



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Cathy B. Blaser papers**

1976-1998

\*T-Mss 2002-022

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2013

## Summary

**Creator:** Blaser, Cathy B.

**Title:** Cathy B. Blaser papers

**Date:** 1976-1998

**Size:** 3.36 linear feet (8 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by the estate of Cathy Blaser, 2002.

**Abstract:** Cathy B. Blaser was a stage manager and production stage manager, active in the profession from 1976 through the 1990s. Blaser worked as a manager for Broadway, Off-Broadway, and special theatrical events. The collection holds prompt books from theatrical productions and special events and also holds some technical specifications relating to the productions.

**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:** Cathy B. Blaser papers, \*T-Mss 2002-022. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2013 The collection was housed in acid free folders and boxes.

## Creator History

Cathy B. Blaser was a stage and production manager, active in the profession from the late 1970s through the 1990s. Blaser worked on Broadway, Off-Broadway and special theatrical events. In 1977, her first credit was as a production associate for *Mark Twain Tonight!*. Other productions followed as

Blaser's career advanced. Her work included production work for Duet For One, Penn & Teller Tour, Penn & Teller Refrigerator Tour, and Whose Life Is It Anyway?

Outside of her official Broadway credits, she worked on other productions including A Celebration of the Life of Lee Strasberg at Lincoln Center, Family Secrets performed at La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles, Grace and Glorie: A Play in Two Acts, Two Pianos Four Hands, and Marathon 33. Blaser was the guest director at St. Michael's College in Vermont.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The collection, dating from 1976 to 1998, reflects the stage manager and production stage manager career of Cathy B. Blaser. The collection holds prompt books of the plays, mostly produced on Broadway and Off-Broadway. The prompt books also represent special events and plays produced in other cities. These prompt books may include the running order of the play, scripts with Blaser's annotations, occasional correspondence and memorandums, show music, and alternate play versions.

The productions represented in the files include Dr. Selavy's Magic Theatre, Grace and Gloria: A Play in Two Acts, Marathon 33, Mastergate, Penn & Teller Tour 1987-1988, Penn & Teller: The Refrigerator Tour 1991, Two Pianos Four Hands, and Whose Life Is it Anyway?

The collection also contains a small section of technical specifications. These files provide additional background information about the venue for the play or performance event. For example, there are some blueprints, general employer contracts with the local union, and information on stage and seating.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged alphabetically by title of the production, followed by the technical specifications. There are also "old scripts" and "printed matter" folders.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Books

### **Occupations**

Producers (managers)

### **Subjects**

Stage management

Theater -- Production and direction -- United States -- 20th century

Theater management

## Container List

### Prompt Books

- b. 1 f. 1 American Academy of Dramatic Arts 1985
- b. 1 f. 2-5 An Evening of Short Plays 1988
- b. 1 f. 5-6 Apple Tree 1976
- b. 1 f. 7 Catch Desire by the Tail 1984
- b. 1 f. 8 Clear and Present Danger 1990
- b. 1 f. 9-10 Dr. Selavy's Magic Theatre 1984
- b. 2 f. 1-4 Dr. Selavy's Magic Theatre 1984
- b. 2 f. 5-9 Duet for One 1981
- b. 3 f. 1-2 Family Secrets 1996
- b. 3 f. 3-4 Forever Plaid 1995
- b. 3 f. 5-6 Grace and Glorie: A Play in Two Acts 1996
- b. 3 f. 7 I Get Along Without You Very Well 1995
- b. 3 f. 8-12 Marathon 33 1982
- b. 4 f. 1-2 Marathon 33 1982
- b. 4 f. 3-7 Mastergate 1989
- b. 4 f. 8 My Mother Said That I Never Should 1995
- b. 4 f. 9-10 Penn & Teller Tour 1987-1988
- b. 5 f. 1-2 Penn & Teller Tour 1987-1988
- b. 5 f. 3-5 Penn & Teller--The Refrigerator Tour 1991
- b. 5 f. 6 Small Domestic Acts 1996
- b. 5 f. 7 Swingtime Canteen 1995
- b. 5 f. 8-11 Two Pianos Four Hands 1998
- b. 6 f. 1-2 Weekend Near Madison 1982
- b. 6 f. 3 With or Without? 1995
- b. 6 f. 4-10 Whose Life Is It Anyway? 1979
- b. 7 f. 1-7 Whose Life Is It Anyway? 1979-1980
- b. 7 f. 8-9 With Heartfelt Thanks 1983

### Technical Files

- b. 7 f. 10 Baltimore--Lyric Opera House 1990
- b. 7 f. 11 Boston--Colonial Theatre 1986-1988
- b. 7 f. 12 Buffalo--Shea's Buffalo Center
- b. 7 f. 13 Chicago--Schubert Theatre 1988
- b. 7 f. 14 Cleveland - Detroit 1990
- b. 7 f. 15 Los Angeles--Wilster Theatre Inc 1987
- b. 7 f. 16 Merrillville - Milwaukee 1990
- b. 8 f. 1 New Brunswick - New York 1990-1991
- b. 8 f. 2 Philadelphia--Schubert Theatre 1990
- b. 8 f. 3 Providence - Rochester

Technical Files (cont.)

- b. 8 f. 4 San Francisco--Curran Theatre 1986
- b. 8 f. 5 San Francisco--Wakefield 1990
- b. 8 f. 6 Springfield - Stamford 1988
- b. 8 f. 7 Toronto--Royal Alexandra Theatre 1990
- b. 8 f. 8 Washington--National Theatre 1989
- b. 8 f. 9 Old Scripts
- b. 8 f. 10 Printed Matter. Theatre Program 1983