

**Guide to  
The Howard Bay Designs and Technical Drawings, 1934 – 1985**

**\*T-VIM 1986 – 007**

**Billy Rose Theatre Division**

**The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts  
New York, New York**

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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Howard Bay Designs</b>
<b>Collection ID:</b>	<b>*T-VIM 1986 – 007</b>
<b>Creator:</b>	<b>Bay, Howard</b>
<b>Extent:</b>	<b>53 linear feet, 40 boxes</b>
<b>Repository:</b>	<b>Billy Rose Theatre Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts</b>

**Abstract:** Howard Bay, set and lighting designer, theater architect, teacher and consultant. The collection consists of set and costume designs, technical drawings, elevations and whiteprints documenting the work of Howard Bay.

## Administrative Information

### Access

Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

### Publication Rights

For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

### Preferred Citation

Howard Bay Designs, \*T-VIM 1986 – 007, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

### Custodial History

The Howard Bay Designs were donated to the Billy Rose Theatre Division in 1986 by Howard Bay.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2005.

## Biographical Note

Howard Bay was born May 3, 1912 in Centralia, Washington. Both his parents were schoolteachers; his father was an art teacher in particular. Bay's career in set and lighting design began in 1933, and he began working on Broadway productions as early as 1937. He would later be referred to as the "dean of American stage designs."

Howard Bay's set and lighting arrangements were recreated in some 170 Broadway shows in a career spanning more than fifty years. Bay won two Tony Awards as a scenic designer for his work on *Toys in The Attic* (1960) and *Man of La Mancha* (1966). His work also included designs for *Carmen Jones* (1943), *Show Boat* (1946), *The Would-Be Gentleman* (1946), *Come Back, Little Sheba* (1950), *Finian's Rainbow* (1955), *Pal Joey* (1963) and *The Music Man* (1957). He is remembered for his technique of solving design problems with a practical and realistic approach. Bay designs have been used for operas, films, touring productions, and television productions. He also taught set design at various schools, spending most of it at Brandeis University for fourteen years. Bay also contributed articles in his field to various reference books. He was last working on a production of *The Music Man* to be produced for the Peking Opera House when he died in New York City on November 21, 1986 of a heart attack.

## Scope and Content Note

Original designs form the bulk of this collection covering Howard Bay's varied career as set designer and professor. The collection consists of designs from thirty-six productions, including technical drawings, painter's elevations, rough sketches, set renderings, light plots, detail drawings and preliminary drawings. Almost every play, musical, opera or project Bay worked on is represented. Bay also worked on numerous productions through various universities' theatre departments, often contributing to the formation and curriculum of their programs.

The remainder of the collection consists correspondence, office files, published articles, clippings and programs providing production information. The photograph series is largely production related but does include some portraits and snapshots of Bay, including one with Donald Oenslager and Laurence Olivier. The collection also includes awards received by Bay for his contributions to various causes and the artistic craftsmanship of his work.

## Organization

The collection is organized into four series and two sub-series. They are:

- Series I : Original Designs
  - Sub-series 1 –Production Designs
  - Sub-series 2 –Technical Designs
- Series II : Office Files
- Series III : Photographs
- Series IV : Awards

## Series Descriptions

**Series I : Original Designs 1942 – 1964** **36 boxes**

**Sub-series 1 – Production Designs** **19 boxes**  
**Sub-series 2 – Technical Designs** **17 boxes**

The Original Designs series makes up the bulk of the collection. It includes initial pencil sketches and painted designs, which are separated into production designs and technical designs. The designs in the series span most of Bay’s work from Broadway productions to his lesser-known college productions. This series includes the original designs for *Carmen Jones* (1943), *Cry for Us All* (1970), *Man of La Mancha* (1965), *The Music Man* (1957) and *Showboat* (1946).

**Sub-series 1 – Production Designs** **19 boxes**  
**19 boxes**  
**Arrangement: Alphabetical**

The sub-series includes initial pencil sketches and painted designs. Some production designs have various productions, and are labeled accordingly for domestic and foreign productions.

**Sub-series 2 – Technical Designs** **17 boxes**  
**17 boxes**  
**Arrangement: Alphabetical**

The sub-series revisits many of the same productions from production designs sub-series. Housed in tubes are blueprints, elevations, and lighting plots are and touch on another aspect of design that allowed Bay to express his ideas on a production.

**Series II : Office Files 1934 – 1985**

**2 boxes**

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series includes correspondence with theater organizations, programs of committees attended, pamphlets of theatre productions at various Universities, articles written on Bay, Bay's own published pieces and newspaper clippings. Included among the files are the patent papers for a chair design by Bay.

**Series III : Photographs 1937 - 1977**

**1 box**

Arrangement: Alphabetical

The photographs series includes stage designs of productions, commercial displays, and publicity shots of Bay. Among the photographs are a group shot of Donald Oenslager & Laurence Olivier with Howard Bay among others. Also included are various prints from *Up In Central Park* the film with Vincent Price.

**Series IV : Awards 1943 – 1958**

**1 flat box**

Arrangement: Alphabetical

The awards series includes various acknowledgements received by Bay for his work and contribution to various causes. Among them is Bay's Donaldson Award for the 1944 – 1945 season.

**Series I: Original Designs 1939 – 1983, undated**

Sub-series 1 - Production Designs, 1942 – 1963, undated

**Box 1**

- F. 1 *As The Girls Go*, 1948
- F. 2 *Bicycle To Nevada*, 1963 (Alternate Title – *Dangerfield*)
- F. 3 *Cadillac Show*, 1960
- F. 4 *Candide*, undated

**Box 2**

- Carmen*, 1961
  - F. 1 Opera Scenes
  - F. 2 Sections I and II of Opera
  - F. 3 Sections III and IV of Opera
- F. 4-5 *Carmen Jones*, 1943

**Box 3**

- F. 1 *A Certain Joy*, undated
- F. 2 *Come Back Little Sheba*, 1950
- F. 3 *Cool World*, 1960
- F. 4 *Count Me In*, 1942
- F. 5 *A Desert Incident*, 1959
- F. 6 *Enfant Terrible*, undated
- F. 7 *The Exile*, 1947 (Motion Picture)

**Box 4**

- F. 1 *Flahooley*, 1951 (Alternate Title – *Jollyanna*)
- F. 2 *Follow The Girls*, 1944
- F. 3 *Glad To See You*, undated
- F. 4 *Grand Tour*, 1951
- Halloween*, undated

**Box 5**

- F. 1 Arctic
- F. 2 Barber
- F. 3 Charley's
- F. 4 Church

**Box 6**

- F. 1 Country
- F. 2 Cove
- F. 3 Greenhouse
- F. 4 Haunted house

**Box 7**

- F. 1 *Interlock*, 1958
- F. 2 *Isle of Children*, 1962
- F. 3-4 *It's Up To You*, undated
- F. 5 Jazz Project, undated

**Box 8**

- F. 1-2 *Magdalena*, 1948
- F. 3-4 *Marching With Johnny*, undated
- F. 5-6 *Marinka*, 1945
- Milk & Honey*, 1961

**Box 9**

- F. 1 Airport
- F. 2 Barn
- F. 3 Drops and travel Track
- F. 4 Street scenes

**Box 10**

- F. 1-8 *Music Man*, 1957

**Box 11**

F. 1-5 *Music Man*, 1957

**Box 12**

F. 1 *My Mother, My Father & Me*, 1963

F. 2 *Natalia Petrovna*, 1964 (Opera)

F. 3 *Night of The Auk*, 1956

F. 4 *Odyssey*, undated

F. 5 *One Man's Venus*, undated

**Box 13**

F. 1 *Pagliacci*, undated

F. 2-3 *Pal Joey*, 1963

**Box 14**

F. 1-2 *Peep Show*, 1950

F. 3 *Polonaise*, 1945

F. 4-5 Puppet film, undated

F. 6 *Regina*, undated

**Box 15**

F. 1 *Romanoff & Juliet*, 1957

F. 2 *Sandhog*, 1954

F. 3 *Secret Weapon*, undated

F. 4 *Seraglio*, undated

**Box 16**

F. 1-6 *Showboat*, 1946

**Box 17**

F. 1-5 *Showboat*, 1946

**Box 18**

F. 1 *Something For The Boys*, 1943

F. 2 *Spinning In Brazil*, undated

F. 3 St. Louis Food Pavilion, undated

F. 4 *Storm Operation*, 1944

F. 5-6 *La Traviata*, undated

F. 7 *Two On The Aisle*, 1951

**Box 19**

F. 1-2 *Tyl Eulenspiegels*, undated

F. 3 U.J.A. Madison Square Garden, undated (United Jewish Association)

F. 4 *Up In Central Park*, 1945

F. 5 Unidentified, undated

Sub-series 2 - Technical Designs, 1939 – 1983, undated

**Box 20**

Scrolls

*An Autumn Garden*, 1951

*Bicycle Ride To Nevada*, 1963 (Alternate Title – *Dangerfield*)

**Box 21**

*The Big Knife*, 1949

*Bloomer Girl*, undated (Motion Picture)

Brandeis productions, undated

**Box 22**

*Carmen*, 1961

*The Children's Hour*, 1952

**Box 23**

*Chu-Chem*, undated

*Come Back Little Sheba*, 1950

*Cool World*, 1960

**Box 24**

*Cry For Us All*, 1970  
*Cut of The Axe*, 1960  
*Desperate Hours*, 1955

**Box 25**

*Equus*, 1974  
*The Eve of St. Mark*, 1943  
*Fanny*, undated  
*Finian's Rainbow*, 1960

**Box 26**

*Fire*, 1969  
*Grand Tour*, 1951  
*Halloween*, undated

**Box 27**

*Hilda Crane*, 1950  
*Hustler*, undated  
*Interlock*, 1958

**Box 28**

*The Isle of Children*, 1962  
*Joy or Where The Sweet Birds Sang*, undated  
*The Little Foxes*, 1939

**Box 29**

*Magdalena*, 1948  
Massachusetts Repertory, undated  
*Mid-Summer*, 1953  
*Milk & Honey*, 1961  
*Montserrat*, 1949

**Box 30**

*Music Man*, 1957

**Box 31**

*My Mother, My Father & Me*, 1963  
*Natalia Petrovna*, 1964 (Opera)  
*Never Live Over A Pretzel Factory*, 1964  
*Night of The Auk*, 1956

**Box 32**

*Odyssey*, undated  
*Oedipus*, 1979  
Ohio University, undated

**Box 33**

*Pal Joey*, 1963  
*The Patriots*, 1943

**Box 34**

*Peep Show*, 1950  
*Polonaise*, 1945  
*Poor Murderer*, 1976

**Box 35**

*Red Roses For Me*, 1955  
*Regina*, undated  
*Sandhog*, 1954

**Box 36**

*Showboat*, 1946

**Box 37**

*The Shrike*, 1952  
*The Speckled Band*, 1983



**Box 38**

*La Traviata*, undated

*Uncle Harry*, 1942  
*The Utter Glory of Morrissey Hall*, 1979  
*A Very Special Baby*, 1956  
*Volpone*, 1977  
*The Wall*, 1960

**Box 39**

Flat Box

F. 1 *Brooklyn U.S.A.*, 1941  
F. 2 *Carmen*, 1960  
F. 3 *Carmen Jones*, 1943  
F. 4 *Come Back Little Sheba*, undated  
F. 5 *The Exile*, 1947 (Film)  
F. 6 *Finian's Rainbow*, 1960  
F. 7 *Knickerbocker Holiday*, 1971  
*Man of La Mancha*, 1983, undated  
F. 8 London/NY Productions, undated  
F. 9 PSU Festival, 1983  
F. 10 *Music Man*, undated  
F. 11 *Night of The Auk*, undated  
F. 12 *Odyssey*, 1974  
F. 13 *One Third of A Nation*, 1938  
F. 14 *Power*, 1938  
F. 15 *Storm Operation*, 1944  
F. 16 Unidentified, undated

**Series II: Office Files, 1934 – 1985, undated**

**Box 40**

Business Correspondence, 1939 – 1983, undated  
F. 1 1939 – 1956  
F. 2 1960 – 1969  
F. 3 1976 – 1983, undated  
General Office Papers, 1941 – 1983, undated  
F. 4 Award Ceremony Programs, 1967, undated  
F. 5 Catalogues for Design Materials, 1983 undated (Includes handbook  
illustrated w/ Bay designs)  
F. 6 Commercial Designs, 1961 undated (Magazine clippings)  
F. 7 Exhibition Programs, 1943 – 1983  
F. 8 Goodspeed Opera House souvenir book, undated  
F. 9 Lecture programs, 1941 – 1983  
F. 10 Local 829, undated  
F. 11 Patented chair design, 1954  
F. 12 Polish Laboratory Theatre Committee, 1969  
F. 13 Press reviews, undated  
F. 14 Universal Films Promotion Magazine, 1946 (*The Exile & Up In Central  
Park*)  
University Productions, 1992 – 1980, undated  
F. 15 Brandeis University, 1965 – 1968  
F. 16 Florida State University, undated  
F. 17 University of Michigan, 1942  
F. 18 University of Minnesota, 1983  
F. 19 University of Oregon, 1963  
F. 20 Wichita State University Theatre, 1980  
F. 21 Yale University, 1966

- Articles On Bay, 1941 – 1985, undated
- F. 22 Ann Arbor News, undated
  - F. 23 Broadway, undated (Mark Barron),
  - F. 24 Center Stage, 1985 (Bill Belanger)
  - F. 25 *Chorus For The Delian Apollo*, undated (Signed and dedicated to Bay by Hallie Flanagan)
  - F. 26 Howard Bay, undated (Hermine Rich Isaacs)
  - F. 27 An Interview With Howard Bay, 1962 (James Keating)
  - F. 28 The Stage Is Set, 1941 (John C. Gibbs)
  - F. 29 That's Theatre, undated (Rosamond Gilder)
  - F. 30 Theatre Stage Engineering – A New Field For The Consultant, 1958 (Illustration by Howard Bay)
  - F. 31 Young Man With A Brush, 1941
- Bay Writings, 1965, undated
- F. 32 David Hardy, undated
  - F. 33 From Shubert Alley To Play Production 304B, 1965
  - F. 34 Musical Comedy Design, undated
  - F. 35 Untitled, undated
- News Clippings, 1934 – 1982, undated
- Brandeis Productions
- F. 36 1965 – 1982
  - F. 37 Undated
  - F. 38 1934 – 1949
  - F. 39 1950 – 1959
  - F. 40 1960 – 1978
  - F. 41 1970 – 1975
  - F. 42-43 Undated
- Box 41**
- Production Programs, 1937 – 1963, undated
- F. 1 *As The Girls Go*, 1948
  - F. 2 *The Cage*, undated (Ohio University)
  - F. 3 *Carmen*, 1959
  - F. 4 *Carmen Jones*, undated (Souvenir program)
  - F. 5 *Chalk Dust*, undated
  - F. 6 *Come Back Little Sheba*, 1950
  - F. 7 *The Cradle Will Rock*, undated (Brandeis production)
  - F. 8 *Crimes & Crimes*, 1950, 1963
  - F. 9 1963 (Includes card signed by cast)
  - F. 10 *The Desperate Hours*, 1955
  - F. 11 *The Eve of St. Mark*, 1942
  - F. 12 *Follow The Girls*, 1944
  - F. 13 *The Golden Wheel*, 1960 (Cadillac Show)
  - F. 14 *The Grand Tour*, 1951 (Page from program)
  - F. 15 *The Great Big Doorstep*, 1942
  - F. 16 *Hilda Crane*, 1950 (Page from program)
  - F. 17 An International Tribute Through The Arts, 1964
  - F. 18 *It's Up To You*, 1943
  - F. 19 *Jazz Getaway*, undated (Flyer)
  - F. 20 *Magdalena*, 1948
  - F. 21 *Man of La Mancha*, undated
  - F. 22 Flyer
  - F. 23 London production
  - F. 24 Souvenir program

- F. 24 *Marinka*, 1945
- F. 25 *Milk & Honey*, undated
- F. 26 *Moliere's Tartuffe*, undated (Ohio University)
- F. 27 *Montserrat*, 1949
- Music Man*, 1957 – 1958, undated
- F. 28 1957 – 1958
- F. 29 Souvenir program, undated
- F. 30 *Marching With Johnny*, undated
- F. 31 *Native Ground*, undated
- F. 32 *One Third of The Nation*, 1937
- F. 33 *One Touch of Venus*, 1944
- Show Boat*, 1946 – 1960
- F. 34 1946
- F. 35 Souvenir program, 1960
- F. 36 *The Shrike*, undated (Souvenir program)
- F. 37 *There's A Moon Tonight*, undated
- F. 38 *Uncle Harry*, 1942
- F. 39 *Up In Central Park*, 1945

**Series III: Photographs, 1937 – 1977, undated**

**Box 42**

- F. 1 *The Autumn Garden*, 1951
- F. 2 Bay Drama Book – Display, undated
- F. 3 *Brooklyn U.S.A.*, 1941
- F. 4 *Carmen*, 1959
- Carmen Jones*, 1941 – 1943
- F. 5 1941
- F. 6 1943
- F. 7 *Casey Jones*, undated
- F. 8 *A Certain Joy*, 1953
- F. 9 *The Children's Hour*, undated
- F. 10 Christian Dior Shoes – display, undated (Negative)
- F. 11 *Come Back Little Sheba*, nd.
- F. 12 *Deep Are The Roots*, 1945
- F. 13 *Desperate Hours*, undated (Includes print w/ Paul Newman)
- F. 14 *Dog Beneath The Skin*, 1938
- F. 15 *The Exile*, undated (Negative)
- F. 16 *Flahooley*, 1951 (Alternate Title – *Jollyanna*)
- F. 17 *Follow The Girls*, 1941
- F. 18 Food Pavilion Model – St. Louis Mid-American Jubilee, undated  
(Includes negatives)
- F. 19 *Go Man Go*, 1955
- F. 20 Greek War Relief Show, 1943 (Includes clipping)
- F. 21 Hat Corporation of America – display, undated (Negative)
- F. 22 *Johnny 2x4*, 1942
- F. 23 *Knickerbocker Holiday*, undated (Negatives)
- F. 24 *Life & Death of An American*, 1939
- F. 25 *Love of Three Oranges*, 1939
- F. 26 *Magdalena*, 1948 (Notes included)
- F. 27 *Man of La Mancha*, 1965
- F. 28 *Mid-Summer's Night Dream*, undated
- Music Man*, 1957 – 1958
- F. 29 1957
- F. 30 Big Brothers Benefits in LA, 1958
- F. 31 *My Mother, My Father & Me*, 1963

- F. 32 *Night of The Auk*, 1956
- F. 33 *Oedipus*, undated (Florida State University production)
- F. 34 *One Third of A Nation*, 1937 – 1938
- F. 35 *Pal Joey*, 1961
- F. 36 *Peer Gynt*, 1939
- F. 37 Publicity Shots, undated (Includes picture w/ Donald Oenslager & Laurence Olivier)
- F. 38 *Red Roses for Me*, undated (Includes negative)
- F. 39 *Show Boat*, 1946 (Includes notes)
- F. 40 *Toys In The Attic*, 1960
- F. 41 *Trojan Incident*, undated
- F. 42 *Tyl Eulenspiegel*, undated
- Up In Central Park*, 1944 – 1947
  - F. 43 Theatre production w/ notes, 1944 – 1945
  - F. 44 Motion picture prints w/ Vincent Price, 1947
- F. 45 *The Wall*, undated
- F. 46 Yale Student Exhibit, 1976 – 1977 (Includes notes)
- F. 47 Unidentified, undated (Includes negative)

**Series IV: Awards 1943 – 1958**

**Box 43**

- F. 1 Boy Scouts, 1945
- F. 2 Donaldson Award, 1944 – 1945 (Season)
- F. 3 Greek War Relief Show, 1943
- F. 4 National Society of Interior Designers, 1958
- F. 5 Red Cross, 1944
- F. 6 The War & NAVY Department, 1946