



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Fania Marinoff papers

1900-1959

*T-Mss 2012-018

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014

Summary

Creator: Marinoff, Fania

Title: Fania Marinoff papers

Date: 1900-1959

Size: 1.9 linear feet (1 box, 7 volumes)

Source: Unknown donor, unknown date.

Abstract: The Fania Marinoff papers date from 1900 to 1959 and document the career and interests of American actress Fania Marinoff.

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>

Conditions Governing Use: The author/creator retains copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Theatre Division at theatre@nypl.org.

Preferred citation: Fania Marinoff papers, *T-Mss 2012-018. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014

Creator History

Fania Marinoff (1890-1971) was an American actress. She was born in Odessa (present day Ukraine) and moved to the United States as a child, settling in Denver, Colorado. She began acting at the Tabor Grand School of Acting at the age of ten, making her stage debut in Henrietta Crosman's *Mistress Nell* (1900). Other early productions include *Janice Meredith* and *La Madeline*, both presented by Ben Stern. She made her Broadway debut in 1903 in *A Japanese Nightingale*. In addition to Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regional theater productions, Marinoff acted in silent and short films. From 1914 to

1917, she appeared on screen in *The Unsuspected Isles*, *The Lure of Mammon*, *Nedra*, and *The Rise of Jenny Crushing*.

Marinoff was married to American writer and photographer Carl Van Vechten from 1914 until his death in 1964. She died in 1971 in New Jersey.

Scope and Content Note

The Fania Marinoff papers date from 1900 to 1959 and contain scrapbooks and professional files. The scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings, play and movie reviews, show announcements, and biographical articles relating to Marinoff's acting career. One scrapbook dating from 1900 to 1914 contains original sketches and portraits of Marinoff, two by unknown artists, and a small comic by newspaper illustrator T.S. Allen. One of the scrapbooks contains materials that do not directly relate to Marinoff's acting career. It is primarily undated, with one item from 1940, and holds poems and short stories written by others, some of which are handwritten by Marinoff; and images of artwork from magazines and newspapers.

Professional files contain correspondence, contracts, articles, clippings, photographs, programs, and other printed materials relating to Marinoff's career. Correspondence primarily documents Marinoff's investments in Theatre Guild productions, such as *Oklahoma!*, *The Burning Glass Company*, and *Home is the Hero*. Investment reports for these productions are also present.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actresses

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Professional papers

Scrapbooks

Subjects

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Container List

- b. 1 f. 4-10 Professional Files 1900-1959
MWEZ + n.c. 20,397 and 20,398
 - Scrapbooks
 - v. 1 1900-1914
MWEZ + n.c. 21,358
 - v. 2 1914-1915
MWEZ + n.c. 21,359
 - v. 3 1915-1922
MWEZ + n.c. 21,360
 - b. 1 f. 1 Loose Scrapbook Material 1918-1922
MWEZ + n.c. 21,360
 - v. 4 1918-1921
MWEZ + n.c. 21,361
 - v. 5 1922-1924
MWEZ + n.c. 21,362
 - b. 1 f. 2 Loose Scrapbook Material 1922-1924
MWEZ + n.c. 21,362
 - v. 6 1924-1932
MWEZ + n.c. 21,363
 - b. 1 f. 3 Loose Scrapbook Material 1924-1932
MWEZ + n.c. 21,363
 - v. 7 1940
MWEZ + n.c. 21,364