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Billy Rose Theatre Division**

Guide to the
Mildred Sherman papers

1894-2000 (bulk 1930-1944)

*T-Mss 2001-046

Compiled by Sarah Wade, Pratt Institute, 2012, August 2012

Summary

Creator: Sherman, Mildred

Title: Mildred Sherman papers, 1894-2000 (bulk 1930-1944)

Size: 3.36 linear feet (8 boxes)

Source: Donated by Natalie Costa-Marron and Dorothy Dahl, July 2001.

Abstract: American dramatist and puppeteer, Mildred Sherman, was director of the Gellendré Theatre Studio in New York City from the 1940s to the mid-1960s. This collection contains correspondence, photographs, performance programs, press clippings, and scripts documenting Sherman's personal life and professional career.

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

Copyright information: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Preferred citation: Mildred Sherman papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: The collection was arranged alphabetically according to genre.

Creator history

Born in Seattle in October of 1903, Mildred Kate Huhn taught performance arts in Washington and Maine before co-founding the Repertory Playhouse Associates in 1931 with her first husband, Herbert Victor Gellendré. Sherman and Gellendré met while both were dramatic directors at The Cornish School in Seattle. The Repertory Playhouse Associates ran a number of theatres in New York and New England, including the Gellendré Theatre Studio of New York City; The Keene Summer Theatre in Keene, New Hampshire; and The Gellendré Country Theatre in Goshen, Connecticut. Huhn and Gellendré continued to work together through their divorce in 1955. After their formal separation, Huhn opened her own actors studio in New York, which she ran until 1965.

Huhn remarried vaudeville actor Joseph T. Sherman in May of 1957 in Maryland. Soon after, the couple moved to Lahaska, Pennsylvania, where they opened a restaurant in 1965 called The Soup Tureen. Sherman died in 2000.

Scope and content note

The Mildred Sherman papers include biographical materials, correspondence, screenplays, photographs, and subject files that document her personal life and professional career as a performing arts instructor. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence and annotated script excerpts Sherman used during her years as a drama teacher. Nearly all of the letters were written to Sherman by her first husband and theatre partner, Herbert Gellendré, and contain information about their professional and personal lives together. Also in the collection are two scripts written by Gellendré.

Biographical materials are comprised of Sherman's marriage certificates, performance programs, press clippings, and resumes. Subject files are made up of press clippings, correspondence, and photographs pertaining to Sherman's former pupils, actors with whom Sherman worked in Seattle and New York, and typed notes on the history of theatre. The miscellaneous file includes artwork, postcards, and greeting cards.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged alphabetically by format.

Key terms

Subjects

Puppeteers

Women dramatists

Names

Cornish School of Allied Arts (Seattle, Wash.)

Sherman, Mildred

Special formats

Scripts (documents)

Container list

- b.1 f.1-2 Biographical Materials, 1894-2000
- b.1 f.3-8 Correspondence, 1919-1937
- b.2 f.1-6 Correspondence, 1937-1989
- b.2 f.7-8 Photographs, undated
- b.3 f.1 Miscellaneous
 - Script Excerpts
- b.3 f.2 *Ah, Wilderness!*
- b.3 f.3 *Alice In Wonderland*
- b.3 f.4 *All on a Summer's Day*
- b.3 f.5 *Angel Play*
- b.3 f.6 *Antigone by Sophocles*
- b.3 f.7 *The Apple Cart* by George Bernard Shaw
- b.3 f.8 *As You Like It*
- b.3 f.9 *At the Junction* by Rachel Field
- b.3 f.10 *Back from "Yurru"* by Mark Twain
- b.3 f.11 *The Bear*
- b.3 f.12 *Beyond the Horizon* by Eugene O'Neill
- b.3 f.13 *The Birdcatcher in Hell*
- b.3 f.14 *Birthday of the Infanta*
- b.3 f.15 *Birthday Party* by Hjalmar Bergstrom
- b.3 f.16 *Blackberryin'*
- b.3 f.17 *Bride of the Lamb*
- b.3 f.18 *The Bridegroom Waits*
- b.3 f.19 *The Bridge*
- b.3 f.20 *The Brownie Bush* by Marjorie Barrows
- b.3 f.21 *Caesar and Cleopatra* by George Bernard Shaw
- b.3 f.22 *Celestial Meeting* by Clive Sansom
- b.3 f.23 *Cinderella*
- b.3 f.24 *Cinderella Operetta*
- b.3 f.25 *The Comical Fairy Tale*
- b.3 f.26 *Creatures of Impulse* by W. S. Gilbert
- b.3 f.27 *Darby and Joan*
- b.3 f.28 *Encounter With an Interviewer* by Mark Twain
- b.3 f.29 *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
- b.3 f.30 *Far-Off Hills*
- b.4 f.1 *Fiddlers in the Forest*
- b.4 f.2 *First Warning*
- b.4 f.3 *First White Woman*
- b.4 f.4 *For the Love of Michael*

Script Excerpts (cont.)

- b.4 f.5 *Fortunata Writes a Letter* by Theodore Apstein
- b.4 f.6 *Free Speech* by William L. Prosser
- b.4 f.7 *Frog's Folly*
- b.4 f.8 *The Genius* by Hsiung Foo-Hsi
- b.4 f.9 *Ghosts*
- b.4 f.10 *The Gift Perfect* by Evelyn Wentworth Billiggs
- b.4 f.11 *The Gorgon's Head*
- b.4 f.12 *Majesty The King* by Florence Ryerson Clements and Colin Clements
- b.4 f.13 *Holy Night* by Gregorio Martinez Sierra
- b.4 f.14 *A Husband for Breakfast* by Ronald Elwy Mitchell
- b.4 f.15 *In Her Defense* by Sarah Moore Traylor
- b.4 f.16 *Jack and the Beanstalk*
- b.4 f.17 *Jealousy of Barbouille* by Molière
- b.4 f.18 *Julius Caesar*
- b.4 f.19 *Kings' Messengers* by Katharine S. Brown and Glenna Smith Tinnin
- b.4 f.20 *Lavender and Red Pepper* by Ruth Girloff
- b.4 f.21 *Lost Children* by D. Nichols
- b.4 f.22 *Make-up and Live* by George Milton Savage, Junior
- b.5 f.1 *The No'Count Boy* by Paul Green
- b.5 f.2 *No Smoking* by Jacinto Benavente
- b.5 f.3 *Noughts and Crosses*
- b.5 f.4 *Op O Me Thumb*
- b.5 f.5 *Opportunity* by R. J. McGregor
- b.5 f.6 *The Parrot* by Bernard Sobel
- b.5 f.7 *Les Pattes de Mouche* by Victorien Sardou
- b.5 f.8 *Peter Rabbit*
- b.5 f.9 *Petticoat Fever*
- b.5 f.10 *The Pipe in the Fields*
- b.5 f.11 *Plain and Fancy*
- b.5 f.12 *Portrait of a Gentleman in Slippers*
- b.5 f.13 *Power of Darkness*
- b.5 f.14 *Les Precieuses Ridicules* by Molière
- b.5 f.15 *The Prince Who Learned Everything Out of Books* by Jacinto Benavente
- b.5 f.16 *Purple Door-Knob* by Walter Prichard Eaton
- b.5 f.17 *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw
- b.5 f.18 *Queens of France* by Thornton Wilder

Script Excerpts (cont.)

- b.5 f.19 *The Rainmaker* by Richard Nash
- b.5 f.20 *Return of the Emigrant* by Mazo de la Roche
- b.5 f.21 *Rise Up and Come Away...*
- b.5 f.22 *Roadhouse in Arden* by Philip Moeller
- b.5 f.23 *A Rogue in Bed* by Ronald Elwy Mitchell
- b.5 f.24 *Romeo and Juliet*
- b.5 f.25 *Saturday Market* by Louise Sublette Perry
- b.5 f.26 *Seed of Hojo*
- b.5 f.27 *Seven Women* by James Barrie
- b.6 f.1 *The Slippers of Cinderella* by W. Graham Robertsony
- b.6 f.2 *Song for a Hero* by Lee Schaefer
- b.6 f.3 *Staring Match*
- b.6 f.4 *The Straw*
- b.6 f.5 *Suddenly Peter* by Wilson Ware
- b.6 f.6 *Taming of the Shrew*
- b.6 f.7 *Taps: A Drama of our Time* by Herbert Gellendré
- b.6 f.8 *Ten Minutes by the Clock* by Alice C. D. Riley
- b.6 f.9 *The Test* by Loretta Capell Tobey
- b.6 f.10 *The Three Bears*
- b.6 f.11 *Three Men on a Horse*
- b.6 f.12 *Tickless Time* by Susan Glaspell and George Cram Cook
- b.6 f.13 *Today - the World...* by Herbert Gellendré
- b.6 f.14 *Tooth or Shave* by Josephina Niggli
- b.6 f.15 *Trial of Mary Dugan*
- b.6 f.16 *Two Against the Gods*
- b.6 f.17 *The Two Shepherds* by Gregorio Martinez Sierra
- b.6 f.18 *Welsh Honeymoon* by Jeannette Marks
- b.6 f.19 *Where But in America* by Oscar M. Wolff
- b.6 f.20 *The Wonder Hat*
- b.6 f.21 *Wurzel-Flummery* by A. A. Milne

Subject Files, 1922-1999

- b.7 f.1-2 The Cornish School, 1922-1994
 - Former Pupils
 - b.7 f.3 General, undated
 - b.7 f.4 Cortese, Alda, 1981
 - b.7 f.5 Costa, Natalie, 1964-1990

Subject Files, 1922-1999 (cont.)

Former Pupils (cont.)

- b.7 f.6 Gubelman, Martha and Herb, 1977-1998
- b.7 f.7 Magaro, Polli, 1973-1990
- b.7 f.8 Moore, Carey Calvert, 1981-1989
- b.7 f.9 Gellendré, Herbert V., 1936-1975
- b.7 f.10 Gellendré Studio, 1942-1964
- b.8 f.1 Gellendré Studio, 1942-1964
- b.8 f.2 Jilinsky, Andrius, undated
- b.8 f.3 Moscow Art Theatre, undated
- b.8 f.4 Pittsburgh Playhouse, 1935-1991
- b.8 f.5 The Puppet Players, 1931
- b.8 f.6-8 Repertory Playhouse Associates, 1931-1951
- b.8 f.9 Russian Connections, 1957-1999
- b.8 f.10 Scene Library, undated
- b.8 f.11 Soloviova, Vera, 1964-1977
- b.8 f.12 Stagecraft, undated