



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Lee Israel research files on Vanessa Redgrave

1982-1987

*T-Mss 1999-017

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

Summary

Creator: Israel, Lee

Title: Lee Israel research files on Vanessa Redgrave

Date: 1982-1987

Size: 3.1 linear feet (5 boxes)

Source: Donated by Lee Israel, 1999

Abstract: The Lee Israel research files on Vanessa Redgrave, dating from 1982 to 1987, consist of documentation compiled by Israel while researching Redgrave's life and career.

Conditions Governing Access:

Audio materials will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

Conditions Governing Use: The author/creator retains copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Theatre Division at theatre@nypl.org.

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Creator History

Lee Israel (1939-2014) was an author who wrote biographies of Tallulah Bankhead (1973), Dorothy Kilgallen (1979), and Estee Lauder (1985). During the 1970s and 1980s she worked on, but never completed, unauthorized biographies of Judy Holliday and Vanessa Redgrave. She was contracted by Houghton Mifflin to write the book on Redgrave.

Scope and Content Note

The Lee Israel research files on Vanessa Redgrave (1927-1987) contain documentation compiled by Israel in preparation for an unauthorized biography which focused on Redgrave's political beliefs and their impact on her theatrical career. The collection consists primarily of subject files and interviews.

Israel conducted interviews with actors, writers, political figures, and Redgrave family members. Small portions of the interviews are quoted or have partial transcripts within the Subject Files, but no full transcripts exist. Audio materials will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

The Subject Files contain articles, letters, clippings, and extensive notes written by Israel on various topics in which Redgrave was involved or vocal about, such as homosexuality, the Black Panthers, the Vietnam War, Palestine, and labor issues. Files on individuals include actors, directors, and producers with whom she worked as well as members of her family. The files on family members contain genealogical material, copies of birth and marriage certificates, and historical notes.

There is a series of index cards in a card file which contain additional notes, citations, library slips, and quotes. Some topics in the card file mirror those in the rest of the subject files. Israel also removed index cards from the card file and added them to the appropriate subject file (often with their original title heading card).

Letters are primarily inquiries sent to actors, writers, directors, political figures, and Redgrave family members requesting information or interviews. They often have accompanying research notes. Only a few responses to Israel are present, though none are substantial. The file also holds correspondence with Nan Talese, Israel's editor at Houghton Mifflin, regarding Israel's progress on the book. Letters to Israel about Redgrave can also be found in the Subject Files.

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Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actors (performing artists)
Writers

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Research notes
Sound recordings

Subjects

Theater -- Great Britain -- 20th century
Theater -- United States -- 20th century

Names

Redgrave, Vanessa, 1927-

Container List

Interviews

Sound recordings unavailable pending digitization.

Abady, Sam

Attorney.

origsr.220924 **1987**
sound recording

origsr.220944 **Undated**
sound recording

origsr.220917 **Alexander, Jane 1986**
Actor

Battersby, Roy

British television director.

origsr.220920 **1982**
sound recording (unavailable)

1987

May 2

origsr.220918 **Parts I and II**
sound recording (unavailable)

origsr.220919 **Parts III and IV**
sound recording (unavailable)

origsr.220921 **June 7**
sound recording (unavailable)

origsr.220929 **Bikel, Theodore 1987**
Actor

origsr.220921 **Brenner, Leni 1987**
Trotskyist writer

Brett, Jeremy 1987

Actor

origsr.220922 **Parts I and II**

origsr.220923 **Part III**

origsr.220942 **"Mrs. Dekel" undated**
First name unknown.

origsr.220924 **Dench, Judi 1987**
Actor

Eyre, Peter 1982

Actor.

origsr.220923 **Parts I and II**

origsr.220925 **Parts III and IV**

origsr.220933 **Fein, Leonard 1986**
Jewish writer and activist.

origsr.220926 **Garrett, Lila undated**
Writer for television.

origsr.220927 **Goldman, Martin 1987**

Interviews (cont.)

origsr.220928 "Dr. Goldstein" 1985
The brother of Fania Fénelon. First name unknown.

origsr.220930 Hamm, Kathy 1987

origsr.220928 Harris, Radie undated
Theater columnist.

origsr.220929 Houghton, Norris 1986
Actor

Kahane, Meir
Founder of the Jewish Defense League.

origsr.220935 1986

origsr.220930 1987

origsr.220931 Lambert, Gavin 1986
British screenwriter.

origsr.220932 Langley, Gene undated
Producer of *60 Minutes*.

Lewis, Alfred Allen 1986
Writer.

origsr.220934 September 11

origsr.220933 October 28

Maggio, Debbie 1986
Juror in Boston Symphony trial.

origsr.220936 November 14

origsr.220935 November 19

origsr.220939 Powers, David 1987
Theatrical press representative.

Redgrave, Lynn
Actor, sister of Vanessa Redgrave.

origsr.220938 1986

origsr.220937 Undated

origsr.220939 Richardson, Tony 1987
Actor, first husband of Vanessa Redgrave.

origsr.220940 Rogoff, Gordon 1986
Theater critic.

origsr.220941 Rubin, Irv 1986
Of the Jewish Defense League.

Sadoff, Fred
The lover of Michael Redgrave.

1987

origsr.220943 Parts I and II

origsr.220944 Parts III and IV

origsr.220942 Undated

origsr.220945 Stephens, Robert undated
Actor.

origsr.220946 Wallace, Mike 1987
Host of *60 Minutes*.

Interviews (cont.)

- origsr.220939 Whitelaw, Arthur 1987
Theater producer.
- b. 3 f. 1-2 Letters 1983-1987
Subject Files 1986-1987
 - b. 3 f. 3 Academy Awards Speech and the Jewish Defense League
 - b. 3 f. 4 *Agatha*
 - b. 3 f. 5 Anti-Nuclear and Vietnam Activism
 - b. 3 f. 6 *The Aspern Papers*
 - b. 3 f. 7 Autobiography
 - b. 3 f. 8 Boston Symphony Orchestra Lawsuit
 - b. 3 f. 9 Boycott
 - b. 3 f. 10 *Camelot*
 - b. 3 f. 11 *Design for Living*
 - b. 3 f. 12 Fonda, Jane
 - b. 3 f. 13 Genealogy
 - b. 3 f. 14 Kempson, Rachel
 - b. 3 f. 15 Lewis, Alfred Allen
 - b. 4 f. 1 Michaelson, Judith
 - b. 4 f. 2 *Playing for Time*
 - b. 4 f. 3 Political Beliefs
 - b. 4 f. 4 *Red and Blue*
 - b. 4 f. 5 Redgrave, Corin
 - b. 4 f. 6 Redgrave, Michael
 - b. 4 f. 7 Redgrave, Roy
 - b. 4 f. 8 Richardson, Tony
 - b. 4 f. 9 *Saint Joan of Stockyards*
 - b. 4 f. 10 *Second Serve*
 - b. 5 f. 1 Scudamore, Margaret Daisy
 - b. 5 f. 2 Simon Wiesenthal Center
 - b. 5 f. 3 *Tom Jones*
 - b. 5 f. 4 The Vanessa School
 - b. 1 Card File 1986-1987
 - b. 2 Card File 1986-1987