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**New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center**  
**Billy Rose Theatre Division**

Guide to the  
**Cubiculo Theatre records**

1968-1977

\*T-Mss 1987-014

Compiled by Boni Joi Koelliker, Pratt, 2013, August 2012

## **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**

Cubiculo records, 1970-1977. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

## **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

Theater (cont.)

Play Files (cont.)

- b.2 f.17 *In Between* by Albert Loftus, 1977
- b.2 f.18 *Judas* by Robert Patrick, undated
- b.2 f.19 *A Mark Twain Medley and Spoon River Anthology* by New York Theater Company, undated
- b.2 f.20 *The Memoirs of Charlie Pops* by Joseph Hart, 1975
- b.2 f.21 *Mr. McMannis, What Time is it?* by William Schlottmann, 1976
- b.2 f.22 *Nobody Heard the Lions Roar* by Leslie Holzer, 1977
- b.2 f.23 *Oh* by Sandro Key-Aberg, undated
- b.2 f.24 *Once and for All* by Robert Gordon, undated
- b.2 f.25 *One Man Shows* by Brian D. Barnes and Mike Miller, undated
- b.2 f.26 *Pulling Stumps and Kaaka-Makaakoo* by Tone Brulin and the Otrabanda Company, 1970-1972
- b.2 f.27 *People from Division Street* by Studs Terkel, 1975
- b.2 f.28 Play Reading Series, 1970
- b.2 f.29 *Rafferty One by One* by Rolf G. Fjelde, undated
- b.2 f.30 *The Recruiting Officer* by George Farquhar, 1977
- b.2 f.31 *Reflections* by David Nunemaker, 1976
- b.2 f.32 *The Rise and Fall of Burlesque Humor* by Dick Poston, 1974
- b.2 f.33 *Stick of Incense and Madam Zodiac* by Michael McGrinder, undated
- b.2 f.34 *Sword Play* by Leon Rooke, undated
- b.2 f.35 *Terrible Jim Fitch* by James Leo Herlihy and *Surviving the Barbed Wire Cradle* by Francine Storey, 1975
- b.2 f.36 *Things are Getting Better* by Van Joyce, undated
- b.2 f.37 *Two Many Thumbs* by Robert Hivnor, undated
- b.2 f.38 *The Seagull* by Anton Chekov, 1974
- b.2 f.39 *Spoon River Anthology*, 1976
- b.2 f.40 *Wild Man of Borneo* and *Holmes and Moriarty* by Allan Sternfield, undated
- b.2 f.41-42 Press Clippings, 1969-1972
- b.3 f.1-2 Press Releases, 1972-1973
- b.3 f.3-6 Programs and Posters, 1969-1974
- b.3 f.7 Reviews, 1974-1977