

*T-Mss 2005-015

Guide to the Ann Shanks Papers, 1979-1996

Billy Rose Theatre Division



The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

New York, New York

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Ann Shanks Papers, 1979-1996

Creator: Ann Shanks

Call Number: *T-Mss 2005-015

Size: 1.5 linear feet ; 3.5 boxes

Repository: The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.
Billy Rose Theatre Division.
New York, New York

Abstract: Producer's files for two shows: *Lillian* and *S. J. Perelman in Person* .

Languages Represented: English

Administrative Information

Source: Gift of Ann Shanks in August 2005.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Photocopying prohibited. Advance notice required

Restrictions on Use: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Preferred Citation: Ann Shanks Papers, *T-Mss 2005-015. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Biographical Note

Producer and director for theater, film and television, Ann Shanks produced *Lillian*, a one-woman show about Lillian Hellman by William Luce starring Zoe Caldwell and directed and produced *S. J. Perelman in Person*, a one-man show written by her husband, Bob Shanks. She also directed and/or produced various TV movies of the week for CBS and NBC, produced and directed a PBS special on French impressionism and wrote, produced and directed various award-winning short films. Ann Shanks was also an author, photographer and photojournalist. Her photographs were published in magazines and exhibited in museums including the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Modern Art, and she had a number of books published including *Busted Lives: Dialogues with Kids in Jail*, illustrated with her photographs.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of producer's files for two shows: *Lillian*, which opened at the Cleveland Playhouse in 1985, moved to the Kennedy Center and then opened on Broadway in January 1986 and *S. J. Perelman in Person*, which premiered in 1988. Most of the material is for *Lillian* and consists of producer's correspondence, contracts and notes; scripts; production materials; publicity including photos, programs and clippings; and financial materials consisting of budgets, bills, receipts and account summaries. Of particular interest are the letters by Lillian Hellman to Ann Shanks, and Hellman's autobiographical writings and transcripts of interviews with her. The series for *Perelman* is smaller and contains a stage manager's script, producer's correspondence, contracts, notes, production materials and publicity.

Organization

- Series I. *Lillian*
 - Sub-series 1. Scripts and other writings
 - Sub-series 2. Producer's files
 - Sub-series 3. Production materials
 - Sub-series 4. Publicity
 - Sub-series 5. Financial materials
- Series II. *S. J. Perelman*
 - Sub-series 1. Scripts
 - Sub-series 2. Producer's files
 - Sub-series 3. Production materials
 - Sub-series 4. Publicity

Series Descriptions/Container List

Series I. *Lillian*, 1979-1989

3 boxes

Producer's files for *Lillian* which opened at the Cleveland Playhouse in October 1985 before moving to the Kennedy Center and then opening on Broadway in January 1986 contain correspondence, contracts, notes, scripts, publicity and financial materials. Includes letters by Lillian Hellman and Zoe Caldwell to Ann Shanks as well as playwright's research materials including autobiographical writings by Lillian Hellman and transcripts of interviews with her.

Sub-series 1. Scripts and other writings, 1979-1985 and n.d.

11 folders

Scripts and drafts of *Lillian*, a one-woman play with incidental characters based on autobiographies of Lillian Hellman. The script was by William Luce; Ann Shanks was the producer. Also includes research materials for the play including autobiographical writings by Hellman, interviews with her and an article by Luce on the process of writing this play titled, "Lillian Hellman's Voice."

- | | | |
|------|------|---|
| b. 1 | f. 1 | Clean script, n.d. |
| b. 1 | f. 2 | Script, mostly clean, n.d.
With a few typos corrected in pen. |
| b. 1 | f. 3 | Script, mostly clean, slightly different than above, n.d.
With a few typos corrected in pen. |
| b. 1 | f. 4 | Script, called "Fourth draft," n.d. |
| b. 1 | f. 5 | Script, called "Second draft (Rev.)," 1984 Feb. 29
Partial script. |
| b. 1 | f. 6 | Notes and inserts for script, "Lilly," 1983 Oct. 11 |

- b. 1 f. 7 Autobiographical writings by Lillian Hellman, n.d.
- b. 1 f. 8 Interviews with Lillian Hellman, 1979
Typescript of interviews by Marilyn Berger for public television. Also a bibliography on Lillian Hellman.
- b. 1 f. 9 Note to William Luce from Ann Shanks with Hellman interviews attached, 1983
Also includes biographical information and photo of Luce.
- b. 1 f. 10 "*Lillian Hellman's Voice*" by William Luce, n.d.
- b. 1 f. 11 Program, for *Bronte* by William Luce, 1985 Sept. 29

Sub-series 2. Producer's files, 1980-1989
27 folders

Mostly correspondence and contracts. Of particular interest is the correspondence between Lillian Hellman and Ann Shanks as well as two letters to Shanks from Zoe Caldwell.

- b. 1 f. 12 Correspondence between Lillian Hellman and Ann Shanks, 1981-1984
Letters focus on the efforts by two playwrights to adapt Hellman's memoirs into a play and include discussion of possible actresses to play her.
- b. 1 f. 13 Letters by Zoe Caldwell to Ann Shanks, 1984-1986
Three letters; one is by Robert Whithead and Caldwell confirming that he will direct the production and she will play Lillian.
- b. 1 f. 14 Letter written for Glenda Jackson to Ann Shanks, 1985 Jan.
Turning down the part of Lillian.
- b. 1 f. 15-16 Ann Shanks correspondence and contracts with playwright Jerome Alden, 1981-1983
2 folders
- b. 1 f. 17 Ann Shanks correspondence and contracts with playwright William Luce, 1983-1984
- b. 1 f. 18 Ann Shanks correspondence and contracts with playwright William Luce, 1985-1987
- b. 2 f. 1 Correspondence and contracts on credit rights and royalties, 1980-1986
- b. 2 f. 2 Correspondence and royalty statements, 1981-1985
- b. 2 f. 3 Correspondence and contracts on production, 1985-1986
- b. 2 f. 4 Correspondence with Kolmar/Luth Entertainment on booking, 1985-1986
- b. 2 f. 5 Production contract, 1985 Dec. 26

- b. 2 f. 6 Correspondence and contracts, 1985-1986
- b. 2 f. 7 Correspondence on Cleveland Playhouse opening, 1985
Includes personal mailing by Ann Shanks.
- b. 2 f. 8 Correspondence on production at Cleveland Playhouse, 1985
- b. 2 f. 9 Correspondence with Cleveland Playhouse on budget projections, 1985
- b. 2 f. 10 Correspondence and contracts on Kennedy Center production, 1985 Oct.
- b. 2 f. 11 Correspondence on opening at Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater, 1985
Includes personal mailing by Ann Shanks.
- b. 2 f. 12 Kennedy Center correspondence, 1985 Nov.-Dec.
- b. 2 f. 13 Kennedy Center box office statements, 1985
- b. 2 f. 14 Tour correspondence, 1986
- b. 2 f. 15 File on publishers' rights, 1985-1986
- b. 2 f. 16 Correspondence, contracts and proposal for television production, 1986
- b. 2 f. 17 Correspondence with investors, 1985-1986
- b. 2 f. 18 Mailing list, 1985 Dec.
- b. 2 f. 19 Ann Shanks correspondence and clippings, 1988
- b. 2 f. 20 Ann Shanks correspondence, 1989

Sub-series 3. Production materials, 1984-1986
3 folders

This small subseries consists of correspondence and notes on casting, performance schedules and a contact sheet.

- b. 2 f. 21 Correspondence and notes on casting, 1984
- b. 2 f. 22 Performance schedules, 1985-1986
- b. 2 f. 23 Contact sheet, 1986 Jan. 7

Sub-series 4. Publicity, 1984-1986

7 folders

This subseries contains photos, programs, press releases and clippings including opening night reviews and photos of Zoe Caldwell as Lillian Hellman.

- b. 3 f. 1 Press kit, 1985-1986
Includes programs, photos, press releases and clippings.
- b. 3 f. 2 Publicity, n.d.
Includes photograph of Zoe Caldwell as Lillian.
- b. 3 f. 3 Publicity and clippings for Kennedy Center production, 1985
- b. 3 f. 4 Publicity and clippings for Broadway opening, 1986
- b. 3 f. 5-6 Clippings on *Lillian*, 1985-1986
2 folders
- b. 3 f. 7 Clippings, posthumous, on Lillian Hellman, 1984-1986

Sub-series 5. Financial materials, 1981-1988

5 folders

This subseries is primarily bills and receipts to document expenses.

- b. 3 f. 8 Schedule of advanced payments, 1982-1984
- b. 3 f. 9 Budgets, 1985
- b. 3 f. 10-12 Expenses, 1981-1988
3 folders
Mostly bills and receipts with account summaries and a few letters on financial affairs.

1 box (.25 lin. ft.

Sub-series 1. Scripts, 1989

b. 4	f. 1	Script called "Final stage manager's copy," 1989 Includes prop, costume and slide lists.
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3 folders

b.4 f.2 Correspondence, contracts and notes, 1981-1989

b. 4 f. 3 Correspondence and contracts between Ann and Robert Shanks, producers, and Abby and Adam Perelman, heirs to the estate of S. J. Perelman, 1981-1996

b. 4 f. 4 Correspondence and contracts between Ann Shanks, producer and Lewis Stadlen, actor, 1988-1989

2 folders

b. 4 f. 5 Activities checklist, 1989 and n.d.

b.4	f.6	Production costs, 1988-1989 and n.d.
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Sub-series 4. Publicity, 197?-1989

4 folders

Consists of photos, programs, publicity and clippings.

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|------|-------|---|
| b. 4 | f. 7 | Program on Lewis Stadlen as Groucho Marx, n.d. |
| b. 4 | f. 8 | Photographs, 197?-1988
Two photos: one of S. J. Perelman from the 1970s and one of Lewis J. Stadlen depicting him in the 1988-1989 production. |
| b. 4 | f. 9 | Programs and publicity, 1988 and n.d. |
| b. 4 | f. 10 | Clippings of reviews, 1988-1989 |