



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

John Latouche papers

circa 1940s-1956

*T-Mss 1970-005

Compiled by John Calhoun, 2016

Summary

Creator: La Touche, John

Title: John Latouche papers

Date: circa 1940s-1956

Size: .84 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by Gore Vidal, 1970.

Abstract: John Latouche (d. 1956) was a lyricist who wrote for many Broadway musicals. The John Latouche lyrics and scripts date from about the 1940s to 1956. The collection contains lyrics for songs by Rudy Revil and Vernon Duke, including songs from the musical *Banjo Eyes* (1941). Scripts include *The Box of Pandora* by Frank Wedekind, *Come to Life* by John Briard Harding, *Mooncalf* by Martin Kieran, and short scripts by Dwight Marfield (D.H. Marfield). There are also some untitled script excerpts.

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 John Calhoun, 2016

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings

Correspondence
Photographs
Scripts (documents)

Occupations

Lyricists

Subjects

Musicals -- New York (State) -- New York
Songs -- Texts

Names

Harding, John Briard -- Come to Life
Kieran, Martin -- Mooncalf
Marfield, Dwight, 1907-1978
Wedekind, Frank, 1864-1918 -- Büchse der Pandora

Container List

Clippings 1940-1942

- b. 1 f. 1 About Latouche 1940-1941
- b. 1 f. 2 By John Latouche 1942
Includes a radio column from Mademoiselle and the article "New Walls for China" from Harper's Bazaar

Correspondence 1937-1948

- b. 1 f. 3 Miscellaneous 1937, 1947, 1948
Correspondents include Peter Lindamood, Dr. Albert Sirmay of Chappell & Co., Inc., and Burgess Meredith
- b. 1 f. 4 Navy 1943
Includes correspondence regarding Latouche's service with the Seabees
- b. 1 f. 5 Drawings Undated
Includes sketches by Latouche titled "Daphne into Laurel" and "Design After Beardsley"

Lyrics Undated

- b. 1 f. 6 "Ballad of Stacky"
- b. 1 f. 7 "Banjo Eyes"
- b. 1 f. 8 Miscellaneous

Photographs

- b. 1 f. 9 Photographs for Album Undated
Includes snapshots of Latouche and photographs with Duke Ellington and Zero Mostel
- b. 1 f. 10 Album - Belgian Congo Expedition 1942-1943
- b. 1 f. 11 Salvador Dali Painting 1941, 1946, undated
Includes photographs of and correspondence relating to Dali painting purchased by Latouche

Scripts 1948-1949

- b. 1 f. 12 *The Box of Pandora by Frank Wedekind* Undated
A literal translation by Kadidja Wedekind
- b. 2 f. 1 *Come to Life by John Briard Harding* 1948
- b. 2 f. 2 Miscellaneous unidentified Undated
- b. 2 f. 3 *Mooncalf a drama with music by Martin Kieran; music by Lehman Engel, lyrics by Martin Kieran* 1949
- b. 2 f. 4 Various works by Dwight Marshfield Undated
Titles include *Not To-day, Today, Of Mice and the Women, Munich, Alabama, Taxi Drivers' Fashion-Show, Night in the Desert of Araby, and Shall We Continue? (or, New Light on the Old Blackout)*
- b. 2 f. 5 Transcripts: Discussions with Dr. Max Jacobson and Ruth Yorck 1949
Topics include preventive illnesses and concentration camp psychology

Writings Undated

- b. 2 f. 6 *Actors and Artistes* (Typescript)
- b. 2 f. 7 *CHMTLT* (Typescript)

Writings (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 8 *December 17th* (Typescript)
- b. 2 f. 9 *The Great Voyage* (Typescript)
- b. 2 f. 10 *Jordan Water* (Typescript)
- b. 2 f. 11 *Lilith or The Deadliest Sin (synopsis)* (Typescript)
- b. 2 f. 12 Miscellaneous unidentified (Typescript)
- b. 2 f. 13 Notes for an Introduction to 'The Lyric Theater'
- b. 2 f. 14 *Prologue: the House* (Typescript)
- b. 2 f. 15 *Street Noises and Sounds* (Typescript)