Summary

Creator: Benchley, Robert, 1889-1945

Title: Robert Benchley papers

Date: 1920-1956

Size: 1 linear foot (5 boxes)

Abstract: Robert Benchley, humorist, critic, actor, writer and director was born in 1889 in Worcester, Massachusetts. His writing career began as early as his college days as president of the LAMPOON, in which he wrote many articles. His reputation as a humorist grew when he became editor of the New York Tribune’s Sunday Magazine. During the 1920’s he was the dramatic editor for both Life Magazine and the New Yorker. His career also included writing, acting and directing for MGM. The Robert Benchley Papers consist of correspondence, photographs, clippings, scrapbooks, programs and reviews and document both the careers of him and his son, Nathaniel.

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

Preferred citation: Robert Benchley papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Robert Benchley, humorist, critic, actor, writer and director was born in 1889 in Worcester, Massachusetts. His writing career began as early as his college days as president of the LAMPOON, in which he wrote many articles. His reputation as a humorist grew when he became editor of the New York Tribune’s Sunday Magazine. During the 1920’s he was the dramatic editor for both Life Magazine and the New Yorker. His career also included writing, acting and directing for MGM.

Scope and Content Note
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Arrangement: Chronological

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Clippings
Scrapbooks

Subjects
Motion pictures -- United States
Theater -- United States

Names
Benchley, Robert, 1889-1945
Benchley, Nathaniel, 1915-1981
Fairbanks, Douglas, 1883-1939