



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Peter Mark Schifter papers

1965-1993

*T-Mss 1993-048

Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2015.

Summary

Creator: Schifter, Peter Mark, 1949-1993

Title: Peter Mark Schifter papers

Date: 1965-1993

Size: 9.9 linear feet (23 boxes, 2 oversized folders, 3 tubes)

Source: Gift of Esta Jo Schifter, 1993, 1996.

Abstract: Peter Mark Schifter (1949-1993) was an American theater, opera, and television director and writer. The Peter Mark Schifter papers hold production files, correspondence, photographs, and other material documenting his career as a director, designer, and writer.

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Preferred citation: Peter Mark Schifter papers, *T-Mss 1993-048. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2015.

Creator History

Peter Mark Schifter (1949-1993) was an American theater, opera, and television director and writer. He was an artist who often designed sets and costumes for his productions and created artwork for friends and family. He received his early training at Juilliard, followed by studies at Ohio University and Yale, where he earned his Master's of Fine Arts.

On Broadway, he directed *Welcome to the Club* (1989), which earned him a Tony Award nomination. Notable Off-Broadway productions included *Gemini* (1976) and *Titanic* (1978). He staged new productions for regional opera companies including *Falstaff* (1982) and *The Merry Widow* (1988). Schifter directed daytime dramas as well as industrial and short films. He also painted and wrote feature screenplays, many of which were never produced. Schifter passed away in 1993 at the age of 44.

Scope and Content Note

The Peter Mark Schifter papers hold production files, correspondence, photographs, and other material documenting his career as a director, designer, and writer.

Production files vary in content and may contain annotated scripts and librettos, set and costume designs, photographs, production schedules, clippings, promotional material, and other items documenting Schifter's work in theater, film, and opera.

The bulk of the correspondence consists of holiday cards and get well letters from his final illness in 1993. There is a limited amount of business correspondence with theatre companies and writers discussing potential productions.

Photographs are Schifter's professional headshots, personal snapshots, and a limited amount of unidentified production photographs. Other materials include award certificates, Schifter's art, appointment and address books, and work contracts degrees, and material related to his 1993 memorial service.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by file type.

Key Terms

Subjects

Opera -- Production and direction
Opera -- Stage-setting and scenery
Screenwriters
Theater -- Production and direction

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Address Books
 - Appointment Books
- b. 1 f. 2-9 1977-1987
- b. 2 f. 1-4 1988-1992
 - b. 2 f. 5 Art
 - b. 21 f. 1 Art
 - b. 23 f. 1 Art
 - o. 1 Art
 - b. 2 f. 6 Awards
 - b. 2 f. 7 Contracts 1971-1992
 - b. 2 f. 8 Correspondence 1980-1992
- b. 3 f. 1-2 Correspondence 1980-1992
- b. 3 f. 3-4 Education 1965-1971
- b. 20 f. 1 Education 1965-1971
- b. 3 f. 5 Memorial Service 1993
- Photographs
 - b. 4 f. 1 Headshots
 - b. 4 f. 2-5 Personal
 - b. 20 f. 2 Personal
 - b. 4 f. 6 Production
- Production Files
 - Film
 - b. 5 f. 1 Anne Klein Industrial film
 - b. 5 f. 2 *The Cop and the Anthem*
 - Opera
 - b. 5 f. 3-5 *The Abduction from the Seraglio* 1988
 - b. 5 f. 6-7 *The Ballad of Baby Doe* 1987
 - b. 6 f. 1 *The Barber of Seville* 1985
 - b. 6 f. 2 *Cenerentola*
 - b. 6 f. 3-4 *Fables: A Diversion*
 - b. 6 f. 5-6 *Falstaff* 1982
 - b. 7 f. 1-3 *Falstaff* 1982
 - b. 7 f. 4 *Faust*
 - b. 7 f. 5 *Die Fledermaus* 1982
 - b. 7 f. 6 *The Gondoliers* 1989
 - The Gondoliers* 1989
 - origvid.221696
 - video (Available by appointment only.)
 - b. 7 f. 7 *Grand Duchess*
 - b. 8 f. 1-3 *Johnny Strikes Up (Jonny Speilt Auf)* 1986

Production Files (cont.)

Opera (cont.)

Johnny Strikes Up (Jonny Speilt Auf)

origsr.221692

sound recording (Available by appointment only.)

- b. 8 f. 4 *The Merry Widow* 1988
- b. 9 f. 1-3 *The Merry Widow* 1988
- b. 9 f. 4 *Monsieur Choufleuri* 1981
- b. 9 f. 5 *Orpheus in the Underworld* 1986
- b. 10 f. 1 *Orpheus in the Underworld* 1986
- b. 23 f. 5 *Orpheus in the Underworld* 1986
- b. 10 f. 2 *Rumplestiltskin* 1978
- b. 10 f. 3 *The Red Mill*
- b. 10 f. 4 *Regina*
- b. 10 f. 5-6 *Romeo and Juliet*
- b. 11 f. 1 *Transformations* 1985
- b. 11 f. 2-3 *Trial by Jury* 1982
- b. 11 f. 4-5 *Trouble in Tahiti and A Quiet Place*
- b. 22 f. 2-3 *Trouble in Tahiti and A Quiet Place*

Theater

- t. 24 *Angel City* 1976-1977
- b. 11 f. 6 *Beautifully Morbid*
- b. 11 f. 7 *Break a Leg*
- b. 11 f. 8 *Bravo, Caruso!* 1990
- Buckets*
origvid.221695
video (Available by appointment only.)
- b. 12 f. 1-2 *The Cherry Orchard*
 - t. 24 *The Cherry Orchard* 1991
- b. 12 f. 3 *Dames at Sea* 1971
- b. 12 f. 4 *Defender of the Faith* 1984
- b. 12 f. 5 *Disability: A Comedy* 1981
- b. 22 f. 1 *Electra*
- b. 21 f. 2 *Escurial*
- b. 12 f. 6-8 *Gemini* 1976-1978
- b. 23 f. 2 *Gemini* 1976-1978
- b. 12 f. 9-10 *Going Hollywood*
- b. 13 f. 1-4 *Going Hollywood*
- b. 13 f. 5 *Happy End*
- b. 13 f. 6 *Herringbone*
- b. 14 f. 1 *A History of the American Film* 1977
- b. 21 f. 3 *The Imaginary Invalid* 1976
- b. 14 f. 2 *In the Jungle of Cities*
- b. 14 f. 3 *The Killing of Yablonski* 1978

Production Files (cont.)

Theater (cont.)

Largo Desolato

origvid.221697

video (Available by appointment only.)

- b. 14 f. 4-7 *Of Thee I Sing* 1992
 - o. 2 *Of Thee I Sing* 1992
- b. 23 f. 3 *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You In the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad*
Once in a Lifetime
origsr.221693
sound recording (Available by appointment only.)
- b. 15 f. 1 *Orestes*
- b. 15 f. 2-3 *Pantagleize*
- b. 21 f. 4 *Pantagleize*
- b. 23 f. 6 *Pantagleize*
 - t. 26 *Pantagleize*
- b. 15 f. 4 *Passione*
- b. 15 f. 5 *The Road to Rome*
- b. 20 f. 3 *Spaseni za Dlaku* 1988
The Skin of Our Teeth
 - t. 24 *Spaseni za Dlaku* 1988
- b. 15 f. 6 *Strike Up the Band*
- b. 15 f. 7 *Time of Your Life*
- b. 15 f. 8 *Titanic* 1976
 - t. 25 *Titanic* 1976
 - o. 2 *Titanic* 1976
- b. 15 f. 9 *Treasure Island* 1991
 - t. 26 *Treasure Island* 1991
- b. 16 f. 1 *Ubu Rex* 1971
- b. 21 f. 5-6 *Ubu Rex* 1971
- b. 16 f. 2 *Welcome to the Club* 1988
- b. 23 f. 4 *Welcome to the Club* 1988
- b. 16 f. 3 *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*
- b. 16 f. 4 *What the Butler Saw*
- b. 16 f. 5-6 *You Can't Take It With You*
- b. 22 f. 4-6 Unidentified Productions
- b. 22 f. 4-6 Designs
 - Audio Recording
origsr.221694
Available by appointment only.
 - Visual Recording
origvid.221698
Available by appointment only.

Production Files (cont.)
Unidentified Productions (cont.)

Visual Recording

origvid.221699

Available by appointment only.

Screenplays

- b. 16 f. 7 *Beaver Lodge*
- b. 17 f. 1-2 *Beaver Lodge*
- b. 17 f. 3 *Chute*
- b. 17 f. 4 *Dingley Falls*
- b. 17 f. 5 *Nothing Will Stop It (Hiroshima Beach Party)*
- b. 17 f. 6 *Town and Country*
- b. 18 f. 1 *Town and Country*
- b. 18 f. 2-6 *Washington Slept Here*
- b. 19 f. 1-2 *White Lies*