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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)

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

**Box** | **Fol** | **Description**
---|---|---
1 | 1 | Publicity Material, 1950-1952
    *Includes press releases, postcards for first anniversary party and Antigone (with message and notes on verso); flier for Cradle Song; and incomplete program.*

*The Bonds of Interest*, 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).*

*Burning Bright*, 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.*

*Ludus Coventriae* (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.*
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Designs, 1953-1955

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.

Folder #2 - Tracing Paper Floor Plans and Elevations, [ca. 1953]
Includes 7 items: 6 elevations and 1 floor plan.

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).

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).

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).

Folder #6 - Research Notes, ca. 1953 (Includes handwritten notes and drawings.)

Woodman Thompson Costume Designs and Sketchbook, ca. 1918-1924 and undated

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.

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.

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

Folder #1 - Production Notes, Poster and Publicity Material
Includes flier, reviews, poster design, handwritten and typed prop lists and notes.

 Designs

Folder #2 - Act III, Scene 1 - Witch’s House
Includes set designs (color on paper and stock), handwritten budget breakdown, and notes.

Folder #3 - Act III, Scene 2 - Props / Religious and Pagan
Includes 6 sets of designs (color on paper) and handwritten prop list.

Folder #4 - Saint's Sculpture
Includes sets of designs and handwritten notes (1p.).

Folder #5 - Masks and Props
Includes sets of designs; most are initialed with year; 2 are signed; prop list and handwritten notes (1p.).
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.).

Folder #7 - Crossroad Virgin (Includes 4 sets of designs (color on paper).)
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Jofroi, Bellavita, Un Demande en Mariage - Provincetown Playhouse, 1958
Includes 11 x 14” poster; blue lettering on white board.

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.