

Inventory of the Suzanne Caubaye Papers, 1919-1979

*T-Mss 1981-011

Billy Rose Theatre Division



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

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Suzanne Caubaye Papers, 1919-1979.

Collection ID: *T-Mss 1981-011

Creator: Suzanne Caubaye .

Extent: 1.3 linear feet (2 boxes)

Repository: The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.
Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open to the public. Photocopying prohibited.

Preferred Citation: Suzanne Caubaye Papers, *T-Mss 1981-011, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Biographical Note

Suzanne Caubaye [originally Caubet] was born in Algeria to French parents. Apparently her mother was a doctor working for the French government. Her father was an actor. The family returned to Paris when Caubaye was still an infant. Both her father and her uncle, George Deneubourg were members of Sarah Bernhardt's company.

Caubaye made her acting debut at the age of three in a production of *Rip Van Winkle*. She began playing roles in Bernhardt productions when she was eleven. From 1917 to 1919 Caubaye played ingenue leads in Bernhardt's one-act plays and in single acts from full-length successes during three farewell tours of America and Cuba. At the close of the 1919 tour, Caubaye remained in America. She had a brief film career in Hollywood, appeared in Morris Gest's *Midnight Whirl* in New York, did a season of French plays with Richard Herndon, and toured in several plays including *The Monster*.

In 1926 she won rave notices for the role of Nubi in the Broadway production of *The Squall*. Among other Broadway plays in which she appeared were *The Stolen Lady*, *Ringside*, *The Imported Wife*, and *The Great Barrington*. After Caubaye replaced Irene Bordoni in *Louisiana Purchase*, she played many of Bordoni's parts on the road.

Caubaye appeared frequently on television in shows such as *The Goldbergs*, *I Spy*, and *Kraft Theatre* and was heard on the radio in *The Fat Man*, *Fred Allen*, and *Ma Perkins*, to name only a few.

As a writer, Caubaye collaborated with Anne Partridge on the play *Sarah* and wrote articles about her experiences with Bernhardt. She also collaborated on several plays with her husband Crane Wilbur (they divorced in 1928).

Suzanne Caubaye died at the Actors' Fund Home in New Jersey in 1981.

Scope and Content Note

The papers range from 1919 to 1979 and include a newsy thank you note from James Mason, a script by Crane Wilbur, and a script and drafts of Caubaye's articles about Sarah Bernhardt. Among the Bernhardt ephemera are a violet from her grave, a translation of her baptismal certificate, and photostats of Bernhardt's letter introducing Caubaye to the American public. The scrapbook contains clippings, programs, and photographs documenting Caubaye's stage career beginning with her first hit *The Squall* in 1926 and ending with a 1966 published article about Bernhardt.

Organization

- Series I: Personal Papers
- Series II: Writings
- Series III: Sarah Bernhardt Materials
- Series IV: Scrapbook

Series Descriptions and Container Listing

Series I: Personal Papers, 1924-1979.

2 folders

This series contains three letters, including one from James Mason (1959), and a typescript of Crane Wilbur's play *The Imported Wife* [ca. 1924].

- b. 1 f. 1 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1959-1979
1 folder (3 letters)
Three letters [1959, 1979, and n.d.] to actress Suzanne Caubaye.
Includes one letter [1959] from James Mason.
- b. 1 f. 2 *The imported wife* / Crane Wilbur
1 folder (1 script)
Carbon of typescript of the play *The Imported Wife* by Crane Wilbur.

Series II: Writings

2 folders

Drafts of articles about Sarah Bernhardt by Caubaye and *Sarah*, a play based on Bernhardt's life by Caubaye in collaboration with Anne Partridge.

b. 1 f. 3

Writings / Suzanne Caubaye

1 folder

Working drafts of articles about Sarah Bernhardt by Suzanne Caubaye.

b. 1 f. 4

Sarah / Suzanne Caubaye.

1 folder.

Typescript of the play *Sarah* by Suzanne Caubaye in collaboration with Anne Partridge from original stories by Caubaye.

Series III: Sarah Bernhardt materials, 1919-1923.

An assortment of Bernhardt ephemera including photostats of Bernhardt's letter of introduction for Caubaye.

b. 1 f. 5

Ephemera / Sarah Bernhardt

1 folder

Items include a violet from Bernhardt's grave, a translation of her baptismal certificate, photostats of a letter introducing Suzanne Caubaye, cast list for *La Sociere*.

Series IV: Scrapbook, 1924-1966

1 volume

The scrapbook consists of clippings, programs, and photographs documenting the life and career of Suzanne Caubaye.

b. 2

Scrapbook / Suzanne Caubaye, 1924-1966

Scrapbook of clippings and photographs documenting the career of actress Suzanne Caubaye.