



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

Guide to the

Nell Carter scrapbook collection

1981-2003

Sc MG 904

Summary

Creator: Carter, Nell

Title: Nell Carter scrapbook collection

Date: 1981-2003

Size: 0.75 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Gift of Eddie Kelly, Dick Clark original American Bandstand dancer (1951-1961), 2014.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Nell Carter was an award-winning singer and actress who appeared in many popular theater, television, and film works from 1971 until her death in 2003. Born Nell Ruth Hardy in 1948, she made her Broadway debut in the short-lived 1971 musical *Soon*. Her breakthrough role was in the 1978 Broadway production of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, a musical revue inspired by the jazz music of Fats Waller and the Harlem Renaissance. Carter won a Tony Award for her performance as well an Emmy Award for her reprisal in the 1982 NBC television broadcast of the show. In 1979, she appeared in the film adaption and soundtrack of the musical *Hair*. Carter starred in the NBC sitcom *Gimme a Break!* from 1981 until 1987, receiving multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for her role as the housekeeper Nell Harper. Carter, who in some TV series also appeared as Nell Ruth Carter, was active in the theater and on television and film throughout the 1980s and 1990s; notable acting credits include roles in revivals of *Hello Dolly!* and *Annie*; the ABC sitcoms *You Take the Kids* and *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper*; and in the films *Bebe's Kids* and *The Glass Harp*. Carter was married twice and lived with her partner, Ann Kaser, after her second divorce until her death in 2003, from heart complications related to diabetes. She is survived by a daughter and two adopted sons. The Nell Carter scrapbooks collection features newspaper and magazine articles, and playbills that highlight both the professional and personal life of the award-winning singer and actress. The NBC sitcom *Gimme a Break!* (1981-1987), is represented in critical reviews of Carter and her show. Also featured in the collection are clippings related to the award-winning musical *Ain't Misbehavin'*, for which Carter received a Tony Award in 1978. The scrapbook includes clippings from the televised special of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, which aired in 1982, and the revival of the play on Broadway in 1988. In 1982, Carter received an Emmy for her performance in the televised version of the musical.

Preferred citation: [Item], Nell Carter scrapbook collection, Sc MG 904, Schomburg Center for

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

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

Nell Carter was an award-winning singer and actress who appeared in many popular theater, television, and film works from 1971 until her death in 2003. Born Nell Ruth Hardy in 1948, she made her Broadway debut in the short-lived 1971 musical *Soon*. Her breakthrough role was in the 1978 Broadway production of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, a musical revue inspired by the jazz music of Fats Waller and the Harlem Renaissance. Carter won a Tony Award for her performance as well an Emmy Award for her reprisal in the 1982 NBC television broadcast of the show. In 1979, she appeared in the film adaption and soundtrack of the musical *Hair*. Carter starred in the NBC sitcom *Gimme a Break!* from 1981 until 1987, receiving multiple Emmy and Golden Globe nominations for her role as the housekeeper Nell Harper. Carter, who in some TV series also appeared as Nell Ruth Carter, was active in the theater and on television and film throughout the 1980s and 1990s; notable acting credits include roles in revivals of *Hello Dolly!* and *Annie*; the ABC sitcoms *You Take the Kids* and *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper*; and in the films *Bebe's Kids* and *The Glass Harp*. Carter was married twice and lived with her partner, Ann Kaser, after her second divorce until her death in 2003, from heart complications related to diabetes. She is survived by a daughter and two adopted sons.

Scope and Content Note

The Nell Carter scrapbooks collection features newspaper and magazine articles, and playbills that highlight both the professional and personal life of the award-winning singer and actress. The NBC sitcom *Gimme a Break!* (1981-1987), is represented in critical reviews of Carter and her show. Also featured in the collection are clippings related to the award-winning musical *Ain't Misbehavin'*, for which Carter received a Tony Award in 1978. The scrapbook includes clippings from the televised special of *Ain't Misbehavin'*, which aired in 1982, and the revival of the play on Broadway in 1988. In 1982, Carter received an Emmy for her performance in the televised version of the musical.

The collection also includes clippings from the revival of the musical *Hello Dolly!* in 1991, which Carter co-starred with Nipsey Russell. The scrapbooks also feature clippings and articles relating to sitcoms Carter starred in during the 1990s including *You Take the Kids* (1990-1991) and *Hangin' with Mr. Cooper*, as well as playbills and other material relating to the 1997 Broadway revival of the hit musical *Annie*. Carter's personal life is also represented in the scrapbooks.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American actresses
African American lesbians
African American women entertainers
African American women in popular culture
African American women on television
African American women singers
African Americans in television broadcasting

African Americans in the performing arts

Names

Carter, Nell

Container List

- b. 1 ca. 1981-1989
- b. 2 ca. 1983-1997
- b. 3 ca. 1990-2001