



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Margaret E. Lynn Army Music and Theatre Collection

1967-1978

*T-Mss 1975-004

Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan.

Summary

Creator: United States. Army

Title: Margaret E. Lynn Army Music and Theatre Collection

Date: 1967-1978

Source: The collection was donated to the Billy Rose Theatre Division starting in 1975. There appears to have been a number of installments as materials were sent from various Army locations.

Abstract: In 1962, she helped found and then for two decades directed the Army Music and Theater Program, which The Washington Post in 1976 called "the largest producing organization of music and theater in the world." At that time, it staged more than 25,000 performances annually with a global audience of more than 2.5 million people. The collection consists primarily of photographs, clippings, and programs, as well as scrapbooks, posters, and a small amount of correspondence, documenting the plays, contests, and travelling shows of the United States Army's Entertainment Services Unit.

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: Margaret E. Lynn Army Music and Theatre Collection, *T-Mss 1975-004, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Processing note: Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan; machine-readable finding aid created by Thea Constantine.

Creator History

Miss Lynn was named Margaret Eleanor Linskie at her birth in Dallas on April 24, 1921, and she originally intended to be a concert pianist. She studied at Northwestern University and graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1942. She earned a master's degree in speech and drama from Catholic University. In 1945, she was one of the first civilian "actress technicians" employed by the United States government to work with troops overseas after World War II. She conceived and directed shows during the Korean War, bringing entertainment to United Nations units, sometimes under artillery fire. When she returned to Washington in 1955, she continued working for the Department of the Army, creating and directing a show called "Rolling Along," which toured the world from 1955 to 1961. In 1962, she helped push for a new organization to promote and support theatrical and musical productions at Army bases. The result, the Army Music and Theater Program, was a continuation of more informal efforts dating to the Revolutionary War. As the director of the Entertainment Services Unit for the United States Army, Miss Lynn's role was to muster talent from privates to colonels, pay royalties to writers and production companies, and provide guidance to aspiring dramatic troupes from Germany to Korea. She supervised a far-flung network of 200 full-time civilian directors in performing arts centers at military bases. Besides having soldiers entertaining soldiers, she encouraged the participation of their family members and civilians from nearby towns. She set up scholarships and competitions to discover and encourage talented soldiers and officers. She pushed successfully to convert unused Army movie houses into spaces for live theater. In 1982, she formed her own production company, Creative Consultants, which worked with Disney and other entertainment companies. She was executive director of the American Theater Association from 1982 to 1986. Margaret E. Lynn, who directed the Army's extensive, worldwide theatrical program that encouraged participation by soldiers, officers and their dependents, died on June 11, 2002 at a hospital in Fairfax, Va. She was 81.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists primarily of photographs, clippings, and programs, as well as scrapbooks, posters, and a small amount of correspondence, documenting the plays, contests, and travelling shows of the United States Army's Entertainment Services Unit. Materials are from bases in the United States, Germany, Korea, and Japan, and span the late 1940s to the 1970s. Many of these shows are popular stage musicals such as *The Fantasticks*, *The Pajama Game*, *Guys and Dolls*; also represented are non-musical plays such as *The Odd Couple* and *Inherit the Wind*. Of special note are a collection of post World War II scrapbooks from bases in Germany, dating back to 1949, documenting plays and musical productions there.

Arrangement: Series I: Papers Series II: Productions Sub-series 1 - United States locations Sub-series 2 - Overseas locations Series III: Army Showmobile Series IV: Contests Series V: Instruction Guides Series VI: Bound Materials Series VII: Oversized Materials Series VIII: Posters

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Correspondence
Photographs
Posters
Programs

Subjects

Morale

Music in the army
Soldiers as actors

Names

United States. Army

Container List

Series I. Papers n.d. (1 box)

This series contains a small amount of correspondence and memos from the Entertainment Unit. There are also a few miscellaneous publications.

- b. 1 f. 1 Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey n.d. (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 2 Tournament of Plays n.d. (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 3 Miscellaneous n.d. (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 4 Miscellaneous publications n.d. (1 folder)

Series II. Productions 1967-1978 (16 boxes)

This series contains clippings, programs and photographs from Entertainment Services productions in the United States and abroad. The records span from the late 1960s through the mid 1970s.

Sub-series 1: United States locations 1967-1978 (12 boxes)

Included in the sub-series are materials documenting productions at Army bases throughout the United States. Not all bases are included and coverage is haphazard. There is a large collection of materials for the Entertainment Units in Hawaii.

- b. 2 f. 1 Fort Benjamin Harrison - Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- b. 2 f. 2 Fort Benning, Georgia - Parade of American Music (1 folder)
- Fort Bliss, Texas
- b. 2 f. 3 Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- b. 2 f. 4 *Take Me Along* (1 folder)
- b. 2 f. 5 Parade of American Music (1 folder)
- Fort Bragg, N. C.
- b. 2 f. 6 Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- b. 2 f. 7 Miscellaneous programs (1 folder)
- b. 2 f. 8 Fort Campbell, Kentucky - Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- Fort Carson, Colorado
- b. 3 f. 1-6 Miscellaneous productions (6 folders)
- b. 3 f. 7 Miscellaneous programs (1 folder)
- b. 3 f. 8 Fort Devens - Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- b. 3 f. 9 Fort Eustis, Virginia - Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- b. 4 f. 1 Fort Gordon, Georgia - *The Far-Off Sweet Forever* (1 folder)
- b. 4 f. 2 Fort Hood - Miscellaneous programs (1 folder)
- b. 4 f. 3 Fort Huachuca, Arizona - Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- b. 4 f. 4 Fort Jackson, S. Carolina - Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- b. 4 f. 5 Fort Knox, Kentucky - Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- Fort Lee, Virginia
- b. 4 f. 6-7 Miscellaneous productions (2 folders)
- b. 4 f. 8 Miscellaneous programs (1 folder)
- b. 5 f. 1 Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. - Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- Fort Lewis, Washington
- b. 5 f. 2-3 *Amahl and the Night Visitors* 1967 (2 folders)

Series II. Productions (cont.)

Sub-series 1: United States locations (cont.)

Fort Lewis, Washington (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 4 *Archy and Mehitabel* 1967 (1 folder)
- b. 5 f. 5 *Chicanery on the Cimarron* 1968 (1 folder)
- b. 5 f. 6-7 *The Fantasticks* 1967 (2 folders)
- b. 6 f. 1-2 *Guys and Dolls* 1967 (2 folders)
- b. 6 f. 3 *The Odd Couple* 1967 (1 folder)
- b. 6 f. 4 A Salute to National Panic Week 1968 (1 folder)
- b. 6 f. 5 *Sing Ho for a Prince* 1968 (1 folder)
- b. 6 f. 6 Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)

Fort Polk, Louisiana

- b. 7 f. 1 Entertainment Scrapbook 1970-1972 (1 folder)
- b. 7 f. 2-3 Publicity scrapbook (removed from binder) (2 folders)
- b. 7 f. 4 Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- b. 7 f. 5 Miscellaneous programs (1 folder)

Presidio, San Francisco, Ca

- b. 8 f. 1 *The Owl and the Pussycat* (1 folder)
- b. 8 f. 2 Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- b. 8 f. 3 Fort Riley, Kansas - Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- b. 8 f. 4 Fort Rucker - Miscellaneous programs (1 folder)
- b. 8 f. 5 Fort Sam Houston, Texas - Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)

Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

- b. 8 f. 6 Brotherhood Week 1975 (1 folder)
- b. 8 f. 7 200th Anniversary of the Army 1975 (1 folder)
- b. 8 f. 8 Fort Sheridan, Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)

Fort Sill, Oklahoma

- b. 8 f. 9 Parade of American Music 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 8 f. 10 Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- b. 8 f. 11 Miscellaneous programs (1 folder)
- b. 8 f. 12 Fort Stewart, Georgia - Parade of American Music 1978 (1 folder)

USARHAW, Hawaii

- b. 9 f. 1 *After the Fall* 1972 (1 folder)
- b. 9 f. 2 For Old Broadway (1 folder)
- b. 9 f. 3 *Here's Love* 1972 Dec. (1 folder)
- b. 9 f. 3 *Here's Love* 1972 Dec. (1 folder)
- b. 9 f. 4 *How Now Dow Jones* 1972 (1 folder)
- b. 9 f. 5 *Jimmy Shine* (1 folder)
- b. 9 f. 6 *The Sweet Days of Isaac* (1 folder)
- b. 9 f. 7 Variety 72 (1 folder)

USASCH, Hawaii

- b. 10 f. 1 American Music Concert Under the Stars 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 10 f. 2 *Born Yesterday* (1 folder)
- b. 10 f. 3 Brotherhood Week 1976 (1 folder)

Series II. Productions (cont.)

Sub-series 1: United States locations (cont.)

USASCH, Hawaii (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 4 *Bus Stop* (1 folder)
- b. 10 f. 5 *Cactus Flower* 1974 Aug. (1 folder)
- b. 10 f. 6 *Celebration* 1973 (1 folder)
- b. 10 f. 7 *A Christmas Carol* 1974 (1 folder)
- b. 10 f. 8 Fabulous 50's : Soldier Touring Show 1975 (1 folder)
- b. 11 f. 1 Festival Americana 1977 (1 folder)
- b. 11 f. 2 *Godspell* 1976 (1 folder)
- b. 11 f. 3 Happy Hour : Soldier Show (1 folder)
- b. 11 f. 4 *Harvey* 1975 (1 folder)
- b. 11 f. 5 Hawaiiana 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 11 f. 6 *How the Other Half Lives* 1976 (1 folder)
- b. 11 f. 7 Independence Day Program 1975 (1 folder)
- b. 11 f. 8 Independence Day Celebration 1976 (1 folder)
- b. 11 f. 9 *Inherit the Wind* (1 folder)
- b. 11 f. 10 *Little Mary Sunshine* 1975 (1 folder)
- b. 12 f. 1 *Mary, Mary* 1973 (1 folder)
- b. 12 f. 2 *Oklahoma* 1975 (1 folder)
- b. 12 f. 3-4 *The Pajama Game* 1974 (2 folders)
- b. 12 f. 5-6 *Plaza Suite* 1975 (2 folders)
- b. 13 f. 1 *Shenandoah* 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 13 f. 2 *The Seven Year Itch* 1975 (1 folder)
- b. 13 f. 3 Sing-a-Song : Soldier Touring Show (1 folder)
- b. 13 f. 4 Sound 73 : Soldier Touring Show (1 folder)
- b. 13 f. 5 A Winter Music Festival 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 13 f. 6 Yesterday : Soldiers Touring Show (1 folder)
- b. 13 f. 7 Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)

Sub-series 2: Overseas locations 1967-1978 (4 boxes)

Included in this sub-series are materials documenting productions primarily in Germany and Korea. There is a small amount of materials for bases in other countries.

Germany

Ansbach

- b. 14 f. 1 *Classical Gas* 1973 (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 2 Veterans Day Rock/Soul Concert (1 folder)

Bad Kreiznach

- b. 14 f. 3 *Inherit the Wind* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 4 *My Three Angels* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 5 *The Rainmaker* (1 folder)

Berlin

- b. 14 f. 6 *Man of La Mancha* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 7 *Medea* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 8 Volksfest 1972 (1 folder)

Series II. Productions (cont.)

Sub-series 2: Overseas locations (cont.)

Germany (cont.)

Berlin (cont.)

- b. 14 f. 9 *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (1 folder)
- Frankfurt
- b. 14 f. 10 *Bell, Book and Candle* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 11 *Carnival* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 12 *Dracula* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 13-14 *Hello, Dolly* (2 folders)
- Hanau
- b. 14 f. 15 *Mary, Mary* (1 folder)
- Heilbronn
- b. 14 f. 16 *Arsenic and Old Lace* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 17 *Blithe Spirit* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 18 *Cactus Flower* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 19 *We People* (1 folder)
- Kaiserslautern
- b. 14 f. 20 Parade of American Music 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 21 *Puss in Boots* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 22 Retirement Dinner 1971 Oct. (1 folder)
- Karlsruhe
- b. 14 f. 23 *The Boy Friend* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 24 *Camelot* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 25 *My Three Angels* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 26 *Sophisticated Ladies* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 27 Mannheim - Parade of American Music 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 28 Pirmasins - Parade of American Music (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 29 Rhineland-Pfalz - Parade of American Music 1970 (1 folder)
- Roadside
- b. 14 f. 30 *Look Homeward Angel* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 31 *Passage of the Apocalypse* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 32 *Theatre #1 -Wagon Wheel* (1 folder)
- Worms
- b. 14 f. 33 *Sleep of Prisoners* (1 folder)
- b. 14 f. 34 *Winter's Tale* 1975 (1 folder)
- Zweibrucken
- b. 15 f. 1 *The Drunkard* 1971 June (1 folder)
- b. 15 f. 2 *The Little Foxes* 1971 Mar. (1 folder)
- b. 15 f. 3 *The Night of the Iguana* 1972 (1 folder)
- b. 15 f. 4 *Winnie the Pooh* 1972 Dec. (1 folder)
- b. 15 f. 5 Assorted Locations Miscellaneous productions (1 folder)
- b. 15 f. 6 Unidentified (1 folder)
- b. 15 f. 7 Miscellaneous programs (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 1 Italy Vicenza - Theatre Publicity Seminar 1972 (1 folder)

Series II. Productions (cont.)

Sub-series 2: Overseas locations (cont.)

Japan

Honshu

- b. 16 f. 2 *Amahl and the Night Visitors* 1973 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 3 American Theatre Month 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 4 *Black Comedy* 1973 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 5 *The Brick and the Rose* 1974 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 6 Children's Theatre 1974 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 7 *Fiddler on the Roof* 1974 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 8 *Forty Carats* 1974 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 9 *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris* 1973 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 10 Kanto Comedy Capers 1975 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 11 *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* 1975 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 12 *Of Mice and Men* 1974 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 13 *Pure as the Driven Snow* 1973 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 14 Three One-Act Plays 1974 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 15 *To Kill a Mockingbird* 1972 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 16 *Trouble in Mind* 1974 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 17 Two One-Act Plays 1973 (1 folder)

Korea

- b. 16 f. 18 *Camp Casey - Grease* 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 19 *Camp Humphries-The Lion in Winter* (1 folder)
- b. 16 f. 20-24 USARSAK - Battle of the Bands 1976 (5 folders)
- b. 16 f. 25 Yongsan - Parade of American Music 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 17 f. 1 Scotland - Holy Loch - George Jessel and Company (1 folder)
- b. 17 f. 2 Southern Eur. Task Force-1970 Parade of American Music (1 folder)
- b. 17 f. 3 USAACOM - Variety '65 (1 folder)

Unidentified

- b. 17 f. 4 Action '71 : Touring Show (1 folder)
- b. 17 f. 5 Miscellaneous (1 folder)

Series III. Army Showmobile 1955-1973 (1 box)

This series consists of 2 scrapbooks of material on the Army Showmobile, an entertainment program.

- b. 18 f. 1 2nd Army Showmobile 1955 Sept.-1957 (1 folder)
- b. 18 f. 2 3rd Army Showmobile 1964 Sept.-1973 Feb (1 folder)

Series IV. Contests 1957-1971 (2 boxes)

This series contains scrapbooks and materials related to talent contests held by the Entertainment Unit. Included are the Army Entertainment Contests for 1958-1959, Tournament of Plays for 1957-1962 as well as some others.

- b. 19 f. 1 1958 All Army Entertainment Contest (1 folder)
- b. 19 f. 2 1959 All Army Entertainment Contest (Part I) (1 folder)
- b. 19 f. 3 1959 All Army Entertainment Contest (Part II) (1 folder)
- b. 19 f. 4 1958 Tournament of Plays (1 folder)

Series IV. Contests (cont.)

- b. 20 f. 1 1957 Tournament of Plays (1 folder)
- b. 20 f. 2 1962 Tournament of Plays (1 folder)
- b. 20 f. 3 Sounds of Army Entertainment 1969 (1 folder)
- b. 20 f. 4 Experience 70 (1 folder)
- b. 20 f. 5-6 Show Band Contest 1971 (2 folders)

Series V. Instruction Guides n.d. (1 box)

This series includes pamphlets distributed by the Army Entertainment Unit detailing how to put on various types of shows and entertainments. Pamphlets included are for hospital entertainments, soldier's shows and generic production guides.

- b. 21 f. 1 Hospital Entertainment Guide # 4 (1 folder)
- b. 21 f. 2 Production Guide 1 (1 folder)
- b. 21 f. 3 Production Guide 2 (1 folder)
- b. 21 f. 4 Soldiers Shows : Production Ideas for G.I. Variety Shows # 1 (1 folder)
- b. 21 f. 5 Soldiers Shows : Production Ideas for G.I. Variety Shows # 2 (1 folder)

Series VI. Bound Materials n.d. (1 box)

This series contains programs and an instruction guide bound together by the library at an earlier date. There are a variety of programs both from productions in the United States and overseas. Overseas entertainment programs are primarily from Germany and Korea.

- b. 22 f. 1 United States - bound programs (1 folder)
- b. 22 f. 2-3 US & Europe - bound programs (2 folders)
- b. 22 f. 4 Germany - programs with instruction guides (1 folder)
- b. 22 f. 5 Germany & Korea - bound programs (1 folder)

Series VII. Oversized Scrapbooks 1949-1978 (9 boxes)

This series contains scrapbooks created by the various bases and entertainment units for plays and musical productions throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. Of special note are a collection of post World War II scrapbooks from German bases.

Scrapbook

- b. 23 f. 1 Black Music in Concert (Ft. Monmouth, NJ) (1 folder)
- b. 23 f. 2 Salute to American Theatre Month (Ft. McClennan, Ala.) (1 folder)
- b. 23 f. 3 American Theatre Month (Ft. McClennan, Ala.) 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 23 f. 4 Modern Dance Workshop (Ft. McClennan, Ala.) 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 23 f. 5 3rd Annual Parade of American Music (Camp Darby, Italy) (1 folder)
- b. 23 f. 6 *Something's Afoot (RSAK-South)* 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 24 USO - Marco the Magnificent Tour 1975 (1 item in box)
- b. 25 f. 1 *Yongsan, Korea - Fiddler on the Roof* (1 folder)
- b. 26 f. 1 Camp Humphreys - Parade of American Music 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 27 f. 1 Hohenfels, Germany - Parade of American Music 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 28 f. 1 1957 All Army Entertainment Contest (1 folder)
- b. 29 f. 1 Ft. Lewis - Parade of American Music (1 folder)
- b. 29 f. 2 Ft. Polk, La. - Music and Theatre 1978 (1 folder)
- b. 29 f. 3 Fort Bragg and Presidio of San Francisco (1 folder)
- b. 30 f. 1 Germany 1949-1961 (1 folder)

Series VII. Oversized Scrapbooks (cont.)
Scrapbook (cont.)

- b. 30 f. 2 Germany 1961-1966 (1 folder)
- b. 31 f. 1 Germany 1964-1965 (1 folder)

Series VIII. Posters n.d. (1 box)

This series contains miscellaneous posters, flyers and window cards which were used to promote the Army Entertainment Unit productions.

- b. 32 Posters (1 folder)