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Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Christopher Chadman papers

1970-1993

*T-Mss 1996-009

Compiled by David A. Olson, New York University/Palmer School of Library and Information Science,
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Summary

Creator: Chadman, Christopher

Title: Christopher Chadman papers, 1970-1993

Size: 2.31 linear feet (6 boxes)

Source: Unknown.

Abstract: The Christopher Chadman papers document the professional career of the Broadway dancer and choreographer from the 1970s to the 1990s. The collection contains scripts, notes, and diagrams for productions with which Chadman was involved, including Pal Joey, Pippin, Big Deal, Dancin', and the award-winning Guys and Dolls. Also included are drafts of script for You Made Me Love You, a play about Al Jolson that Chadman collaborated on with Frank Rembach.

Access: 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, New York Public Library.

Preferred citation: Christopher Chadman papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: The materials came to the library in binders and envelopes but lacked collection-wide order. Production names, dates, and additional description were retained or added when materials were rehoused in archival folders.

Creator history

Christopher Chadman (circa 1948-1995) was a Broadway dancer and choreographer. He was born in the Bronx and attended the High School of Performing Arts in New York. His Broadway debut was in Darling of the Day in 1968, and in 1976 he played the title role in a revival of Pal Joey.

Chadman found a mentor in Bob Fosse, with whom he worked on a number of productions including Dancin', Chicago, and Big Deal. In 1992, Chadman choreographed an award-winning revival of Guys and Dolls. He was also involved in regional and touring theatrical productions and films. Chadman died in 1995 in Manhattan.

Scope and content note

The Christopher Chadman papers document the professional life of the Broadway dancer and choreographer from the 1970s to the 1990s. The collection contains scripts, notes, and stage diagrams for productions with which Chadman was involved. Productions include Pippin, Pal Joey, Big Deal, Dancin', and the award-winning Guys and Dolls. Chadman's extensive annotations give insight into his working methods.

Also included are drafts of script about Al Jolson, alternately referred to as You Made Me Love You and Jolson, which Chadman collaborated on with Frank Rembach in the late 1980s. It is unclear whether this play, for which Rembach was the writer and Chadman was to be director, ever made it to the stage. There is also a folder of notes imagining a production for Chita Rivera that appears unrelated to the Chadman/Rivera production Merlin.

Arrangement

Folders are arranged alphabetically.

Key terms

Subjects

Choreography

Dance

Musicals

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Names

Chadman, Christopher

Special formats

Scripts (documents)

Container list

- b.1 f.1 *Aladdin*, 1993
- b.1 f.2 *Applause*, 1970
- b.1 f.3-6 *Big Deal*, 1985
- b.2 f.1-4 *Big Deal*, 1985-1986
- b.2 f.5 *Carnival*, undated
- b.2 f.6-7 *Dancin'*, 1978
- b.3 f.1-4 *Dancin'*, 1978-1980
- b.3 f.5 *Guys and Dolls*, 1992
- b.3 f.6 *The Jeffersons*, 1981
- b.3 f.7 Musical Theater Scene Study--Sides and Notebook, undated
- b.4 f.1-2 *On the Town*, 1993
- b.4 f.3 *Pal Joey*, 1976
- b.4 f.4 *Pippin*, 1972
- b.4 f.5 Rivera, Chita, undated
- Tonight at 8:30 by Noel Coward (Lincoln Center Theater Events)
- b.4 f.6 Evening One: *Hands Across the Sea*, *The Astonished Heart*, and *Red Peppers*, undated
- b.4 f.7 Evening Two: *We Were Dancing*, *Fumed Oak*, and *Shadow Play*, undated
- b.4 f.8 Evening Three: *Ways and Means*, *Still Life*, and *Family Album*, undated
- b.5 f.1-7 *You Made Me Love You*, 1986-1988
- b.6 f.1-4 *You Made Me Love You*, 1986-1988