Summary

**Creator:** The Cubiculo Theatre

**Title:** Cubiculo Theatre records, 1968-1977

**Size:** 1.26 linear feet (3 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Elaine Sulka, July 1987.

**Abstract:** The Cubiculo Theatre opened in 1968 as an off-off Broadway experimental theater and home for the National Shakespeare Company. This collection consists of fliers, press releases, programs, and reviews that record the various dance, theater, poetry, music, and multimedia performances held at the theater from 1968 to 1977. The collection also includes correspondence, biographical information on artists, and a few photographs.

**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:** Cubiculo Theatre records, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** The items were kept in their original folders with new folders added as needed. The collection was arranged alphabetically by performance type and then document type.

**Related collections**

**Creator history**
In 1968, Philip Meister (1932-1982) and Elaine Sulka (1933-1994) opened the Cubiculo Theatre in a Hell’s Kitchen brownstone in New York City. Meister and Sulka, who were married, co-founded the National Shakespeare Company in 1962, a touring troupe that presented plays at schools and universities across the country. The Cubiculo served as a home for the National Shakespeare Company as well as an off-off Broadway experimental theater. Meister named the theater after a line from Shakespeare’s play Twelfth Night and also as a reference to the cubical shape of the theater.
Meister and Sulka ran “The Cube,” as it was known, as a nonprofit with the help of John T. Dudich and then Maurice Edwards, who served as program coordinators. Programming included experimental plays, films, music, poetry, choreography, dance, and mixed media performances. They billed The Cube as a showcase theater, a place where artists could try out new ideas and works in an atmosphere that encouraged creativity and growth. The spaces, a seventy-five seat theater and a studio theater, were given to artists rent-free with promotion and lighting included. The Cubiculo fostered the careers of many artists including playwright Israel Horovitz.

In 1969 the Cubiculo was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and later one from the New York States Arts Council. Philip Meister died in 1982 and Elaine Sulka continued to run the theater until her death in 1994.

**Scope and content note**
The Cubiculo Theatre records document the programming of the theater from 1968 to 1977. The collection consists of programs, fliers, press releases, and some press reviews. Other items include correspondence with poets, playwrights, and other arts professionals, information on casts and crews of productions, and a few photographs. Some handmade promotional posters and signs are also included in the collection.

Play files consist of biographical and contact information on the cast and crew, press releases, fliers, programs, correspondence, and notes.

**Arrangement**
The collection was arranged alphabetically by performance type and then document type. The play files were arranged alphabetically by title.

**Key terms**

**Subjects**
Experimental Theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Off Off-Broadway Theater
Theater management
Theaters -- New York (State)

**Names**
Edwards, Maurice, 1922-
Horovitz, Israel
Meister, Phillip
Sulka, Elaine, 1933-1994
The Cubiculo Theatre

**Special formats**
Fliers (Printed matter)
Photographs
Press releases
Container list

Dance
b.1 f.1 The Cubiculo Dance Theater of New York, 1971
b.1 f.2 Fliers and Programs, undated

Films
b.1 f.3 Press Releases, 1971-1973
b.1 f.4 Programs, 1968-1973
b.1 f.5 Mixed Media, 1971-1973
b.1 f.6 Music--Press Releases and Programs, 1971-1974

Poetry
b.1 f.7 Correspondence, 1969-1973
b.1 f.8 Fliers and Programs, 1968-1974
b.1 f.9 Press Releases, 1971-1973

Theater
b.1 f.10 Children’s Theater, 1972
b.1 f.11 Correspondence with Playwrights, 1969-1973

Play Files
b.1 f.12 Ain’t That A Shame by Joe Renard, 1975
b.1 f.13 An American Odyssey by Stevenson Philips, undated
b.1 f.14 Attempted Rescue on Avenue 13 by Megan Terry, 1975
b.1 f.15 Big Red and Little Blue by Gary Martin and The Petition by Don Flynn, undated
b.1 f.16 Blood Wedding by Frederico Garcia Lorca, undated
b.1 f.17 Boxes: Three One Act Plays by Gary Martin, 1975
b.1 f.18-20 Brandeis Workshop of New Plays by Israel Horovitz, undated

b.2 f.1 Circus by Martin Calabrese, undated
b.2 f.2 Clytemnestra by Elaine Sulka, 1976
b.2 f.3 The Dark Moon and the Full and Sunday Morning Bright and Early by Joe Hart, undated
b.2 f.4 Dr. Hero by Israel Horovitz, 1976
b.2 f.5 A Drink at the Well by Alt Macdemot and Norman Matlock, undated
b.2 f.6 Duets of Drama from two New Plays by Jacqueline Berger and Jack Hofflander, 1976
b.2 f.7 El Gran Juan Wayne by Bob Santana, undated
b.2 f.8 Falling Apart by Monte Merrick, 1975-1976
b.2 f.9 The First, the Last and the Middle by Israel Horovitz, undated
b.2 f.10 Fits, Seizures and Small Complaints by the Gelosi Company, 1976
b.2 f.11 Founding Father by Amlin Gray, 1976
b.2 f.12 A Gallery of Reflections produced by Laurence Holder, 1976
b.2 f.13 A Good Old-Fashioned Review, 1975
b.2 f.14 Heartbreak House by George Bernard Shaw, undated
b.2 f.15 Holy Ghosts by Romulus Linney, 1976
b.2 f.16 The Home by Kent Anderson and Bengt Bratt, 1976
In Between by Albert Loftus, 1977
Judas by Robert Patrick, undated
A Mark Twain Medley and Spoon River Anthology by New York Theater Company, undated
The Memoirs of Charlie Pops by Joseph Hart, 1975
Mr. McMannis, What Time is it? by William Schlottmann, 1976
Nobody Heard the Lions Roar by Leslie Holzer, 1977
Oh by Sandro Key-Aberg, undated
Once and for All by Robert Gordon, undated
One Man Shows by Brian D. Barnes and Mike Miller, undated
People from Division Street by Studs Terkel, 1975
Play Reading Series, 1970
Rafferty One by One by Rolf G. Fjelde, undated
The Recruiting Officer by George Farquhar, 1977
Reflections by David Nunemaker, 1976
The Rise and Fall of Burlesque Humor by Dick Poston, 1974
Stick of Incense and Madam Zodiac by Michael McGrinder, undated
Sword Play by Leon Rooke, undated
Terrible Jim Fitch by James Leo Herlihy and Surviving the Barbed Wire Cradle by Francine Storey, 1975
Things are Getting Better by Van Joyce, undated
Two Many Thumbs by Robert Hivnor, undated
The Seagull by Anton Chekov, 1974
Spoon River Anthology, 1976
Wild Man of Borneo and Holmes and Moriarty by Allan Sternfield, undated
Press Clippings, 1969-1972
Press Releases, 1972-1973
Programs and Posters, 1969-1974
Reviews, 1974-1977