



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

Guide to the

Lex Monson collection

1955-2004

Sc MG 730

Summary

Creator: Monson, Lex, 1926-2004

Title: Lex Monson collection

Date: 1955-2004

Size: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of James Phillips, June 2004.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Lex Monson (Elexendre Remus Monson) was an actor, singer, chorus director, and producer. The Lex Monson collection consists primarily of printed matter, correspondence, and playscripts.

Preferred citation: [Item], Lex Monson collection, Sc MG 730, 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 Nurah-Rosalie Jeter, June 2004.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Jean Blackwell Hutson Research and Reference Division: journal.

Creator History

Lex Monson (Elexendre Remus Monson) was an actor, singer, chorus director, and producer. He studied at the Detroit Institute of Music and Drama and the Robert Nolan School of Music, where he was a member of the School's famed choir. Monson changed his name to Lex Monson after he moved to New York City. He appeared in the original Broadway production of Vinette Carroll's *Trumpets of the Lord* in 1969. Among the other productions Monson appeared in were the European productions of *Trumpets of the Lord*, *Macbeth*, *Keyboard*, *The Orchard*, *God's Trombones*, *Joe Turner's Come and*

Gone, and *Driving Miss Daisy*.

Scope and Content Note

The Lex Monson collection consists primarily of printed matter. There are also letters from a friend (1980-1986) serving in the military. Programs and reviews of Monson's work over the years make up the bulk of the collection and have been organized chronologically. Additionally, there are playscripts for *Awake and Sing*; *Grassi's Lute* (2 versions): *Gassire's Lute* and *Gassire's Luter* (for speaking chorus adapted by Lex Monson, translated by Alta Jablow); and *True Colors: The Beat Goes On* by Linda M. Yearwood.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American actors
African American choral conductors
African American conductors (Music)
African American singers
African American theatrical producers and directors
African Americans in the performing arts

Names

Monson, Lex, 1926-2004

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Personal
- b. 1 f. 2 Letters from Britt Williams 1980-1986
- Reviews and programs
- b. 1 f. 3-4 Clippings of European reviews 1966
 - Trumpets of the Lord*
- b. 1 f. 5 1965-1966
- b. 1 f. 6 1969
- b. 1 f. 7 Italy 1973-1994
- b. 1 f. 8 *Pericles* 1974
- b. 1 f. 9 *Macbeth* 1977
- b. 1 f. 10 *Ode to Mariah* 1979
- b. 1 f. 11 "Why Black Actors Are Not Working" 1979
- b. 1 f. 12 *Keyboard* 1982
- b. 1 f. 13 *Burnscape* 1983
- b. 1 f. 14 *Two Man Show* 1983
- b. 1 f. 15 *Split Second* 1985-1986
- b. 1 f. 16 *One Fine Day* 1986
- b. 1 f. 17 *The Orchard* 1986
- b. 1 f. 18 *An American Journey* 1988
- b. 1 f. 19 *The Cherry Orchard* 1988
- b. 1 f. 20 *God's Trombones* 1989
- b. 1 f. 21 *Spooks* 1989
- b. 1 f. 22 *Grapes of Wrath* 1990
- b. 2 f. 1 *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* 1992
- b. 2 f. 2 *The Comedians* 1992
- b. 2 f. 3 *Miss Evers' Boys* 1992-1993
- b. 2 f. 4 *The Gift Horse* 1994
- b. 2 f. 5 *Kosher Grocers* 1994
- b. 2 f. 6 *Two Trains Running* 1994
- b. 2 f. 7 *Defending the Light* 2000
- b. 2 f. 8 *The Orchard* 2003
- b. 2 f. 9 *Driving Miss Daisy* undated
- Playscripts
- b. 2 f. 10 *Awake and Sing (adapted for Blacks by Lex Monson)*
- b. 2 f. 11 *Grassire's Lute* 1955
- b. 2 f. 12 *Grassire's Lute (prepared for speaking chorus)*
- b. 2 f. 13 *True Colors (The Beat Goes On)*
- b. 2 f. 14 Clippings 1973-1993
- b. 2 f. 15-16 Programs 1955-1991

b. 2 f. 17 Article on Earle Hyman