



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Mary Bryant papers

1950-1994

*T-Mss 1992-005

Compiled by Diana Bertolini, 2013.

Summary

Creator: Bryant, Mary

Title: Mary Bryant papers

Date: 1950-1994

Size: 43.51 linear feet (104 boxes)

Source: Donated by the Museum of the City of New York in 1992 and 1996.

Abstract: Mary Bryant (1932-2004) was a theatrical press agent and representative, working primarily on Broadway. She was known for representing productions of the prominent director and producer Harold Prince. The Mary Bryant Papers document her career as a press agent with publicity materials, photographs, and correspondence.

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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Processing note: Compiled by Diana Bertolini, 2013 Compiled by Diana Bertolini, 2013.

Creator History

Mary Elizabeth Bryant was born in Apopka, Florida on October 17, 1932. She majored in Drama at the University of Miami, where she met the legendary Broadway director George Abbott. Shortly after graduation she began her theatrical career as an actress doing regional theatre in Pennsylvania.

George Abbott encouraged Bryant to consider a career as a press agent, and she began that career under press agents Sol Jacobson and Lewis Harmon. Her Broadway career began with Abbott's *Fiorello!* (1959), working as an assistant press representative. *Fiorello!* introduced her to Harold Prince, its producer, with whom Bryant would be professionally associated for the next few decades. This was followed with a string of shows in the early 1960s, such as *Toys in the Attic* (1960); *Tenderloin* (1960); *Write Me a Murder* (1961); *Take Her, She's Mine* (1961); and *The Aspern Papers* (1962). Several of these shows were directed by Abbott and produced by Prince.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1962) marked Bryant's first credit as a press representative. She continued to work steadily on shows like *Never Too Late* (1962); *She Love Me* (1963); *Poor Bitos* (1964); *Flora, the Red Menace* (1965); *Mating Dance* (1965); *Any a* (1965); *It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman* (1966); *Cabaret* (1966); *Agatha Sue, I Love You* (1966); *The Girl in the Freudian Slip* (1967); *Hair* (1968); *Zorba* (1968); and *Angela* (1969). Bryant worked with a variety of directors and producers in her early career, but most frequently with Prince and Abbott.

During the 1970s, Bryant represented all the major Prince productions, which were *Company* (1970), *Follies* (1971), *A Little Night Music* (1973), *The Visit* (1973), *Pacific Overtures* (1976), *On the Twentieth Century* (1978), *Sweeney Todd* (1979), and *Evita* (1979). Other shows Bryant worked on in the 1970s included *Grin and Bare It!/Postcards* (1970), *Abelard and Heloise* (1971), *Love for Love* (1974), *Music Is* (1976), and *Side by Side by Sondheim* (1977).

During the 1980s and early 1990s, Bryant worked exclusively on Prince productions, such as *Merrily We Roll Along* (1981), *A Doll's Life* (1982), *End of the World* (1984), *Grind* (1985), *Roza* (1987), *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* (1993), and *Show Boat* (1994). During the late 1990s Bryant represented several shows produced by Livent, Inc., the production company that produced Prince's *Show Boat*. The other Livent shows Bryant worked on were *Barrymore* (1997), *Candide* (1997), *Ragtime* (1998), and *Fosse* (1999).

Mary Bryant died of a brain hemorrhage on February 22, 2004 in Hillsdale, New York.

Custodial History

Donated to the Museum of the City of New York by Mary Bryant. Mary Bryant's gift to the Museum of the City of New York stipulated that part of the collection would be given to the New York Public Library.

Scope and Content Note

This collection documents Mary Bryant's career as a theatrical press representative from the late 1950s to the 1990s with publicity materials, photographs, correspondence, financial records, and programs collected or created by Bryant while representing productions, companies and individuals. The files from productions and companies represented by Bryant consist of photographs and promotional materials like press releases and clippings from that production or company.

Publicity materials contain press releases, clippings, memos, press lists, and contracts. Clippings contain complete sets of out-of-town and Broadway reviews and feature articles, master review sets, and reviews pulled for quotations that could be used in advertisements.

Photographs included in this collection are posed publicity shots, live production shots, and rehearsal shots. There are actor headshots, resumes and biographies (for use in programs). Photographs are

often accompanied by the caption text which would be submitted to the media.

Correspondence generally consists of requests for press tickets, arrangements for interviews, memos between Bryant and members of the creative team, negotiations with photographers and advertising companies, and memos planning advertising campaigns. Financial records in this collection include advertising budgets and weekly grosses from shows Bryant represented.

There is a small amount of material pertaining to the theatre industry in general and to shows Bryant did not work on, including annotated programs, photographs, clippings, and advertisements.

Arrangement: This collection is arranged in alphabetical order, by show, company, or personal name.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Photographs
Posters
Press releases
Programs (documents)
Publicity Materials

Subjects

Musicals
Publicity agents -- United States
Theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Theater -- Public relations
Theater -- United States -- 20th century

Occupations

Press agents
Publicists

Names

Abbott, George, 1887-1995
Prince, Harold, 1928-
Sondheim, Stephen

Container List

Abelard and Heloise

- b. 1 f. 1-12 1971
- b. 23 f. 1-13 1971
- b. 104 f. 1 1971
- b. 2 f. 1-4 Abbott, George 1963-1983
- b. 3 f. 1-4 *Agatha Sue, I Love You* 1966

The Amorous Flea

- b. 3 f. 5-6 1963-1964
- b. 4 f. 1-4 1964

Angela

- b. 4 f. 5-14 1969
- b. 5 f. 1-7 1969
- b. 6 f. 1-5 *Anya* 1962-1965
- b. 81 f. 7-8 Artpark 1974
- b. 101 f. 5 *Billy Liar / King Groovy* 1967
- b. 7 f. 1-5 Bucks County Playhouse 1964-1967

Bully

- b. 7 f. 6-11 1976-1977
- b. 8 f. 1-12 1976-1977

Cabaret

- b. 9 f. 1-4 1966-1968
- b. 10 f. 1-4 1967-1969
- b. 12 f. 1-2 1967-1972
- b. 11 f. 1-3 1968-1975

Candide

- b. 12 f. 3 1982
- b. 13 f. 1-8 1982

Company

- b. 13 f. 9-10 1970
- b. 14 f. 1-6 1970
- b. 15 f. 1-8 1971-1972
- b. 16 f. 1-4 1970-1972
- b. 17 f. 1-6 *Dear Janet Rosenberg, Dear Mr. Kooning* 1970

A Doll's Life

- b. 17 f. 7-12 1981-1982
- b. 18 f. 1-8 1982
- b. 19 f. 1-8 1982
- b. 52 f. 1-16 1982

End of the World

End of the World (cont.)

- b. 20 f. 1-10 1984
- b. 21 f. 1-5 1984
- b. 22 f. 1-3 1984

Evita

- b. 22 f. 4-8 1978-1983
- b. 24 f. 1-14 1978-1983
- b. 25 f. 1-12 1978-1983
- b. 26 f. 1-16 1978-1983
- b. 27 f. 1-23 1978-1983
- b. 28 f. 1-7 1978-1983
- b. 29 f. 1-4 1978-1983
- b. 30 f. 1-4 1978-1983
- b. 31 f. 1-3 1978-1983
- b. 104 f. 2 undated

Flora, the Red Menace

- b. 31 f. 4-5 1965
- b. 32 f. 1-2 1965

Follies

- b. 32 f. 3-14 1970-1972
- b. 33 f. 1-8 1970-1972
- b. 34 f. 1-4 1970-1972
- b. 35 f. 1-9 1970-1972
- b. 36 f. 1-8 1970-1972
- b. 37 f. 1-8 1970-1972
- b. 38 f. 1-8 1970-1972

b. 39 f. 1-7 *The Girl in the Freudian Slip* 1967

b. 39 f. 13 Godfrey, Arthur 1964

Grin and Bare It!

- b. 39 f. 9-12 1970
- b. 45 f. 1 1970

Grind

- b. 40 f. 1-4 1984-1985
- b. 41 f. 1-15 1985
- b. 42 f. 1-7 1985
- b. 43 f. 1-12 1985
- b. 44 f. 1-23 1985

b. 82 f. 3 Hansberry, Lorraine 1963

It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman

- b. 45 f. 2-5 1966
- b. 46 f. 1-2 1966

Kiss of the Spiderwoman

Kiss of the Spiderwoman (cont.)

- b. 46 f. 3-4 1993-1995
- b. 47 f. 1-6 1993-1995
- b. 48 f. 1-6 1993-1995
- b. 49 f. 1-6 1993-1995
- b. 50 f. 1-5 1993-1995
- b. 51 f. 1-5 1993-1995
- b. 53 f. 1 *A Kurt Weill Cabaret* 1979
A Little Night Music
- b. 53 f. 2-9 1973-1976
- b. 54 f. 1-5 1973-1976
- b. 55 f. 1-7 1973-1976
- b. 56 f. 1-8 1973-1976
- b. 57 f. 1-8 1973-1976
- b. 58 f. 1-15 1973-1976
- b. 59 f. 1-6 1973-1976
- b. 60 f. 1-8 1973-1976
- b. 61 f. 1-9 1973-1976
- b. 81 f. 9 1973-1976
- b. 61 f. 5 London Symphony Orchestra 1967
Love for Love
- b. 61 f. 6-9 1974
- b. 62 f. 1-4 1974
- b. 62 f. 5-11 *Mating Dance* 1965
Merrily We Roll Along
- b. 63 f. 1-7 1981
- b. 64 f. 1-20 1981
- b. 65 f. 1-12 1981
- b. 66 f. 1-6 1981
- b. 67 f. 1-9 1981
- b. 68 f. 1-4 1981
- b. 86 f. 1-7 Mirror Repertory Theatre 1985
Music Is
- b. 69 f. 1-8 1976
- b. 70 f. 2 1976
- b. 68 f. 5 *Nacha Guevara in Concert* 1983
National Institute for Musical Theatre
- b. 69 f. 9-10 1978-1984
- b. 70 f. 1 1978-1984
National Repertory Theatre
- b. 70 f. 3-6 1964-1967
- b. 104 f. 3 undated

- b. 71 f. 1-3 *Never Too Late* 1964
Nightclub Cantata
- b. 71 f. 4-9 1977
- b. 72 f. 1-10 1977
- b. 72 f. 11 *No Time for Comedy* 1982
On the Twentieth Century
- b. 72 f. 12 1977-1979
- b. 73 f. 1-4 1977-1979
- b. 74 f. 1-10 1977-1979
- b. 75 f. 1-4 1977-1979
- b. 76 f. 1-7 1977-1979
- b. 77 f. 1-17 1977-1979
- b. 78 f. 1-10 1977-1979
- b. 79 f. 1-10 1977-1979
- b. 80 f. 1-9 1977-1979
- b. 82 f. 1-2 *Pacific Overtures* 1976
- b. 80 f. 10-13 *Poor Bitos* 1964
- b. 81 f. 1-6 *Pretzels* 1974
Prince, Harold
- b. 84 f. 1-11 1961-1979
- b. 82 f. 4-5 1970-1979
- b. 83 f. 1-5 1970-1979
- b. 85 f. 1-3 1970-1982
- b. 101 f. 6 1972, 1992-1993
- b. 104 f. 4 undated
Seattle Repertory Theatre
- b. 85 f. 4 1976
- b. 87 f. 1-14 1976
- b. 88 f. 1 Shakespeare and Co 1980
- b. 88 f. 2-3 *She Loves Me* 1963
- b. 88 f. 4 *Show Boat* 1994
Side by Side by Sondheim
- b. 89 f. 1-7 1977-1978
- b. 90 f. 1-11 1977-1978
- b. 91 f. 1-11 1977-1978
- b. 92 f. 1-6 1977-1978
- b. 93 f. 1-6 1977-1978
- b. 94 f. 1-4 1977-1978
- b. 95 f. 1 *Silverlake* 1980
- b. 95 f. 2-3 Sondheim, Stephen 1970-1985
Sweeney Todd

Sweeney Todd (cont.)

- b. 95 f. 4-5 1979-1980
- b. 96 f. 1-9 1979-1980
- b. 97 f. 1-3 1979-1980
- b. 97 f. 4-7 *The Visit* 1973-1974
 - b. 97 f. 8 *Willie Stark* 1981
 - b. 97 f. 9 *Yellow Drum* 1969

Zorba

- b. 98 f. 1-5 1968-1969
- b. 99 f. 1-6 1968-1969
- b. 100 f. 1-7 1968-1969
- b. 101 f. 1-4 1968-1969

General Theatre Industry Files

- b. 101 f. 7 1950s
- b. 101 f. 8 1960s
- b. 102 f. 1 1960s
- b. 102 f. 2-3 1970s
- b. 103 f. 1-3 1980s
- b. 103 f. 4-6 1990s, undated
- b. 104 f. 5 undated