



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Jan Miner papers**

1932-1993

\*T-Mss 1991-015

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2015

## Summary

**Creator:** Miner, Jan

**Title:** Jan Miner papers

**Date:** 1932-1993

**Size:** 2.23 linear feet (5 boxes, 1 volume)

**Source:** Donated by Jan Miner, 1991-1997.

**Abstract:** Jan Miner (1917-2004) was an American actor who worked in theater, radio, television, and film. She appeared in the American Shakespeare Festival from 1966 to 1972 and was known for portraying the character of Madge in Palmolive dish soap commercials. The Jan Miner papers (1932-1993) contain clippings, programs, photographs, a scrapbook, and other papers. The collection primarily concerns her work in the theater, though there are also materials related to her work in radio, television, film, and advertisements. A scrapbook documents Miner's life and career between 1932 and 1945; the scrapbook contains clippings, photographs, and programs from performances at the Straw Hat Theatre and elsewhere. The bulk of the collection consists of production files, mostly related to theater productions, dating from 1958 to 1993. Some productions are represented only by one or two items, usually a clipping or a program, while others are represented by extensive clippings, production photographs, contracts, and other materials. Some of the better-represented productions include *Dinner at Eight* (San Francisco, 1993), *Gertrude Stein and a Companion* (1985), *The Heiress* (1976), *The Music Keeper* (1982), *The Show-Off* (Olney, Maryland, 1975), *Watch on the Rhine* (Long Wharf Theatre, 1979, and John Golden Theatre, 1980), *The Women* (1973), and various American Shakespeare Festival productions. The file for *Gertrude Stein and a Companion* includes a script. The collection contains a small file on the film *Lenny* (1974). The collection also contains headshots and general articles about Miner. Material related to Madge and Palmolive advertisements consist mostly of photographs, clippings of print advertisements, and other printed promotional materials; there are also name badges that Miner wore in commercials. The collection includes a small amount of personal material, mostly letters written to Miner.

**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 Kit Fluker, 2015

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Actors in the advertising industry  
Actresses -- United States -- 20th century  
Theater -- United States -- 20th century

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)  
Photographs  
Programs (documents)  
Scrapbooks

### Names

American Shakespeare Festival Theatre and Academy

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-10 1951-1993  
Contains general articles about Miner, headshots and other promotional photographs, materials on Madge and Palmolive, and miscellaneous personal letters.
  
- b. 2 f. 1-4 American Shakespeare Festival Productions 1966-1972
- b. 2 f. 5-15 Productions, A-F 1969-1993
- b. 3 f. 1-8 Productions, G-H 1975-1985
- b. 4 f. 1-15 Productions, I-Sa 1943, 1958-1987
- b. 5 f. 1-7 Productions, Sh-W 1965-1984
- v. 1 Scrapbook 1932-1945