

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

**Marius Sznajderman Designs
for Circle in the Square and French Art Theatre
1918-1960**

***T-VIM 2011-204**

Summary

Main entry: Sznajderman, Marius

Title: Marius Sznajderman Designs for Circle in the Square and French Art Theatre, 1918-1960

Size: 5 linear feet (5 boxes)

Preferred citation: Marius Sznajderman Designs for Circle in the Square and French Art Theatre, *T-VIM 2011-204, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Biographical note

Marius Sznajderman was born in Paris in 1926. He escaped to Spain with his parents in 1942, moving to Venezuela where he attended the School of Fine Arts in Caracas. After moving to the United States in 1949, Sznajderman studied at Columbia University with scenic designer Woodman Thompson and printmaker Hans Mueller, receiving both a B.F.A. and M.F.A. He served in the U.S. Army from 1953-1955 and has taught at several universities, including New York University, School of Visual Arts and Fairleigh Dickinson University. Sznajderman has also had numerous exhibitions of his work over several decades. Sznajderman's credits as a stage designer include Circle in the Square and the French Art Theatre productions in the 1950s.

Scope and content note

Over 350 original designs, principally for sets (mostly color), floor plans, and studies created by Marius Sznajderman for Circle in the Square Theatre and the French Art Theatre in the 1950s. The collection also contains production and research notes, as well as publicity material and posters. Productions for Circle in the Square include *The Bonds of Interest* by Benavente y Martinez, 1951; *Burning Bright* by John Steinbeck 1951; the unproduced mystery play *Ludus Coventriae*, 1953-1955; and *Yerma* by Federico Garcia Lorca 1952. There are also some publicity materials for Circle in the Square, programs, fliers, and postcards for individual productions, blueprints, elevations, as well as a number of black and white photographs. Also included are costume designs (possibly for *The Firebrand*, ca. 1924), several sketches, a sketchbook, and possibly research notes, ca. 1918-ca. 1924 by noted stage designer Woodman Thompson, possibly related to Sznajderman's research for *Ludus Coventriae*. In addition to Sznajderman's set designs, studies, floor plans, and production notes for the French Art Theatre New York City (Eve Daniel, director) there are subscription letters and 7 posters, ca. 1951-1958.

A number of the designs are drawn on the versos of menus from a restaurant in the same building as Circle in the Square Theatre.

Container list

Circle in the Square, ca. 1918-1955

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Publicity Material, 1950-1952 Includes press releases, postcards for first anniversary party and <i>Antigone</i> (with message and notes on verso); flier for <i>Cradle Song</i> ; and incomplete program.
		<i>The Bonds of Interest</i> , 1951
1	2	Folder #1 - Sets of Costume Notes Includes 8 sets of costume drawings (23 drawings on 8 boards; color on paper; initialed with year); mounted /Lenox 100; 11 x 15".
1	3	Folder #2 - Costume Notes - Design Sets Includes 10 sets of costume drawings (color on paper; initialed with year), and handwritten list of characters.
		Set Designs
1	4	Folder #1 - Design Sets; Studies for Scrim and Backdrop Includes handwritten notes, sketches and diagrams; 3 studies for scrim and backdrop; designs (color on paper; most are initialed with year; 1 is signed).
1	5	Folder #2 - Theater Sketch - Backdrop; Research Sketches for Backdrop; Photos Includes fliers, review, 2 postcards with logo (for ticket orders); drawing of backdrop (ink and watercolor; signed with year, 8 1/2 x 12 1/2"); 2 sets of research sketches (color on paper attached to board; signed with year); 6 black and white photos (4 x 5") of actors on set.
1	6	Folder #3 - Design Sets and Research Material, Including 2 Studies for Scrim and Backdrop; Additional Material; Design - Detail - Full Scale on Wrapping Paper Includes sets of designs (color and black on paper and stock); most are initialed with year; also includes detail drawings, floor plan and handwritten notes (2pp.).
1	7	Folder #4 - Sets of Designs, Most of Them on Tracing Paper Includes 15 sets of designs of scrims, drops, studies, etc. (color on paper - most on tracing paper; initialed with year).
		<i>Burning Bright</i> , 1951-1952
1	8	Folder #1 - Floor Plan[s] and 3 Designs, 1951-1952 Includes fliers, postcards with logo (for ticket orders), floor plans, and set designs (color on paper; with backing); initialed with year - "51."
1	9	Folder #2 - 27 Sets of Designs [and 3 Floor Plans], 1951-52 Includes 3 floor plans and set and detail drawings (color and black and white on paper; some with backing; most are initialed with year - "51").
1	10	Folder #3 - 15 Sets of Designs and Floor Plan, 1952 Includes 1 floor plan and 15 drawings of set designs and details (color on paper or stock; most are initialed with year).
1	11	Folder #4 - 11 Sets of Designs and Floor Plan [and Photos], 1952 Includes 1 floor plan and 11 drawings of set designs and details (color on paper or stock; most are initialed with year); also 5 black and white photos (4 x 5") of actors on set.
		<i>Ludus Coventriae</i> (Unproduced Mystery Play), 1953-1955
		Project of Circle in the Square and The Cloisters.
2	1	Project Plan and Analysis, ca. 1953 Includes typed manuscript (and negative photostat copies) with 1 black and white photograph of The Cloisters, handwritten draft report with notes and diagrams, and handwritten bibliography.
2	2	Photographs - The Cloisters (Exteriors), ca. 1953 Includes 18 items: 16 black and white snapshots and contact prints mounted on 2 index card segments.

- Designs, 1953-1955
- 2 3 Folder #1 - Blueprints, 1953
Includes printout of information on the plays and blueprints of the Cloisters, including one of the seating arrangement in the Court; some are dated earlier than 1953.
- 5 1 Folder #2 - Tracing Paper Floor Plans and Elevations, [ca. 1953]
Includes 7 items: 6 elevations and 1 floor plan.
- 2 4 Folder #3 - Sets of Designs and Research Notes for Sets and Costumes, 1953-1955
Includes designs for sets and costumes (color and black and white on paper; some with backing; most are initialed with year; 1 is signed with year).
- 2 5 Folder #4 - 27 Sets of Designs for Costumes and Set, ca. 1953
Includes 27 sets of designs (color on paper; some with backing; most are initialed with year).
- 2 6 Folder #5 - 15 Sets of Designs for Stage Setting, 1953-1955?
Includes 15 sets of designs (color on paper; some with backing; most are initialed with year).
- 2 7 Folder #6 - Research Notes, ca. 1953 (Includes handwritten notes and drawings.)
- Woodman Thompson Costume Designs and Sketchbook, ca. 1918-1924 and undated
- 3 3 Costume Designs (Possibly for *The Firebrand*) and Sketches
Includes 30 items: 22 costume designs, possibly for *The Firebrand*, 1924 (mostly color drawings on paper, some with transparent paper on top); some pencil on paper; most with fabric swatches and trim samples; 1 costume (female) sketch (possibly 19th century clothing); 4 sketches of ladies' costumes (pencil on paper) from *Harper's Bazaar* 1890-1891 and undated; and handwritten notes (3pp.). Note: Extremely fragile condition.
- 3 1 Research Notes (Possibly by Woodman Thompson) - British Costume (Ashdown), ca. 1953
Includes typed notes and pencil sketches of costumes, possibly by Woodman Thompson, from the book *British Costume from Earliest Times to 1820* by Mrs. Charles H. Ashdown.
- 3 2 Sketchbook, ca. 1918-1920
Includes mostly pencil sketches of places, objects and notes; some sketches are dated 1918; also several colored paintings of fish; typed list (possibly attendance sheet) attached to inside cover.
- Yerma, 1952
- 3 4 Folder #1 - Production Notes, Poster and Publicity Material
Includes flier, reviews, poster design, handwritten and typed prop lists and notes.
- Designs
- 3 5 Folder #2 - Act III, Scene 1 - Witch's House
Includes set designs (color on paper and stock), handwritten budget breakdown, and notes.
- 3 6 Folder # 3 - Act III, Scene 2 - Props / Religious and Pagan
Includes 6 sets of designs (color on paper) and handwritten prop list.
- 3 7 Folder # 4 - Saint's Sculpture
Includes sets of designs and handwritten notes (1p.).
- 3 8 Folder #5 - Masks and Props
Includes sets of designs; most are initialed with year; 2 are signed; prop list and handwritten notes (1p.).

- 3 9 Folder #6 - Yerma's House Crucifix; Props to Be Bought; Floor Plan Layout
- House of Yerma; Spring; Altar
Includes sets of designs (color and black and white on paper and stock); many
are initialed with year; floor plan, handwritten list of props to be bought,
and notes (2pp.).
- 3 10 Folder # 7 - Crossroad Virgin (Includes 4 sets of designs (color on paper).)
- French Art Theatre, 1952-1960
- 4 1 Programs, Fliers, Subscription Letters, 1952-1960
Includes programs, fliers, and season subscription letters; also includes several notes
to Marius Sznajderman.
- 4 2 *L'Amour Medecin* and *Le Mariage Force*, undated and 1953
Sets of [Set] Designs
Includes 7 drawings of set designs (color and black and white on paper with
backing); initialed; 1 floor plan for *L'Amour Medecin*; 2 drawings of set
designs (black and white on paper; 1 with backing, 1 on graph paper; both
initialed) for *Le Mariage Force* (also in this folder).
- Bajazet* - Current Stages, 1953
See also *Phedre*, *Bajazet*, *Le Malentendus* folder for set design.
- 4 3 Production Notes [and Set Sketches]
Includes handwritten notes, sketches of set (black and white) and flier.
- 4 4 *Cesaire* - Provincetown Playhouse, 1953
Sets of [Set] Designs, Production Notes, Flier
Includes flier, 3 drawings of set designs (color on paper; some with backing); all are
initialed; floor plans, handwritten production notes.
- 4 5 *Chacun Sa Verite* - Current Stages, 1953
Set Designs
Includes drawings of set designs and details (1 color) on paper; initialed; also 1
flier.
- 4 6 *Right You Are (If You Think You Are)*
Includes 1 color on board set design (7 x 10 1/4"); original folder has title in
English.
- Les Malentendus* - See *Phedre*, *Bajazet*, *Les Malentendus*.
Le Mariage Force - See *L'Amour Medecin*. (Filed with *L'Amour Medecin*.)
- 4 7 *Ondine* - Hunter Playhouse, 1953
9 Sets of [Set] Designs, Floor Plans, Production Notes, [Photo, Programs, and
Fliers], 1953
Includes 9 sets of set designs (mostly ink on paper; some color; several designs
are initialed with year), programs, fliers, production notes, floor plans, and
1 black and white productions photo (by Henri Dauman).
- 4 8 *L'Ours* - Provincetown Playhouse, 1953
Includes set designs and studies (color and ink on stock and paper); some initialed,
floor plans, and program.
- 4 9 *Phedre*, *Bajazet*, *Les Malentendus* - Current Stages, 1953
Includes set designs and studies (color on paper with backing) - 1 for *Bajazet*; 10 for
Phedre, and 2 for *Les Malentendus*; all but 1 are signed.
- 4 10 Unidentified, ca. 1950s
Includes set designs and studies (color on paper and board; some with backing) for
unidentified productions; a few are signed.
- 5 1 Posters, 1952-1958
Bajazet and *Chacun Sa Verite* - Current Stages, 1953
Includes 14 x 22" poster; black lettering on yellow board.
Un Client Serieux, *La Plus Forte*, *Sisyphé et la Morte* - Provincetown
Playhouse, 1958
Includes 11 x 14" poster; red lettering on white board; sketches on verso; small tear
on bottom left corner.

Jofroi, Bellavita, Un Demande en Mariage - Provincetown Playhouse, 1958

Includes 11 x 14" poster; blue lettering on white board.

Ondine - Hunter Playhouse, 1953 Feb.

Includes 14 x 22" poster; blue/black lettering on orange board; tear on bottom.

Ondine, Le Mariage Force, Cesaire, L'Ours - Provincetown Playhouse, 1952

May

Includes 14 x 22 " poster; black lettering on green board.

La Paix Chez Soi, La Plus Forte, Sisyphe et La Mort - Carl Fischer Concert Hall, 1957

Includes 14 x 22" poster; blue/black lettering on orange board; some water marks.

Supplement au Voyage de Cook, La Lecon - Provincetown Playhouse, 1957

Includes 14 x 22" poster; black lettering on green board; portion of bottom left corner missing.