

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

GABRIEL M. POWELL, 1902-  
THEATRICAL DESIGNS, 1930-1977

8-MWEZ  
+++  
n.c.  
29,440  
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MER 06/92

MAIN ENTRY: Gabriel M. Powell, 1902-

TITLE: Theatrical Designs, 1930-1977

SIZE: 1.5 lin.ft.; 1 box

ACCESS: Unrestricted

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Gabriel M. Powell, artist and designer was born in 1902. He began his career in dance where he both performed and designed for the Gluck-Sandor Ballet Theatre [ca. 1933]. The major portion of his career, however, has been in theatre as a designer of theatrical sets and costumes. By 1936 he had designed the set for Sutton Vane's *OUTWARD BOUND* that was performed at the Forrest Theatre (N.Y.C.) by the Vagabond Theatre Co. He worked in summer stock where he created set designs for the Edgewood Players of Livingston Manor, New York. Later productions include works from the musical theater of Rodgers and Hammerstein and Irving Berlin. In his later years Mr. Powell concentrated on his career as an easel artist.

DESCRIPTION: The collection includes theatrical designs donated by Mr. Powell, primarily from the early years of his career. There are also biographical notes in his own hand.

RELATED COLLECTIONS: Gabriel M. Powell Ballet Designs can be found in the Dance Collection of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

## INTRODUCTION

The Gabriel M. Powell Designs were donated to the Billy Rose Theatre Collection in June 1992 by Mr. Gabriel M. Powell with an additional installment in 1994. They were sent to us through the auspices of the Miami Public Library, Art Division and arrived in good condition. Ballet designs were separated out of the collection and transferred to the Dance Collection of the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

## ARRANGEMENT NOTE

The Gabriel M. Powell Theatrical Designs are divided into two series: I. Biographical Notes; II. Theatrical Designs.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Gabriel M. Powell, artist and designer was born in 1902. He began his career in dance where he both performed and designed for the Gluck-Sandor Ballet Theatre [ca. 1933]. The major portion of his career, however, has been in theatre as a designer of theatrical sets and costumes. By 1936 he had designed the set for Sutton Vane's *OUTWARD BOUND* which was performed at the Forrest Theatre (N.Y.C.) by the Vagabond Theatre Co. He worked in summer stock where he created set designs for the Edgewood Players of Livingston Manor, New York. Later productions include works from the musical theater of Rodgers and Hammerstein and Irving Berlin. In his later years Mr. Powell concentrated on his career as an easel artist.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection includes theatrical designs donated by Mr. Powell, primarily from the early years of his career. There are also biographical notes in his own hand.

## SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I - Biographical Notes 1 folder

This series includes handwritten biographical reminiscences by Gabriel M. Powell concerning his career, as well as a page from a 1936 issue of *Theatre Arts* illustrating some of his early designs.

Series II - Theatrical Designs 8 designs  
arranged alphabetically

This series contains watercolor set designs and two costume designs. Set designs included are from *MACBETH*, *OUTWARD BOUND*, *THE LOVES OF ANATOL*, *PERSONAL APPEARANCE*, *THE DOLLAR* and *ACCENT ON YOUTH*. The costume designs are from *KING LEAR* and *PETER PAN*.

## CONTAINER LISTINGS

BOX NO. 1 (8-MWEZ + n.c. 29,440)

### **SERIES I - BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

Folder No.

1 Biographical Notes

### **SERIES II - THEATRICAL DESIGNS**

2 Designs - *Accent on Youth* [n.d.]  
by Samson Raphaelson

3 *The Dollar* [n.d.]  
by David Pinski

4 *King Lear* [n.d.] (costume design)  
by William Shakespeare

5 *Loves of Anatol* [n.d.]  
by Arthur Schnitzler

6 *Macbeth* [ca.1936]  
By William Shakespeare

7 *Outward Bound* [ca.1936]  
by Sutton Vane (performed by the Vagabond Theatre  
Co at the Forrest Theatre)

8 *Personal Appearance* [n.d.]  
by Lawrence Riley

9 *Peter Pan* [1990]  
by James M. Barrie