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Jack and Madeline Gilford Papers, 1938-2005
1938-2005
*T Mss 2000-034

**Lea Jordan
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Table of Contents

Summary	iii
Biographical note	iv
Scope and content note	v
Arrangement note	v
Series descriptions and container list	1
I. MADELINE GILFORD, 1959-2004	1
II. JACK GILFORD, 1938-1989	3

Summary

Main entry:	Gilford, Madeline
Title:	Jack and Madeline Gilford papers, 1938-2005 (bulk 1961-1990)
Size:	21.33 linear feet (53 boxes)
Source:	Gift of Madeline Gilford, November 1999.
Abstract:	<p>The Jack and Madeline Gilford papers contain materials from 1938 through 2005 that document the Gilfords' professional lives as actors and producers. Jack Gilford was a veteran vaudeville and revue comedian who played comic character roles in many stage and TV productions as well as in a number of films. Madeline Gilford was a film and stage actress and social activist, who later started a career as a producer, working with her husband Jack on many projects. Their production files, which make up the bulk of the collection, contain scripts, notes, photographs, and in the case of producing files, financial and backers materials. Other material includes scrapbooks, headshots, correspondence, Madeline Gilford's committee files, and sheet music and other material that Jack used in his vaudeville and solo acts.</p>
Access:	Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.
Copyright information:	Inquiries regarding audio materials in the series may be directed to the Billy Rose Theatre Division (theatrediv@nypl.org). Audio/visual materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.
Preferred citation:	Jack and Madeline Gilford papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.
Special formats	Photographs, Scrapbooks.

Biographical note

Jack Gilford (1908-1990) was a veteran vaudeville and revue comedian who played comic character roles in many stage and television productions as well as in a number of films. Gilford was born Jacob Aaron Gellman on New York City's Lower East Side and was discovered by Milton Berle while working in a pharmacy. His first Broadway appearance was in *Meet the People* and he also worked in vaudeville doing impressions.

Jack met his wife Madeline Lee at a political meeting in the 1940s while they were both married to other people. They were married in 1949 and had two children, Joseph and Sam. Jack also raised Madeline's daughter from her previous marriage, Lisa. Jack and Madeline were blacklisted during the 1950s along with his friend Zero Mostel. Madeline Gilford and Mostel were two of the names put forth by Jerome Robbins in his testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Both husband and wife were unable to find work for much of the 1950's.

In the 1960s Gilford went on to star in *No, No, Nanette*, *Cabaret*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Once Upon a Mattress*. As the drunken jailer in *Fledermaus*, Mr. Gilford also became the first non-singer to play a major speaking role in a Metropolitan Opera Production. Later in life Gilford's work in *Sly Fox* in both Los Angeles and New York was considered some of his finest comedy.

Gilford's talents were not limited to comedy and he made dramatic appearances in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Tenth Man*, and *The World of Sholem Aleichem*. Mr. Gilford also played roles in many award winning films such as *Enter Laughing*, *The Incident*, *Catch 22*, *Caveman*, and *Save the Tiger*, which earned him an Academy Award nomination.

His television appearances included *Of Thee I Sing*, *Love Boat*, *Taxi*, and *Apple Pie*. In the 1980's Jack returned to his vaudeville roots performing his one man show in various venues around the country including Town Hall. The show was taped for television as *The Very Special Jack Gilford Special*. He also appeared in *Cocoon* and *Cocoon: The Return* and on television in *The Duck Factory* and *The Golden Girls*. In 1990, Jack lost his battle with stomach cancer.

Madeline Gilford (1923-2008) was film and stage actress and social activist, who later started a career as a producer, working with her husband Jack on many projects. Madeline began her acting career at the age of three when she was chosen to be the replacement Jean Darling in the *Our Gang* comedies. In the 1930's and 1940's Madeline worked on radio shows such as *Let's Pretend* and also starred in television productions of *The Anniversary* and *Little Women*. Her extensive career includes highlights such as Broadway and off-Broadway appearances in *The Eve of St. Mark*, *Embezzelled Heaven*, and *Funny Girl*, many television films such as *A Secret Space* and *Day to Day Affairs*, and feature films including *The Sunset Gang*, *Roseland*, and *Save the Tiger*.

In the 1970's and 1980's Madeline began to focus on producing with projects such as *The World of Sholom Aleichem* for CBS Cable, *The Very Special Jack Gilford Special*, *Look to the Rainbow*, a tribute to Yip Harburg, and *Band in Berlin* and *Rags* on Broadway. In addition to her involvement with film and theater, Madeline co-authored the book *170 Years in Show Business* with her good friend Kate Mostel.

Later in life, Madeline became involved as a board member in the National Musical Theatre Network, taught at the Actor's Institute, and worked with United Jewish Appeal and the Rosenberg Fund for Children among many other charitable activities. Madeline died in New York City in 2008.

Scope and content note

The Jack and Madeline Gilford papers contain materials from 1938 through 2005 that document the Gilfords' professional lives as actors and producers. Their production files, which make up the bulk of the collection, contain scripts, notes, photographs, and in the case of producing files, financial and backers materials. Other material includes scrapbooks, headshots, correspondence, Madeline Gilford's committee files, and sheet music and other material that Jack used in his vaudeville and solo acts.

Arrangement note

The Jack and Madeline Gilford papers are organized in the following series:

- I. Madeline Gilford, 1959-2004
- II. Jack Gilford, 1938-1989

Series descriptions and container list

I. Madeline Gilford, 1959-2004

The Madeline Gilford files contain materials relating to her various roles as producer, actress, and casting director. Madeline's production files contain correspondence, financial reports, investor agreements, audition notes, revisions of scripts, and reports. The bulk of her material consists of files from Madeline's three major productions, *Rags*, (1984) *The World of Sholom Aleichem* (1982), and *Look to the Rainbow* (1985). Madeline's files also contain papers concerning her work for various foundations including the Rosenberg Fund for Children, Musical Theatre Works, National Alliance for Musical Theater, and New York Women in Film and Television. There is also a folder of material for *170 Years In Theater*, a book she co-authored with Kate Mostel.

Sound recordings in this series include numerous demo and rehearsal tapes of both *Rags* and *Has Anybody Here Found Love?*. Inquiries regarding audio materials in the series may be directed to the Billy Rose Theatre Division (theatrediv@nypl.org). Audio/visual materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	Production Files
1	1	<i>70 Girls 70</i> , 1975
	2	<i>Ad Lib</i> , 1973
	3	<i>The Arrangement</i> , 1975
	4	<i>Arts and Leisure</i> , 1996
	5	<i>Band in Berlin</i> , 1999
	6	<i>The Bear Went Over the Mountain</i> , 1997
	7	<i>Big City Blues</i> , 1996
	8	<i>The Billiard Game</i> , 1996
	9	<i>Celebrating Women</i> , 1977
2	1	<i>Chita Rivera: A Dancer's Life</i> , 2005
	2-3	<i>Chupacabra</i> , 1999
	4	<i>The Cosby Show</i> , 1997
	5	<i>The Crucible</i> , undated
	6	<i>The Curious People</i> , 1964
	7	<i>Feiffer</i> , undated
	8	<i>Female High Security Unit</i> , 1988
	9-10	<i>Funny Girl</i> , 1991
3	1	<i>God's Messenger</i> , 1981
	2-3	<i>The Happiest Girl</i> , 1965
	4	<i>Hello America</i> , 1976
	5	<i>The High School</i> , undated
4	1-6	<i>Has Anybody Here Found Love?</i> , 1980
5	1	<i>In Her Shoes</i> , 2004
	2	<i>Inquest</i> , 1969
	3	<i>Jamaica</i> , 1957
	4-5	<i>The Joys of Yiddish</i> , 1974
	6	<i>Knock</i> , 1959
	7-8	<i>Laugh a Little, Cry a Little</i> , 1975
6	1-3	<i>Laugh a Little, Cry a Little</i> , 1975
	4-5	<i>Look to the Rainbow</i> , 1985

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
7	1-6	<i>Look to the Rainbow</i> , 1985
8	1	<i>Look to the Rainbow</i> , 1985
	2	<i>Lucille Lortel Tribute</i> , 1997
	3	<i>Luna</i> , 1999
	4	<i>Mad About You</i> , undated
	5	<i>Me the People</i> , 1966
	6	<i>Milk and Honey</i> , undated
	7	<i>The Moon and Mr. Hannah</i> , 1961
	8	<i>Nathan Weinstein's Daughter</i> , 1965
	9	<i>Nickelodeon</i> , 1999
	10	<i>Night of 20,000 Stars</i> , 1988
9	1	<i>Once Upon King Solomon's Nose</i> , undated
	2	<i>Purlie Victorious</i> , 1962
	3	<i>Quickers Crackers</i> , 1999
	4-8	<i>Rags</i> , 1986
10	1-15	<i>Rags</i> , 1986
11	1-8	<i>Rags</i> , 1986
12	1-5	<i>Rags</i> , 1986
13	1-4	<i>Rags</i> , 1986 (Script revisions)
14	1	<i>Red Over Re</i> , undated
	2-4	<i>Salute to Seasons</i> , 1963-1965
	5	<i>The Secret of Fire</i> 5, 1977
15	1	<i>The Secret Jews</i> , 1979
	2	<i>Sidney and the Werewolf's Rainbow</i> , 2001
	3	<i>Stars for Sane</i> , 1965
	4	<i>The Sunset Gang</i> , 1991
	5	<i>Telling Tales</i> , 1991
	6-8	<i>Up From Under</i> , 1973
16	1	<i>The Way We Are</i> , 1984
	2	<i>What a Day for a Miracle</i> , undated
	3	<i>When Do the Words Come True?</i> , 1971
	4-5	<i>The World of Sholom Aleichem</i> , 1982
17	1-6	<i>The World of Sholom Aleichem</i> , 1982
18	1-7	<i>The World of Sholom Aleichem</i> , 1982
19	1-9	<i>The World of Sholom Aleichem</i> , 1982
20	1-14	<i>The World of Sholom Aleichem</i> , 1982
21	1-6	<i>The World of Sholom Aleichem</i> , 1982
	7	<i>Veronica's Room</i> , 1981
22	Correspondence	
	1-3	Condolences, 1990
23	4	General, 1970-2004
	1-3	General, 1970-2004
24	Committees and Organizations	
	1-5	Awards, 1989-1991
	6	Musical Theatre Works, undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
25	1	National Alliance of Musical Theatre Producers, 1991-1994
	2	National Endowment for the Humanities, undated
	3	National Musical Theatre Network, 1999
	4	New York Women in Film and Television, 1993-1999
	5	Rosenberg Fund for Children, 1993
26	1	Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, 1965-1966
	2	Womanschool, undated
	3	Legal, 1978
	4	Memorials, 1960-2003
27	1-3	Photographs, undated
	4	Writing, 1978
	5	Unemployment, 1956-1957

II. Jack Gilford, 1938-1989

The Jack Gilford files contain papers relating to Jack's various theatrical endeavors, including performances on stage, television, film, and vaudeville. Material for each individual production varies, but items include marked scripts with edits, correspondence, congratulation telegrams, call sheets, schedules, research material and contact lists. A few files contain production or costume photographs. Jack's files also include a selection of sheet music used in his one-man show, many of his acting contracts, vaudeville material written for and by Jack, and several scrapbooks of clippings.

		Production Files	
28	1	<i>Alice</i> , 1981	
	2	<i>Alive and Kicking</i> , 1949	
	3	<i>The All-Time-Good-Time Knickerbocker Follies</i> , 1982	
	4-7	<i>Apple Pie</i> , 1978	
	8	<i>Arsenic and Old Lace</i> , 1968	
29	1	<i>Arthur on the Rocks</i> , 1987	
	2	<i>Artist's Tribute: Life of Paul Robeson</i> , 1976	
	3	<i>Bad Habits</i> , undated	
	4	<i>The Beauty Part</i> , 1961	
	5-9	<i>Cabaret</i> , 1966	
30	1	<i>Captain Kangaroo</i> , 1976	
	2	<i>Carousel</i> , 1986	
	3	<i>Catch 22</i> , 1969	
	4	<i>The Carol Burnett Show</i> , 1972	
	5	<i>Caveman</i> , 1980	
	6-7	<i>Cocoon</i> , 1983	
	8-9	<i>Cocoon: The Return</i> , 1989	
	10	<i>Coming Attractions</i> , 1979	
	31	1-3	<i>The Cowboy and the Tiger</i> , 1964
		4	<i>David Frost</i> [1972}
5		<i>The Dawn Breakers</i> , 1976	
6		<i>The Day Dreamer</i> , 1966	
7		<i>Death Knocks</i> , 1971	
8-9		<i>The Defenders</i> , 1964	
10	<i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> [1955}		
32	1-2	<i>Don't Call Us</i> , 1976	
	3	<i>Drink to Me Only</i> , 1958	
	4-6	<i>The Duck Factory</i> , 1984	

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
33	1	<i>The Duck Factory</i> , 1984
	2	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> , undated
	3	<i>The Fixer</i> , 1967
	4-5	<i>Fledermaus</i> , 1958
	6	<i>Friends and Lovers</i> , 1974
	34	1-5
6-7		<i>The Gershwin Gala</i> , 1987
8-9		<i>The Golden Girls</i> , 1988
35	1	<i>Goldie and the Boxer</i> , 1988
	2	<i>Harry and Walter Go to New York</i> , 1975
	3	<i>Head of the Class</i> , 1988
	4	<i>Heaven Can Wait</i> , 1983
	5	<i>Here's Lucy</i> , 1968
	6	<i>Hotel Ninety</i> , 1973
36	1	<i>The Hypochondriac</i> , 1987
	2	<i>The Incident</i> , undated
	3	<i>Keep the Faith</i> , 1971
	4	<i>Kismet</i> , 1984
	5	<i>The Live Wire</i> , 1950
	6-7	<i>Look After Lulu</i> , 1959
37	1-4	<i>Look to the Rainbow</i> , 1985
	5	<i>Lou Grant</i> , 1979
	6	<i>The Love Boat</i> , 1982
38	1	<i>Midnight Show</i> , 1963-1965
	2	<i>Mister Buddwing</i> [1965}
	3	<i>My Life In the Theater</i> , 1987
	4	<i>The New Meet the People</i> , 1943
	5	<i>No, No Nanette</i> , 1971
	6	<i>Norman Is That You?</i> , 1973
	7-9	<i>Of Thee I Sing</i> , 1972
	10	<i>Once Over Lightly</i> , 1955
39	1-6	<i>Once Upon a Mattress</i> , 1959-1964
40	1	<i>The Passion of Gross</i> , 1954
	2	<i>Play It Again, Sam</i> , undated
	3	<i>The Policemen</i> , 1961
	4	<i>Rhoda</i> , 1975
	5	<i>Romanoff and Juliet</i> , 1957
	6-7	<i>Save the Tiger</i> , 1972
	8	<i>Show of Stars</i> , 1965
	9	<i>Sing Happy</i> , 1978
	41	1-2
3		<i>Sly Fox</i> , 1976
4-5		<i>The Student Prince</i> , 1978-1980
42	1-2	<i>The Sunshine Boys</i> , 1974
	3-5	<i>The Supporting Cast</i> , 1981
	6	<i>Tattingers</i> , 1988
	7	<i>Taxi</i> , 1981
43	1	<i>Terror in the Sky</i> , 1985
	2-3	<i>They</i> , 1971
	4	<i>They Might Be Giants</i> , 1970

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
	5	<i>They Should Have Stood in Bed</i> , 1942
	6	<i>This is Sholom Aleichem</i> , 1968
	7	<i>Three Men on a Horse</i> , 1969
	8	<i>Three Sisters</i> , undated
	9	<i>The Tonight Show</i> , 1978
44	1	<i>Too Much Johnson</i> , 1975
	2-3	<i>Trapper John, MD</i> , 1979
	4	<i>Tribute to Otto Frank</i> , 1980
	5	<i>Where's Charley</i> , 1952
	6	<i>Wholly Moses</i> , 1979
	7-8	<i>Who's Minding the Mint</i> , 1966
	9	x <i>The World of Sholom Aleichem</i> , 1959
	10	<i>You Can't Take It With You</i> , undated
45	1	Advertising, 1971-1987
	2	Benefits, 1970-1988
	3-4	Contracts, 1961-1976
46	1-2	Contracts, 1976-1988
	3-6	General material, undated
47	1-6	General material, undated
		Photographs, 1940-1988
49	4	Autographed by others (Signed by Alyce Winstead, Tommy Mack, Fay McKenzie, Henry Busse, Edgar Kennedy, James Gleason)
	5-9	Jack Gilford
		Scrapbooks
51		1938-1942
52		1948-1950
53		1950-1951 (unbound)
50	1-6	Sheet Music
		Solo Shows
48	1-4	<i>Ballroom</i> , 1987
	5	<i>An Evening With Jack Gilford</i> , undated
	6	<i>The Very Special Jack Gilford Special</i> , 1981
49	1-3	<i>The Very Special Jack Gilford Special</i> , 1981