



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Athan Karras papers

1955-1963

*T-Mss 2001-049

Summary

Creator: Karras, Athan

Title: Athan Karras papers

Date: 1955-1963

Size: .21 linear feet (1 box)

Abstract: Director, choreographer, dancer and actor Athan Karras was born in Greece, toured there in classical drama, then came to the United States where he was most active in theater during the 1950s and 1960s. Karras was perhaps best known in America for his work in adaptations of Greek drama, especially Sophocles' OEDIPUS REX, which he directed a number of times and in which he also played the title role. Karras also appeared with the Pearl Lang Dance Company, and worked in various productions of PAL JOEY, PAINT YOUR WAGON, Bernard Shaw's CAESAR AND CLEOPATRA with Franchot Tone and Susan Strasberg, Jean Genet's DEATHWATCH with Vic Morrow, and in the Living Theatre production of Pirandello's TONIGHT WE IMPROVISE, designed and directed by Julian Beck, with Judith Malina. The Athan Karras papers span 1955-1963, and consist of playbills, fliers, clippings in English and Greek, and a small amount of correspondence concerning the career of Athan Karras.

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>

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Creator History

Director, choreographer, dancer and actor Athan Karras was born in Greece, toured there in classical drama, then came to the United States where he was most active in theater during the 1950s and 1960s. Karras was perhaps best known in America for his work in adaptations of Greek drama, especially Sophocles' OEDIPUS REX, which he directed a number of times and in which he also played the title role. Karras also appeared with the Pearl Lang Dance Company, and worked in various productions of PAL JOEY, PAINT YOUR WAGON, Bernard Shaw's CAESAR AND CLEOPATRA with

Franchot Tone and Susan Strasberg, Jean Genet's DEATHWATCH with Vic Morrow, and in the Living Theatre production of Pirandello's TONIGHT WE IMPROVISE, designed and directed by Julian Beck, with Judith Malina.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Correspondence
Fliers (printed matter)
Playbills

Subjects

Greek drama -- Modern presentation -- United States
Theater -- United States

Names

Karras, Athan