



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Boris Tumarin professional files

1934-1978

*T-Mss 2012-048

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2015

Summary

Creator: Tumarin, Boris, 1910-1979

Title: Boris Tumarin professional files

Date: 1934-1978

Size: 8.7 linear feet (21 boxes, 1 oversized folder)

Source: Unknown.

Abstract: Boris Tumarin (1910-1979) was a Latvian-born theater director, writer, and performer. The collection dates from 1934 to 1978 and contains scripts, prompt books, production files, photographs, programs, and drawings.

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Creator History

Boris Tumarin (1910-1979) was a Latvian-born theater director, writer, and performer. He attended the Academy of Arts in both Berlin and Riga, where he later designed, acted, and directed for The Labor Theatre. He also performed under the direction of Andrius Jilinsky at the Moscow Art Theatre. After he moved to the United States in 1939, Tumarin acted in Off-Broadway, community, and regional theater productions, such as Shepard Traube's 1942 production of *Winter Soldiers* at the New School for Social Research. During that time he also directed shows for the Young Theatre Players at the Heckscher Theatre, including *The Emperor's New Clothes* in 1941 and *Rosebud and Peterkin* the following year. In 1947, he directed *Lamp at Midnight*, the debut production of New Stages, Inc., a Greenwich Village theater cooperative.

Tumarin made his Broadway directing debut with *The House of Bernarda Alba* in 1951. His other

Broadway credits include performances in *Anastasia*, *The Prescott Proposals*, and *The Man in the Glass Booth*. In 1958, Tumarin won an Obie Award with Jack Sydow for their adaptation of *The Brothers Karamazov*. He also won a Drama Desk Vernon Rice Award in 1961 for his direction of *Montserrat* and *The Idiot*. During the 1950s and 1960s, Tumarin acted in the television series *Masterpiece Playhouse*, *Producers' Showcase*, *Naked City*, and *The Defenders*. From 1970 until his death in 1979, he taught drama at The Julliard School's Theater Center, where he directed *A Doll's House*, *The Bear*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Firebugs*, and *Othello*. He directed *The Seagull* for both Julliard and the Missouri Repertory Theater.

Scope and Content Note

The Boris Tumarin professional files date from 1934 to 1978 and contain scripts, prompt books, production files, photographs, programs, and drawings.

Production files are arranged alphabetically by title and primarily document productions that Tumarin directed. The degree to which each production is represented varies, though files may contain annotated scripts; casting and rehearsal notes; production photographs; scenic and character sketches; programs; schedules; sheet music; contact lists; and telegrams. Among the more thoroughly represented titles are *The Cherry Orchard*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Idiot*, *Royal Gambit*, *The Seagull*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Kitchen*, and *The Firebugs*.

Scripts and prompt books primarily document productions that Tumarin directed or acted in. They are arranged alphabetically by title and date from 1934 to 1978. Prompt books contain lighting, music, and movement cues; notes; and, sometimes, stage or scene sketches. Titles include *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Lamp at Midnight*, *A Month in the Country*, *Longing for a Better Life*, *The Matchmakers*, *The Criminals*, and *The Head of Hair*. Scripts are generally lightly annotated or clean versions, and include titles such as *The Brothers Karamazov*, *Carnival*, *Saul*, *Who's Laughin'?*, *The Doctor's Duty*, *Before Breakfast*, *The Fox and the Grapes*, *The Stag King*, and *The Eternal Husband*. Also present is one file containing miscellaneous one-acts, monologues, and scene excerpts.

Photographs consist of production stills for *Anastasia*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *The Bear*, and some unidentified productions. The collection also contains a small amount of programs and publicity materials for plays and musicals that Tumarin directed or performed in, such as The Westchester Playhouse 1946 productions of *You Touched Me*, *Captain Applejack*, and *The Time of Your Life*. Drawings consist of rough sketches, gesture drawings, and detailed renditions of characters, costumes, and production settings.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format. Production Files and Scripts and Prompt Books are arranged alphabetically by production title.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actors

Theatrical producers and directors

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Design drawings

notes
Promptbooks
Scripts
Sketches

Subjects

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Theater -- United States

Container List

Production Files

- b. 1 f. 1-2 *Blood Wedding* 1949
- b. 1 f. 3 *The Blue Hotel* 1975-1976
 - o. 1 *The Brothers Karamazov* 1957-1958
Poster.
- b. 1 f. 4-6 *The Cherry Orchard* 1975
 - b. 2 f. 1 *The Cherry Orchard* 1975
- b. 2 f. 2-3 *The Crucible* 1970
 - b. 2 f. 4 *Desire Under the Elms* 1958
 - b. 2 f. 5 *A Doll's House* 1972
 - b. 2 f. 6 *The Emperor's New Clothes* 1941
 - b. 3 f. 1 *The Emperor's New Clothes* 1941
- b. 3 f. 2-4 *The Firebugs* 1963, 1978
 - b. 21 f. 1 *The Firebugs* 1978
 - b. 3 f. 5 *The Giant's Dance* 1963-1964
- b. 4 f. 1-4 *The Glass Menagerie* 1970-1977
 - b. 4 f. 5 *The Guilty* 1960s
 - o. 1 *The House of Bernarda Alba* 1950
Stage plan.
- The Idiot*
 - b. 4 f. 6 1935, 1960
 - b. 5 f. 1-4 1958, 1960, 1973
 - b. 21 f. 2 1960
- b. 6 f. 1-6 *The Kitchen* 1966, 1976
 - b. 21 f. 3 *The Kitchen* 1976
 - b. 7 f. 1 *The Lower Depths* 1972
- b. 7 f. 2-4 *The Merchant of Venice* 1962
 - b. 7 f. 5 *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 1958
- b. 8 f. 1-6 *A Midsummer Night's Dream* 1958-1975
 - b. 9 f. 1 *The Miser* 1960
 - b. 9 f. 2 *A Month in the Country* 1963
 - b. 9 f. 3 *Montserrat* 1950, 1960-1961
 - b. 9 f. 4 *The Return of the Native* 1947
- b. 9 f. 5-6 *Romeo and Juliet* 1967-1977
- b. 10 f. 1-2 *Romeo and Juliet* 1977
 - b. 10 f. 3 *Rosebud and Peterkin* 1942
- b. 10 f. 4-6 *The Royal Gambit* 1974
 - The Seagull*
 - b. 10 f. 7 1975
Julliard production.

Production Files (cont.)

The Seagull (cont.)

- o. 1 1977-1978
Missouri Repertory Theatre production stage plans.
- b. 11 f. 1-2 1978
Missouri Repertory Theatre production.
- b. 11 f. 3-4 *She Stoops to Conquer* 1972, 1976
- b. 11 f. 5 *Swan Soup* 1940s
- b. 11 f. 6-7 *A View From the Bridge* 1970
- b. 11 f. 8 *Winter Soldiers* 1942
- Scripts and Prompt Books
- b. 11 f. 9 *Before Breakfast* 1970s
- b. 12 f. 1-4 *The Brothers Karamazov* 1943, 1957-1958
- b. 12 f. 5 *Captain Applejack* 1946
- b. 12 f. 6 *Carnival* 1944
- b. 12 f. 7 *The Cherry Blossom Festival* 1951
- b. 13 f. 1 *Crime and Punishment* 1963
- b. 13 f. 2 *The Criminals* 1948
- b. 13 f. 3 *Crisis* 1949
- b. 13 f. 4 *The Doctor's Duty* 1960s
- b. 13 f. 5 *The Eternal Husband* 1970s
- b. 13 f. 6 *The Fox and the Grapes* 1953
- b. 14 f. 1 *The Government Inspector* 1966
- b. 14 f. 2 *The Head of Hair* 1970
- b. 14 f. 3 *He Who Gets Slapped* 1949
- b. 14 f. 4-6 *The House of Bernarda Alba* 1951
- b. 15 f. 1-3 *The House of Bernarda Alba* 1951
- b. 15 f. 4 *The Kiddish of Levi Yitzhok* 1970
- b. 15 f. 5 *The Lady With the Little Dog* 1974
- b. 15 f. 6 *Lamp at Midnight* 1947, 1955
- b. 15 f. 7 *Longing for a Better Life* 1970s
- b. 15 f. 8 *Look Homeward, Angel* 1957
- b. 16 f. 1 *Marmeladov* 1963
- b. 16 f. 2 *A Marriage Proposal* 1970s
- b. 16 f. 3 *Martine* 1934
- b. 16 f. 4 *Mary of Scotland* 1937, 1940s
- b. 16 f. 5 *The Matchmaker* 1973
- b. 16 f. 6 *Mozart and Salieri* 1930s
- b. 16 f. 7 *Mr. Jones's Ship* 1974-1975
- b. 16 f. 8 *Mrs. Dally Has a Lover* 1962
- b. 16 f. 9 *My Three Angels* 1953
- b. 16 f. 10 *Oedipus* 1970s
- b. 16 f. 11 One Acts, Scenes, and Miscellaneous Excerpts 1940s-1970s
- b. 17 f. 1 *Phoenix* 1975

Scripts and Prompt Books (cont.)

- b. 17 f. 2 *The Pillars of Society* 1970s
- b. 17 f. 3 *Portrait of Madonna* 1945
- b. 17 f. 4 *Refuge* 1948
- b. 17 f. 5 *The Road to the Graveyard* 1970s
- b. 17 f. 6 *Saul* 1960s
- b. 17 f. 7 *Scenes From the Past* 1970s
- b. 17 f. 8 *The Stag King* 1971
- b. 17 f. 9 *Stalag 17* 1948
- b. 18 f. 1 *Summer and Smoke* 1973
- b. 18 f. 2 *The Tenth Dad* 1960
- b. 18 f. 3-4 *The Three Sisters* 1946-1969
- b. 18 f. 5 Untitled 1930s
Handwritten script in Russian.
- b. 18 f. 6 *War and Peace* 1967
- b. 18 f. 7 *The White Room* 1978
- b. 18 f. 8 *Who's Laughin'?* 1960s
- b. 19 f. 1-2 *The Witch* 1940s
- b. 19 f. 3-6 Photographs 1930s-1973
- b. 21 f. 4 Photographs 1950s
- b. 19 f. 7 Programs and Publicity 1936-1953
- b. 20 f. 1 Program and Publicity 1960-1975
- b. 20 f. 2-5 Drawings 1940s-1975
- b. 21 f. 5 Drawing undated