



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Anna Neglia collection of John Alexander materials

1913-1941

*T-Mss 2012-042

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2015

Summary

Creator: Neglia, Anna

Title: Anna Neglia collection of John Alexander materials

Date: 1913-1941

Size: 1.8 linear feet (4 boxes, 3 volumes)

Source: Gift of Anna Neglia, unknown date.

Abstract: John Alexander (1897-1982) was an American actor. The Anna Neglia collection of John Alexander materials dates from 1913 to 1941 and contains scrapbooks, clippings, 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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Processing note: Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2015

Related Materials:

John Alexander ephemera. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Creator History

John Alexander (1897-1982) was an American film and stage actor. He began acting with Robert B.

Mantell and his Shakespearean company in 1916, upon his graduation from the Schuster School of Elocution in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was a leading actor in Mantell's company throughout the 1920s. After Mantell's death in 1928, Alexander continued to run the Mantell company with Mantell's widow and fellow company actor, Genevieve Hamper, who he later married.

Alexander performed in several Broadway productions and in film. He played Teddy Brewster in both the Broadway and film versions of *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from 1913 to 1941 and contains scrapbooks, programs, and clippings.

The scrapbooks primarily contain clippings and programs that document Alexander's regional theater career. Volumes one and two date from 1929 to 1930 and document Genevieve Hamper and John Alexander's performances together. Volume three dates from 1935 to 1940 and documents Alexander's Broadway performances in *Swing Your Lady* and *Red Harvest*. This scrapbook contains photographs in addition to clippings and programs.

The scrapbooks dating from 1919 to 1913, 1916 to 1922, and 1922 to 1936 relate to Robert B. Mantell's Shakespearean company and the performances of Mantell, Hamper, and Alexander.

Researchers interested in Alexander's performance in *Arsenic and Old Lace* should consult the clippings in this collection in addition to the scrapbook dated 1941.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actors

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scrapbooks

Names

Alexander, John, 1897-1982

Hamper, Genevieve, 1889-1971

Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616 -- Dramatic production

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Clippings 1941
- b. 1 f. 2 Programs 1913-1916
- Scrapbooks
- b. 2 f. 1 1910-1913
- b. 3 f. 1 1916-1922
- b. 4 f. 1 1922-1936
- v. 1 1929-1933
- v. 2 1929-1933
- v. 3 1935-1940
- b. 3 f. 2 1941