



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
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Guide to the

John Marriott papers

1933-1977

Sc MG 149

Summary

Creator: Marriott, John, 1893-1977

Title: John Marriott papers

Date: 1933-1977

Size: 3.58 linear feet (10 boxes)

Source: Gift of Beatrice Marriott, 1978.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: John Marriott was an African American actor whose theater, film, and television credits extended over fifty years. The John Marriott papers reflect Marriott's acting career in theater, movies, and television commercials.

Preferred citation: [Item], John Marriott papers, Sc MG 149, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by Janice Quinter, April 2009.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio and moving image materials. For more information, please contact the division at schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Creator History

John Marriott was an African American actor whose theater, film, and television credits extended over fifty years. He began his career in 1922 as a member of the celebrated Karamu Players of Cleveland, an association he maintained for twelve years. He appeared in the Off-Broadway production of *The*

Respectful Prostitute in 1948, and in many Broadway productions, most notably *The Iceman Cometh* in 1946, *The Green Pastures*, *The Little Foxes*, *The Miracle Worker*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, *Mulatto*, *No Way Out*, and *You Can't Take It With You*, among others. He also appeared in a number of productions at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.

Marriott's film performances include *The Little Foxes*, *The Joe Louis Story*, *The Court-Martial of Billy Mitchell*, *The Spirit of St. Louis*, and *Dog Day Afternoon*. He was also in a number of television shows, such as *That Was The Week That Was*, *The Patty Duke Show*, *Hallmark Hall of Fame*, and *Kraft Theater* as well as several soap operas. Marriott died in 1977 in New York.

Scope and Content Note

The John Marriott papers reflect Marriott's acting career in theater, movies, and television commercials. The Personal series, 1940-1977, consists of biographical information, news clippings, obituaries, personal correspondence from friends, and certificates. The bulk of the collection forms the Acting Career series, 1933-1976. There is professional correspondence containing letters from theatrical people informing Marriott of roles in plays scripts with scripts enclosed that he should read (1933-1976). There are numerous reviews and other articles about his many performances. Marriott's roles with the Arena Stage are documented but only a few items represent his long affiliation with the Karamu Theater. Most of the series consists of playscripts for productions in which Marriott acted, including Broadway shows. Several were written by Black playwrights such as Edward Branch, Philip Hayes Dean, Shirley Graham Du Bois, Steve Gordon, Langston Hughes, and Lofton Mitchell. Other material in this series includes screenplays; scripts for radio, television commercials, and announcements that Marriott performed; and an article entitled "Keep It Small" which he wrote in 1954 for inclusion in a book *How to Act for Television* by William I. Kaufman.

Arrangement: Arranged into two series: I. Personal and II. Acting career.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American actors
African American dramatists
African American entertainers
African Americans in radio broadcasting
African Americans in the motion picture industry
African Americans in the performing arts
African Americans on television
American drama -- African American authors

Names

Dean, Phillip Hayes
Du Bois, Shirley Graham, 1896-1977
Hughes, Langston, 1902-1967
Marriott, John, 1893-1977
Mitchell, Lofton

Container List

- Personal 1940-1977
 - b. 1 f. 1-2 Biographical information
 - b. 10
 - b. 1 f. 3 Correspondence 1940-1975
- Acting career 1933-1976
 - b. 1 f. 4-5 Professional correspondence 1933-1976
 - b. 1 f. 6 Telegrams and congratulatory notes ca. 1950-1976
- Clippings
 - b. 1 f. 7 About Marriott 1939-1976
- b. 1 f. 8-12 Reviews 1947-1970s
 - b. 2 f. 1 Financial records and contracts 1932-1971
 - b. 2 f. 2-8 Playbills and programs
 - b. 2 f. 9-10 Arena Stage, Washington, D.C 1970-1976
 - b. 10 Karamu Theater, Cleveland, Ohio 1932-1939
- b. 2 f. 12-13 *The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia (A Texas Trilogy)* 1976
- b. 2 f. 14 *The Miracle Worker* 1960
- b. 2 f. 15 *Sweet Bird of Youth* 1975
- b. 2 f. 16 Miscellaneous performance material from various plays 1940-1974
- Playscripts
 - b. 3 f. 1 *Alberta, Let Your Hair Hang Low* by Philip Hayes Dean
 - b. 3 f. 2 *An American Folk Song* by Philip Hayes Dean
 - b. 3 f. 3 *Answered the Flute* by Sam Robins
 - b. 3 f. 4 *The Bancroft Dynasty* by Lofton Mitchell
 - b. 3 f. 5 *The Deliverers* by William Gibson
 - b. 3 f. 6 *Every Night When the Sun Goes Down* by Philip Hayes Dean
 - b. 3 f. 7 *The Great White Hope* by Howard Sackler
 - b. 3 f. 8 *Head of the Family* by George Norford
 - b. 4 f. 1 *House of Cards* by Warren Weldon
 - b. 4 f. 2 *Inherit the Wind* by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee
 - b. 4 f. 3 *The Insolent Breed* by D. Figel-Hartman
 - b. 4 f. 4 *Interlock* by Ira Levin
 - b. 4 f. 5 *In the Valley* by Harold Frederic
 - b. 4 f. 6 *The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia* by Preston S. Jones
 - b. 4 f. 7 *Last Resort* by David Knox
 - b. 4 f. 8 *The Little Foxes* by Lillian Hellman
 - b. 4 f. 9 *Man Out of Darkness* by William Gill
 - b. 4 f. 10 *More Statelty Mansions* by Eugene O'Neill
 - b. 5 f. 1 *Older People* by John Ford Nonnan

Acting career (cont.)

Playscripts (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 2 *Payment Deferred by J. E. P. Dell*
Adapted from C. B. Forester's novel, *Payment Deferred*.
- b. 5 f. 3 *The Phonograph by Lofton Mitchell*
- b. 5 f. 4 *Rainbow Terrace by Alan Dirksin*
- b. 5 f. 5-6 *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui by Bertolt Brecht*
- b. 5 f. 7 *The Respectful Prostitute by Jean-Paul Sartre*
- b. 5 f. 8 *The Street by Harold Robbins*
- b. 6 f. 1 *Sweet Bird of Youth by Tennessee Williams*
- b. 6 f. 2 *Tide of Passion by Edward Branch*
- b. 6 f. 3 *Tough to Get Help by Steve Gordon*
- b. 6 f. 4 *Weekend by Gore Vidal*
- b. 6 f. 5-7 Printed matter for various scripts
- b. 7 f. 1-2
- b. 7 f. 3-5 Scenes

Screenplays

- b. 8 f. 1 *Dear, Dead Delilah by John Farris*
- b. 8 f. 2 *The Denial by Ormonde de Kay, Jr. and John O'Toole*
Based on a play by John O'Toole.
- b. 9 f. 1-2 *Dog Day Afternoon by Frank R. Pierson*
- b. 9 f. 3 *Going All Out by Bruce Geller and Eugene Price*
- b. 9 f. 4 *The Little Foxes by Lillian Hellman*
- b. 9 f. 5 *The Story of Phyllis Wheatley by Columbia Broadcasting System*
- b. 9 f. 6 *The Way We Live Now by Daniel Tamkus and Barry Brown*
Based on novel by Warren Miller.

Public Service Announcements

- b. 9 f. 7 "Dr. Webb of Horseshoe Bend" by Joseph Liss for American Medical Association
- b. 9 f. 8 "It's Your Move", Small Business Administration
- b. 9 f. 9 Radio and television commercials and announcements 1953-1954
- b. 9 f. 10 "*Keep It Small*" for *How to Act for Television* by William I. Kaufman 1954
- b. 9 f. 11 Sheet music
- b. 9 f. 12 Miscellaneous printed material