

**THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
BILLY ROSE THEATRE COLLECTION**

Luther Adler, 1903-1984
Papers, [1890]-1984
2 linear feet

**Encoding and updating of this finding aid sponsored by grant funding from
The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation.**

***T-Mss 1986-003
RS / MER
Upd Dec 1998**

Introduction

The Luther Adler Collection was donated to The Billy Rose Theatre Collection, The New York Public Library, December 1986, by Mr. Adler's niece Lulla Adler Rosenfeld.

The material arrived in good condition but in no particular order. It has been arranged alphabetically within individual series. Duplicates have been removed from the collection.

Arrangement

The collection is organized alphabetically, cataloged individually by correspondent and subject, and is comprised of the following series:

- I. Correspondence 1919-1983
- II. Productions 1918-1970
- III. Group Theatre 1931-1940
- IV. Programs and clippings 1915-1972
- V. Personal and Professional Photographs [1890]-1984

Biographical Note

Luther Adler was born May 4, 1903 in New York City. His parents, Jacob P. and Sarah Adler, were stars of the Yiddish Theatre. Luther joined his parents, brothers and sisters on the stage when he was 5 years old.

He was married in 1938 to Sylvia Sidney (marriage dissolved 1947). They had a son in 1940, Jacob Luther (Jody), who died in 1985. Mr. Adler married Julia Hadley Roche in 1959. She died in 1986.

Mr. Adler was a founding member of the Group Theatre and appeared in many of their productions.

Through the years Mr. Adler appeared in over 50 productions on Broadway, in stock and on tour. His most celebrated performances were in *A Flag is Born*, *Golden Boy*, *Awake and Sing*, *The Passion of Joseph D.* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. He also directed productions of *Jane Eyre*, *Angel Street* and *A View from the Bridge*.

Mr. Adler made his film debut in 1937 and appeared in over 25 films, notably *Cornered*, *D.O.A.*, *The Last Angry Man*, *Cast a Giant Shadow*, *The Brotherhood* and *Voyage of the Damned*. He also appeared in over 25 productions on television. Mr. Adler died December 8, 1984.

Scope and Content Note

The Luther Adler papers contains clippings, contracts, correspondence, photographs, programs, scripts and other material. It measures 2 linear feet and is stored in 5 boxes.

The material documents Mr. Adler's career as star of stage, screen and television. It includes correspondence about Mr. Adler's problems with blacklisting (box 1, folder #3). His involvement with the Group Theatre (box 4) also appears throughout the collection. The material includes information about his family both on and off the stage.

CONTAINER LISTING

I. CORRESPONDENCE [1919-1983]			#OF ITEMS	DATES
<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>		
1	1	Adler, Celia	1	n.d.
	2	Adler, Charles	1	1950
	3	Adler, Frances	2	n.d.
	4	Adler, Jacob P.	4	1919
	5	Adler, Jay	1	n.d.
	6	Adler, Jody	2	1943,1957
	7	Adler, Julia	1	n.d.
	8	Adler, Julie	5	n.d.
	9	Biow, Milton H.	1	1938
	10	The Brotherhood	3	1967
	11	Clurman, Harold	2	1939,1965
	12	Curtis, Tony & Janet Leigh	1	1956
	13	Davies, Ann	1	1967
	14	<i>Death of a Salesman</i>	2	1960
	15	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> (telegrams)	30	1965
	16	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> (from cast)	19	1967
	17	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> (fan mail)	61	1965-1967
	18	<i>A Flag is Born</i>	5	1946
	19	Gabel, Martin	1	1945
	20	Gary, Harold	1	1965
	21	Gaston, Ken	1	1965
	22	Gates, Larry	1	1966
	23	Guthrie, Tyrone (Sir)	3	1946
	24	Hecht, Ben	3	1946-1948
	25	Hughes, Tresa	2	1984
	26	Hurst, Fannie	1	n.d.
	27	Illinois Institute of Technology	2	1968,1970
	28	Jaffe, Sam	2	n.d.,1983

29	Jason, Mitchell	1	n.d.
30	Kazan, Elia	3	n.d.
31	Kennedy, Robert F.	1	1965
32	Kintner, Robert E.	1	1954
33	Kupcinet, Irv	2	1951,1967
34	Lord, Jack	2	n.d.,1975
35	Los Angeles City Council	1	1984
36	Lurie, Louis R.	1	1967
37	<i>The Magic Face</i>	10	1951-1956
38	Meisner, Sanford	1	n.d.
39	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> (telegrams)	54	1953
40	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> (personal)	10	1951-1953
41	Moog, Heinz	1	1951
42	Nederlander, James M.	1	1967
43	Price, Raymond K. Jr.	1	1965
44	Prince, Harold	13	1965-1967
45	Raphaelson, Dorshka	1	1976
46	Richardson, Don	2	n.d.
47	Richman, Peter Mark	3	n.d.
48	Robbins, Jerome	1	n.d.
49	Rosenfeld, Lulla Adler	1	n.d.
50	Sidney, Sylvia	2	n.d.
51	Sloan, Grenna	1	1953
52	Szyk, Arthur	1	1948
53	Theatre Blacklisting	13	1952-1964
54	Thrasher, Ethelyn R.	2	1960,1965
55	Vaughn, Robert	2	1969
56	<i>A Very Special Baby</i>	2	1956
57	<i>A View from the Bridge</i> (business)	17	1957-1960
58	<i>A View from the Bridge</i> (controversy)	26	1960
59	Zorich, Louis	1	1965

60 Miscellaneous 30 1926-1983

II. PRODUCTIONS [1918-1970]

			# of items	Dates
<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>		
2	1	<i>Angel Street</i> -sides	1	1955
	2	<i>Anna Christie</i> -sides and box office Statement	2	1962
	3	<i>Awake and Sing</i> -sides	1	1935
	4	<i>Brecht on Brecht</i> -sides	1	1963
	5	<i>The Brotherhood</i> - agreement	1	1967
	6	<i>Common Ground</i> -sides	1	1945
	7	<i>Death of a Salesman</i> - Contract and box office statements	2	1960
	8	<i>Death of a Salesman</i> -sides	2	1960
	9	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> - agreement and notes	2	1967
	10	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> -script	1	1965-1967
	11	<i>A Flag is Born</i> -script	2	1947
	12	<i>A Flag is Born</i> -invoice	1	1948
	13	<i>A Flag is Born</i> -script	1	after 1964
	14	<i>The Happy Time</i> - Sides and Box office statement	2	1962
	15	<i>Humoresque</i> -contract	1	1922
	16	<i>Inherit The Wind</i> - sides and salary statement	2	1961
	17	<i>The Love Feast</i> -script	1	1918

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u># of Items</u>	<u>Dates</u>
3	1	<i>The Magic Face</i> - publicity release and travel pass	2	1951

2	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> - contract and notes	3	1920-1953
3	<i>A Month in the Country</i> -sides	1	1956
4	<i>The Price</i> -script	1	1970
5	<i>Reclining Figure</i> -agreement	1	1956
6	<i>Rocket to the Moon</i> -notes	1	1938
7	<i>Street Scene</i> -contract	1	1929
8	<i>The Swan Song</i> -script	1	n.d.
9	<i>The Time of the Cuckoo</i> -script	1	1954
10	<i>A Very Special Baby</i> -contract	1	1956
11	<i>A Very Special Baby</i> -script	3	1956
12	<i>A Very Special Baby</i> -sides	1	1956
13	<i>A View from the Bridge</i> -agreement	1	1960
14	<i>A View from the Bridge</i> -sides	1	1960
15	<i>A View from the Bridge</i> - box office statements	1	1960
16	Miscellaneous contracts	2	1920,1928
17	Unidentified script	1	n.d.
18	Unidentified drawings	2	n.d.

III. THE GROUP THEATRE [1931-1940]

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u># of Items</u>	<u>Dates</u>
4	1	The Group Theatre	5	1931-1940
	2	The Group Theatre- Organization and Activities	2	1931-1940
	3	The Group Theatre- The Flying Grouse (journal)	2	1931-1940

IV. PROGRAMS AND CLIPPINGS [1915-1972]

4	4	Adler Family- programs and clippings	11	1930-1931
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5	Adler, Jacob P.- programs and clippings	12	1915-1926
6	Adler, Luther- clippings	41	1935-1972

V. PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS [1890]-1984

5	1	Adler, Celia	1
	2	Adler, Charles	2
	3	Adler, Frances	2
	4	Adler, Jacob P. – personal and professional	36
	5	Adler, Jay	2
	6	Adler, Julia	3
	7	Adler, Luther (personal)	71
	8	Adler, Luther (professional)	31
	9	Adler, Sarah	6
	10	Adler, Stella	7
	11	The Group Theatre	7
	12	Larrimore, Francine	4
	13	Mostel, Zero	1
	14	Shoengold, Joseph	2
	15	Sidney, Sylvia	5
	16	Unidentified photographs and and negatives	6,9