

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

Guide to the

## **Phil Friedman papers**

1805-1979

\*T-Mss-2004-019

Compiled by Robyn Hjernstad, August 2013

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Friedman, Phil, 1921-1988

**Title:** Phil Friedman papers, 1805-1979

**Size:** .67 linear foot (2 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by the Museum of the City of New York, 2004.

**Abstract:** Philburn (Phil) Friedman (1921-1988) was an American stage manager. Friedman managed numerous Broadway and West Coast theater productions, many of them musicals, including *Kismet* (1953), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (1961), *Pippin* (1972), *Chicago* (1975), and *Dancin'* (1978). He worked with director, writer, and choreographer Bob Fosse for nearly 15 years, and played the part of the stage manager in Fosse's 1979 autobiographical film, *All That Jazz*. He also worked extensively with directors Cy Feuer and Abe Burrows. The Phil Friedman papers (1805-1979) document Friedman's general interest in theater and to some extent, his work as a stage manager. The collection holds programs, telegrams, photographs, biographical material, and scrapbooks containing images of stage actors from the early 1900s.

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

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

**Preferred citation:** Phil Friedman papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Custodial history:** This collection was part of a larger gift from the Museum of the City of New York to the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts in 2004.

**Processing note:** Original order was maintained when apparent, and loose material placed into folders.

## Creator history

Philburn (Phil) Friedman (1921-1988) was an American stage manager. Friedman managed numerous Broadway and West Coast theater productions, many of them musicals, including *Kismet* (1953), *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (1961), *Pippin* (1972), *Chicago* (1975), and *Dancin'* (1978). He worked with director, writer, and choreographer Bob Fosse for nearly 15 years, and played the part of the stage manager in Fosse's 1979 autobiographical film, *All That Jazz*. He also worked extensively with directors Cy Feuer and Abe Burrows.

in 1986, Phil Friedman was awarded the Del Hughes Award for Lifetime Achievement in Stage Management. He died in Manhattan in 1988. His sister, Annette Trubowitsch, wrote his biography, *Back Stages with the Production Manager: The Biography of Philburn Friedman*, in 1993.

## Scope and content note

The Phil Friedman papers contain programs, telegrams, photographs, biographical material, and scrapbooks containing images of stage actors during the early 1900s. The material documents Friedman's general interest in theater and to some extent, his work as a stage manager.

The telegrams date from the 1960s to the 1970s and were sent to Friedman at various theaters; they are mostly good luck-notes or notes of congratulation from friends and colleagues on the opening nights of shows. The photographs and programs may be Friedman's personal belongings from childhood. The photographs depict portraits of actors from the 1910s to the 1920s. Programs from the National Theatre in Washington, D.C. are present and date from the 1920s to the 1930s. Programs from the early 1900s include *Brother Officers* (1900), *If I Were King* (1901), and *Alice of Old Vincennes* (1902). One program for *How to Succeed at Business without Really Trying*, a production for which Friedman was stage manager, is also present.

The biographical material consists of files from Friedman's education, and include worksheets and notes on acting techniques and speech and diction. Typewritten scripts, narratives, and poems written by Friedman and others are also present.

The scrapbooks contain clippings of images of actors; some of them are colored. The photographs are labeled with the actor's name and role in a given production. There are several scrapbook pages dedicated to Eleanor Robson (Belmont), Kyrle Bellew, and Ethel Barrymore. Two *Burr McIntosh Monthly* magazines (1904-1905) are also present, in addition to an 1805 publication of *The Theatric Tourist*.

## Arrangement

Material is arranged chronologically.

## Key terms

### Subjects

Theater -- United States

### Occupations

Stage Managers

### Names

Friedman, Phil, 1921-1988

**Special formats**

Photographs

Poems

Scrapbooks

Scripts (documents)

Telegrams

Theater programs

## **Container list**

b.1 f.1-10 1805-1979

b.2 1900-1930 (scrapbooks)