



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Robert Shafer papers

1936-1965

*T-Vim 2014-090

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2016.

Summary

Creator: Shafer, Robert K., 1901-1981

Title: Robert Shafer papers

Date: 1936-1965

Size: 1.05 linear feet (2 boxes, 1 volume)

Source: Donated by Rik Shafer, 2014.

Abstract: Robert Shafer (1908-1981) was an American actor known mostly for his roles in regional musicals. One of his most successful roles was in *Damn Yankees!*, portraying the character Joe Boyd, a role he reprised for the movie. The Robert Shafer papers, dated 1936 to 1965, hold mostly letters between Robert Shafer and his wife Jane while he was touring in USO camp shows during WWII and regional musicals, including *Damn Yankees*. There are occasional letters from his son Rikard; a pencil sketch of the Shafers; photographs of Shafer and his wife, actors, and performances; clippings; playbills; and a scrapbook from the stage production *The Merry Widow*.

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

Occupations

Actors (performing artists)

Subjects

Actors -- United States

Theater -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)

Correspondence

Photographs

Playbills

Scrapbooks

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-15 Clippings 1936, 1944-1965
- b. 1 f. 16 Contracts 1947
- Correspondence 1943-1957
- Shafer Family
- b. 1 f. 7-23 1943-1957
- b. 2 f. 1-3 1957
- b. 2 f. 4 Shafer, William. Incoming Letters 1944-1962
- b. 2 f. 5 Drawing of Robert and Jane Shafer
- Photographs circa 1955
- b. 2 f. 6-8 Actors Unidentified
- b. 2 f. 9 Shafer Family
- b. 2 f. 1-11 Shafer, Robert
- b. 2 f. 12 Social Settings With Actors And Friends circa 1955
- Playbills 1947-1953
- b. 2 f. 13 *Allegro* 1954
- b. 2 f. 14 *Bittersweet* 1947
- b. 2 f. 15 *Chocolate Soldier* 1949-1950
- b. 2 f. 16 *Damn Yankees* 1955
- b. 2 f. 17 *Firefly* 1953
- b. 2 f. 18 *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* circa 1951
- b. 2 f. 19 *The Great Waltz* 1953
- b. 2 f. 20 *The Merry Widow* 1953
- Two different playbills.
- b. 2 f. 21 *Rose Marie* 1951
- b. 2 f. 22 *The Song Of Norway* 1951-1953
- b. 2 f. 23 *The Student Prince* 1949
- b. 2 f. 24 *Twilight In New York* 1949
- b. 2 f. 25 *Waltz For Three* 1950
- v. 1 Scrapbook 1952
- The Merry Widow*