

Inventory of the Ken Harper Papers, 1972-1988

*T-Mss 1991-012

Billy Rose Theatre Division



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

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Ken Harper Papers, 1972-1988

Collection ID: *T-Mss 1991-012

Creator: Harper, Ken, d. 1988 .

Extent: 5.93 lin. ft. (16 boxes)

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

Abstract: Ken Harper was the producer of the popular Broadway musical *The Wiz* . The bulk of material in this collection is professional correspondence pertaining to the stage production of *The Wiz* . There is little personal correspondence and no personal papers or photographs. The rest of the collection includes contracts, legal/financial agreements and scripts.

Administrative Information

Access: Collection is open to the public. Photocopying prohibited. Advance notice may be required

Preferred Citation: Ken Harper Papers, *T-Mss 1991-012, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Processing Information: The collection was conserved, rehoused, and processed in 1996. Clippings were photocopied on acid-free paper for conservation purposes.

Biographical Note

Ken Harper was the producer who conceived and brought the successful, all-black musical *The Wiz* to Broadway. This L. Frank Baum adaptation ran for five years and won seven Tony awards in 1975.

Born around 1939, Kenneth G. Harper was an adopted child who was raised in Bronx, New York. He graduated high school and entered Columbia University but later dropped out to join the army. In Korea he began his career as a disc jockey, playing music for Armed Forces radio. After his discharge in the 1960s he was hired by radio station WPIX, New York. He worked there for nearly a decade, eventually becoming the Music and Public Affairs Director.

The concept for an all-black musical came to Harper in 1971. He originally planned to make the production into a television special. When that fell through, he initiated the campaign to seek funding for a Broadway musical. Harper contacted numerous individuals and corporations like Xerox and Warner Brothers for financial support, but his concept was rejected out of hand. Many scoffed at the idea of a production that competed against the Judy Garland film version and thought investing in this show was a huge gamble. Ken Harper eventually convinced Twentieth Century-Fox to provide \$650,000 in backing in exchange for the movie, record and publishing rights.

The Wiz premiered at the Morris A. Mechanic Theater in Baltimore on October 21, 1974. After performances in Detroit and Philadelphia it almost closed because of production problems and mixed reviews. The show became livelier after costume designer Geoffrey Holder was named director. *The Wiz* opened in New York at the Majestic Theatre on January 5, 1975, but did not receive critical acclaim. Only after principal backer Twentieth Century-Fox poured \$120,000 into a television advertising blitz did the show's popularity and revenues begin to rise. This advertising campaign combined with word-of-mouth brought in thousands of theatergoers and contributed to making *The Wiz* one of the most popular Broadway musicals. There were several U.S. road productions along with foreign performances that included Australia and Japan.

Ken Harper later acquired the motion picture rights for *The Wiz* from Twentieth Century-Fox. Universal Pictures then acquired the rights from Harper and produced the 1978 movie version starring Diana Ross and Michael Jackson. Ken Harper served as executive producer.

Harper spent his remaining years searching for financial backing for another musical called *Bamboo*, based on a ninth-century Japanese fairy tale. He intended to have Diana Ross star.

Ken Harper died at his home on January 20, 1988, at the age of 48.

Scope and Content Note

The Ken Harper papers span the years 1972-1988. The bulk of the material is professional correspondence regarding the stage production of *The Wiz*. Most of the letters to Harper are from company attorneys concerning contracts, financial agreements and lawsuits. There is little personal correspondence to or from Ken Harper.

The rest of this collection consists of scripts (*The Wiz* and *Bamboo*), financial statements, legal papers and one file of clippings. There are no personal papers or photographs. Three reel-to-reel audio tapes and six audio cassettes connected with the production of *Bamboo* have been transferred to the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound.

Organization

- Series I: General Correspondence
- Series II: *The Wiz* (Musical)
 - Sub-series 1 - Business Correspondence
 - Sub-series 2 - Legal Papers
 - Sub-series 3 - Production Files
 - Sub-series 4 - Scripts
 - Sub-series 5 - Tours
- Series III: *The Wiz* (Motion picture)
- Series IV: *Bamboo*
 - Sub-series 1 - Production Files
 - Sub-series 2 - Legal / Financial Papers
- Series V: Miscellaneous Writings

Series Descriptions and Container Listing

Series I: General Correspondence, 1972-1987

7 boxes

Chronological

The general correspondence includes letters from corporations and individuals rejecting Ken Harper's requests for financial backing for *The Wiz* and *Bamboo*. Most of the correspondence concerns legal matters-financial and contractual agreements, lawsuits, labor arbitration, and copyright infringement. Box 1 includes correspondence to and from Josephine Baker about her possible role as the Wicked Witch and three letters from writer William F. Brown concerning problems with scenes, staging, songs, and re-writes. Box 2 contains Harper's notification of *The Wiz*'s Tony nomination and subsequent congratulatory letters and notes.

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence "A-Z", August-December 1972
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*. One letter from Josephine Baker who was initially considered for the cast.
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence "A-Z", January-October 1973
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 1 f. 3 Correspondence "A-Z", February-April 1974
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 1 f. 4 Correspondence "A-Z", May 1974
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence "A-Z", June 1974
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 1 f. 6 Correspondence "A-Z", July-August 1974
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 1 f. 7 Correspondence "A-Z", September 1974
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.

- b. 1 f. 8 Correspondence "A-Z", October 1974
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
Three letters from writer William Brown (signed "Bill")
concerning problem areas of the production.
- b. 1 f. 9 Correspondence "A-Z", November 1974
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 1 f. 10 Correspondence "A-Z", December 1974
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 2 f. 1 Correspondence "A-Z", January 1975
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
Many opening night telegrams, one from Hal Prince.
- b. 2 f. 2 Correspondence "A-Z", February 1975
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 2 f. 3 Correspondence "A-Z", March 1975
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
Includes Ken Harper's notification for his Tony Award
nomination.
- b. 2 f. 4 Correspondence "A-Z", April 1975
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz* and its winning of
seven Tony Awards. One telegram from producer Don Kirshner.
- b. 2 f. 5 Correspondence "A-Z", May 1975
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*. One letter from Bing
Crosby.
- b. 2 f. 6 Correspondence "A-Z", June 1975
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 2 f. 7 Correspondence "A-Z", July 1975
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 2 f. 8 Correspondence "A-Z", August 1975

- 1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 2 f. 9 Correspondence "A-Z", September 1975
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 2 f. 10 Correspondence "A-Z", October 1975
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 2 f. 11 Correspondence "A-Z", November 1975
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 2 f. 12 Correspondence "A-Z", December 1975
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 3 f. 1 Correspondence "A-Z", January 1976
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*. One note from producer Cheryl Crawford suggesting that Ken Harper meet one of her theater acquaintances.
- b. 3 f. 2 Correspondence "A-Z", February 1976
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 3 f. 3 Correspondence "A-Z", March 1976
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 3 f. 4 Correspondence "A-Z", April 1976
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 3 f. 5 Correspondence "A-Z", May 1976
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 3 f. 6 Correspondence "A-Z", June 1976
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz* stage production in Los Angeles and agreements signed with Twentieth Century-Fox concerning the motion picture.
- b. 3 f. 7 Correspondence "A-Z", July 1976

- 1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz* stage production in Los Angeles and the motion picture adaptation.
- b. 3 f. 8 Correspondence "A-Z", August 1976
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz* stage productions in Los Angeles and Tokyo and the motion picture adaptation.
- b. 3 f. 9 Correspondence "A-Z", September 1976
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz* stage productions in Los Angeles and Tokyo and the motion picture adaptation.
- b. 3 f. 10 Correspondence "A-Z", October 1976
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz* stage productions and the motion picture rights.
- b. 3 f. 11 Correspondence "A-Z", November 1976
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*. One letter concerning the bus-and-truck tour around the United States.
- b. 3 f. 12 Correspondence "A-Z", December 1976
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 4 f. 1 Correspondence "A-Z", January 1977
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*, stage and motion picture.
- b. 4 f. 2 Correspondence "A-Z", February 1977
1 folder
Correspondence regarding the stage production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 4 f. 3 Correspondence "A-Z", March 1977
1 folder
Correspondence regarding the stage production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 4 f. 4 Correspondence "A-Z", April 1977
1 folder
Correspondence regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 4 f. 5 Correspondence "A-Z", May 1977
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.

- b. 4 f. 6 Correspondence "A-Z", June 1977
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 4 f. 7 Correspondence "A-Z", July 1977
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 4 f. 8 Correspondence "A-Z", August 1977
1 folder
Correspondence regarding the productions of *The Wiz* and *Bamboo*.
- b. 4 f. 9 Correspondence "A-Z", September 1977
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 4 f. 10 Correspondence "A-Z", October 1977
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 4 f. 11 Correspondence "A-Z", November-December 1977
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 4 f. 12 Correspondence "A-Z", January 1978
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the *The Wiz*, including resolution of a dispute with Actors' Equity. Also includes consulting agreement to finance the production of *Bamboo*.
- b. 4 f. 13 Correspondence "A-Z", February 1978
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the *The Wiz*. Also includes letters from Eastman Kodak Company and Paramount Pictures Corporation declining to invest in the show *Bamboo*.
- b. 4 f. 14 Correspondence "A-Z", March 1978
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*. Several letters regarding Ken Harper's credits on the motion picture version.
- b. 4 f. 15 Correspondence "A-Z", April 1978
1 folder
Correspondence regarding a dispute with songwriter Luther Vandross and receiving a credit for the song "Everybody Rejoice" used in the motion picture *The Wiz*.

- b. 4 f. 16 Correspondence "A-Z", May 1978
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding the stage production of *The Wiz* (merchandising, contracts, casting).
- b. 4 f. 17 Correspondence "A-Z", June 1978
1 folder
Correspondence regarding the production of *The Wiz*, with confirmation from Coca Cola of their intention to merchandise products in connection with *The Wiz*. Also includes one letter from Columbia Pictures declining to invest in *Bamboo*.
- b. 4 f. 18 Correspondence "A-Z", July 1978
1 folder
Correspondence regarding the production of *The Wiz*, including two letters concerning a confrontation at the Broadway Theatre involving star Stephanie Mills' brother.
- b. 4 f. 19 Correspondence "A-Z", August 1978
1 folder
Mixed correspondence regarding *The Wiz* royalties, the motion picture release date, and financing for *Bamboo*.
- b. 4 f. 20 Correspondence "A-Z", September 1978
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz* and legal disputes.
- b. 4 f. 21 Correspondence "A-Z", October 1978
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz* and legal disputes.
- b. 4 f. 22 Correspondence "A-Z", November 1978
1 folder
General correspondence regarding *The Wiz*. One note from actress Vanessa Redgrave asking for funding to support a libel suit.
- b. 4 f. 23 Correspondence "A-Z", December 1978
1 folder
General correspondence regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 5 f. 1 Correspondence "A-Z", January 1979
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*. One letter from Mobil Oil Corporation declining to invest in *Bamboo*.
- b. 5 f. 2 Correspondence "A-Z", February 1979
1 folder

Correspondence regarding *The Wiz*.

- b. 5 f. 3
Correspondence "A-Z", March-April 1979
1 folder
Correspondence regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 5 f. 4
Correspondence "A-Z", May-June 1979
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 5 f. 5
Correspondence "A-Z", July-August 1979
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*. Includes accounting statements from *The Wiz* motion picture and a decline from Warner Communications to invest in *Bamboo*.
- b. 5 f. 6
Correspondence "A-Z", September-October 1979
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*. Includes notification of his filing for *Bamboo* Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- b. 5 f. 7
Correspondence "A-Z", November 1979
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*. Includes accounting statements for *The Wiz* motion picture.
- b. 5 f. 8
Correspondence "A-Z", December 1979
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 5 f. 9
Correspondence "A-Z", January-February 1980
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 5 f. 10
Correspondence "A-Z", March 1980
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*. Includes accounting statements from *The Wiz* motion picture and one letter from Walt Disney Productions declining to invest in *Bamboo*.
- b. 5 f. 11
Correspondence "A-Z", April-May 1980
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 5 f. 12
Correspondence "A-Z", June 1980
1 folder
Accounting statements from *The Wiz* motion picture.

- b. 5 f. 13 Correspondence "A-Z", August-September 1980
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*. Includes a letter from RSO Music Publishing rejecting *Bamboo*.
- b. 5 f. 14 Correspondence "A-Z", October 1980
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*. Includes an accounting statement for *The Wiz* motion picture.
- b. 5 f. 15 Correspondence "A-Z", November-December 1980
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 6 f. 1 Correspondence "A-Z", January 1981
1 folder
Correspondence, mainly accounting statements, for *The Wiz* motion picture.
- b. 6 f. 2 Correspondence "A-Z", February 1981
1 folder
Correspondence, mainly regarding legal and financial issues for *The Wiz*.
- b. 6 f. 3 Correspondence "A-Z", March 1981
1 folder
Correspondence, mainly regarding legal issues and *The Wiz*.
- b. 6 f. 4 Correspondence "A-Z", April-May 1981
1 folder
Correspondence regarding *The Wiz*, includes accounting statements from the motion picture.
- b. 6 f. 5 Correspondence "A-Z", June-July 1981
1 folder
Correspondence regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 6 f. 6 Correspondence "A-Z", August-September 1981
1 folder
Correspondence regarding *The Wiz*, includes accounting statements from the motion picture and royalty statements from the soundtrack.
- b. 6 f. 7 Correspondence "A-Z", October 1981
1 folder
Correspondence regarding *The Wiz*, mainly legal issues.
- b. 6 f. 8 Correspondence "A-Z", November-December 1981

- 1 folder
Correspondence regarding *The Wiz*, mainly legal issues. One letter from RCA Corporation declining to invest in *Bamboo*.
- b. 6 f. 9 Correspondence "A-Z", January-February 1982
1 folder
Correspondence regarding legal and financial issues with *The Wiz*.
- b. 6 f. 10 Correspondence "A-Z", March-May 1982
1 folder
Correspondence mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 6 f. 11 Correspondence "A-Z", June-December 1982
1 folder
Correspondence, royalty payments, mainly regarding *The Wiz*.
- b. 6 f. 12 Correspondence "A-Z", January-March 1983
1 folder
Correspondence, royalty payments, agreements regarding *The Wiz* and *Bamboo*.
- b. 6 f. 13 Correspondence "A-Z", April-May 1983
1 folder
Correspondence, mainly regarding *Bamboo* and Ken Harper's efforts to raise money for the production. Includes a letter from Yamaha International Corporation declining to invest in the show.
- b. 6 f. 14 Correspondence "A-Z", June-July 1983
1 folder
Correspondence, mainly regarding *Bamboo* and Ken Harper's efforts to raise money for the production. Includes a letter from Twentieth Century-Fox declining to invest in the show. Another letter from a friend asking Harper to reconsider *Bamboo* as a television production instead of a stage show.
- b. 6 f. 15 Correspondence "A-Z", August-September 1983
1 folder
Correspondence includes fundraising for *Bamboo*, royalty payments, press release for the return of *The Wiz* to Broadway.
- b. 6 f. 16 Correspondence "A-Z", October-November 1983
1 folder
Correspondence regarding fundraising efforts for *Bamboo*. Ken Harper gets encouraging news from Japan about willing investors.
- b. 6 f. 17 Correspondence "A-Z", December 1983
1 folder

Correspondence regarding fundraising efforts for *Bamboo*.

- b. 6 f. 18
Correspondence "A-Z", February-March 1984
1 folder
Correspondence regarding fundraising efforts for *Bamboo*. Honda Motor Company declines to invest in the show.
- b. 6 f. 19
Correspondence "A-Z", April-May 1984
1 folder
Correspondence regarding fundraising efforts for *Bamboo*. McDonald's Corporation declines to invest in the show.
- b. 6 f. 20
Correspondence "A-Z", June-August 1984
1 folder
Correspondence regarding fundraising efforts for *Bamboo*.
- b. 6 f. 21
Correspondence "A-Z", September-December 1984
1 folder
Correspondence regarding the financing of *Bamboo*.
- b. 7 f. 1
Correspondence "A-Z", January-February 1985
1 folder
Correspondence regarding fundraising efforts for *Bamboo*.
- b. 7 f. 2
Correspondence "A-Z", March-April 1985
1 folder
Correspondence regarding fundraising efforts for *Bamboo*.
- b. 7 f. 3
Correspondence "A-Z", June-August 1985
1 folder
Correspondence regarding fundraising efforts for *Bamboo*. Includes accounting statements from *The Wiz* motion picture.
- b. 7 f. 4
Correspondence "A-Z", September-December 1985
1 folder
Correspondence regarding fundraising efforts for *Bamboo*.
- b. 7 f. 5
Correspondence "A-Z", January-April 1986
1 folder
Correspondence regarding fundraising efforts for *Bamboo*.
- b. 7 f. 6
Correspondence "A-Z", June-December 1986
1 folder
Correspondence regarding the production of *Bamboo*. Rupert Murdoch declines to invest.
- b. 7 f. 7
Correspondence "A-Z", January-February 1987
1 folder

Correspondence regarding the production of *Bamboo*.

b. 7 f. 8

Correspondence "A-Z", March-August 1987

1 folder

General correspondence, regarding *The Wiz* and royalty payments.

Series II: *The Wiz*

6 boxes

This series contains documents regarding the stage production of *The Wiz*. The material is arranged in chronological order and mostly includes business correspondence and legal papers.

Sub-series 1 - Business correspondence, 1972-1988

1 box

Contains two folders of outgoing correspondence from Ken Harper and business partner Michael Brown. Most of the letters are pitches for financial support but there are also notes to Josephine Baker requesting her to consider a role as the Wicked Witch. The rest is generally business correspondence involving the company attorneys regarding the agreement signed with Twentieth Century-Fox; employment contracts; labor arbitration; copyright infringement and royalty payments for amateur rights.

b. 8 f. 1

Outgoing correspondence / Ken Harper, 1972

1 folder

Outgoing correspondence, letters to obtain funding for the stage presentation of *The Wiz*. Includes letters to Josephine Baker, Shirley Bassey, Gilbert Moses (the original director), and Butterfly McQueen.

b. 8 f. 2

Outgoing correspondence / Ken Harper, 1973-1975

1 folder

Outgoing correspondence, letters to obtain funding for the stage presentation of *The Wiz*. Includes letters to Ben Vereen, Ronald Field, and Nipsey Russell.

b. 8 f. 3

Correspondence "A-Z", 1973

1 folder

Correspondence mainly regarding contracts with composer-lyricist Charlie Smalls and writer William F. Brown.

b. 8 f. 4

Correspondence "A-Z", 1974

1 folder

Correspondence mainly regarding contracts and legal issues with Twentieth Century-Fox and financing *The Wiz*.

- b. 8 f. 5 Correspondence "A-Z", January-April 1975
1 folder
Correspondence, much of it dealing with the recording of the original cast album.
- b. 8 f. 6 Correspondence "A-Z", May-July 1975
1 folder
Correspondence regarding stage production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 8 f. 7 Correspondence "A-Z", August-December 1975
1 folder
Correspondence, some regarding foreign rights to the musical *The Wiz*.
- b. 8 f. 8 Correspondence "A-Z", 1976
1 folder
Correspondence regarding foreign rights and cases of copyright infringement for unauthorized performances.
- b. 8 f. 9 Correspondence "A-Z", January-May 1977
1 folder
Correspondence, mainly regarding cases of copyright infringement for unauthorized performances.
- b. 8 f. 10 Correspondence "A-Z", June-December 1977
1 folder
Correspondence regarding stage production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 8 f. 11 Correspondence "A-Z", January-June 1978
1 folder
Correspondence regarding the stage production of *The Wiz*, including a copyright disagreement with a cosmetic firm using the name "Wiz Poppy".
- b. 8 f. 12 Correspondence "A-Z", July-December 1978
1 folder
Correspondence regarding legal issues and *The Wiz*.
- b. 8 f. 13 Correspondence "A-Z", 1979
1 folder
Correspondence regarding labor arbitrations.
- b. 8 f. 14 Correspondence "A-Z", 1980
1 folder
Correspondence regarding royalty payments from amateur productions of *The Wiz*.
- b. 8 f. 15 Correspondence "A-Z", 1981

1 folder
Correspondence regarding royalty payments from amateur productions of *The Wiz*.

b. 8 f. 16 Correspondence "A-Z", 1982-1983
1 folder
Correspondence regarding royalty payments from amateur productions of *The Wiz*.

b. 8 f. 17 Correspondence "A-Z", 1984-1988
1 folder
Correspondence regarding royalty payments.

Sub-series 2 - Legal papers, 1972-1988

2 boxes
Legal papers regarding mainly contracts/draft agreements, labor arbitration, merchandising and lawsuits. Four folders pertain to *Bates v. Select Theatre v. The Wiz Company*, 1977-1981.

b. 9 f. 1 Legal papers / Ken Harper, 1972-1984
1 folder
Legal papers concerning lawsuits and labor arbitrations.

b. 9 f. 2 Legal papers / Ken Harper, 1973-1988
1 folder
Legal papers concerning lawsuits and labor arbitrations.

b. 9 f. 3 Legal papers / Ken Harper, 1974-1975
1 folder
Legal papers, *The Wiz Company vs. Baltimore Theatre*.

b. 9 f. 4 Legal papers / Ken Harper, 1977-1981
1 folder
Legal papers, *The Wiz Company vs. Bates vs. Select Theatre* (folder 1 of 2).

b. 9 f. 5 Legal papers / Ken Harper, 1978-1979
1 folder
Legal papers, *The Wiz Company vs. Bates vs. Select Theatre*, court documents and rulings (folder 2 of 2).

b. 9 f. 6 Legal papers / Ken Harper, August 1980-December 1981
1 folder
Legal papers, *The Wiz Company vs. STC Enterprises* (continuation of *Bates vs. Select*) (folder 1 of 2).

b. 9 f. 7 Legal papers / Ken Harper, 1980-1981

- 1 folder
Legal papers, *The Wiz* Company vs. STC Enterprises
(continuation of Bates vs. Select), court orders (folder 2 of 2).
- b. 10 f. 1 Contracts / Ken Harper, 1973
1 folder
Contracts/agreements concerning front money, production costs
for *The Wiz*.
- b. 10 f. 2 Contracts / Ken Harper, 1974
1 folder
Contracts/agreements concerning front money, personnel for the
production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 10 f. 3 Contracts / Ken Harper, 1975-1976
1 folder
Contracts/agreements concerning the production of *The Wiz*,
including a draft of the agreement signed with Atlantic
Recording Corporation to produce the original cast album.
- b. 10 f. 4 Contracts / Ken Harper, 1973-1975
1 folder
Contracts / agreements, correspondence regarding the
production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 10 f. 5 Contracts / Ken Harper, 1974
1 folder
Photocopies of contracts signed by the principal actors in the
stage production of *The Wiz*.
- b. 10 f. 6 Contract / Mackey Arnstein, 1973-1975
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with Ms. Mackey Arnstein (investor).
- b. 10 f. 7 Contract / Sam Bobrick, 1975
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with Sam Bobrick (writer).
- b. 10 f. 8 Contract / Michael Brown, 1971-1979
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with Michael Brown (Harper's original
partner).
- b. 10 f. 9 Contract / George Faison, Jr., 1974-1975
1 folder
Draft agreements signed with George Faison and Timothy
Graphenreed (choreography).

- b. 10 f. 10 Contract / Milton Glaser, 1974
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with Milton Glaser (created *The Wiz* logo).
- b. 10 f. 11 Contract / Geoffrey Holder, 1974-1977
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with Geoffrey Holder (director/costumes).
- b. 10 f. 12 Contract / Herbert M. Honig, 1974; 1977
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with Herbert Honig (investor).
- b. 10 f. 13 Contract / Tom H. John, 1974
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with Tom John (scenic design).
- b. 10 f. 14 Contract / Stephanie Mills, 1974-1975
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with Stephanie Mills (Dorothy).
- b. 10 f. 15 Contract / Tharon Musser, 1974
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with Tharon Musser (lighting designer).
- b. 10 f. 16 Contract / Gilbert Moses, 1974
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with Gilbert Moses (first director).
- b. 10 f. 17 Contract / Shubert Organization, 1975
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with the Shubert Organization (Majestic Theatre).
- b. 10 f. 18 Contract / Harold Wheeler, 1974-1975
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with Harold Wheeler (orchestrator).
- b. 10 f. 19 Contract / Eugene V. Wolsk, 1974-1977
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with Wolsk and Azenberg (general managers).
- b. 10 f. 20 Contract / Adolfo Menswear, 1977
1 folder
Draft agreement signed with Adolfo Menswear for a fashion

show held at the Majestic Theatre where the cast of *The Wiz* entertained buyers, Jan. 31, 1977. Includes program and clipping.

- b. 10 f. 21 Contracts / Ken Harper, 1974-1980
1 folder
Legal agreements with correspondence regarding *The Wiz* production and merchandising.
- b. 10 f. 22 Contract / Gershen Shevett, 1975
1 folder
Draft agreements signed with Gershen Shevett for T-shirt merchandising.

Sub-series 3 - Production files, 1972-1979

1 box
Includes company balance sheets and materials regarding casting/auditions, development costs, and investment information. Also individual files of clippings and material concerning the original idea of the intended television production of *The Wiz*.

- b. 11 f. 1 Contracts / Actors' Equity Association, 1972-1973
1 folder
- b. 11 f. 2-3 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, 1974-1979
2 folders
Balance sheets for *The Wiz*.
- b. 11 f. 4 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, 1976-1979
1 folder
Balance sheets for The National *Wiz* Company.
- b. 11 f. 5 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, 1974
1 folder
Budget summary for *The Wiz*.
- b. 11 f. 6 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, April-August 1974
1 folder
Casting/audition sheets for *The Wiz*.
- b. 11 f. 7 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, 1974-1988
1 folder
Clippings, publicity, and Broadway program.
- b. 11 f. 8 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, 1972-1974
1 folder
Development costs/backing statements.

- b. 11 f. 9 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, 1972-1973
1 folder
Correspondence and financial agreements regarding front money from backer Dorothy Sanson.
- b. 11 f. 10 Correspondence / Harpsichord Productions, 1972-1974
1 folder
Agreements, publicity, financial papers, and correspondence related to the production company Ken Harper formed with Michael Brown to produce *The Wiz*. Includes correspondence from writer William F. Brown regarding characterizations, initial script, salary payments, and production values.
- b. 11 f. 11 Correspondence / Harpsichord Productions, June 17, 1974
1 folder
Ken Harper's invitation to join The League of New York Theatres and Producers.
- b. 11 f. 12 Correspondence / Harpsichord Productions, ca. 1973
1 folder
Lists and business cards of potential backers Ken Harper used to finance *The Wiz*.
- b. 11 f. 13 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, ca. 1972
1 folder
Investment prospectus.
- b. 11 f. 14 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, ca. 1973
1 folder
Investment prospectus and background information.
- b. 11 f. 15 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, ca. 1972
1 folder
Resumes of the production team.
- b. 11 f. 16 Contract and minimum fees / Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers (U.S.), 1972-1973
1 folder
- b. 11 f. 17 *The wiz* (Treatment), ca. 1972
1 folder
Six page story summary probably written by Ken Harper.
- b. 11 f. 18 *The wiz* (Television program), ca. 1971
1 folder
Ken Harper's papers concerning his original idea to produce *The Wiz* as a black television series. Other tentative projects

include *Goldilocks* and *Peter Pan*. This file contains a list of considered productions, pitch letters, and correspondence.

Sub-series 4 - Scripts, 1972-1974

1 box

Includes original drafts, working drafts, final drafts and song lyrics.

- b. 12 f. 1 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, August 1972
1 folder
Sample written by William F. Brown of Act I, Scene 4.
- b. 12 f. 2 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, March 1973
1 folder
Original draft, most likely March 1973.
- b. 12 f. 3 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, November 1972
1 folder
Old draft of first act.
- b. 12 f. 4 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, 1972-1973
1 folder
Draft revisions.
- b. 12 f. 5 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, October 1973
1 folder
Second full draft.
- b. 12 f. 6 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, ca. 1974
1 folder
Working drafts.
- b. 12 f. 7 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, ca. 1974
1 folder
Corrected first draft.
- b. 12 f. 8 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, ca. 1974
1 folder
Final first draft.
- b. 12 f. 9 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, ca. 1974
1 folder
Final draft.
- b. 12 f. 10 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, ca. 1973-1974
1 folder
Song lyrics.

- b. 12 f. 11 *The wiz* (Musical) / Charlie Smalls, ca. 1973-1974
1 folder
Rejected song lyrics and sheets.

Sub-series 5 - Tours, 1975-1979

1 box
Alphabetical within tour
Includes contracts and agreements for the national tour, bus and truck tour, and tours in Australia and Japan.

- b. 13 f. 1 *The Wiz* tour correspondence and contracts, 1975-1976
1 folder
Contracts and correspondence regarding *The Wiz* tour in Australia.
- b. 13 f. 2 *The Wiz* tour correspondence and contracts, 1977-1978
1 folder
Contracts and correspondence regarding *The Wiz* bus & truck tour.
- b. 13 f. 3 *The Wiz* tour correspondence and contracts, 1975-1979
1 folder
Contracts and correspondence regarding *The Wiz* tour in Japan.
- b. 13 f. 4 *The wiz* tour correspondence and contracts, 1975-1979
1 folder
Contracts and correspondence regarding *The Wiz* national tour.

Series III: *The wiz* (Motion picture), 1974-1983

.41 lin. ft. (1 box)
Alphabetical
This series contains contracts, correspondence, royalty payments and financial statements regarding the motion picture.

- b. 14 f. 1 Contracts / Ken Harper, 1974
1 folder
- b. 14 f. 2 Contracts / Universal Pictures (Firm), 1975-1977
1 folder
- b. 14 f. 3 Contracts / Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation, 1976-1980
1 folder
- b. 14 f. 4 Correspondence "A-Z", October 1975-July 1976
1 folder

Correspondence regarding the production of *The Wiz* (Motion picture).

- b. 14 f. 5 Correspondence "A-Z", August-December 1976
1 folder
Correspondence regarding the production of *The Wiz* (Motion picture). Includes agreements with Twentieth Century-Fox.
- b. 14 f. 6 Correspondence "A-Z", January-October 1977
1 folder
Correspondence regarding *The Wiz* (Motion picture).
- b. 14 f. 7 Correspondence "A-Z", March 1978-February 1982
1 folder
Correspondence regarding *The Wiz* (Motion picture), including credits, release dates and financial statements.
- b. 14 f. 8 *The wiz* (Motion picture), 1976-1983
1 folder
Financial statements.

Series IV: *Bamboo*

2 boxes

This series contains papers regarding another production of Ken Harper's entitled *Bamboo*, based on a ninth-century Japanese fairy tale.

Sub-series 1 - Production files, 1975-1986

1 box

This sub-series contains contract agreements signed with the writers and lyricist, correspondence dated from August 1975-December 1986 and two *Bamboo* scripts.

- b. 15 f. 1 Contracts / Sam Hall, 1982
1 folder
- b. 15 f. 2 Contracts / Betsy Tooker, 1983
1 folder
- b. 15 f. 3 Contracts / Arnold Meyer, 1975-1985
1 folder
Contracts/agreements with Arnold Meyer (writer) and David McHugh (composer-lyricist).
- b. 15 f. 4 Correspondence "A-Z", August 1975-July 1976
1 folder

- Outgoing correspondence from Ken Harper regarding *Bamboo*.
- b. 15 f. 5 Correspondence "A-Z", August 1976-March 1977
1 folder
Outgoing correspondence from Ken Harper regarding *Bamboo*.
- b. 15 f. 6 Correspondence "A-Z", April 1977-April 1978
1 folder
Outgoing correspondence from Ken Harper regarding *Bamboo*.
- b. 15 f. 7 Correspondence "A-Z", May 1978-September 1979
1 folder
Outgoing correspondence from Ken Harper regarding *Bamboo*.
- b. 15 f. 8 Correspondence "A-Z", June 1980-December 1982
1 folder
Outgoing correspondence from Ken Harper regarding *Bamboo*.
- b. 15 f. 9 Correspondence "A-Z", 1983
1 folder
Outgoing correspondence from Ken Harper regarding *Bamboo*.
- b. 15 f. 10 Correspondence "A-Z", February 1984-December 1986
1 folder
Outgoing correspondence from Ken Harper regarding *Bamboo*.
- b. 15 f. 11 *Bamboo* (Musical) / David McHugh, ca. 1983
1 folder
Publicity and resumes of Ken Harper, David McHugh and Arnold Meyer.
- b. 15 f. 12 *Bamboo* (Musical) / David McHugh, 1975
1 folder
Script.
- b. 15 f. 13 *Bamboo* (Musical) / David McHugh, ca. 1982
1 folder
Script with notes.

Sub-series 2 - Legal / Financial papers, 1976-1987

1 box

Chronological

This sub-series contains material regarding financial and production agreements and limited partnership offerings.

- b. 16 f. 1 Agreements and correspondence / Ken Harper, 1976-1987
1 folder

Agreements and correspondence with investors concerning the production of *Bamboo*.

- b. 16 f. 2
Legal papers / Ken Harper, 1979-1987
1 folder
Production and financial agreements regarding *Bamboo*.
- b. 16 f. 3
Legal papers / Ken Harper, 1978
1 folder
Limited partnerships, prospectus for *Bamboo*.
- b. 16 f. 4
Legal papers / Ken Harper, 1981
1 folder
Limited partnerships, prospectus for *Bamboo*.
- b. 16 f. 5
Legal papers / Ken Harper, 1979
1 folder
Limited partnerships, estimated expenses for *Bamboo*.
- b. 16 f. 6
Legal papers / Ken Harper, 1981-1983
1 folder
Limited partnership agreements with investors for the production of *Bamboo*.
- b. 16 f. 7
Legal papers / Ken Harper, 1979-1987
1 folder
Limited partnership agreements with investors for the production of *Bamboo*. Includes a pitch letter to Donald Trump.

Series V: Miscellaneous writings, 1979

2 folders

Alphabetical

This series contains two short stories with similar themes, *Down the Sky* written by Jeremy Lucas, and *Nightride and Sunrise* by John Jobe and Ken Harper. Ken Harper anticipated developing these stories into screenplays.

- b. 16 f. 8
Down the sky / Jeremy Lucas, 1979
1 folder
Ken Harper collaborated with Jeremy Lucas to write this short story with intent to develop it for a motion picture.
- b. 16 f. 9
Nightride and sunrise / John Jobe, 1979
1 folder
Ken Harper collaborated with John Jobe to write this short story with possible intent to develop it for a motion picture.

Separated Materials

Sound recordings have been separated to the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound.

Audiovisual materials separated from archival collections are cataloged individually and can be found in the Library catalog. Search CATNYP, The New York Public Library catalog.