



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Papers of Marguerite and Reta Shaw

1954-1970

*T-Mss 1993-033

Summary

Creator: Shaw, Marguerite, 1916-1983

Title: Papers of Marguerite and Reta Shaw

Date: 1954-1970

Size: 2 boxes and 2 reels of microfilm

Source: Papers: gift, Mary Anne Wallace, 08/12/1993

Abstract: The collection is mostly scrapbooks of photographs and clippings documenting the acting careers of the two Shaws. The scrapbooks also contain correspondence, programs and ephemera. The collection also has Marguerite's annotated actor's side for the part of Mabel in THE PAJAMA GAME and a doll dressed in the Cecil Beaton designed costume for Marguerite's role of Nellie Burns in TENDERLOIN which is stored in the Theatre Collection's T-cabinet, shelf #4.

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>

Alternative Form Available: 3 of the scrapbooks are available on microfilm; Billy Rose Theatre Collection, the New York Public Library; call number *ZC-540, 1-2

Preferred citation: Papers of Marguerite and Reta Shaw, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Marguerite Shaw, a character actress from South Paris, Maine, made her professional debut as Mabel in THE PAJAMA GAME (1955) and made her Broadway debut replacing her sister, Reta, in that role. She repeated this role on national tour and in various productions, including a tour of South Africa. She appeared again on Broadway as Nellie Burns in TENDERLOIN (1960) and also appeared in summer stock, regional theater and television commercials. Marguerite Shaw, a graduate of Bates College with

a Masters degree from Columbia University, was a dean at American University at the time of her professional debut. She was later a professor at Sarah Lawrence College.

Reta Shaw, the older sister of Marguerite and also a character actress from South Paris, Maine, attended acting school after high school and had her first major appearance with the national touring company of ANNIE GET YOUR GUN. She was on Broadway in IT TAKES TWO, GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES, PICNIC and THE PAJAMA GAME. Her films include THE PAJAMA GAME, MARY POPPINS, POLLYANNA and BACHELOR IN PARADISE. Her best known roles were on television as the housekeeper in THE GHOST AND MRS. MUIR and Aunt Lil in MR. PEEPERS.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

Actresses

Names

Shaw, Marguerite, 1916-1983

Shaw, Reta, 1912-1982