

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

RICHARD TUCKER, 1895 - 1958  
PHOTOGRAPHS, 1934 - 1951

\*T-VIM 1995-005  
sm 1998

MAIN ENTRY: Richard Tucker, 1895 - 1958

TITLE: Photographs, 1934 - 1951

SIZE: 4 boxes (1.75 lf.)

ACCESS: Unrestricted

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Richard Tucker, architect turned photographer, documented Broadway plays, musicals and revues of the 1930s, 40s and 50s.

DESCRIPTION: The collection consists of photographs and slides.

## INTRODUCTION

Photographs and slides taken by Richard Tucker were given to the Billy Rose Theatre Collection by his daughter Julia in 1995. Some of the items show damage from a fire that destroyed Tucker's Boston studio in 1949.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

When architect Richard Tucker was forced by the Depression to have a work-one-week-take-one-week-off schedule, he began taking photographs of vaudeville shows at the RKO-Boston Theatre. By 1933 Tucker had become a full-time freelance photographer covering plays and musicals during their Boston pre-Broadway tryouts. Using existing theatrical light he photographed both performances and rehearsals.

In 1949 Tucker's studio was destroyed by fire. Two years later he returned to the field of architecture. His last theatrical photographs were of *The King and I* in 1951.

Tucker died as the result of a heart attack in 1958 while he was in Italy working on photographs for the proposed book *Renaissance Scene Design: Its Relationship to the Architecture of Its Time*.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

Richard Tucker's photographs and slides document Broadway productions and some of the actors, directors, and writers who created them. The collection spans 1934-1951 and includes what appears to be some earlier undated material. Most of the photographs were taken in Boston during pre-Broadway tryouts. The collection is notable for the candid quality of the photographs, capturing the spirit of the production or performer.

## SERIES DESCRIPTION

The collection is arranged in two series: photographs and slides. The arrangement is alphabetical, productions followed by individuals. The photograph series consists of production, backstage, and rehearsal shots of revues, musicals, and plays and candid photographs of individual performers. Box three contains oversized photographs. Slides are mainly of productions.

**\*T-VIM 1995-005**

**Richard Tucker Photographs, 1934-1951**

**Container listing**

**Series I: Photographs**

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Box 1, folder 1</b>  | All in fun (Revue), 1940 / Louis Baldwin Bergersen.          |
| <b>Box 1, folder 2</b>  | At home abroad (Revue), 1935 / Arthur Schwartz.              |
| <b>Box 1, folder 3</b>  | Babes in arms (Musical), 1937 / Richard Rodgers.             |
| <b>Box 1, folder 4</b>  | Blithe spirit, 1941 / Noel Coward.                           |
| <b>Box 1, folder 5</b>  | Blow ye winds, 1937 / Valentine Davies.                      |
| <b>Box 1, folder 6</b>  | The boys from Syracuse (Musical), 1938 / Richard Rodgers.    |
| <b>Box 1, folder 7</b>  | By Jupiter (Musical), 1942 / Richard Rodgers.                |
| <b>Box 1, folder 8</b>  | Calling all men (Musical), 1937 / Louis Baldwin Bergersen.   |
| <b>Box 1, folder 9</b>  | The corn is green, 1940 / Emlyn Williams.                    |
| <b>Box 1, folder 10</b> | The doctor's dilemma, 1941 / Bernard Shaw.                   |
| <b>Box 1, folder 11</b> | Dubarry was a lady (Musical), 1939 / Cole Porter.            |
| <b>Box 1, folder 12</b> | Early to bed (Musical), 1943 / Fats Waller.                  |
| <b>Box 1, folder 13</b> | Flight to the west, 1940 / Elmer Rice.                       |
| <b>Box 1, folder 14</b> | Fools rush in (Revue), 1934 / Will Irwin.                    |
| <b>Box 1, folder 15</b> | Gallery gods (Burlesque), 1938.                              |
| <b>Box 1, folder 16</b> | Hamlet, 1936 / William Shakespeare.                          |
| <b>Box 1, folder 17</b> | Higher and higher (Musical), 1940 / Richard Rodgers.         |
| <b>Box 1, folder 18</b> | Hope for a harvest, 1941 / Sophie Treadwell.                 |
| <b>Box 1, folder 19</b> | The hot mikado (Musical), 1936 / Arthur, Sir Sullivan.       |
| <b>Box 1, folder 20</b> | I married an angel (Musical), 1938 / Richard Rodgers.        |
| <b>Box 1, folder 21</b> | I'd rather be right (Musical), 1937 / Richard Rodgers.       |
| <b>Box 1, folder 22</b> | A lady says yes (Musical), 1945 / Fred Spielman.             |
| <b>Box 1, folder 23</b> | Lute song (Musical), 1946 / Raymond Scott.                   |
| <b>Box 1, folder 24</b> | The man who came to dinner, 1939 / Moss Hart.                |
| <b>Box 1, folder 25</b> | Mexican hayride (Musical), 1944 / Cole Porter.               |
| <b>Box 1, folder 26</b> | No time for comedy, 1939 / S. N. (Samuel Nathaniel) Behrman. |
| <b>Box 1, folder 27</b> | Oklahoma! (Musical), 1943 / Richard Rodgers.                 |
| <b>Box 1, folder 28</b> | On your toes (Musical), 1936 / Richard Rodgers.              |
| <b>Box 1, folder 29</b> | Parade (Revue), 1935 / Jerome Moross.                        |
| <b>Box 1, folder 30</b> | A passenger to Bali, 1940 / Ellis St. Joseph.                |
| <b>Box 1, folder 31</b> | The pirate, 1942 / S. N. (Samuel Nathaniel) Behrman.         |
| <b>Box 1, folder 32</b> | Point Valaine, 1935 / Noel Coward.                           |
| <b>Box 1, folder 33</b> | Porgy and Bess (Opera), 1942 / George Gershwin.              |
| <b>Box 1, folder 34</b> | Romeo and Juliet / William Shakespeare.                      |
| <b>Box 1, folder 35</b> | Stars in your eyes (Musical), 1939 / Arthur Schwartz.        |
| <b>Box 1, folder 36</b> | Taming of the shrew, 1935 / William Shakespeare.             |
| <b>Box 1, folder 37</b> | This rock, 1943 / Walter Livingstone Faust.                  |
| <b>Box 1, folder 38</b> | Three after three (Musical), 1940 / Hoagy Carmichael.        |
| <b>Box 1, folder 39</b> | Too many girls (Musical), 1939 / Richard Rodgers.            |
| <b>Box 1, folder 40</b> | Two for the show (Revue), 1940 / Morgan Lewis.               |

<b>Box 1, folder 41</b>	The willow and I, 1942 / John Patrick.
<b>Box 1, folder 42</b>	You never know (Musical), 1938 / Cole Porter.
<b>Box 1, folder 43</b>	Photographs, 1937 / Peter Arno.
<b>Box 1, folder 44</b>	Photographs / Josephine Baker.
<b>Box 1, folder 45</b>	Photographs / Milton Berle.
<b>Box 1, folder 46</b>	Photographs / Valerie Bettis.
<b>Box 1, folder 47</b>	Photographs / Ray Bolger.
<b>Box 1, folder 48</b>	Photographs / Abe Burrows.
<b>Box 1, folder 49</b>	Photographs, 1939 / Judy Canova.
<b>Box 1, folder 50</b>	Photographs / Joan Caulfield.
<b>Box 1, folder 51</b>	Photographs / Ann Corio.
<b>Box 1, folder 52</b>	Photographs / Katharine Cornell.
<b>Box 1, folder 53</b>	Photographs / Lou Costello.
<b>Box 1, folder 54</b>	Photographs / Noel Coward.
<b>Box 1, folder 55</b>	Photographs / Dominican Sisters.
<b>Box 1, folder 56</b>	Photographs / Jimmy Durante.
<b>Box 1, folder 57</b>	Photographs / Maurice Evans.
<b>Box 1, folder 58</b>	Photographs / Jos, Ferrer.
<b>Box 1, folder 59</b>	Photographs / Barry Fitzgerald.
<b>Box 1, folder 60</b>	Photographs / Jane Froman.
<b>Box 1, folder 61</b>	Photographs / Lorenz Hart.
<b>Box 1, folder 62</b>	Photographs / Sonja Henie.
<b>Box 1, folder 63</b>	Photographs / Al Jolson.
<b>Box 1, folder 64</b>	Photographs / Serge Koussevitsky.
<b>Box 2, folder 1</b>	Photographs / Bert Lahr.
<b>Box 2, folder 2</b>	Photographs / Paula Lawrence.
<b>Box 2, folder 3</b>	Photographs / Gypsy Rose Lee.
<b>Box 2, folder 4</b>	Photographs / Beatrice Lillie.
<b>Box 2, folder 5</b>	Photographs / Mary Martin.
<b>Box 2, folder 6</b>	Photographs / Raymond Massey.
<b>Box 2, folder 7</b>	Photographs / Mata and Hari.
<b>Box 2, folder 8</b>	Photographs / Ann Miller.
<b>Box 2, folder 9</b>	Photographs / Carmen Miranda.
<b>Box 2, folder 10</b>	Photographs / Victor Moore.
<b>Box 2, folder 11</b>	Photographs / Henry Morgan.
<b>Box 2, folder 12</b>	Photographs / Osgood Perkins.
<b>Box 2, folder 13</b>	Photographs / Rodgers and Hammerstein.
<b>Box 2, folder 14</b>	Photographs / Ethel Waters.
<b>Box 2, folder 15</b>	Photographs / Bert Wheeler.
<b>Box 2, folder 16</b>	Photographs / Shelley Winters.
<b>Box 2, folder 17</b>	Photographs / Ed Wynn.
<b>Box 2, folder 18</b>	Unidentified photographs.
<b>Box 3, folder 1</b>	Hooray for what! (Musical) / Harold Arlen.
<b>Box 3, folder 2</b>	Knickerbocker holiday (Musical), 1938 / Kurt Weill.
<b>Box 3, folder 3</b>	South Pacific (Musical), 1949 / Richard Rodgers.
<b>Box 3, folder 4</b>	Our town, 1938 / Thornton Wilder.
<b>Box 3, folder 5</b>	Photographs / Josephine Baker.
<b>Box 3, folder 6</b>	Photographs / Jimmy Durante.

**Box 3, folder 7** Photographs / Roland Hayes.  
**Box 3, folder 8** Photographs / Sonja Henie.  
**Box 3, folder 9** Photographs / Beatrice Lillie.  
**Box 3, folder 10** Photographs / Ethel Waters.

## **Series II: Slides**

**Box 4, folder 1** As you like it, 1950 / William Shakespeare.  
**Box 4, folder 2** Barefoot in Athens, 1951 / Maxwell Anderson.  
**Box 4, folder 3** Cyrano de Bergerac, 1946 / Edmond Rostand.  
**Box 4, folder 4** Death of a salesman, 1950 / Arthur Miller.  
**Box 4, folder 5** The eternal road, 1937 / Kurt Weill.  
**Box 4, folder 6** Hamlet, 1936 / William Shakespeare.  
**Box 4, folder 7** Higher and higher (Musical), 1940 / Richard Rodgers.  
**Box 4, folder 8** King and I (Musical), 1951 / Richard Rodgers.  
**Box 4, folder 9** Medea / Robinson Jeffers.  
**Box 4, folder 10** Mister Roberts, 1948 / Thomas Heggen.  
**Box 4, folder 11** One touch of Venus (Musical), 1943 / Kurt Weill.  
**Box 4, folder 12** The pirate, 1942 / S. N. (Samuel Nathaniel) Behrman.  
**Box 4, folder 13** Romeo and Juliet, 1951 / William Shakespeare.  
**Box 4, folder 14** Season in the sun, 1950 / Wolcott Gibbs.  
**Box 4, folder 15** South Pacific (Musical), 1949 / Richard Rodgers.  
**Box 4, folder 16** A streetcar named Desire, 1949 / Tennessee Williams.  
**Box 4, folder 17** Wisteria trees, 1950 / Joshua Logan.  
**Box 4, folder 18** Unidentified production slides.  
**Box 4, folder 19** Photographs / Eve Arden.  
**Box 4, folder 19** Photographs / Bobby Clark.  
**Box 4, folder 19** Photographs / Maurice Evans.  
**Box 4, folder 19** Photographs / Jos, Ferrer.  
**Box 4, folder 19** Photographs / Helen Hayes.  
**Box 4, folder 19** Photographs / Katharine Hepburn.  
**Box 4, folder 19** Photographs / Gypsy Rose Lee.  
**Box 4, folder 19** Photographs / Mary Martin.  
**Box 4, folder 19** Photographs / Carmen Miranda.  
**Box 4, folder 19** Photographs / Victor Moore.