 1968-1971
  - b. 11 f. 5 The Runner Stumbles 1975-1976
- b. 25 f. 3-7 The Runner Stumbles Scrapbook 1976
- b. 11 f. 1-2 Tappan Zee Playhouse 1965, 1967  
Theater 196- Productions  
Richard Barr and Clinton Wilder.
  - b. 1 f. 1-10 1960-1967
  - b. 3 f. 2-12 1960-1967
  - b. 4 f. 1-3 Edward Albee Files 1960-1967
  - b. 2 f. 1-16 Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? 1960-1963
    - b. 3 f. 1 Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? 1962-1963
  - b. 5 f. 1-5 The Westport Country Playhouse, Bucks County Playhouse, and Paper Mill Playhouse 1950s-1975
  - b. 7 f. 8-10 Women's Interart Center 1975-1977
  - b. 8 f. 1-9 Women's Interart Center 1975-1977
  - b. 9 f. 5-9 The York Players 1976-1978

Scripts

- b. 19 f. 1 Bag Lady by Jean-Claude van Itallie 1979
- b. 19 f. 2 Blood Wedding by Federico García Lorca 1981, 1984
- b. 19 f. 3 Branches from the Same Tree by Marge Eliot 1980
- b. 19 f. 4 Broadway Phonies by Anita Washington-Ross 1980
- b. 19 f. 5 Butterfaces by Leonard Melfi 1981
- b. 19 f. 6 Café con Leche by Gloria Gonzalez 1984
- b. 19 f. 7 Calalou by Irving Burgie 1978
- b. 19 f. 8 The Confirmation by Howard Ashman 1976
- b. 20 f. 1 Daniel and the Kings by Anita Washington-Ross 1980
- b. 19 f. 9-10 Devour the Snow by Abe Polsky 1979
  - b. 20 f. 2 El Dia Que Me Quieras by José Ignacio Cabrujas 1983
  - b. 20 f. 3 The Firehouse Bride by Jean M. Shepard and John O'Leary
  - b. 20 f. 4 Four to Make Two by Paul Ruben 1982
  - b. 20 f. 5 Funnyhouse of a Negro by Adrienne Kennedy 1963
  - b. 20 f. 6 Gabriel by Clifford Mason 1969
  - b. 20 f. 7 Homestead by Wallace Gray 1978

Scripts (cont.)

- b. 20 f. 8 Inacent Black by A. Marcus Hemphill 1979
- b. 20 f. 9 It's Called the Sugar Plum by Israel Horovitz 1966
- b. 21 f. 1 Jardie's Roommate by John Cromwell 1978
- b. 21 f. 2 The Killer by Eugene Ionesco
- b. 21 f. 3 Mahalia by Don Evans 1978
- b. 21 f. 4 Mark VIII: xvi by John H. Redwood 1985
- b. 21 f. 5 Midnight Special by Clifford Mason 1976
- b. 21 f. 6 On Toby Time by Harley Hackett 1976
- b. 21 f. 7 P by Wallace Gray 1968
- b. 21 f. 8 The Pig Pen by Ed Bullins 1970
- b. 21 f. 9 Play by Samuel Beckett 1964
- b. 22 f. 1 Raindance by Meir Z. Ribalow 1980
- b. 22 f. 2 Rats by Neil and Joel Cohen
- b. 22 f. 3 Secret Injury, Secret Revenge by Calderón de la Barca
- b. 22 f. 4 Storyville: Book by Ed Bullins, Lyrics by Mildred Kayden 1977
- b. 22 f. 5 A Tear for Judas by Marshall Williams 1971
- b. 22 f. 6 Under the Ilex Tree by Clyde Talmadge 1982