



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Michael Ellis letters**

1950-1970

\*T-Mss 2013-125

Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Ellis, Michael, 1917-2008

**Title:** Michael Ellis letters

**Date:** 1950-1970

**Size:** .21 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Gift of Michael Ellis, 2007.

**Abstract:** Michael Ellis (1917-2008) was a theatre producer, stage manager, and actor. Ellis was the managing director and owner of the Bucks County Playhouse in New Hope, Pennsylvania from 1954 to 1964, where he became known for his support of up-and-coming playwrights. The Michael Ellis letters date from 1950 to 1970 and contain letters received by Ellis from new playwrights seeking his assistance or advice in having their work staged. The content of the letters reveal the struggles experienced by unknown playwrights attempting to gain recognition in the theatre. Many letters date from Ellis's tenure at Bucks County Playhouse. Enclosures such as synopses, publicity sheets, and plot summaries are included, and the collection holds letters from multiple playwrights who maintained contact with Ellis following their initial query.

**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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## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Dramatists, American  
Playwriting

### **Names**

Bucks County Playhouse (Organization)