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Billy Rose Theatre Division**

Guide to the

Helen Richards papers

1945-1985 (bulk 1954-1985)

*T-Mss 1995-033

Compiled by Sarah Clinet, INP, 2011, March 2012

Summary

Creator: Richards, Helen

Title: Helen Richards papers, 1945-1985 (bulk 1954-1985)

Size: 6.51 linear feet (16 boxes)

Source: Gift of Jeffrey Richards, 1986.

Abstract: Helen Stern Richards was a Broadway publicity agent and company manager. Documenting her professional life, the Helen Richards papers contain scripts of musicals and plays, and management files about shows, theaters and actors.

Access: This collection has no restrictions. This collection is open to the public. Library policy on photography and photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Preferred citation: Helen Richards papers, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: The collection has been re-folded, re-boxed, and arranged as needed.

Related collections

Jeffrey Richards papers. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator history

Helen Stern Richards (1917-1983) was born in Texas. After graduating from the University of Texas, she became assistant to the manager of a Texas radio station, and ran her own daily radio program for women. From 1939 to 1944, Richards was co-owner and manager of a small theater in Oklahoma City.

In the early 1940s, she moved to New York to work for the composer Sigmund Romberg as an advance agent. Richards then became a press agent on Broadway in the 1950s, promoting shows that included *Don Juan in Hell* and *West Side Story*. She also worked as a company manager and general manager until the late 1970s, managing plays and musicals such as *Shenandoah* and *Purlie Victorious*. Her son, Jeffrey Richards, was raised in the musical world and is now a Broadway producer.

Scope and content note

The collection documents the professional life of Helen Richards between 1945 and 1985, though the bulk of the collection concerns the period between 1954 and 1985. In addition to a large collection of scripts, the collection includes publicity material, correspondence, photographs and accounting documents related to the management and promotion of theatrical productions. This collection is arranged in two series: Office Files and Scripts. Each series is arranged in alphabetical order.

Arrangement

The Helen Richards papers are organized into the following series:

Series I: Office Files, 1945-1981

Series II: Scripts, 1962-1985

Key terms

Subjects

Musical theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Musicals

Press agents -- New York (State) -- New York

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

Places

Broadway (New York, N.Y.)

Names

Richards, Helen

Special formats

Accounting

Photographs

Typescripts

Container list

Series I: Office Files, 1945-1981 (5 boxes)

The first series in the collection contains office files. Some are dedicated to theaters, and contain mostly programs, calendars and correspondence about programming. Other files are dedicated to performers for which Richards acted as a press agent, with programs, publicity material, and correspondence related to promotion.

The bulk of this series concerns the shows Helen Richards managed. The files are mostly contracts and accounting documents for ticket sales. They also provide details about the cast and crew. Some contain clippings, reviews, photographs, or calendars of the shows. There is some correspondence between Helen Richards and theater managers or advertising agencies. Also included are files on popular shows in which Richards invested, such as *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

General

- b.1 f.1 Advice Sheets, undated
- b.2 f.1 Amaya, Carmen, 1955-1956
- b.1 f.10 Les Ballets de Paris, 1950
- b.1 f.2 Borge, Victor, 1945
- b.1 f.3 Carter Barron Theater, 1954
- b.1 f.4 Cort Theater, 1946-1972
- b.1 f.5 Escudero, Vicente, 1955
- b.2 f.13 Grand Opera Movie Week, 1950
- b.5 f.12 Guizar, Tito, 1945
- b.1 f.6 Ken White Associates, undated
- b.1 f.7 Laughton, Charles, 1949
- b.3 f.12 Netherland Dance Theater, 1968
- b.4 f.4 Newport Casino Theatre, 1950
- b.4 f.6 Oceanside Hotel, 1955-1956
- b.4 f.8 Paper Mill Playhouse, 1953-1954
- b.5 f.3 Romberg, Sigmund, 1945

Theatrical Productions

- b.1 f.8 *All American*, 1962
- b.1 f.9 *Angela*, 1968-1969
- b.1 f.11 *Big Time Buck White*, 1969
- b.1 f.12 *Broadway Highlights*, 1955
- b.1 f.13 *Bye Bye Birdie*, 1960-1979
- b.1 f.14 *Cabalgata*, 1949
- b.2 f.2 *Cock-a-Doodle Dandy*, undated
- b.2 f.3 *Come Blow Your Horn*, 1961
- b.2 f.4 *Damn Yankees*, undated
- b.2 f.5 *Danbury Operettas*, 1951
- b.2 f.6 *Don Juan in Hell*, 1951
- b.2 f.7 *Dr. Cook's Garden*, 1967
- b.2 f.8 *Fiddler on the Roof*, 1964-1981

Series I: Office Files, 1945-1981 (5 boxes)

T... (cont.)

Theatrical Productions (cont.)

- b.2 f.9 *Fiorello*, 1959-1978
- b.2 f.10 *The Fume of Poppies*, 1960-1963
- b.2 f.11 *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, 1962-1971
- b.2 f.14 *Here Lies Jeremy Troy*, 1969
- b.2 f.15 *The Heroine*, 1932-1963
- b.2 f.16 *John Brown's Body*, 1951-1952
- b.3 f.1 *Laughs and Other Events*, 1960-1962
- b.3 f.2 *Love in E Flat*, 1967
- b.3 f.3 *Mame*, 1969
- b.3 f.4 *The Mating Dance*, 1965-1966
- b.3 f.5-6 *Melody Fair*, 1950-1952
- b.3 f.7 *Merry Widow*, 1949
- b.3 f.8 *Milk and Honey*, 1961-1972
- b.3 f.9 *The Moon is Blue*, 1954
- b.3 f.10 *Nathan Weinstein, Mystic, Connecticut*, 1965-1966
- b.3 f.11 *Nemiroff*, 1973-1974
- b.4 f.1 *Never Live over a Pretzel Factory*, 1964
- b.4 f.2 *Never Too Late*, 1964
- b.4 f.3 *New Girl in Town*, undated
- b.4 f.5 *Ninety Day Mistress*, 1967
- b.4 f.7 *The Odd Couple*, 1966
- b.4 f.9 *Park*, 1970
- b.4 f.10 *A Place for Polly*, 1969-1970
- b.4 f.11 *Poor Bitos*, 1964
- b.4 f.12-13 *Purlie Victorious*, 1961-1976
- b.4 f.14 *Raisin*, 1973
- b.4 f.15 *The Riot Act*, 1962-1963
- b.4 f.16 *The Second City*, undated
- b.4 f.17 *She Loves Me*, 1962-1979
- b.5 f.1 *Shenandoah*, 1975-1981
- b.5 f.2 *Side by Side by Sondheim*, 1977-1979
- b.5 f.4 *A Soft Touch*, 1970
- b.5 f.5 *Something's Afoot*, 1976
- b.5 f.6 *Stop the Music*, 1949
- b.5 f.7 *Take Her, She's Mine*, 1961-1973
- b.5 f.8 *Tenderloin*, 1960-1977
- b.5 f.9 *Teresa and Luisillo*, 1954-1955
- b.2 f.12 *There's a Girl in My Soup*, 1967
- b.5 f.10 *Three for All*, 1977-1978

Series I: Office Files, 1945-1981 (5 boxes)

T... (cont.)

Theatrical Productions (cont.)

- b.5 f.11 *Three Men on a Horse*, undated
- b.5 f.13 *Turnabout*, 1953
- b.5 f.14 *The Wager*, 1975
- b.5 f.15 *Weekend*, 1968

Series II: Scripts, 1962-1985 (10 boxes)

The other series in the collection contains typescripts of musicals and plays. A small number of these scripts include revisions and annotations.

- b.6 f.1 *After the Revolution*, 1979
- b.6 f.2 *Album*, 1980
- b.6 f.3 *Angel*, undated
- b.6 f.4 *Anything Goes*, undated
- b.6 f.5 *The Bat*, undated
- b.6 f.6 *Bedroom Farce*, undated
- b.6 f.7 *Beyond Therapy*, undated
- b.6 f.8 *Bravo Giovanni*, undated
- b.7 f.1 *The Brixton Recovery*, undated
- b.7 f.2 *Broadway*, undated
- b.7 f.3 *The Brothers*, 1982
- b.7 f.4 *The Butler Did It*, undated
- b.7 f.5 *Carmelina*, 1979
- b.7 f.6 *Catholic School Girls*, 1979
- b.7 f.7 *Class Enemy*, undated
- b.7 f.8-9 *Crimes and Dreams*, 1980
- b.7 f.10 *Daddy Goodness*, undated
- b.16 f.1 *Dead Giveaway!*, undated
- b.8 f.1 *The Death of a Miner*, 1980
- b.8 f.2 *The Decision*, undated
- b.8 f.3 *Deep in the Heart*, undated
- b.8 f.4 *Does Anybody Here Do the Peabody?*, undated
- b.8 f.5 *Don Juan in Hell*, undated
- b.8 f.6 *Dracula!*, 1976
- b.8 f.7 *Dr. Cook's Garden*, 1967
- b.8 f.8 *Dylan*, 1962
- b.8 f.9 *Eddie and the Cruisers*, 1982
- b.8 f.10 *The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin*, 1975
- b.9 f.1 *Fefu and Her Friends*, undated
- b.9 f.2 *Fifth Avenue*, 1978
- b.9 f.3 *Fighting Bob*, 1979
- b.9 f.4 *Fiorello*, undated

Series II: Scripts, 1962-1985 (10 boxes)

The ... (cont.)

- b.9 f.5 *Firepower*, 1978
- b.9 f.6 *The Freak*, 1981
- b.9 f.7 *Frimbo*, 1980
- b.9 f.8 *Grace*, 1981
- b.9 f.9 *The Grinding Machine*, 1977
- b.10 f.1 *Hold Me!*, undated
- b.10 f.2 *The Housewives' Cantata*, undated
- b.10 f.3 *Hope Lange*, undated
- b.10 f.4 *How the Other Half Loves*, undated
- b.10 f.5 *I Can't Keep Running in Place*, 1979
- b.10 f.6 *The International Stud*, 1978
- b.10 f.7 *Intimate Strangers*, undated
- b.10 f.8 *Jane Avril*, 1979
- b.10 f.9 *Jarry*, undated
- b.16 f.2-3 *John Brown's Body*, undated
- b.11 f.1 *Joley*, undated
- b.11 f.2 *Kingdoms*, 1981
- b.11 f.3 *Last Days at the Dixie Girl Cafe*, 1978
- b.11 f.4 *Look Homeward, Angel*, 1974
- b.11 f.5 *Love in E Flat*, undated
- b.11 f.6 *March of the Falsettos*, undated
- b.11 f.7 *The Matinee Kids*, 1980
- b.11 f.8 *Memory of Whiteness*, undated
- b.11 f.9 *My Old Friend*, 1978
- b.12 f.1 *My Wife and I*, 1966
- b.12 f.2 *Never Too Late*, 1962
- b.12 f.3 *New Girl in Town*, 1956 and undated
- b.12 f.4 *Of the Fields, Lately*, 1975
- b.12 f.5 *Oh, Johnny*, 1980
- b.12 f.6 *The Pajama Game*, undated
- b.12 f.7 *Particular Friendship*, 1981
- b.12 f.8 *The Passion of Frankenstein*, 1980
- b.13 f.1 *Poor Bitos*, undated
- b.13 f.2-3 *Purlie*, undated
A musical based on the play *Purlie Victorious*
- b.13 f.4 *Q.E.D.*, undated
- b.13 f.5 *The Rabinowitz Gambit*, undated
- b.13 f.6 *Rex*, 1975
- b.13 f.7 *The Rise of David Levinsky*, 1978

Series II: Scripts, 1962-1985 (10 boxes)

The ... (cont.)

- b.13 f.8 *Sara in America*, 1980
- b.14 f.1 *Sayonara, Richard*, undated
- b.14 f.2 *Scramble Three*, 1979
- b.14 f.3 *Shenandoah*, undated
- b.14 f.4 *Sim: One Night with a Lady Undertaker from Texas*, undated
- b.14 f.5 *Smart Aleck: Alexander Woolcott at 8:40*, 1979
- b.14 f.6 *Soho Promenade*, 1975
- b.14 f.7 *Somebody Killed Her Husband*, 1977
- b.14 f.8-9 *The Suicide*, 1980
- b.14 f.10 *Summer*, undated
- b.15 f.1 *Trixie True, Teen Detective*, 1980
- b.15 f.2 *Tunnel Fever, or The Sheep is Out*, 1978
- b.15 f.3 *Waiting for the Parade*, 1980
- b.15 f.4 *The Wake of Jamey Foster*, 1982
- b.15 f.5 *Weekend*, undated
- b.15 f.6 *The White Album*, 1977
- b.15 f.7 *Winnie's Noodle Surprise*, 1976
- b.15 f.8 *World of Mouth*, 1978
- b.15 f.9 *The World is Made of Glass*, undated
- b.15 f.10 *Untitled*, undated