Summary

Creator: Fitzgerald, Geraldine, 1913-2005

Title: Geraldine Fitzgerald papers

Date: 1944-1990s [bulk 1970s-1980s]

Size: 6.83 linear feet (17 boxes, 1 volume)

Source: Gift of Susan Scheftel, July 2019.

Abstract: Geraldine Fitzgerald (1913-2005) was an actor, director and writer, who emigrated from Ireland in 1938. She was active in film, theater and television, from 1932 to 1991, receiving an Academy Award nomination for a supporting role in Wuthering Heights. The collection, dating from 1944 to the 1990s (bulk dates 1970s-1990s) mostly focuses on her work as a director and writer and to a lesser extent as an actor. The musical production Sharon's Grave (later to be retitled Sharon) is represented heavily in the files. In the early stages of the production, Fitzgerald worked closely with Bill C. Davis, a playwright. The Everyman Street Theatre, co-founded with Jonathan Ringkamp (1929-1986), a Franciscan monk is also represented in the collection.

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

Conditions Governing Access:

Inquiries regarding audio and moving image materials in the collection may be directed to the Billy Rose Theatre Division (theatre@nypl.org). Audio and moving image materials may be subject to preservation and assessment and migration prior to access.

Creator History

Geraldine Fitzgerald (1913-2005) was an actor, director and writer, who emigrated from Ireland in 1938. She was active in film, theater and television from 1932 to 1991, receiving an Academy Award nomination for a supporting role in *Wuthering Heights*. Other accolades included a Tony nomination for the revival of *Long Day's Journey into Night* and a Tony nomination as director for *Mass Appeal*. One of the productions that she worked extensively on was the musical *Sharon*, based upon *Sharon's Grave*, a play written by John B. Keane. Bill C. Davis, a playwright, often worked with Fitzgerald on productions.

In 1967, Fitzgerald and Brother Jonathan Ringkamp (1929-1986), a Franciscan monk, established the Everyman Street Theatre Company in Brooklyn. This Company developed the talent of high-school students who performed live street theater during the summer months in New York City.

Fitzgerald's last role was in the film *King of the Hill* (1993).

She died in New York City in 2005, and is survived by her children Susan Scheftel and Michael Lindsay-Hogg.

Scope and Content Note

The Geraldine Fitzgerald papers, dating from 1944 to the 1990s (bulk dates 1970s-1980s), document the career of actor, director and writer Geraldine Fitzgerald. The collection mostly focuses on her work as a director and writer and to a lesser extent as an actor. The musical production *Sharon's Grave* (later to be retitled *Sharon*) is heavily featured with documentation that includes agreements, correspondence, notes, notebooks and scripts.

The Everyman Street Theatre is represented mostly with scripts that include *Juno and the Paycock* and *Hamlet*. These files also include correspondence between Brother Ringkamp and others regarding the Everyman Street Theatre, notes, playbills, sheet music, slides and media originals.

Other material reflects her career in the movies and theater with reviews of her performances; photographs; a photograph album that celebrates Fitzgerald's career; additional scripts (including *Mass Appeal*); tributes, and a *Life* magazine cover of Fitzgerald in 1944.

Additionally, the audio and moving image materials document Fitzgerald's television appearances on *Murphy Brown*; and include audio recordings of performances in the theatre, and talk radio; her narration for *20,000 Leagues Under The Sea* (film adaptation), and a retrospective video called "Geraldine Fitzgerald Long Wharf Theatre Retro."


Key Terms
Genre/Physical Characteristic
Autograph albums
Scripts

Subjects
Musical theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Photographs
Street theater
Theatre -- New York (N.Y.)

Names
Davis, Bill, C., 1952-
Fitzgerald, Geraldine, 1913-2005
Ringkamp, Jonathan
Everyman Street Theatre Company
Container List

Everyman Street Theatre Company 1968-1972

b. 1 f. 1-4  Correspondence 1968-1978, 1989
b. 1 f. 5   Expense Report 1978
For the production Hamlet.

b. 1 f. 6-7  Notes circa 1970
Notes for scripts and songs.

b. 1 f. 8   Photographs
Unidentified Production.

b. 1 f. 9   Publicity 1968

b. 1 f. 10-11  Reviews for Everyman And Roach 1971

b. 1 f. 12   Everyman Theatre in Australia circa 1970
A series of articles about Everyman theatres (unrelated) in Australia.

b. 1 f. 13-15  Assorted Files 1970s
The files are printed matter and lyrics.

Scripts
The scripts are arranged by title of production.

b. 2 f. 1-2   The Brothers 1970
Authors: Geraldine Fitzgerald and Brother Jonathan Ringkamp.

b. 2 f. 3-4    Elena 1974
Author: Brother Jonathan Ringkamp.

b. 2 f. 5-13   Everyman And Roach 1968
b. 3 f. 1-6
A poster from the production is located in box 3, folder 5. Authors: Geraldine Fitzgerald and
Brother Jonathan Rinkamp.

b. 3 f. 7-11   Hamlet 1978
Box 3, folder 10 holds a playbill.

b. 3 f. 12-15  Mr. Estaban 1973

b. 3 f. 16   The Seagull circa 1972

Sharon’s Grave 1980-1993
The files are arranged by type.
Bill C. Davis was credited for working on the early version of Sharon’s Grave.

b. 4 f. 1    Calendar 1993
b. 4 f. 2    Contact Sheets circa 1993
b. 4 f. 3-6  Correspondence 1980, 1987-1992
b. 4 f. 7-8  Card Reads For Script 1991
b. 4 f. 9-13  Notebooks 1991
b. 5 f. 1-3  The files hold notebooks written by Fitzgerald regarding the development of the production.

b. 5 f. 4-9   Script Development Notes 1991
b. 5 f. 10-15  Scripts 1991
b. 6 f. 1-9
b. 7 f. 1
b. 7 f. 2-6   Lyrics 1991

Playbills circa 1993
The files hold mock-up playbills.

Sharon
Sharon's Grave (cont.)
Sharon (cont.)
b. 8 f. 1  Playbill 1993
b. 8 f. 2  Script

Theatrical Productions 1957-1989
The scripts are arranged by title of production.

b. 8 f. 3-6  
Darlin Juno 1976
This script is a revised version by Geraldine Fitzgerald of Juno And The Paycock, based upon Sean O'Casey's original play.
b. 8 f. 7  
Juno And The Paycock 1974
b. 8 f. 8-11  
Long Day's Journey Into Night 1981
Fitzgerald directed the production.
b. 9 f. 1-2  
Mass Appeal 1981
The production was written by Bill C. Davis.
b. 9 f. 3-11  
Mother Courage 1957
Author: Bertolt Brecht; authorized translation of text and lyrics by Marc Blitzstein (1957).
b. 10 f. 1-3  
Streetsongs 1970s-1980s
b. 10 f. 4-6

Photographs 1950s-1990s
Fitzgerald, Geraldine
b. 11 f. 1-4  
The Tain
b. 11 f. 5-6  
Three Penny Opera 1972
b. 11 f. 7  
To Whom It May Concern 1985-1986
Author: Carol Hall.
b. 11 f. 8  
Wrestlers 1985
Author: Bill C. Davis.
b. 11 f. 9  
Unidentified

Closeups and Individual Portraits 1960s-1990s
Evolved Individuals
The files are arranged alphabetically.

b. 12 f. 1  
Adams, Mason
Fitzgerald and Adams appear in the production I Can't Remember Anything.
b. 12 f. 2  
Adephi University
Fitzgerald received an honorary degree.
b. 12 f. 3  
Carter, Jimmy and Rosalind 1980
The file holds several autographed photographs and a letter by Jimmy Carter.
b. 12 f. 4  
Dinkins, David 1990
b. 12 f. 5  
Gershwin, Frances
b. 12 f. 6  
Houseman, John
b. 12 f. 7  
b. 12 f. 8  
Kiely, Richard
b. 12 f. 9  
Linden, Hal
b. 12 f. 10  
New York Public Library Lions Dinner
b. 12 f. 11  
O'Shea, Milo
b. 12 f. 12  
Smith, Liz
b. 12 f. 13  
Streetsongs 1970s-1980s
Photographs (cont.)
Events and Individuals (cont.)
b. 12 f. 14-15 Various Events 1980s-1990s
b. 13 f. 1-4 Unidentified Woman
b. 17 f. 1 Juno And The Paycock 1972
v. 1 The album holds photographs from the production performed at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.
Printed Matter 1944-1989
The printed matter is arranged by type.
Playbills
b. 12 f. 17 Ah, Wilderness! 1975
b. 12 f. 18 Almost Perfect 1989
b. 12 f. 19 The Cave Dwellers 1961
b. 12 f. 20 Hide And Seek 1956-1957
b. 12 f. 21 I Sent A Letter To My Love 1978
b. 12 f. 22 Mass Appeal 1980
b. 12 f. 23 Portrait In Black 1945
b. 12 f. 24 The Shadow Box 1977
b. 12 f. 25 Songs Of The Street 1978
b. 12 f. 26 Streetsongs 1989
b. 12 f. 27 Take Me Along 1983
b. 12 f. 28 To Whom It May Concern
b. 12 f. 29 A Touch Of The Poet 1978
b. 12 f. 30 A Traditional Irish Christmas With The Chieftains 1981
Posters
b. 17 f. 4 Geraldine Fitzgerald In Concert c. 1980
Fitzgerald performed at the New York Cultural Center.
b. 17 f. 5 The Pawnbroker 1964
b. 17 f. 6 Scenes Of Macbeth
Reviews
b. 12 f. 31 Ah, Wilderness! 1975
b. 12 f. 32 Danger: Memory! 1987
b. 12 f. 33 The Field 1987
b. 14 f. 1 Hide And Seek 1957
b. 14 f. 2 I Sent A Letter To My Love 1978
b. 14 f. 3 Juno And The Paycock 1973
b. 14 f. 4 Long Day’s Journey Into Night 1971
b. 14 f. 5 Mass Appeal 1980
b. 14 f. 6 Our Town 1976
b. 14 f. 7 The Shadow Box 1977
b. 14 f. 8 Songs Of The Street 1976-1977
b. 14 f. 9 South Pacific 1986
b. 14 f. 10 Streetsongs 1974
b. 14 f. 11 Threepenny Opera 1972
Printed Matter (cont.)
Reviews (cont.)

b. 14 f. 12  To Whom It May Concern 1972
b. 14 f. 13  A Touch Of The Poet 1977-1978
b. 14 f. 14  We The Women 1974
b. 17 f. 2-3  Life Magazine 1944

Assorted Files 1970s-1990s

b. 14 f. 15  Address Book 1991
b. 14 f. 16-17  Biographical, Interviews 1970s-1980s
b. 14 f. 18-23  Contracts 1947, 1970s-1980s
b. 15 f. 1-5  Correspondence 1957-1990s
b. 15 f. 6  Eugene O'Neill Symposium 1988
The symposium was held in Stockholm, Sweden.
See also: Box 13 Photographs
b. 15 f. 7-8  Long Day's Journey Into Night 1971
Outline and notes for a lecture.
b. 15 f. 9-10  Notes circa 1980s-1990s
The file holds a mixture of assorted notes for reminders and tasks to do.

Awards And Recognitions 1981-1992

b. 15 f. 11  American Celtic Ball 1992
b. 15 f. 12  Centennial Charter Day Convocation 1984
St. Francis College presented a citation to Fitzgerald.
b. 16  Geraldine Fitzgerald Remembers 1992
The album celebrates Geraldine Fitzgerald's career.
b. 16 f. 1  Long Wharf Theater Recognition 1984
b. 16 f. 2  Mass Appeal 1981
Geraldine Fitzgerald received a Tony nomination for director.
b. 16 f. 3  Theatre Hall Of Fame 1986