



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Lee Israel research files on Vanessa Redgrave

1982-1987

*T-Mss 1999-017

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

Summary

Creator: Israel, Lee

Title: Lee Israel research files on Vanessa Redgrave

Date: 1982-1987

Size: 3.1 linear feet (5 boxes)

Source: Donated by Lee Israel, 1999

Abstract: The Lee Israel research files on Vanessa Redgrave, dating from 1982 to 1987, consist of documentation compiled by Israel while researching Redgrave's life and career.

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 Access:

Audio materials will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

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.

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Creator History

Lee Israel (1939-2014) was an author who wrote biographies of Tallulah Bankhead (1973), Dorothy

Kilgallen (1979), and Estee Lauder (1985). During the 1970s and 1980s she worked on, but never completed, unauthorized biographies of Judy Holliday and Vanessa Redgrave. She was contracted by Houghton Mifflin to write the book on Redgrave.

Scope and Content Note

The Lee Israel research files on Vanessa Redgrave (1982-1987) contain documentation compiled by Israel in preparation for an unauthorized biography which focused on Redgrave's political beliefs and their impact on her theatrical career. The collection consists primarily of subject files and interviews.

Israel conducted interviews with actors, writers, political figures, and Redgrave family members. Small portions of the interviews are quoted or have partial transcripts within the Subject Files, but no full transcripts exist. Audio materials will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

The Subject Files contain articles, letters, clippings, and extensive notes written by Israel on various topics in which Redgrave was involved or vocal about, such as homosexuality, the Black Panthers, the Vietnam War, Palestine, and labor issues. Files on individuals include actors, directors, and producers with whom she worked as well as members of her family. The files on family members contain genealogical material, copies of birth and marriage certificates, and historical notes.

There is a series of index cards in a card file which contain additional notes, citations, library slips, and quotes. Some topics in the card file mirror those in the rest of the subject files. Israel also removed index cards from the card file and added them to the appropriate subject file (often with their original title heading card).

Letters are primarily inquiries sent to actors, writers, directors, political figures, and Redgrave family members requesting information or interviews. They often have accompanying research notes. Only a few responses to Israel are present, though none are substantial. The file also holds correspondence with Nan Talese, Israel's editor at Houghton Mifflin, regarding Israel's progress on the book. Letters to Israel about Redgrave can also be found in the Subject Files.

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Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actors (performing artists)
Writers

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Research notes
Sound recordings

Subjects

Theater -- Great Britain -- 20th century

Theater -- United States -- 20th century

Names

Redgrave, Vanessa, 1937-

Container List

Interviews

Sound recordings unavailable pending digitization.

Abady, Sam

Attorney.

1987

origsr.220924

sound recording

Undated

origsr.220944

sound recording

Alexander, Jane 1986

origsr.220917

Actor

Battersby, Roy

British television director.

1982

origsr.220920

sound recording (unavailable)

1987

May 2

Parts I and II

origsr.220918

sound recording (unavailable)

Parts III and IV

origsr.220919

sound recording (unavailable)

June 7

origsr.220921

sound recording (unavailable)

Bikel, Theodore 1987

origsr.220929

Actor

Brenner, Leni 1987

origsr.220921

Trotskyist writer

Brett, Jeremy 1987

Actor

Parts I and II

origsr.220922

Part III

origsr.220923

Interviews (cont.)

"Mrs. Dekel" undated
origsr.220942
First name unknown.

Dench, Judi 1987
origsr.220924
Actor

Eyre, Peter 1982
Actor.

Parts I and II
origsr.220923

Parts III and IV
origsr.220925

Fein, Leonard 1986
origsr.220933
Jewish writer and activist.

Garrett, Lila undated
origsr.220926
Writer for television.

Goldman, Martin 1987
origsr.220927

"Dr. Goldstein" 1985
origsr.220928
The brother of Fania Fénelon. First name unknown.

Hamm, Kathy 1987
origsr.220930

Harris, Radie undated
origsr.220928
Theater columnist.

Houghton, Norris 1986
origsr.220929
Actor

Kahane, Meir
Founder of the Jewish Defense League.

1986
origsr.220935

1987
origsr.220930

Lambert, Gavin 1986
origsr.220931
British screenwriter.

Langley, Gene undated
origsr.220932
Producer of *60 Minutes*.

Interviews (cont.)

Lewis, Alfred Allen 1986
Writer.

September 11
origsr.220934

October 28
origsr.220933

Maggio, Debbie 1986
Juror in Boston Symphony trial.

November 14
origsr.220936

November 19
origsr.220935

Powers, David 1987
origsr.220939
Theatrical press representative.

Redgrave, Lynn
Actor, sister of Vanessa Redgrave.

1986
origsr.220938

Undated
origsr.220937

Richardson, Tony 1987
origsr.220939
Actor, first husband of Vanessa Redgrave.

Rogoff, Gordon 1986
origsr.220940
Theater critic.

Rubin, Irv 1986
origsr.220941
Of the Jewish Defense League.

Sadoff, Fred
The lover of Michael Redgrave.

1987

Parts I and II
origsr.220943

Parts III and IV
origsr.220944

Undated
origsr.220942

Stephens, Robert undated
origsr.220945
Actor.

Interviews (cont.)

Wallace, Mike 1987
origsr.220946
Host of *60 Minutes*.

Whitelaw, Arthur 1987
origsr.220939
Theater producer.

- b. 3 f. 1-2 Letters 1983-1987
- Subject Files 1986-1987
 - b. 3 f. 3 Academy Awards Speech and the Jewish Defense League
 - b. 3 f. 4 *Agatha*
 - b. 3 f. 5 Anti-Nuclear and Vietnam Activism
 - b. 3 f. 6 *The Aspern Papers*
 - b. 3 f. 7 Autobiography
 - b. 3 f. 8 Boston Symphony Orchestra Lawsuit
 - b. 3 f. 9 Boycott
 - b. 3 f. 10 *Camelot*
 - b. 3 f. 11 *Design for Living*
 - b. 3 f. 12 Fonda, Jane
 - b. 3 f. 13 Genealogy
 - b. 3 f. 14 Kempson, Rachel
 - b. 3 f. 15 Lewis, Alfred Allen
 - b. 4 f. 1 Michaelson, Judith
 - b. 4 f. 2 *Playing for Time*
 - b. 4 f. 3 Political Beliefs
 - b. 4 f. 4 *Red and Blue*
 - b. 4 f. 5 Redgrave, Corin
 - b. 4 f. 6 Redgrave, Michael
 - b. 4 f. 7 Redgrave, Roy
 - b. 4 f. 8 Richardson, Tony
 - b. 4 f. 9 *Saint Joan of Stockyards*
 - b. 4 f. 10 *Second Serve*
 - b. 5 f. 1 Scudamore, Margaret Daisy
 - b. 5 f. 2 Simon Wiesenthal Center
 - b. 5 f. 3 *Tom Jones*
 - b. 5 f. 4 The Vanessa School
 - b. 1 Card File 1986-1987
 - b. 2 Card File 1986-1987