



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Letters from Quentin Crisp

1991-1999

*T-Mss 2001-025

Summary

Creator: Patrick, Robert, 1937-

Title: Letters from Quentin Crisp

Date: 1991-1999

Size: .21 linear feet (1 box)

Abstract: Playwright and novelist Robert Patrick, whose plays include *KENNEDY'S CHILDREN*, *THE HAUNTED HOST*, and *MIRAGE*, and whose novels include *TEMPLE SLAVE*, was for many years a close friend and correspondent of Quentin Crisp (1908-1999), British wit, author, and performer, who spent the last twenty years of his life in New York City. The letters, most of which were typewritten, and all of which include original envelopes, were written by Quentin Crisp to Robert Patrick between April 1991 to February 1999. After Crisp's death in November 1999, Patrick composed a fifteen page guide to the letters, included with this collection, in which he explains Crisp's references, identifies persons mentioned, fills in some biographical details about Crisp and about himself and his concurrent career, and offers commentary on Crisp's remarks. Crisp writes about current events, plays and films, about Patrick's career and his own, and frequently about issues of importance to gay men and lesbians.

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: Letters from Quentin Crisp, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Playwright and novelist Robert Patrick, whose plays include *KENNEDY'S CHILDREN*, *THE HAUNTED HOST*, and *MIRAGE*, and whose novels include *TEMPLE SLAVE*, was for many years a close friend and correspondent of Quentin Crisp (1908-1999), British wit, author, and performer, who spent the last twenty years of his life in New York City.

Scope and Content Note

The letters, most of which were typewritten, and all of which include original envelopes, were written by Quentin Crisp to Robert Patrick between April 1991 to February 1999. After Crisp's death in November 1999, Patrick composed a fifteen page guide to the letters, included with this collection, in which he explains Crisp's references, identifies persons mentioned, fills in some biographical details about Crisp and about himself and his concurrent career, and offers commentary on Crisp's remarks. Crisp writes about current events, plays and films, about Patrick's career and his own, and frequently about issues of importance to gay men and lesbians.

Arrangement: Chronological

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Subjects

Homosexuality

Motion pictures

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Names

Patrick, Robert, 1937-

Crisp, Quentin