



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Louise Larabee papers**

1910s-1976 [bulk 1930s-1976]

\*T-Mss 2012-021

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Larabee, Louise, 1916-2002

**Title:** Louise Larabee papers

**Date:** 1910s-1976 [bulk 1930s-1976]

**Size:** 1.17 linear feet (4 boxes)

**Source:** Gift of an unknown donor.

**Abstract:** Louise Larabee was a theater, television, and film actor. The Louise Larabee papers (1910s-1976, bulk 1930s-1976) contain scrapbooks and scripts documenting her acting career.

**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:** Louise Larabee papers, \*T-Mss 2012-021. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014 Scrapbooks were disassembled, and the pages were placed in folders. Scrapbooks also contained loose materials that were placed in folders.

## Creator History

Louise Larabee (1916-2002) was a theater, television, and film actor. She was born Alverta Louise Lowe in Bremerton, Washington. In the early 1930s, she appeared in films and on stage in Los Angeles. She first acted on Broadway in the play *Angel Island* in 1937. During World War II, Larabee toured in the Pacific with USO Camp Shows. She met her husband, actor John Baragrey, when they performed together in a camp show in New Guinea. Larabee toured with *The Iceman Cometh* in 1947,

and with Carousel from 1947 to 1949, playing the part of Mrs. Mullin. She toured with Gloria Vanderbilt in Picnic in 1955. Beginning in the 1950s, Larabee appeared frequently on television. She also appeared in films such as Act One (1963), based on the autobiography of Moss Hart. Her acting career tapered off in the 1970s as she began to pursue a career as a ceramist.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Louise Larabee papers (1910s-1976, bulk 1930s-1976) consist of scrapbooks and scripts documenting Larabee's acting career. Scrapbooks primarily contain clippings, but also contain photographs, programs, telegrams, letters, membership cards, and other memorabilia. There is a particularly large amount of material concerning Carousel. One scrapbook documents Larabee's war work from 1944 to 1945, especially with USO Camp Shows; the scrapbook holds memorabilia such as show programs, servicemen's reviews of shows, letters from servicemen, and photographs from New Guinea and the Philippines. The scrapbooks also include some clippings related to the career of Larabee's husband, actor John Baragrey.

The collection also contains drawings by George Verdak, a short letter from him, and invitations to an exhibit of his art. The earliest item in the collection is an unidentified photographic portrait of a boy, taken by E.W. Merrill in Sitka, Alaska, probably around the 1910s.

The collection holds scripts for Act One, Carousel, and Smiling, the Boy Fell Dead (1961). The script for Smiling, the Boy Fell Dead has handwritten changes and additions, and also contains scores for two songs from the show.

**Arrangement:** The collection is divided into two categories: Scrapbooks and Scripts.

### **Key Terms**

#### **Occupations**

Actors

#### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Scrapbooks

#### **Subjects**

World War, 1939-1945 -- War work

#### **Names**

Baragrey, John, -1975

Camp Shows, Inc.

United Service Organizations (U.S.)

## Container List

### Scrapbooks

- b. 1 f. 1-11 1930s-1955  
Mostly dates from 1951 to 1955.
- b. 2 f. 1-9 1937-1946
- b. 3 f. 1-13 1947-1963
- b. 4 f. 4-5 1955-1976
- b. 4 f. 1 Photograph by E.W. Merrill 1910s
- b. 4 f. 2 George Verdak 1949-1950
- b. 2 f. 10-11 War Work 1944-1945
- b. 4 f. 3 War Work 1944-1945
- b. 4 f. 6-9 Scripts 1947, 1961, 1963