



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Carl Van Vechten Theatre Photographs**

1932-1943

\*T-Vim 1943-003

Compiled by Camille Dee, 2015.

## Summary

**Creator:** Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964

**Title:** Carl Van Vechten Theatre Photographs

**Date:** 1932-1943

**Size:** 2.25 linear feet (9 boxes)

**Source:** Carl Van Vechten, 1943.

**Abstract:** The Carl Van Vechten Theatre Photographs contain over 300 black and white mounted prints of photographs taken by Carl Van Vechten, mostly at his studio from 1932 to 1943, principally of famous theatre artists, but also of renowned performers and figures in the arts, performing arts and literary world.

**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>

**Preferred citation:** Carl Van Vechten Theatre Photographs, \*T-Vim 1943-003. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Processing note:** Compiled by Camille Dee, 2015.

## Creator History

Author, critic and photographer Carl Van Vechten (1880-1964) was born to a wealthy family in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He moved to New York City in 1906 and worked as a music critic for *The New York Times* and later became its first modern dance critic. Van Vechten photographed many of the leading theatre and performing arts figures of his time. He also photographed many African-American artists and performers, as well as ethnic dancers. He died in his sleep in New York City at age 84.

## Scope and Content Note

The collection contains over 300 black and white mounted prints of photographs taken by Carl Van Vechten, mostly at his studio from 1932 to 1943. While the photographs are primarily of theatre performers, writers and personalities, there are also photographs of other well-known figures in arts and letters of the time. There are numerous photographs of the actress Fania Marinoff (Van Vechten's second wife), Tallulah Bankhead, Ina Claire, George M. Cohan, director Sidney Lumet as a child actor, Eugene O'Neill and Carlotta Monterey O'Neill, Maurice Schwartz, Gertrude Stein, Ethel Waters, and Anna May Wong. The New York City Stage Door Canteen and the production, *This Is the Army* (1943) are also well-represented in the collection. A few important figures in the performing arts and arts and letters photographed by Van Vechten include La Argentinita, Salvador Dali, Giorgio de Chirico, José Iturbi, Nora Kaye, Serge Koussevitsky, Hugh Laing, Alicia Markova, Henri Matisse, Bill Robinson, Antony Tudor, Charles Weidman, Franz Werfel, and Efrem Zimbalist.

**Arrangement:** Alphabetically by name or title.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Photographic prints

### **Names**

Cohan, George M. (George Michael), 1878-1942

Laing, Hugh

Lumet, Sidney, 1924-2011

Marinoff, Fania

Markova, Alicia, 1910-2004 -- Dame

O'Neill, Eugene, 1888-1953

Waters, Ethel, 1896-1977

Weidman, Charles

Wong, Anna May, 1905-1961

## Container List

- Anderson, Judith
- b. 1 f. 1 1932 September 28
  - b. 1 f. 1 1934 September 11
  - b. 1 f. 1 *As Olga – (The) Three Sisters* 1943 February 3
  - b. 1 f. 1 Anderson, Marian 1940 January 14
  - b. 1 f. 2 *La Argentinita* 1940 October 15  
Includes 3 photographs.
- Bankhead, Tallulah
- b. 1 f. 3 1934 January 25  
Includes 4 photographs.  
With “Winston Churchill” (Lion Cub?) 1941 July 15
  - b. 1 f. 4 Barrymore, Ethel 1937 December 12
  - b. 1 f. 4 Ben-Ami, Jacob 1933 November 2  
Includes 2 photographs.
  - b. 1 f. 5 Brent, Romney 1932 May 3
  - b. 1 f. 6 Bromfield, Louis 1933 November 2  
Includes 4 photographs.
  - b. 1 f. 7 Bynner, Witter 1933 January 10
  - b. 1 f. 7 Calloway, Cab 1933 January 12
  - b. 1 f. 7 Carroll, Paul Vincent 1938 April 26
  - b. 1 f. 8 Claire, Ina 1932 October 31  
Includes 6 photographs.
  - b. 1 f. 9 Cohan, George M 1933 June 11-1933 October 23  
Includes 6 photographs.
  - b. 1 f. 10 Cooper, Gladys 1934 April 30
  - b. 1 f. 11 Cornell, Katharine 1933 January 10  
Includes 6 photographs.
- b. 2 f. 1 Dali, Salvador 1934 November 29
- b. 2 f. 1 D’Alvarez, Marguerite 1933 March 23
- b. 2 f. 2 Dane, Clemence 1935 March 8  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 2 f. 3 Darvas, Lili 1940 November 19
- b. 2 f. 3 De Chirico, Giorgio 1936 November 5
- De Mille, Agnes
- b. 2 f. 4 *As Venus - Antony Tudor’s Ballet Judgment of Paris* 1940 February 13
  - b. 2 f. 4 *Three Virgins and a Devil* 1941 March 18
  - b. 2 f. 5 Dodson, Owen 1942 June 18
  - b. 2 f. 5 *Dolin, Anton – Swan Lake* 1941 March 11
  - b. 2 f. 6 *Dollar, William - Errante* 1935 March 22  
Includes 3 photographs.
  - b. 2 f. 7 Doro, Marie 1933 March 18  
Includes 2 photographs.

- b. 2 f. 7 Draper, Paul 1932 March 30
- b. 2 f. 8 Dreiser, Theodore 1933 November 8  
Includes 6 photographs.
- b. 2 f. 9 Dunham, Katherine 1940 May 10
- b. 2 f. 9 Edward, Jon of the Von Grona Negro Ballet 1938 March 25
- b. 2 f. 10 Escudero, Vicente 1933 February 1  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 2 f. 11 Ferber, Edna 1938 December 14
- b. 2 f. 11 Ficke, Arthur Davison 1940 February 28
- b. 2 f. 12 Fiske, Dwight 1933 March 6
- b. 2 f. 12 Fontanne, Lynn 1932 May 23
- b. 2 f. 12 French, Jared 1939 January 25
- b. 2 f. 13 Frohman, Daniel 1934 October 15  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 2 f. 14 Gauthier, éva 1932 June 30
- b. 2 f. 14 Gershwin, George 1933  
Fragile.
- b. 2 f. 15 Gillmore, Margalo 1933 March 23
- b. 2 f. 15 Gish, Lillian 1937 April 12
- b. 2 f. 15 Gopal, Ram 1938 April 21
- b. 3 f. 1 Heifetz, Florence Vidor 1933 April 17
- b. 3 f. 1 Heifetz, Jascha 1933 April 3
- b. 3 f. 2 Henderson, W.J 1933 November 29  
Hindu Musicians with the Dancer Shankar 1933 January 6
- b. 3 f. 2 Bhattacharayya, Annada Charan; Shankar, Rajendra
- b. 3 f. 2 Shirati, Vishnudas; Bhattacharayya, Annada Charan; Shankar, Rajendra
- b. 3 f. 2 Horne, Lena 1941 September 15
- b. 3 f. 3 Hughes, Langston 1942 June 11  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 3 f. 4 Iturbi, José 1933 November 21  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 3 f. 5 Johnson, James Weldon 1935 July 15
- b. 3 f. 5 *Jones, [Robert] Earl in Langston Hughes' Play, Don't You Want to Be Free?*  
1938 June 23
- b. 3 f. 5 Kane, Whitford 1938 October 20  
Kaye, Nora
- b. 3 f. 6 *Gala Performance* 1941 March 5  
1942 April 16
- b. 3 f. 6 *In Antony Tudor's Ballet, Pillar of Fire*
- b. 3 f. 6 At a Rehearsal
- b. 3 f. 7 Kirkland, Alexander 1933 December 12  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 3 f. 8 Koussevitzky, Serge 1934 May 11  
Includes 2 photographs.

Laing, Hugh

- b. 3 f. 9 1940 March 3  
Includes 5 photographs.
- b. 3 f. 10 1940 March 13  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 3 f. 10 *In Swan Lake* 1940 July 19
- b. 3 f. 10 *In Massine's Ballet, Aleko* 1942 October 26
- b. 3 f. 10 *As the Waiter in Antony Tudor's Ballet, Judgment of Paris* 1943 May 22
- b. 3 f. 11 Larrimore, Francine 1932 November 14  
Includes 3 photographs.
- b. 3 f. 12 Laughton, Charles 1940 April 4  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 4 f. 1 Lederer, Francis 1932 December 20
- b. 4 f. 1 *Lee, Canada - Native Son* 1940 April 7
- b. 4 f. 1 Lewis, Sinclair 1938 January 5
- b. 4 f. 2 *Long, Avon - Sportin' Life - Porgy and Bess* 1942 March 24  
Includes 3 photographs.
- b. 4 f. 3 Lord, Pauline 1933 February 1
- b. 4 f. 3 Louis, Joe 1941 September 15
- b. 4 f. 4 Luce, Clare Boothe (Mrs. Henry Luce) 1932 December 9-1933 June 14  
Includes 4 photographs.

Lumet, Sidney

- b. 4 f. 5 *As Johnny in My Heart's in the Highlands* 1939 May 7
- b. 4 f. 5-6 *As Jeshua in Journey to Jerusalem* 1940 October 18  
Includes 8 photographs.
- b. 4 f. 7 Lunt, Alfred 1932 May 23
- b. 4 f. 7 McCormack, Wilbur 1938 March 7

Marinoff, Fania

1932

- b. 4 f. 8 March 8
- b. 4 f. 8 June 20
- b. 4 f. 8 September 6  
Includes 2 photographs.

1933

- b. 4 f. 9 January 18
- b. 4 f. 9 December 4  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 4 f. 9 1934 September 21
- b. 4 f. 10 "Times Have Changed" 1935 March 10  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 4 f. 10 *As Charmian - Antony and Cleopatra* 1937 November 14
- b. 4 f. 10 In Ada Van Vechten's Wedding Dress 1940 November 23  
Includes 2 photographs.

Markova, Alicia

- Markova, Alicia (cont.)
- b. 5 f. 1 1940 May 13  
Includes 2 photographs.  
1940 October 6
  - b. 5 f. 2 *Giselle - Act II*  
Includes 3 photographs.
  - b. 5 f. 2 *(The) Bluebird*  
Includes 2 photographs.  
1941 April 21
  - b. 5 f. 4 *With Anton Dolin in (The) Sylphide and the Scotsman*  
Includes 4 photographs.
  - b. 5 f. 4 *Swan Lake*  
1942 October 31
  - b. 5 f. 5 *With Hugh Laing in Massine's Ballet, Aleko*
  - b. 5 f. 5 *In Massine's Ballet, Don Domingo*
  - b. 5 f. 5 *With Hugh Laing in Antony Tudor's Ballet, Romeo and Juliet* 1943 May 6
  - b. 5 f. 5 *With Anton Dolin in Princess Aurora - The End of the Ballet* 1943 May 7
  - b. 5 f. 5 *With Hugh Laing in Massine's Ballet, Aleko* 1943 October 31
  - b. 5 f. 6 Martinelli, Giovanni 1939 January 16
  - b. 5 f. 6 Massary, Fritz 1934 December 17
  - b. 5 f. 7 Matisse, Henri 1933 May 20  
Includes 3 photographs.
  - b. 5 f. 7 *Matthews, Edward - Four Saints in Three Acts - Saint Ignatius* 1934 March 9
  - b. 5 f. 8 Maugham, W. Somerset 1934 May 26  
Includes 3 photographs.
  - b. 5 f. 8 Maxwell, Elsa 1942 June 8
  - b. 6 f. 1 Moeller, Philip 1933 October 11  
Includes 2 photographs.
  - b. 6 f. 1 Moiseiwitsch, Benno 1934 December 6
  - b. 6 f. 2 Molnár, Ferenc 1941 February 15
  - b. 6 f. 2 Moore, Grace 1933 January 15
  - b. 6 f. 3 Moran, Lois 1933 July 7  
Includes 2 photographs; 1 is fragile.
  - b. 6 f. 4 Morgan, Helen 1932 June 23  
Includes 2 photographs; 1 is of Morgan in *Show Boat*.
  - b. 6 f. 5 Muni, Paul 1932 December 9
  - b. 6 f. 5 Myers, Carmel 1933 October 8  
Includes 3 photographs.
  - b. 6 f. 6 Nathan, George Jean 1933 June 14
  - b. 6 f. 6 Novarro, Ramon 1934 April 3  
Includes 2 photographs.
  - b. 6 f. 6 O'Dea, Denis 1933 January 26  
O'Neill, Carlotta Monterey
  - b. 6 f. 7 1933 September 5  
Includes 3 photographs; 1 with Eugene O'Neill.

- O'Neill, Carlotta Monterey (cont.)
- b. 6 f. 7 1933 October 10
  - O'Neill, Eugene
  - b. 6 f. 8 With Carlotta Monterey O'Neill 1932 March 1
  - b. 6 f. 8 1933 September 5  
Includes 3 photographs.
  - b. 6 f. 8 At His Casa Genotta, Sea Island, Georgia 1936 May 16
  - b. 6 f. 9 Odets, Clifford 1935 April 15-1937 September 2  
Includes 2 photographs.
  - b. 6 f. 10 Olivier, Laurence 1939 June 17
  - b. 6 f. 10 Orchidée - One of Loie Fuller's Dancers 1933 October 11
  - b. 6 f. 11 *Price, Vincent - Angel Street* 1942 November 11  
Includes 2 photographs.
  - b. 6 f. 12 Rainer, Luise 1937 September 2  
Includes 2 photographs.
  - b. 6 f. 12 Robeson, Paul 1933 June 1
  - b. 6 f. 13 Robinson, Bill 1941 April 18  
Includes 3 photographs.
  - b. 6 f. 14 Romero, César 1934 February 23  
Includes 2 photographs.
  - b. 7 f. 1 *Saddler, Donald - Billy the Kid* 1941 March 4
  - b. 7 f. 1 Savage, Archie 1942 March 2
  - b. 7 f. 2 Schwartz, Arthur 1933 November 23  
Includes 2 photographs.
  - Schwartz, Maurice
  - b. 7 f. 3 *In Yoshe Kalb* 1933 January 16  
Includes 3 photographs.
  - b. 7 f. 3 1933 April 3
  - b. 7 f. 4 *Selwart, Tonio - (The) Pursuit of Happiness* 1933 September 20  
Includes 2 photographs.
  - b. 7 f. 5 Servoss, Mary 1934 November 3
  - b. 7 f. 5 Sherman, Hiram, United States Navy 1942 July 9
  - b. 7 f. 6 Simonson, Lee 1933 November 23  
Includes 2 photographs.
  - b. 7 f. 6 Slezak, Walter 1934 March 30
  - Stage Door Canteen (New York)
  - b. 7 f. 7 Shirley Booth with Frank Piro ("Killer Joe") 1942 May 19
  - b. 7 f. 7 Piro, Frank ("Killer Joe"), United States Navy 1942 August 10  
1943 April 14
  - b. 7 f. 7 Richmond Barthé - Black Sculptor, and Fritz Scheff - Senior Hostess
  - b. 7 f. 7 Dorothy Fields with Sergeant Bobby Evans
  - b. 7 f. 7 Irene Bordoni
  - b. 7 f. 7 Charlotte Ives - Senior Hostess, Barbara Robbins - Food Checker and a  
Jovial Marine  
1943 June 21

Stage Door Canteen (New York) (cont.)  
1943 June 21 (cont.)

- b. 7 f. 8 Co-Chairman of Senior Hostess Committee - Osceola Archer; Junior Hostess Elaine Kent; French Sailor Marcel Gonthier; U.S.C.G. Frank Piro ("Killer Joe"); Sergeant "Jimmie" Daniels
- b. 7 f. 8 Reception: Edith Meiser, Seaman Verle Carl Comer
- b. 7 f. 8 Selena Royle, British Soldier Ivor Magee, U.S.C.G. Frank Piro ("Killer Joe")

Stein, Gertrude

Signed on mountings.

1934

- b. 7 f. 9 At "Les Charmettes" January 12
- b. 7 f. 9 With Pepe at Her Villa in Bilignin, Ain, France January 13
- b. 7 f. 9 In America November 4
- b. 7 f. 9 With Alice B. Toklas Before Their First Air Journey with Fetishes Presented Them by Carl Van Vechten November 7

1935

- b. 7 f. 9 In America January 4
- b. 7 f. 9 In Richmond, Virginia February 7
- b. 7 f. 10 Stewart, James 1934 October 15  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 8 f. 1 Tashman, Lilyan 1932 March 10-1933 July 19  
Includes 3 photographs.
- b. 8 f. 2 Taylor, Laurette 1933 September 28
- b. 8 f. 2 Tchelitchev, Pavel 1934 November 14  
"Tchelitchef" written on verso.
- b. 8 f. 2 Terriss, Norma 1934 April 9

*This Is the Army*

1942 August 6

- b. 8 f. 3 Corporal Nelson Barclift  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 8 f. 3 *Corporal Nelson Barclift - Russian Winter*  
Includes 2 photographs.

1942 August 11

*What the Best Dressed Man in Harlem Will Wear*

- b. 8 f. 4 Marion "Spoons" Brown  
Includes 2 photographs.
  - b. 8 f. 4 Corporal James Cross ("Stump")
  - b. 8 f. 4 Alan Manson as Jane Cowl 1942 August 20  
Includes 2 photographs.
- 1942 August 26
- b. 8 f. 5 *Corporal Earl Oxford Singing I Left My Heart at the Stage Door Canteen to Eileen (Corporal Philip Truex)*  
Includes 2 photographs; also on verso of 1 photograph: "I kept her passing doughnuts until they were gone, I kept on dunking doughnuts till she caught on."
  - b. 8 f. 5 Corporal Earl Oxford, Corporal Philip Truex (as Eileen) Watch the Entertainment



- This Is the Army (cont.)  
1942 August 26 (cont.)
- b. 8 f. 5 Corporal Earl Oxford
- b. 8 f. 6 Thomson, Virgil 1932 December 8  
Tudor, Antony  
1940 February 16
- b. 8 f. 6 1940 February 16
- b. 8 f. 5 *Antony Tudor's Ballet, Dark Elegies - Hugh Laing, Nora Kaye, Antony Tudor*  
1943 May 5
- b. 8 f. 5 *Maria Karnilova and Antony Tudor in Tudor's Ballet, Judgment of Paris* 1943  
May 22
- b. 8 f. 7 Ulric, Lenore 1932 July 6
- b. 8 f. 7 Van Druten, John 1932 November 30
- b. 8 f. 8 Van Eyck, Peter 1940 February 29
- b. 8 f. 8 Van Vechten, Carl 1934 April 16  
Waters, Ethel
- b. 9 f. 1 1938 August 28
- b. 9 f. 1 *In Mamba's Daughters* 1939 February 19  
Includes 3 photographs.
- b. 9 f. 2 1939 February 19
- b. 9 f. 2 *Petunia - Cabin the Sky* 1940 November 17  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 9 f. 3 Watkins, Linda 1934 December 18
- b. 9 f. 3 Webb, Clifton 1932 July 13  
Weidman, Charles
- b. 9 f. 4 *In Molière's (The) School for Husbands* 1933 December 4  
Includes 4 photographs.
- b. 9 f. 4 1933 December 4  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 9 f. 5 Welles, Orson 1937 March 1
- b. 9 f. 5 Werfel, Franz 1940 December 14  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 9 f. 5 Westley, Helen 1932 August 25  
Wong, Anna May
- b. 9 f. 6 1932 April 20  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 9 f. 6 1935 September 22
- b. 9 f. 7 1940 April 25  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 9 f. 7 1940 November 4  
Includes 2 photographs.
- b. 9 f. 8 Wood, Peggy 1933 March 14
- b. 9 f. 8 Woolcott, Alexander 1939 January 3
- b. 9 f. 9 Wright, Richard 1939 June 23
- b. 9 f. 9 Zimbalist, Efreim 1933 September 26