



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Penny Jones & Co. Puppets records

1968-2011

*T-Mss 2010-011

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2014

Summary

Creator: Penny Jones & Co.

Title: Penny Jones & Co. Puppets records

Date: 1968-2011

Size: .4 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Unknown

Abstract: Penny Jones & Co. Puppets was founded by Penny Jones (1935?-) in the early 1970s. The company is dedicated to young children's puppet theatre with a small repertoire of pieces for adults and older children. The collection consists primarily of printed material, such as clippings, programs, and flyers as well as a small amount of photographs.

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 Valerie Wingfield, 2014

Creator History

Penny Jones (1935-?) is a puppeteer and the founder of the New York City-based Penny Jones & Co. Puppets. Her career began at Antioch College during the 1950s. A misread job application led an employer to believe that Jones knew how to handle hand puppets and, as a result, Jones was hired by Suzari Marionettes in New York City. Upon graduating college, Jones continued working as a

puppeteer, including a brief stint with the New York City Parks Department Marionettes. This led to an opportunity to work with Larry Berthelson (1933-1993), a master puppeteer.

Eventually, Jones terminated her business relationship with Berthelson and founded her own group in the 1970s called the Penny Jones & Co. Puppets. This company dedicates itself to puppet shows geared toward young children. The performances, which use both hand and rod puppets, are original operas and ballets that Jones has written. During them, children are encouraged to interact with the puppets which "sing" and "dance."

As of 2014, the company continues to perform at 155 Bank Street in the West Village.

Scope and Content Note

This small collection (1968-2011) primarily contains printed material, consisting of programs about the company, clippings from local newspapers advertising upcoming shows and reviews, and promotional flyers. There is a small amount of photographs from performances of the audience, Jones, and the puppet casts. Many of the photographs have identifying information about the particular performance or puppets used. There are also two reports, one of which is a final report from the company (dated 1978-1979) and the other a 1986 television report on puppets.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Flyers
Photographs

Subjects

Hand puppets
Puppet theater.
Puppets
Rod puppets

Occupations

Puppeteers

Names

Jones, Penny

Container List

- b. 1 f. 4 Article--Penny Jones Interview 2005
- b. 1 f. 5 Article--Penny Jones, "Shadows with Sobo Glue" 1978
- b. 1 f. 1-3 Clippings 1970s-2008
- b. 1 f. 6 Flyers 1970s-2011
- b. 1 f. 7-8 Photographs 1968-1994
- b. 1 f. 9-10 Programs 2010-2011
- b. 1 f. 11 Programs--Lonely Lochness Monster 1980, 1986
- b. 1 f. 12 Reports--Early Childhood Puppet Tour 1978-1980
- b. 1 f. 13 Reports--Channel Guide, "Advantages of Using Television for Puppets" 1986
Informal title.