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Guide to the
Lenka Peterson papers
1943-1996
*T-Mss 1983-002

Compiled by Leslie Reyman, March 2012

Summary

Creator: Peterson, Lenka

Title: Lenka Peterson papers, 1943-1996

Size: 12.43 linear feet (30 boxes)

Source: Donated by Lenka Peterson-O'Connor, 1983, 1997, 1998

Abstract: Lenka Peterson, is an American stage and screen actress, best known for her work in regional theater. The collection contain mostly scripts, along with other material about the production of the shows Peterson participated in and is divided into three series: Scripts, Office Files and Halsey Melone.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photography and photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

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Preferred citation: Lenka Peterson papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator history

Lenka Peterson is an American stage and screen actress, best known for her work in regional theater. She was born in Omaha, Nebraska on October 16, 1925 to Sven and Lenke Issacson. She attended the University of Iowa. She met Daniel P. O'Connor at an audition at the Community Playhouse in her hometown of Omaha. The couple was married on May 8, 1948 and are the parents of five children. Upon retirement, Peterson moved to Roxbury, CT.

Since 1948, Peterson has appeared on Broadway and Off-Broadway, in regional theater, in television as a principal and guest-star, and in movies. In 1985, she was nominated for a Tony Award for her performance in the musical *Quilters*. She founded the Westchester Young Actor's Theater and the Young Angels Theatre Company (Seven Angels Theatre of Waterbury, CT). Peterson and her husband co-authored the book, *Kids Take the Stage: Helping Young People Discover the Creative Outlet of Theater*, in 2006.

Source:

Gannett Westchester Newspapers, Leisure, 1985, June 2, p. F1, f3

http://www.lenkapetersonplayers.com/about_Us.html

St. Louis Globe, 1954, Jan 13

Scope and content note

The Lenka Peterson papers contain mostly scripts, along with other material about the production of the shows Peterson participated in.

The scripts series contains copies of scripts from shows Peterson was a part of, some of which are annotated. The office files series includes correspondence, publicity, photographs, investments and *Playbills*. Show titles in this series do not include scripts, but have clippings, programs and other types of publicity.

Halsey Melone (1925-1996) was a writer of television scripts, many of which are included in this series of the Peterson collection. There is no information as to why or how the material came to be in Peterson's possession. In addition to the scripts there are contracts and newspaper articles written by Melone.

Arrangement

The Lenka Peterson papers are organized into the following series:

Series I: Scripts, 1943-1996

Series II: Office Files, 1962-1994

Series III: Halsey Melone, 1957-1972

Key terms

Subjects

Scripts

Names

Peterson, Lenka

Container list

Series I: Scripts, 1943-1996

Series I holds scripts of shows Peterson was a part of, such as plays, musicals, episodic television shows, including soap operas, motion pictures and radio. Dates denote when the script was written, not necessarily when it was performed on the stage. Dates of television shows identify when it was taped. Television shows are listed alphabetically first, with the episode title included second. Some scripts have annotations. The folders titled "scenes" are pieces of larger works that Peterson used for auditions and when she was teaching. Alphabetical by title.

- b.1 f.1 *Adventures In Judaism*, undated
- b.1 f.2 *Against the Rising Sea*, 1989
- b.1 f.3 *Agnes of God*, undated
- b.1 f.4 *All For Love (or-The World Well Lost)*, undated
- b.1 f.5 *All My Sons*, undated
- b.1 f.6 *Amityville V: There Goes The Neighborhood*, 1991
- b.1 f.7 *Angel Street*, undated
- b.1 f.8 *Angelika Arms*, 1989
- b.1 f.9 *Anna*, 1989 (premiere episode)
- b.1 f.10 *Answer For Annie II*, 1990
- b.1 f.11 *The Apartment*, 1996
- b.1 f.12 *Apple's Way*, 1974 (The Awakening)
- b.1 f.13 *Arthur: The Musical*, 1989
- b.2 f.1 *Arts And Leisure*, 1996
- b.2 f.2 *At Fifty, She Discovered The Sea*, 1982
- b.2 f.3 *Autumn Elegy*, 1987
- b.2 f.4 *Awakenings*, 1989
- b.2 f.5-6 Audition Scenes, undated
- b.2 f.7 *Baby Boom: The Series*, 1988 (episode 1)
- b.2 f.8 *Beanpole*, 1989
- b.2 f.9 *Before The Rockets Red Glare*, 1985
- b.2 f.10 *Be Prepared*, undated
- b.2 f.11 *The Best Is Yet to Be*, 1975
- b.2 f.12 *The Bicycle Riders*, undated
- b.2 f.13 *Boardwalk Beat*, 1978
- b.2 f.14 *The Bone Ring*, 1986
- b.3 f.1-2 *Bosoms and Neglect*, 1978
- b.3 f.3 *The Boys of Sandra Hook*, 1996
- b.3 f.4 *The Brass Ring*, undated
- b.3 f.5 *The Bundle*, undated
- b.3 f.6 *Careless Love*, 1952
- b.3 f.7 *The CBS Radio Mystery Theater*, undated (*Ghost Talk*)
- b.3 f.8 *Civil Wars*, 1991 (*Oceans White With Phone*)
- b.3 f.9 *Claws*, 1991
- b.3 f.10 *Cliffhanger*, 1984

Series I: Scripts, 1943-1996

Series I holds s... (cont.)

- b.3 f.11 *A Child Is Born*, undated
- b.4 f.1 *Coconut Downs*, 1990
- b.4 f.2 *Cold Dog Soup*, 1988
- b.4 f.3 *Collected Stories*, 1996
- b.4 f.4 *Columbus Circle: A Midsummer Night's Dream*, undated
- b.4 f.5 *Coming Of Age*, 1988 (pilot)
- b.4 f.6 *Cosby Mysteries*, 1994 (*Expert Witness*)
- b.4 f.7 *Cosmopolitan Theatre #7*, 1951 (*I'll Be Right Home, Ma*)
- b.4 f.8 *Crazy For You*, undated
- b.4 f.9 *Crystal Pieces*, 1975
- b.4 f.10 *Custom of The Country*, 1985
- b.4 f.11 *Dalton*, 1985
- b.4 f.12 *The Dana Carvey Show*, 1996
- b.4 f.13 *David Copperfield*, undated
- b.5 f.1 *Days And Nights Of An Ice Cream Princess*, 1978
- b.5 f.2 *Daytrips*, 1990
- b.5 f.3 *Death Of A Salesman*, 1987
- b.5 f.4-5 *A Delicate Balance*, undated
- b.5 f.6 *The Devil's Dance House*, 1964
- b.5 f.7 *Diary of Anne Frank*, 1994
- b.5 f.8 *Dog Logic*, undated
- b.5 f.9 *Do I Dare Disturb the Universe?*, undated
- b.6 f.1 *Down By The Gravois*, undated
- b.6 f.2 *Dagnet 1987*, 1987
- b.6 f.3 *The Drapes Come*, undated
- b.6 f.4 *Dr. Ruth's House*, 1990 (*The Rhino Factor*)
- b.6 f.5 *Dynamo*, undated
- b.6 f.6 *The Eighties or Last Love*, 1982
- b.6 f.7 *El Bravo*, 1981
- b.6 f.8 *Eleemosynary*, 1985
- b.7 f.1 *End of The Day*, undated
- b.7 f.2 *End of The World*, undated
- b.7 f.3 *E.O.B.*, 1989 (*1 Mr. Smith goes to Washington*)
- b.7 f.4 *Esme's Little Nap*, 1991
- b.7 f.5 *The Evening Star*, 1995
- b.7 f.6 *The Eve of St. Mark*, 1943 (Omaha Community Playhouse)
- b.7 f.7 *Expatriate*, 1994
- b.7 f.8 *Face To The Wind*, undated
- b.7 f.9 *Family Values*, 1993

Series I: Scripts, 1943-1996

Series I holds s... (cont.)

- b.8 f.1 *Fatal Dosage*, 1988
- b.8 f.2 *The Father*, 1984
- b.8 f.3 *Father Dreams*, 1981
- b.8 f.4 *The Faun*, undated
- b.8 f.5 *The Fifth of July*, 1987
- b.8 f.6 *First Act*, undated
- b.8 f.7 *First Ladies Diaries*, 1975
- b.8 f.8 *Flight 981*, 1979
- b.8 f.9 *Former Things*, undated
General Hospital
- b.9 f.1 #6003, 1986
- b.9 f.2 #6006, 1986
- b.9 f.3 *Gilbert Grape*, 1992
- b.9 f.4 *Ghost Dance*, 1985
- b.9 f.5 *The Ghost Dancers*, undated
- b.9 f.6 *The Ghostman*, 1989
- b.9 f.7 *Going To Town*, 1987
- b.9 f.8 *Golden Pond*, undated
- b.9 f.9 *Golden Years*, 1991
- b.9 f.10 *Gulf War*, 1992
- b.9 f.11 *The Hasty Heart*, 1946
- b.10 f.1 *Helena: A Woman With A Dream*, 1989
- b.10 f.2 *High Wire: High Steel*, 1951
- b.10 f.3 *Hill Street Blues*, 1986 (Suitcase)
- b.10 f.4 *Home*, undated
- b.10 f.5 *Homer*, 1969
- b.10 f.6 *House Of Mercy*, undated
- b.10 f.7 *Ida's Song*, undated
- b.10 f.8 *Immorality Play*, undated
- b.10 f.9 *In Darkest America: A Triptych*, undated
- b.10 f.10 *In The Sweet Bye and Bye*, 1983
- b.11 f.1 *In Trouble With Harry*, 1919 (pilot)
- b.11 f.2 *Justin and Jack*, 1973
- b.11 f.3 *King of The Building*, 1986
Kojak
- b.11 f.4 *Cross Your Heart and Hope to Die*, 1974
- b.11 f.5 *The Newspaper Game*, 1976
- b.11 f.6 *L.A. Law*, 1988 (*Chariots of Meyer*)
- b.11 f.7 *The Lamb of God*, undated

Series I: Scripts, 1943-1996

Series I holds s... (cont.)

- b.11 f.8 *Larger Than Life*, undated
Law and Order
- b.11 f.9 *Star Struck*, 1991
- b.12 f.1 *Survivor*, 1996
- b.12 f.2-3 *Leaving Home*, 1972
- b.12 f.4 *Lentil*, undated
- b.12 f.5-8 *Lenya: Life to Legend*, 1983
- b.12 f.9 *Lethal Innocence*, 1991
- b.13 f.1 *Letting Go*, 1991
- b.13 f.2-3 *Levitations*, 1981
- b.13 f.4 *L'illustration*, undated
- b.13 f.5 *The Lion In Winter*, undated
- b.13 f.6 *Little Footsteps*, undated
- b.13 f.7-8 *Live Wire*, 1991
- b.13 f.9 *The Longest Walk*, 1983
- b.14 f.1 *Loon Dance*, 1982
- b.14 f.2 *The Love Child*, undated
- b.14 f.3 *The Love Contract*, undated
- b.14 f.4-5 *Love, Sidney*, 1981
- b.14 f.6 *Loving*, 1991 (#1991)
- b.14 f.7 *Lucas Tanner*, 1974 (*Winners and Losers*)
- b.14 f.8 *Madonna of The Powder Room*, 1982
- b.14 f.9 *The Man*, undated
- b.15 f.1 *Man Drowning*, 1957
- b.15 f.2 *Marvin's Room*, 1990
- b.15 f.3 *Mary Ann/Junius*, undated
- b.15 f.4 *The Masque of St. George and the Dragon*, undated
- b.15 f.5 *The Match*, undated
- b.15 f.6 *Me And My Girl*, 1984
- b.15 f.7 *Mitigating Circumstances*, 1980
- b.15 f.8 *Mommie-in-law Dearest*, 1994
- b.15 f.9 *The Mommy Market*, 1992
- b.15 f.10 *The Morgan Yard*, undated
- b.15 f.11 *Moscow Shadows*, 1989
- b.15 f.12 *Mothers In Prison*, 1986
- b.16 f.1 *Mount Nebo*, undated
- b.16 f.2 *The Mrs.*, 1990
- b.16 f.3 *Mrs. Winter*, undated
- b.16 f.4 *My Mother's Piano, My Father's Guitar and the Song of Solomon Grundy*, 1964

Series I: Scripts, 1943-1996

Series I holds s... (cont.)

- b.16 f.5 *My Sister Eileen*, 1942
- b.16 f.6 *Niedecker*, 1987
- b.16 f.7 *Night of the Dunces*, undated
- b.16 f.8 *Night Wind*, 1945
- b.16 f.9 *The November People*, 1976
- b.16 f.10 *The Nutt House*, 1989
- b.16 f.11 *Of Which Nothing is Left*, 1990
- b.16 f.12 *The Old Lady's Guide to Survival*, 1991
- b.16 f.13 *Old Women With Tambourines Dancing*, 1991
- b.17 f.1 *On The Boardwalk*, undated
- b.17 f.2 *Once In Arden*, 1990
- b.17 f.3-4 *Opposite Stages*, 1986 and 1995
- b.17 f.5 *Other People's Money*, 1989
- b.17 f.6-7 *Pals*, 1986
- b.17 f.8 *Passed Away*, 1991
- b.17 f.9 *Penguin Blues*, 1986
- b.18 f.1 *Piccola Memoria*, undated
- b.18 f.2 *Pigeon Feathers*, 1987
- b.18 f.3 *The Planets of the Years*, 1988
- b.18 f.4 *Play With a Dead Body*, undated
- b.18 f.5 *The Pure In Heart*, undated
- b.18 f.6 *Rachel Jackson's Diary*, 1976
- b.18 f.7 *Rain Snakes*, 1981
- b.18 f.8 *Sacrilege*, 1985
- b.18 f.9 *Saying Goodbye*, 1985
- b.18 f.10 *Scenes*, undated
- b.19 f.1-4 *Scenes*, undated
- b.19 f.5 *Senior Year*, 1973
- b.19 f.6 *The Silent Partner*, undated
- b.19 f.7 *Skin*, undated
- b.19 f.8 *The Skin Of Our Teeth*, 1951
- b.20 f.1 *Sleeping With The Enemy*, 1989
- b.20 f.2-3 *The Snow Queen*, 1990
- b.20 f.4 *Soloist*, undated
- b.20 f.5 *Sound of Music*, undated
- b.20 f.6 *Spoon River Anthology*, 1973
- b.20 f.7 *Standing Room Only*, 1990
- b.20 f.8 *Strindberg*, undated
- b.20 f.9 *Stuck*, undated

Series I: Scripts, 1943-1996

Series I holds s... (cont.)

- b.20 f.10 *Suddenly Among Strangers*, 1988
- b.21 f.1 *Suicide Prohibited in Springtime*, undated
- b.21 f.2 *The Sun Inside The Sun*, 1980
- b.21 f.3 *Red Pepper*, 1990
- b.21 f.4 *Remembrance*, undated
- b.21 f.5 *Road To Mecca*, undated
- b.21 f.6 Robert Redford Movie, undated
- b.21 f.7 *The Rookies*, 1974 (*The Saturday Night Special*)
- b.21 f.8 *Swing Kids*, 1991
- b.21 f.9 *Synexthesis*, undated
- b.21 f.10 *Threads*, 1981
- b.21 f.11 *Three Sons*, undated
- b.22 f.1 *The Third Day*, undated
- b.22 f.2 *Times Like These*, 1981
- b.22 f.3 *True Colors*, 1989 (pilot)
- United Methodist Women Assembly
 - b.22 f.4 1978
 - b.22 f.5-6 1982
- b.22 f.7-11 Untitled, undated
- b.22 f.12 *Visions*, 1976
- b.23 f.1 *War Games*, undated
- b.23 f.2 *Waiting For Godot*, 1978
- b.23 f.3 *We're No Angles*, 1987
- b.23 f.4 *The Whales of August*, 1980
- b.23 f.5 *Whattley By The Sea*, 1987 (pilot)
- b.23 f.6 *White River*, 1990
- b.23 f.7 *Wilderness Road*, 1969
- b.23 f.8-9 *Wings*, 1978
- b.23 f.10 *The Women In The Family*, undated
- b.23 f.11 *Woman of Achievement*, 1975
- b.24 f.1 *A Woman Without A Name*, 1984
- b.24 f.2 *Zits*, undated

Series II: Office Files, 1962-1994

Material includes correspondence, publicity, photographs, investments and playbills. Shows in this series do not include a script. The files usually have clippings, programs and other publicity. Alphabetical by subject.

- b.24 f.3 The Actor's Studio, 1979-1984
- b.24 f.4 *The Bone Ring*, undated
- b.24 f.5 *Cliffhanger*, undated

Series II: Office Files, 1962-1994

Material i... (cont.)

- b.24 f.6 Comaro, Claire, 1962
- b.24 f.7 Correspondence
- b.24 f.8 *Eleemosynary*, 1986
- b.24 f.9 *The End of The World With Symposium To Follow*, 1987
- b.24 f.10 *The Fifth of July*, 1986-1987 (Portland Stage Company)
- b.24 f.11 Lawyer-Duvallo, Harriet, undated
- b.24 f.12 Media Management Consultants, undated
- b.24 f.13 Miscellaneous, undated
- b.30 f.1 Music, undated
sheet music used by Peterson in musical *El Bravo*
- b.24 f.14 Philadelphia Drama Guild, 1983
- b.24 f.15 Photographs, undated (unknown production shots)
- b.24 f.16 Playbill, 1987-1988
Peterson attended performances and made annotations on her *Playbill* about the productions.
- b.25 f.1 Press Releases, 1976
- b.25 f.2 Publicity, undated
- b.25 f.3-4 *Quilters* and the Tony Awards, 1985
- b.25 f.5 Resume, undated
- b.30 f.2 Scrapbook, 1947-1951
programs, press releases, clippings and photographs
- b.25 f.6 The Second Stage, undated
- b.25 f.7 *The Song of Solomon Grundy*, 1965
- b.25 f.8 Theater Investment, 1982
- b.25 f.9 *Uncle Vanya*, 1994

Series III: Halsey Melone, 1957-1972

Halsey Melone (1923-1996) was a writer of television scripts, many of which are held in the Peterson collection. The material was donated by Peterson. There is no information as to why or how the material came to be in Peterson's possession. In addition to the scripts there are contracts and newspaper articles written by Melone. Alphabetical by subject.

- b.25 f.10 *And Practically Strangers*, 1958
- b.25 f.11 *The Best House In The Valley*, 1958
- b.25 f.12 Biography of Halsey Melone, 1996
Buckskin
- b.25 f.13 *Cash Robertson*, 1958
- b.25 f.14 *I'll Sing At Your Wedding*, 1959
- b.25 f.15 *The Paper Dancers*, 1958
Checkmate
- b.26 f.1 *The Last Possession*, 1960
- b.26 f.2 *The Princess In The Tower*, 1960
- b.26 f.3 Contracts for Halsey Melone

Series III: Halsey Melone, 1957-1972

Halsey M... (cont.)

- b.26 f.4 *A Different Banner*, undated
General Electric Theatre
- b.26 f.5 *Angel of Wrath*, 1957
- b.26 f.6 *The Bitter Choice*, 1957
- b.26 f.7 *The Coward of Fort Bennett*, 1958
Ronald Reagan portrayed one of the main characters
- b.26 f.8 *Korean Veteran Story*, 1960
- b.26 f.9 *Mrs. Kensington's Finest Hour*, 1957
- b.26 f.10 *Time To Go Now*, 1957
- b.27 f.1 Johnson, Walter, M.D., 1969 (magazine article written by Melone)
- b.27 f.2 *Landmark*, 1956
The Lawyer
- b.27 f.3 Pilot, 1957
- b.27 f.4 *A Slight Pressure In The Right Place*, 1960
- b.27 f.5 *The Long Green Adventure*, undated
- b.27 f.11 *The Long Green Adventure*, undated
- b.27 f.12 *The Manager*, 1969
newspaper article for Washington Post written by Melone
- b.27 f.13 *The Markham*, 1960 (*The Threat*)
- b.27 f.14 *Millionaire*, 1958 (*Norman Conover*)
- b.27 f.15-16 *The Ordeal of S-38*, 1957
- b.28 f.1 *The Path To The Spring*, 1956
- b.28 f.2-3 Paul Hill Chorale, 1972 (newspaper article written by Melone)
- b.28 f.4 *People Love Music Out of Our Past*, 1972 (newspaper article written by Melone)
- b.28 f.5 *The Rainbow*, 1962
The Restless Gun
- b.28 f.6 *General Gilford's Widow*, 1957
- b.28 f.7 *The Painted Beauty*, 1958
- b.28 f.8 *Woman From Sacramento*, 1958
Riverboat
- b.28 f.9 *The Donner Story*, 1959
- b.28 f.10 *A Night At Trapper's Landing*, 1959
- b.28 f.11 *The Shadow of An Eagle*, 1959
- b.28 f.12 *The Troop Carrier Story*, 1959
- b.29 f.1 *Ruditsky*, 1959 (based upon *Double Indemnity*)
- b.29 f.2 *The Seadragon Story*, 1957
- b.29 f.3 *The Sebastian Da Costa Story*, 1959
- b.29 f.4 *Suspicion*, 1957 (*Comfort For The Grave*)
- b.29 f.5 *Traveler's Exchange*, 1953

Series III: Halsey Melone, 1957-1972

Halsey M... (cont.)

- b.29 f.6 *Treemonisha*, 1972
- b.29 f.7 *Vera Brodsky Lawrence*, 1972
- b.29 f.8 *Wagon Train*, 1959 (*The Estaban Zamora Story*)
- b.29 f.9-10 *The Web*, undated
- b.29 f.11 *Whispering Smith*, 1959 (*The Hemp Reeger Case*)