



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

John Mangano papers

1940s-1988

*T-Mss 1992-021

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

Summary

Creator: Mangano, John

Title: John Mangano papers

Date: 1940s-1988

Size: 1.67 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Donated by Roberta Schine, 1992.

Abstract: John Mangano was a stage director, actor, writer, stage manager and theater administrator. The John Mangano papers, dating from around the 1940s to 1988, document Mangano's life and career through scripts, photographs, correspondence, art, writings, and programs.

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: John Mangano papers, *T-Mss 1992-021. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014 Original order was maintained. All contents were rehoused.

Creator History

John Mangano was a stage director, actor, writer, stage manager and theater administrator. He attended Carnegie-Mellon University in the late 1970s, studying in the Department of Drama, where he worked with the dramatist and composer William Turner. In the 1980s, Mangano moved to New York City, where he worked with Theater for a New City as a stage manager and an administrator, and

directed plays for other companies. He may also have worked with the Bread and Puppet Theater. John Mangano died of AIDS in the early 1990s.

Scope and Content Note

The John Mangano papers, dating from around the 1940s to 1988, document Mangano's life and career through scripts, photographs, correspondence, art, writings, and programs.

Scripts dating from 1978 to 1988 comprise much of the collection. Some were produced by the Carnegie-Mellon Department of Drama or the Theater for the New City, and Mangano was often the director or stage manager. A portion of the scripts hold annotations and programs; several bear neither titles nor playwright credits. Playwrights include Maria Irene Forné, Charles Peters, Ra Carlsen, Steve Lambert, and Charles Ludlam. One of the uncredited scripts holds 1986 correspondence between Mangano and Ronald Tavel. Also among the scripts is Mangano's personal production log for *The Gig*, by Kenneth Brown.

Photographs consist of production prints, slides, and negatives. Plays documented are *Made By Two* (playwright unknown, 1979); *The Unlit Corridor: A Horror Story*, by William Turner (1978); and an unknown production for which there are six boxes of undated slides labeled "DT." Also present in the photographs are an autographed publicity print of Donovan Leitch and a large undated print of what may be a funeral from the 1940s.

Art is composed of three drawings by Wendy Storch, dated 1976. The writings date from 1968 and were likely produced when Mangano was in middle or high school and include a school literary magazine. The programs are for productions in which Mangano acted or stage managed, and date from 1978 to 1987. There are also Bread and Puppet Theater flyers and programs.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actors (performing artists)
Directors (performing arts)

Subjects

Experimental theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Off Off-Broadway theater
Theater -- New York (State)
Theater -- Production and direction
Theater -- United States
Theatrical companies

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Personal correspondence
Photographs
Scripts (documents)
Writings (document genre)

Names

Tavel, Ronald

Bread and Puppet Theater

Carnegie-Mellon University

Theater for the New City (New York, N.Y.)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Art 1976
 - Photographs
- b. 1 f. 2 Print 1940s
- b. 2 f. 1 Prints undated
 - b. 3 Slides 1978-1979
- b. 2 f. 2 Programs 1978-1987
- b. 2 f. 3-6 Scripts 1978-1988
- b. 2 f. 7 Writings 1968, undated