



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Eulalie Spence papers

1926-1991

Sc MG 552

Summary

Creator: Spence, Eulalie, 1894-1981

Title: Eulalie Spence papers

Date: 1926-1991

Size: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of Kathy A. Perkins, March 1995.03/10/95

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Eulalie Spence was born in Nevis, West Indies, on June 11, 1884. She and her family moved to New York in 1902. Spence was among the pioneer playwrights during the Harlem Renaissance and wrote fourteen plays, five of which were published, including *Episode*, *Fool's Errand*, *Her*, *The Hunch*, and *Undertow*. She wrote only one three-act play, "The Whipping", which was optioned by Paramount Studios, but never made into a film. Several of Spence's plays won awards; "Foreign Mail" placed second in the Crisis competition for playwriting. Spence was a contemporary of W. E. B. Du Bois and taught Joseph Papp. Spence died on March 7, 1994. The Eulalie Spence collection consists of correspondence, playbills, scripts, photographs, agreements, and newspaper clippings. Also included are materials related to her participation in The Dramatists' Guild and "The Lighthouse Players."

Preferred citation: [Item], Eulalie Spence papers, Sc MG 552, 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 Paula Williams, November 1994.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio 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

Eulalie Spence was born in Nevis, West Indies, on June 11, 1884. She and her family moved to New York in 1902. Spence was among the pioneer playwrights during the Harlem Renaissance and wrote fourteen plays, five of which were published, including *Episode*, *Fool's Errand*, *Her*, *The Hunch*, and *Undertow*. She wrote only one three-act play, "The Whipping", which was optioned by Paramount Studios, but never made into a film. Several of Spence's plays won awards; "Foreign Mail" placed second in the *Crisis* competition for playwriting. Spence was a contemporary of W. E. B. Du Bois and taught Joseph Papp. Spence died on March 7, 1994.

Scope and Content Note

The Eulalie Spence collection consists of correspondence, playbills, scripts, photographs, agreements, and newspaper clippings. Also included are materials related to her participation in The Dramatists' Guild and "The Lighthouse Players.

Arrangement: Arranged into 5 series: I. Correspondence; II. Agreements; II. Writings/Scripts; IV. Programs; and V. Kathy A. Perkins.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American women authors
African American women dramatists
American drama -- African American authors
Authors, Black
Harlem Renaissance

Names

Perkins, Kathy A., 1954-
Spence, Eulalie, 1894-1981

Container List

Correspondence

- b. 1 f. 1 Family
- b. 1 f. 2 Horne, Frank S
- b. 1 f. 3 Locke, A
- b. 1 f. 4 Membership and degree

Agreements

- b. 1 f. 5 Plays
- b. 1 f. 6 Programs

Writings and scripts

- b. 1 f. 7 *Episode*
- b. 1 f. 8 *Fool's Errand*
- b. 1 f. 9 *Her*
- b. 1 f. 10 *The Hunch*
- b. 1 f. 11 *Undertow*
- b. 1 f. 12 "The Whipping"
- b. 1 f. 13 "Divina Pastora"
- b. 1 f. 10-12 Programs
- b. 1 f. 13 Perkins, Kathy A