

*T-Mss 1998-023

Guide to the Lainie Kazan Papers, 1960-1998

Billy Rose Theatre Division



The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

New York, New York

Processed by: Rebecca Custis

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Guide to the Lainie Kazan Papers, 1960-1998

Creator: Lainie Kazan

Call Number: *T-Mss 1998-023

Size: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

Repository: The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.
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Abstract: Actor-singer Lainie Kazan has had a wide-ranging career performing in musical theatre, jazz clubs, television and film. These papers document some moments of her career up until 1998.

Languages Represented: English

Administrative Information

Source

Papers were donated by Lainie Kazan in 1998.

Access

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

Restrictions on Use

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

Preferred Citation

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Biographical Note

Lainie Kazan was born Lainie Levine on May 15, 1940 in Brooklyn, New York. From the age of three, her inclination to pursue a life in show business was evident: she was already taking tap dancing lessons. She entered Hofstra University to study acting and changed her last name to Kazan, her mothers maiden name. Kazans studies eventually led her to perform on Broadway in such shows as THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD (1961) and BRAVO GIOVANNI (1962).

Kazans big break came when she was cast in another Broadway show, FUNNY GIRL (1964), as the understudy to lead actress Barbara Streisand in the role of Fanny Brice. Given the opportunity to shine as Fanny Brice for one matinee and one evening performance in FUNNY GIRL, Kazan received excellent reviews, and found it difficult to continue thereafter as a chorus girl in the shadow of Streisands fame.

Kazan went on to pursue a career as a vocalist, recording albums, and singing in cabarets. She made many television appearances on THE DEAN MARTIN SHOW and starred in her own syndicated television variety special, THE LAINIE KAZAN SHOW, in 1968. After tiring of life on the road, she married musical director Peter Daniels, and they gave birth to a daughter, Jennifer, in 1971.

Actress Shelley Winters introduced Kazan to renowned acting teacher Lee Strasberg, and Kazan enrolled to study with him at the Actors Studio. In 1976, Kazan was given the opportunity to manage her own lounge, Lainie's Club, at the Playboy Club of Los Angeles, where she revived her singing career. The venture proved so successful that the Playboy Club of New York approached her to create Lainies Room at their club in 1977.

Kazans former Hofstra classmate, Francis Ford Coppola, encouraged her to return to film, casting her in his feature, ONE FROM THE HEART in 1982. Her Brooklyn roots fared well for the Yenta mother character of Belle in the film comedy, MY FAVORITE YEAR, for which she received a Golden Globe nomination, and which she revived on stage at Lincoln Center Theatre in 1992. Kazan had a successful run in the popular cable television series, THE PAPER CHASE, and was nominated for an Emmy for her work on the series ST. ELSEWHERE. Other notable credits include the film BEACHES with Bette Midler and the film and television series MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING. Kazan has done several singing performance benefits to raise funds for AIDS research as well as cancer research.

Scope and Content Note

The Lainie Kazan Papers include contracts, programs, press material, annotated scripts and photographs.

Organization

- Series I: Professional Work Files
- Series II: Scripts
- Series III: Photographs

Series Descriptions/Container List

Series I: Professional Work Files, 1960-1994

9 folders

Series I consists of contracts, correspondence, programs, and publicity items.

Subseries 1 - Contracts and correspondence, 1960-1994

- b. 1 f. 1 Contracts, 1960-1977
Includes Actors Equity (AEA) contracts for theatrical performances, American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA) contracts for singing engagements, and contract for singing engagement with the Playboy Club in Los Angeles.
- b. 1 f. 2 Contractual letters, 1961-1964, 1992-1993
- b. 1 f. 3 Letters, 1992 and undated
Includes congratulatory notes from Kazan's mother, comedian Alan King, and a fan letter from Frank Egan of Southfield, Michigan.
- b. 1 f. 4 Correspondence and advertisements realated to Lainie's Room, 1978
Includes professional correspondence, copies of proposed print advertisements, and radio commercial scripts for Ms. Kazan's singing venue, Lainie's Room, located at the Playboy Club of New York and the Playboy Club of Los Angeles.
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence regarding the album, *Body and Soul* 1993-1994
Includes professional correspondence for development of jazz music album, *Body and Soul*.

Subseries 2 - Programs and publicity, 1960-1998

- b. 1 f. 6 Press book materials, 1998, undated
Includes promotional biographical information and press clippings.
- b. 1 f. 7 Advertisements for AIDS benefit concert performances, 1993, 1997

Includes advertisements for AIDS benefit concert performances held at the Metropolitan in Glen Cove, New York on August 22, 1993 and at the Hyatt Hotel in Acapulco on March 1, 1997.

- b. 1 f. 8 Programs, 1960, 1963, 1993
Includes programs from *Leave it to Jane*, *The 1963 Oldsmobile Announcement Show* and *The Government Inspector*.
- b. 1 f. 9 Press clippings, 1963-1997

Series II: Scripts, 1995-1997

4 folders

Chronological

This series includes the film scripts for *The Associate* and *The Big Hit* as well as the television scripts for *The Nanny: The Ex-Niles* (Episode #506), and *Touched by an Angel: Deconstructing Harry* (Episode #414). All of these scripts include Ms. Kazan's annotations.

- b. 1 f. 10 Annotated film script for *The Associate*, Nov. 1995
- b. 1 f. 11 Annotated film script for *The Big Hit*, May 1997
- b. 1 f. 12 Annotated television script for *The Nanny: The Ex-Niles* (Episode #506), Oct. 1997
- b. 1 f. 13 Annotated television script for *Touched by an Angel: Deconstructing Harry* (Episode #414), Nov. 1997

Series III: Photographs, 1965-1992

4 folders

Includes headshots and promotional shots, film stills, photos from the Broadway production of *My Favorite Year* , and photos from various stage productions of *Gypsy* .

- b. 1 f. 14 Headshots and promotional photos, undated
- b. 1 f. 15 Film photos, 1982, 1985, 1988
Includes stills from *My Favorite Year* (1982), *Lust in the Dust* (1985), and *Beaches* (1988).
- b. 1 f. 16 Photos from *My Favorite Year* , the Broadway production, 1992
- b. 1 f. 17 Photos from *Gypsy*, the stage musical, 1990, 1992
Performances in Fort Worth, Texas and Westbury, New York.

Separated Material

Includes an autobiographical video (VHS format), entitled *The Real Me*.