



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Jadin Wong ephemera

1930-1996

*T-Mss 1996-050

Summary

Creator: Wong, Jadin

Title: Jadin Wong ephemera

Date: 1930-1996

Size: .25 linear feet. (1 box)

Abstract: Jadin Wong (1913-), Chinese-American performer who grew up in California, began her career as a dancer, later becoming an actress, stand-up comic, and talent manager specializing in Asian artists. Born in Stockton, Calif., Jadin (sometimes spelled "Jadine") Wong got her start as a professional dancer with the San Francisco Opera Ballet. She gained greater renown as a performer at the Forbidden City nightclub in San Francisco, which led to small film roles in the Charlie Chan and Mr. Moto series, musicals such as IRENE, and to the cover of Life magazine in 1940. During the war years, Jadin Wong entertained U.S. military personnel around the world. During the 1950s, she was cast in several Broadway shows, including THE KING I, THE WORLD OF SUSIE WONG, and FLOWER DRUM SONG. As the popularity of musicals waned, she became a stand-up comedian in the '60s, perhaps the first Asian woman to enter the field. In 1976, Ms. Wong opened a studio in New York and became a manager for Asian performers and models. The Jadin Wong ephemera spans approximately 1930-1996, and consists of clippings, photographs, programs, advertising materials, reviews, correspondence, etc. Seven folders consist of clippings and photocopies of clippings from articles about the career of Jadin Wong, including the Life magazine cover story of December 1940 devoted to the Forbidden City, San Francisco nightclub where Asian performers entertained a mostly white clientele. There is also material devoted to FORBIDDEN CITY, U.S.A., a 1989 documentary film devoted to the nightclub and its performers in which Jadin Wong appeared.

Preferred citation: Jadin Wong ephemera, *T-Mss 1996-050. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Creator History

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Forbidden City nightclub in San Francisco, which lead to small film roles in the Charlie Chan and Mr. Moto series, musicals such as IRENE, and to the cover of Life magazine in 1940. During the war years, Jadin Wong entertained U.S. military personnel around the world. During the 1950s, she was cast in several Broadway shows, including THE KING & I, THE WORLD OF SUSIE WONG, and FLOWER DRUM SONG. As the popularity of musicals waned, she became a stand-up comedian in the '60s, perhaps the first Asian woman to enter the field. In 1976, Ms. Wong opened a studio in New York and became a manager for Asian performers and models.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Advertisements
Clippings
Correspondence
Criticism
Handbills
Photographs
Programs

Subjects

Asian American women -- United States
Asians in motion pictures
Theatrical agents -- United States

Names

Wong, Jadin