



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Elinor Jones papers**

1967-2007

\*T-Mss 2007-024

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Jones, Elinor, 1930-

**Title:** Elinor Jones papers

**Date:** 1967-2007

**Size:** 1.68 linear feet (4 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Norton Wright, 2007

**Abstract:** Elinor Jones (1930-2007) was a writer of plays and short stories, best known for her play *Colette*. The Elinor Jones papers, dating from 1967 to 2007, document her work through writings, correspondence, photographs, clippings, publicity material, and programs. The most significant content in the collection pertains to the plays *Colette* and *A Voice of My Own*.

**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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**Processing note:** Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

## Creator History

Elinor Jones (1930-2007) was a writer of plays and short stories. After an earlier career as an actress, she became best known for her first play, *Colette*, which had an off-Broadway run in 1970 starring Zoe Caldwell and Mildred Dunnock. Her other works included the plays *A Voice Of My Own* (written for the Acting Company) and *Out Of Season*, as well as the one-act plays *Box Office*, *What Would Jean*

Moreau Do, and 6:15 On The 104. Wright was a member of the Dramatists Guild and the League of Professional Theatre Women. Her husband was the lyricist Tom Jones.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Elinor Jones papers, dating from 1967 to 2007, document the writer's work through writings, correspondence, photographs, clippings, publicity material, and programs. The most significant content in the collection pertains to the plays *Colette* and *A Voice of My Own*.

Writings comprise the bulk of the papers. They include scripts for full length and ten-minute plays, and printed manuscripts for short stories. Many of the plays are in draft form only and were never produced; some have correspondence, critiques, or revisions. Three of the full length plays (*Colette*, *A Voice of My Own*, and *Out of Season*) were produced, and their files contain additional documentation. Correspondence is with agents, directors, publishers, theatres, actors, and friends.

The files for *Colette* include correspondence with Colette's estate; with her United States publisher, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux; and with foreign presenters regarding productions in other countries. Letters to the publisher and the estate outline the development of the script. There is also a scrapbook of production photographs, clippings, and programs; a costume design; opening night letters and telegrams to Jones; a folder of source material and notes, which contains portions of the script in progress; and a folder of publicity literature, programs, and clippings. No final script is present.

The files for *A Voice of My Own* and *Out of Season* have programs, correspondence, and clippings regarding multiple productions. The files for *A Voice of My Own* also contain production photographs.

Portions of the short stories were written for a writer's group Jones attended at the League of Professional Theater Women. Some of the story manuscripts include comments and critiques.

The papers also hold the program for Jones's memorial service, and Jones's notes on particular actors.

**Arrangement:** The papers are arranged by document type.

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

Authors  
Playwrights

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Scripts (documents)  
Short stories

### **Subjects**

Theater -- United States -- 20th century  
Theater -- United States -- 21st century

### **Names**

Colette, 1873-1954

## Container List

### Full Plays

- b. 1 f. 1-10 1967-1976
- b. 2 f. 1-8 F - O 1979-2006
- b. 3 f. 1-8 Q - W 1979-2001, undated
- b. 4 f. 1 Memorial Program 2007
- b. 4 f. 2 Notes on Actors undated
- b. 4 f. 3-13 Short Stories 1994-2007
- b. 4 f. 14-18 Ten-Minute Plays 1998-2006