



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Mike Kellin papers

1946-1983

*T-Mss 1987-008

Processed by Amy Danielien.

Summary

Creator: Kellin, Mike, 1922-1983

Title: Mike Kellin papers

Date: 1946-1983

Source: Gift, See donor file, 1987

Abstract: The papers of Mike Kellin document his personal life and acting career from the late 1940's to the early 1980's. The collection includes correspondence, biographical materials, scripts he wrote, awards, photos, TV and news releases, writings, scripts of performances he acted in, speeches, poems and newspaper clippings. Newspaper clippings, photographs, and scripts of his performances make up the bulk of the collection.

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:

Photocopying prohibited.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Preferred citation: [Identification of item], Mike Kellin Papers, *T Mss 1987-008, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Processing note: Processed by Amy Danielien.

Creator History

Myron Kellin, known as Mike Kellin was born in Hartford, Connecticut on April 26, 1922. He attended several universities, eventually earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He served as a Lt.

Commander in the US Navy during WWII. Afterwards, he enrolled at the Randall School of the Theatre of Hartford in 1946. He has appeared in more than 50 plays, 75 movies, and 200 TV show episodes, including: *The Odd Couple*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Kojak*, *Lost in Space*, *Midnight Express*, and *So Fine*. He also wrote and directed his own productions; including *Riff Raff Revue*. He was an active volunteer in various Jewish organizations and several theaters. He won many awards, notably an Obie Award in 1976 for his performance in David Mamet's *American Buffalo*. He died in Nyack, New York in 1983 at age 61 from lung cancer.

Custodial History

The Mike Kellin Papers were donated to the Billy Rose Theatre Division in 1987. The materials are in good condition. All clippings have been photocopied onto acid-free paper for preservation purposes.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Mike Kellin document his personal life and acting career from the late 1940's to the early 1980's. The collection includes correspondence, biographical materials, scripts he wrote, awards, photos, press releases, writings, scripts of performances he acted in, speeches and poems and newsclippings. Newsclippings, photographs, and scripts of his performances make up the bulk of the collection.

Arrangement: Series I: Correspondence Series II: Personal Papers Series III: Writings Series IV: Scripts Series V: Clippings

Key Terms

Subjects

Motion picture actors and actresses -- United States
Political activists -- New York(State) -- Rockland County
Theater -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographic prints
Scripts

Names

Kellin, Mike, 1922-1983
Hecht, Ben, 1894-1964
Simon, Neil

Container List

Series I: Correspondence 1946 - 1981 (.21 linear feet 1 box)

Arranged chronologically

This series includes correspondence sent and received by Mike Kellin. It spans the years from 1946 - 1983. There are letters, postcards, telegrams, and cards which are arranged chronologically by decade; and in each folder alphabetically by sender.

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence "A-Z" 1940-1949
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence "A-Z" 1950-1959
- b. 1 f. 3 Correspondence "A-Z" 1960-1969
- b. 1 f. 4 Correspondence "A-Z" 1970-1981
- b. 1 f. 5 Undated correspondence "A-Z"

Series II: Personal Papers 1940-1980 (.21 linear feet 1 box)

Arranged alphabetically

This series consists of Actor's Equity statements and contracts, awards, personal photographs, Kellin's directing photographs, television and news releases, cast photographs, and unidentified performance photographs.

- b. 2 f. 1 Statements and contracts / Actors' Equity Association 1956-1959
- b. 2 f. 2 Awards / Mike Kellin 1963-1981
- b. 2 f. 3 Personal photographs / Mike Kellin
- b. 2 f. 4 Directing and cast photographs / Mike Kellin
- b. 2 f. 5 Unidentified photographs

Series III: Writings ca. 1940-1980 (.21 linear feet 1 box)

Arranged alphabetically

This series contains scripts which Kellin wrote, *The Mermaid of Halong Bay*, *Mr. Peepers* episode, *A Play- (the likes of which)*, and *The Single Secret*. Also included are: biographical writings, speeches, poetry, and copies of an activist newsletter from Rockland County. Kellin's own letter (relating to civil rights issues) is included, along with a petition against NY police.

- b. 3 f. 1 Synopses and one-act plays / Mike Kellin
- b. 3 f. 2 Speeches / Mike Kellin
- b. 3 f. 3 Rockland County writings 1967-1969

Series IV: Scripts ca. 1940- 1980 (1.1 linear feet 3 boxes)

Arranged alphabetically

These are arranged alphabetically by title. All scripts are from performances in which Kellin appeared. All are annotated in Kellin's hand; including *The Odd Couple*, *Rhinoceros*, and *Winkelberg*.

- b. 4 f. 1 *Ankles aweigh (Musical) / Sammy Fain* 1953
- b. 4 f. 2 *The ashes of Mrs. Reasoner / Enid Rudd*
- b. 4 f. 3 *The death and resurrection of Mr. Roche / Thomas Kilroy*
- b. 4 f. 4 *The diary of a scoundrel / Alesandr Ostrovsky.*
- b. 4 f. 5 *The enchanted voyage / Robert Nathan.*
- b. 4 f. 6 *End as a man/ Calder Willingham* 1953
- b. 5 f. 1 *God and Kate Murphy / Kieran Tunney*
- b. 5 f. 2 *The greatest man in the world / James Thurber* 1961

Series IV: Scripts (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 3 *Mother Courage and her children / Bertolt Brecht* 1963
- b. 5 f. 4 *The odd couple / Neil Simon* 1965
- b. 5 f. 5 *The odd couple / Neil Simon - notes*
- b. 5 f. 6 *Purple dust / Sean O'Casey*
- b. 5 f. 7 *Rhinoceros / Eugene Ionesco* 1960
- b. 6 f. 1 *The teacher his victim / Conrad Bromberg* 1963
- b. 6 f. 2 *We take the town (Musical) / Harold Karr* 1961
- b. 6 f. 3 *Winkelberg / Ben Hecht* 1957

Series V: Clippings ca. 1940-1983 (.63 linear feet 2 boxes)

[Arranged alphabetically by production title]

Arranged alphabetically by production title, this series contains preservation photocopies of newspaper and magazine clippings. They are about Kellin's performances, and about Kellin.

- b. 7 f. 1 Clippings "A"
- b. 7 f. 2 Clippings "B-C"
- b. 7 f. 3 Clippings "D"
- b. 7 f. 4 Clippings "E"
- b. 7 f. 5 Clippings "F"
- b. 7 f. 6 Clippings "G"
- b. 7 f. 7 Clippings "H"
- b. 7 f. 8 Clippings "I"
- b. 7 f. 9 Clippings "J"
- b. 7 f. 10 Clippings "L"
- b. 7 f. 11 Clippings "M"
- b. 7 f. 12 Clippings "N"
- b. 7 f. 13 Clippings "O"
- b. 7 f. 14 Clippings "P"
- b. 7 f. 15 Clippings "Q"
- b. 7 f. 16 Clippings "R"
- b. 7 f. 17 Clippings "S"
- b. 7 f. 18 Clippings "T"
- b. 7 f. 19 Clippings "W"
- b. 8 f. 1 Biographical clippings about Mike Kellin
- b. 8 f. 2 Press releases