

**The New York Public Library
The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Billy Rose Theatre Division**

**Living Theatre Designs
1948-1967 and undated**

***T-VIM 2011-253**

Summary

Title: Living Theatre Designs, 1948-1967 and undated

Size: 4 linear feet (4 boxes)

Preferred citation: Living Theatre Designs, *T-VIM 2011-256, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Related materials note

Living Theatre Records (call number *T-Mss-1988-005), The Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Biographical note

The Living Theatre was founded by Judith Malina and Julian Beck in 1947. Their avant-garde plays were performed in New York theaters until 1963 when they were shut down by the IRS for failing to pay taxes. After a worldwide tour, the Living Theatre settled in Berlin in 1965. The company toured the United States in 1968. After touring Brazil and Europe, the Living Theatre came back to New York in May 1989 where it has its present home.

Scope and content note

Mostly color and black and white costume designs, set designs and sketches for productions (1948-1967) by the Living Theatre, many by founders Julian Beck and Judith Malina. Also included are some hand drawn floor plans, several designs for fliers and posters, and a small amount of ephemera. Productions depicted include: *Antigone*, 1967; *Aria da Capo*, ca. 1953; *Beyond the Mountains* (costume designs by Nanna Benjamin), Dec. 1951; *The Curious Fern*, June 1957; *Desire Trapped by the Tail*, 1952; *Faustina*, 1952 May; *He Who Says Yes and He Who Says No*, Apr. 1960; *The Heroes*, Aug. 1952; *The Infernal Machine*, ca. 1948; *The Maids*, Feb. 1965; *Man and the Masses*, ca. 1949-1950; *Many Loves*, Jan. 1959; *The Mountain Giants*, 1958; *Orpheus*, Sept. 1954; *Phedre*, May 1955; *Philoctetes*, June 1953; *R.U.R.*, 1953; *The Spook Sonata*, June 1954; *Sweeney Agonistes*, Mar. 1952; *The Thirteenth God*, Feb. 1951; *Ubu the King*, Aug. 1952; *Voices for a Mirror*, June 1957; *Women of Trachis* and *The Marrying Maiden*, 1960; *The Young Disciple*, ca. 1955. There are also several sketches by Julian Beck for *Dances Before the Wall*, a dance by James Waring, Mar. 1958.

Container list*Antigone, [1967]*

Costume sketches in pencil on manila folder halves.

Alexander

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Armor Sketch of front and back; "breast plate" and "extra shirt" also written on sketch.
1	1	In Persian Robes - Also with Sash ("Orange moire?" and additional notes on sketch.)
1	1	In Surah(?) [Illegible] in White "White Collar, white felt & pendulum" also on sketch; additional sketches on verso.
		Alexander I
1	2	Undergarment - White & Gold ("Shirt - long" also on sketch; additional notes.)
1	2	With Stole - White, Yellow, Orange, Gold (Additional notes on sketch.)
1	2	Anaxarchus
1	3	Alternate Costume
1	3	Beige Cloth (Wool If Possible) - Purple Banding (6"-7" Wide)
		Antigone
1	4	Antigone I - Metallic Material
1	4	At Ecbatana "Slacks - Chartreuse; Blouse - Turquoise; Sash - Black" and "Slacks - Chartreuse - Sash - Orange - Blouse" also on sketches.
		Assassin
1	5	Assassin I; Assassin Alternate I
		Callisthenes
1	6	Beige Cloth (Wool If Possible) - Gold Banding - 5" Wide Additional preliminary drawings of costume on sketch.
1	6	Alternate Costume
1	6	Dead Man
1	7	Egyptian High Priest - Collar - Skirt - Pendulum Belt "Color: yellow with gold stripes; headdress - cloth folded appropriately - headband attached to horns & mirror or horns & eye" written on sketch; also sketch of headdress.
1	7	Fool "Crown - Gold Leaves - Rags (Whatever Rags We Have), Barefoot - Too Large Robe (Alexander's Robe) Over Him" on sketch.
1	8	Hephaestion in Armor (2 items; notes on each sketch.)
		Hermolaus
1	9	Hermolaus I As Page "2 pieces material joined only at shoulder" also on sketch; 2 additional sketches and notes.
1	9	Hermolaus II - Late - Cloak - Add "T" Shirt (Additional notes on sketches.)
1	10	Olympius (Additional notes on sketches.)
1	10	Persian Women
1	10	Ptolemy - Skirt
1	11	Sisygambus (Additional notes on sketches and verso.)
1	11	Statira I - Purple Skirt & Jacket with Gold Pantaloons & Blouse
1	11	Temporary Emblems for Kleitos, Parmenio, Kourios, Ptolemy, Hephaestion, Philotas
		Thais
1	11	Thais
1	12	Thais I - Black with Gold Paint; Bands in Gold
1	12	Thais II at Ecbatana - Green - Collar Nailheads
1	12	Tiresias "Turban or helmet; Coat - Cream with rose-madder roses painted over. Shirt - painted gold. Long sleeves, slacks banded at ankle - lavender. Sash, gold. Headdress: hat cream and rose. Turban - lavender & gold" written on sketch.
1	12	Untitled Male Costume Front and back views; additional notes written on sketch.

		<i>Aria da Capo</i> , [ca. 1953]
3	1	Color Snapshots Includes 8 color production snapshots on 3 sheets.
3	1	Costume Designs Includes 5 costume designs - color on paper signed by Julian Beck.
		Set Designs
3	1	Preliminary Plan Includes preliminary drawing - black and white on tracing paper.
3	1	Set Design Includes set design signed by Julian Beck - color on paper attached to cardboard backing with black velvet border attached to surface.
		<i>Beyond the Mountains</i> [1951 Dec.]
		Costume Designs
3	2	Agamemnon, Achilles, Phaedra, and Theseus Includes color costume designs by Nanna Benjamin (5 drawings on 1 sheet) on tracing paper with backing; additional notes.
1	13	Berenike and Head for the Messenger Thrown Onstage by Huns Includes color costume design on paper; fragile - black tape on verso.
1	14	Chorus Wearing Long White Gowns Includes color costume design on paper; label typed and attached to surface; fragile.
1	15	Hermaios and Tarakaia Includes color costume design on paper; fragile; left side torn.
3	2	A Hun? Maybe? Includes color costume design on paper attached to backing; also handwritten note on design to "Julian and Judy" from "Nanna."
1	16-17	Huns (Includes 4 color costume designs on paper.)
1	18	Iphigenia (Includes color costume design on brown paper.)
3	2	Iphigenia and Her Father Includes color costume design on paper; additional notes on design.
1	19	Iphigenia, Chorus et al Includes color design; some edges torn; fragile condition.
3	2	Kalliope, Demetrios, Menander et al Includes color costume designs (6 drawings on 1 sheet) on tracing paper with backing; 2 figures unidentified.
1	20	Menander (Includes color design on paper with backing.)
3	2	Phaedra Includes color costume design on paper with backing; 2 unidentified male figures; additional notes on design; torn on lower right side.
3	2	Phaedra Includes color costume design on tracing paper with backing; torn on bottom
3	2	Tarakaia and Berenike Includes color costume designs (6 drawings on 1 sheet) on tracing paper with backing
3	2	Tarakaia, Demetrios, Hermaios et al Includes color costume design on paper with backing.
1	20	Untitled Includes color design on paper - 2 figures with landscape .
3	2	Untitled Includes 2 color drawings on tracing paper - 1 female figure; 1 with several figures and background; "Material strips through which Iphigenia and Ach. walk towards [illegible] (water)" written on sketch.
3	2	Untitled Includes color costume design on tracing paper with backing - female figure.

		Set Designs; Drawings
		3 items; designs by Julian Beck: Scenes with actors onstage; color on black construction paper; signed; fragile condition.
3	3	Berenike
3	3	Act II
3	3	Act III (Mounted on board painted gold.)
		<i>The Curious Fern</i> , [1957 June] (Color on black paper.)
1	21	Costume Design - Untitled Female Includes color costume design on paper; 2 drawings (front and back) on 1 sheet; signed.
1	21	Design for Flier (Includes black and white design; signed.)
1	21	Set Design and Sketches Includes 2 pencil sketches on paper and 1 color set design (signed) on paper with backing.
1	22	<i>Dances Before a Wall</i> (Dance by James Waring), [1958 Mar.] Includes 2 pencil sketches on paper of set design by Julian Beck; see also <i>Phedre</i> .
		<i>Desire Trapped by the Tail</i> , [1952] (Costume designs by Julian Beck; all are signed.)
3	4	The Big Foot (Includes color costume design on paper.)
3	4	Bow-Wow - 1st (Includes color costume design on paper.)
3	4	Bow-Wow - 2nd (Includes color costume design on paper.)
3	4	Cousin Includes color costume design on paper mounted on black paper.
3	4	Fat Anguish Includes color costume design on paper with backing.
3	4	The Lean Anguish Includes color costume design on paper mounted on black paper.
3	4	The Onion Includes color costume design on paper mounted on black paper.
3	4	Round Shank Includes color costume design on paper mounted on black paper.
3	4	Silence Includes color costume design on paper mounted on black paper.
3	4	The Tart (Includes color costume design on paper.)
		<i>Dr. Faustus Lights the Lights</i> , [1951 Dec.] (Includes set designs and elevation by Julian Beck.)
1	23	Details - Setting Includes color drawings on paper; signed; pencil diagrams on verso.
1	23	Layout Plan of Panel Includes elevation in pencil; inkblots(?) on surface of drawing; initialed; handwritten notes on verso.
1	23	Panels Includes color drawings on paper; top right corner torn off (loose piece).
1	24	Dramatic Workshop Fall Term 1951 Catalog, Trunk Labels and Postcard with Clipping and Notes, 1930s; 1951; 1961 and undated Includes catalog with parts of cover cut out; postcard with newspaper clipping attached re: West 97th St. Sale, " Sept. 12, 193? and handwritten list of names; also includes handwritten and typed labels for <i>Childish Jokes</i> ; or <i>Crying Backstage</i> (notebook paper torn into pieces), [1961]; Dramatic Workshop, undated; <i>Four Plays</i> , undated; <i>He Who Says Yes and He Who Says No</i> [ca. 1960]; <i>Ladies' Voices</i> [ca. 1951]; also 1 domino mask; 6 domino type masks made from manila folders.
		<i>Faustina</i> , [1952 May] (Designs by Julian Beck.)
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	25	Flag Plan - Act II (Includes diagram (pen on paper).)

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	25	Program Cover Design Includes black and white drawings on paper; signed.
1	25	Set Designs Includes 2 color on paper designs; 1 signed; fragile condition.
1	26	<i>He Who Says Yes and He Who Says No</i> , 1960 Apr. Includes 2 items: Black and white set design with drawings on front and verso, and preliminary sketch on paper by Julian Beck; signed.
		<i>The Heroes</i> , [1952 Aug.] Design and plan by Julian Beck; signed; see also <i>Ubu the King</i> .
1	27	Peliminary Plan (Includes drawing on tracing paper.)
1	27	Set Design (Includes color on paper design.)
		<i>The Infernal Machine</i> , 1948 Feb. 19 - 1952 Nov. 15
		Costume Designs Includes color costumes on paper and stock, by Julian Beck; signed; some are in paper matting.
3	5	Anubis As a God
3	5	Boy
1	28	Captain
1	28	Elder Soldier - Detail - Collar (Includes handwritten notes in pencil on verso.)
		Jewelry Plates
		Jocasta's Brooches
1	30	Plate II, 1948 May 1 Includes "397" and "5/1/48" and additional notes on verso.
1	30	Plate III (Includes color on paper (6 drawings on 1 sheet).)
1	30	Oedipus - Coronation Wreath - Plate I (Includes color on paper (6 drawings on 1 sheet).)
		Jocasta
3	5	Act I
3	5	Act IV
3	5	In Coronation Robes
3	5	Receding
<u>Box</u>	<u>Box</u>	
3	5	Jocasta's Scarf
<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	30	Jocasta's Brooch, 1952 Nov. 15 Includes 3 designs (3 drawings on each sheet); handwritten notes and some sketches on versos.
1	30	Jocasta's Brooch; Oedipus' Crown, 1952 Nov. 15 (Includes handwritten notes in pencil on verso.)
		Laius
3	6	In Action
3	6	In Repose
3	6	Matron
1	29	Nemesis, 1950 Jan. 8 (Includes "356 - 1/8/50" in pencil on verso.)
3	6	Oedipus in Coronation Robes
1	29	Soldier (Includes handwritten notes in pencil on verso.)
1	29	Soldiers - Details - Helmet and Sandal (Includes handwritten notes in pencil on verso.)

- 1 29 The Sphinx As a Girl
Includes #343 and title, etc. in pencil on verso; small tear on bottom.
- Tiresias
- 3 6 Act I
- 3 6 Act II
- 1 29 Act III (Includes handwritten notes in pencil on verso.)
- 1 28 Set Design
Includes black and white drawing by Robert Ramsay; matted and framed.
- 1 31 *The Maids*, 1965 Feb.
Includes black and white set design on paper by Julian Beck; signed.
- Man and the Masses*, ca. 1949-1950 (Designs by Judith Malina.)
Costume Sketches
- Females
- 1 32 Heads (Includes 2 items: Color drawings on paper.)
- Sonia
- 1 32 Smaller Drawings
Includes 3 color drawings on 2 sheets (on newspaper) of females in blue dress; 1 drawing on verso of newspaper sheet.
- 1 33 Larger Drawing
Includes 1 item: 2 color drawings on 1 sheet: 1 female in yellow, 1 in blue dress - "The Woman - Sonia - Act I" (on stock).
- Sonia (Possibly)
- 1 33 Smaller Drawings
Includes 4 items: Color drawing of female in blue dress (on paper); color drawing of female in blue dress outlined in red (on newspaper); black and white drawing of female in dress (on newspaper); color drawing of female in blue dress with arm extended (on newspaper).
- 1 33 Larger Drawings
Includes 4 items: Color drawing of female in blue dress (on newspaper); color drawing of female in blue dress (on stock); black and white drawing of female in dress (on stock); 2 color drawings on 1 sheet of 2 females in blue dresses (on stock).
- Veiled Figures
- 1 32 Black and White
Includes 3 items: 2 drawings (on paper); 1 drawing of 3 figures (on newspaper).
- 1 32 Red
Includes 3 items: 2 drawings of figures (on paper); 1 drawing of figure (on newspaper).
- 1 32 Miscellaneous
Includes 2 items: Color drawing of female in long, dark orange gown (on paper); black and white drawing of female in dress (on paper).
- 1 34 Male
Includes grey drawing of male in shirt with necktie and trousers (on stock); top left is waterstained and part of corner missing.
- 1 34 Male in Red Shirt
Includes 4 items: Color drawings of male in red shirt (1 on paper; 3 on newspaper).
- 1 34 Males
Includes 5 items: Black and white drawing of man in overcoat (on paper); color drawing of man in overcoat with umbrella (on newspaper); color drawing of man with dollar coin as torso (Banker?) (on newspaper); 2 color drawings of men with dollar sign buttons and eyes (1 on paper, 1 on newspaper).
- 1 34 Males
Includes 2 items: Black and white designs of males in shirts and trousers (1 on paper; 1 wearing necktie, on newspaper).

- 1 34 Males and Miscellaneous
Includes 6 items: Color drawings of priest (?) (on newspaper); male with female figure in blue (on paper); figure inside yellow dome (on paper); 2 figures with rope on shoulder (1 on paper; 1 on newspaper); 2 female figures with male (green skirts and trousers) (on newspaper).
- 1 34 Prisoners
Includes 3 items: Color drawings of figure with head covered (on paper); drawings of male and female prisoners (1 on paper, 1 on newspaper).
- 1 34 Notes and Sketches
Includes 3 sheets: 2 with black sketches and handwritten notes in pencil and pen on paper; probably by Judith Malina.
- 1 34 Set Designs and Sketches
Includes 4 sheets: "1 - Back room of workmen's tavern; a clumsy table" (pencil sketch and color drawing, both on paper); "2 - dream - Stock exchange desk" (pencil sketch and color drawing, both on paper).
- 1 35 *Many Loves*, [1959 Jan.]
Set Designs (Sketches)
Includes 6 items; designs by Julian Beck: Black and white sketches for Prologue; Act I - Bar & Street Scene; Act I - barroom; Act II (2 sketches); Act III.
- 4 1 *The Marrying Maiden* - See *Women of Trachis*.
The Mountain Giants, 1958
Includes color on paper titled "Dance of Death," number 5 of 11; signed Guillatt '58; matted and framed; "Used for flyer for *The Mountain Giants* by Pirandello" written on frame.
- 2 1 *Orpheus*, 1954 Sept.
Set Designs and Plans
Includes 7 items; designs by Julian Beck: 2 set designs - color on paper; signed (1 has production data printed on verso); 1 drawing of frieze panels - color on paper; signed; 4 plans - pencil on tracing paper; initialed (2 are marked "Plan;" "Preliminary Drawing;" "Preliminary Plan").
- 2 1 *Phedre*, [1955 May]
Costume Designs
- 2 1 The Beggar Wearing Half Mask
Includes color drawing on paper; typed caption attached to surface.
- 2 1 Phaedre
Includes color drawing on paper; typed caption attached to surface.
- 2 2 Phaedra [sic] with Net Skirt and Headdress
Includes color drawing on paper; typed caption attached to surface.
- 2 3 Sketch (Includes pencil sketch on paper.)
- 2 4 Phaedra [sic], Beggar, Prostitute, Hippolytus (Includes color drawing on paper; tear on top.)
- 2 5 Prostitute with Black, Red, and Gold Beads; The Soles of Her Feet Painted Red
Includes color drawing on paper; typed captions attached to surface.
- 2 6 Untitled
Includes 5 small black and white costume designs on paper; untitled.
- 2 7 Poster Design (Possibly)
Includes color design on board with production information; initialed "ab."
- 2 8 Set Designs (Sketches)
Includes 3 pencil drawings: "Preliminary Sketch," signed by Julian Beck; (signed sketch on verso - "Dances before a wall (James Waring) - Preliminary;" 2 sketches on tracing paper; 1 signed by Julian Beck; fragile condition.
- 2 9 *Philoctetes*, [1953 June] (Designs by Julian Beck.)
Costume Designs and Sketches
- 2 9 Bow of Hercules (Includes pencil sketch on paper.)
- 2 9 Greaves (Includes pencil sketch on paper.)
- 2 9 Neoptelemus (Includes color drawing on paper; signed.)

2	9	Philoctetes (Includes black and white drawing on paper; signed.)
2	9	Ulysses (Includes color drawing on paper; signed.)
		Set Designs
2	9	Curtain, Apotheosis Slide, Apotheosis (Includes 3 color drawings on 1 sheet; signed.)
2	9	Untitled (Includes black and white drawing on paper; signed.)
		Projects for Theaters, 1949-1950
2	10	Elevations and Sketches Includes 14 items: Elevations, sketches and drawings on paper, manila folders, and stock; 1 drawing by "JB and JM;" most are initialled "JM" or signed by Judith Malina.
		<i>R.U.R.</i> , 1953
4	2	Color Snapshots Includes 5 items: Color production snapshots on 2 sheets.
		Set Designs (Includes designs by Julian Beck.)
4	2	Act I Includes color drawing on black paper on board; signed on verso.
4	2	Act II Includes color drawing on black paper on board; signed on verso.
2	11	<i>The Spook Sonata [The Ghost Sonata]</i> , [1954 June] Includes 2 items (signed) by Julian Beck: Plan (pencil on paper) and set design (color on black paper).
2	12	Studies for Fliers, 1953 and undated Includes 10 designs for fliers by Julian Beck (black and white and color on paper and board); theaters include the Erlanger Theatre, Chicago; The Old Vic, London; Theatre L'Odeon, Paris;
2	13	<i>Sweeney Agonistes</i> , [1952 Mar.] Includes set design by Julian Beck (black and white with color cut-outs attached to surface).
		<i>The Thirteenth God</i> , [1951 Feb.] Originally produced Mar. 1951; date of this production is unknown; 1 costume design is on verso of press release for <i>Many Loves</i> , dated Nov. 4, 1958.
2	14	Costume Designs and "Plot" Includes 14 color drawings on paper of costumes for Angel (3), Eleazar (2), Ephron, Hagar, Isaac, Ishmael (2), Menasseh, Ram, and untitled; additional notes; costume "plot" is a handwritten list of characters, costumes, fabrics, quantities needed, purchased, and executed.
2	15	Prop Design (Includes drawing (pencil on paper) with notes.)
2	15	Set or Slide Designs Color designs on paper by Julian Beck; attached to backing; "Julian Beck" printed on backing; 1 is signed.
2	17	Prologue - Macedonia
		Act I
2	17	Scene 1 - Plains of Issus
2	17	Scene 2- Siwah in Egypt
2	17	Scene 3 - Persepolis
2	18	Act II Scene 1- Opis
		Act III
2	18	Scene 1 - Mekran
2	18	Scene 1 - After Mekran
2	18	Scene 2 - Ecbatana
2	18	Scene 3 - Babylon
2	18	Scene 4 - Babylon
2	18	Scene 5 - Babylon

- 2 16 Slides and Floor Plans
Includes 21 items: Color designs on paper for slides; signed by Julian Beck; also includes floor plans in pencil on manila folder halves; additional notes (also on versos).
- Ubu the King*, [1952 Aug.]
- 4 3 Costume Sketches
Includes signed costume sketches by Julian Beck: 9 pencil on paper sketches of female (1 sketch on verso of sheet); large sheet of Papa Ubu and Wenceslas costume sketches on tracing paper; fragile condition.
- 4 4 Poster Design and Scheme
Includes color on brown board poster design for *Ubu the King* and *The Heroes* - Cherry Lane Theatre; also includes "Scheme" - collection of sketches, notes, etc. on tracing paper; fragile condition.
- 4 5 Set Design
Includes black and white with some color on brown paper, by Julian Beck; signed; matted; design separated from backing.
- Voices for a Mirror*, [1957 June] (Includes designs by Julian Beck.)
- 2 19 Flier and Set Designs
Includes flier design (black and white drawing on paper); signed; also includes set design (color on paper with backing).
- Women of Trachis* [and *The Marrying Maiden*], [1960] (Includes designs by Julian Beck.)
- Costume Sketches
Includes pencil sketches on paper (1 with color; 2 with fabric swatches); signed.
- 2 20 Ancient King I: Pharaoh
2 20 Ancient King III - Abdullah
2 20 Camer (sp.?) I
2 20 Daysan (sp.?)
2 20 Great Man
2 20 The Great Man
2 20 Herakles' Cloak
2 20 Hyllor (2)
2 20 Khovis I
2 20 Khovis III
2 20 Khovis IV
2 20 Khovis VI
2 21 Maiden
2 21 The Maiden
2 21 Marrying Maiden
2 21 Alternative Marrying Maiden or Maiden
2 21 Merchant and Stranger
2 21 The Merchant and Stranger
2 21 Messenger (2)
2 21 Nurse
2 21 Untitled
- 2 22 Set Designs (Sketches) - *Women of Trachis* and *The Marrying Maiden*
Includes 2 items: black and white with some color sketches on paper; signed and dated.
- The Young Disciple*, [ca. 1955]
- 2 23 Costume Designs
Includes 2 costume designs by Julian Beck (color on paper); signed.
- Unidentified Designs and Sketches, undated
- 4 6 Costume Sketch
Includes drawing on tracing paper of male - "Great coat: flash paint; pantaloons, pack & rifle. Patches; G.I. cap recovered; brass buttons; "cardboard cover with gilded foil" written on sketch; top corners missing.

4 6

Sets

Includes 6 items: 2 small sketches (pencil on paper); design captioned "Blue & green - [Illegible]," signed by Julian Beck; design, possibly of cafe (color on paper taped to backing, signed by Julian Beck; design captioned "Anato!", possibly of dining room (color on paper), signed by Julian Beck; abstract design (color on paper) attached to backing, signed by Julian Beck.