



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Florence Klotz papers

1953-1997

*T-Mss 2001-028

Compiled by Diana Bertolini, 2014.

Summary

Creator: Klotz, Florence

Title: Florence Klotz papers

Date: 1953-1997

Size: 2.35 linear feet (1 box, 10 volumes)

Source: This collection was donated by Florence Klotz in 2001 and 2004 and by the Klotz estate in 2008.

Abstract: Florence Klotz (1920-2006) was an American theatrical costume designer. A winner of seven Tony Awards, Klotz is best known for designing costumes for productions directed by Harold Prince, including *Follies*, *A Little Night Music*, and *On the Twentieth Century*. The Florence Klotz papers contain scrapbooks and costume design materials from shows Klotz designed. This collection includes eight designs by Klotz's mentor, the American theatrical costume designer Lucinda D. Ballard (1906-1993).

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Processing note: Compiled by Diana Bertolini, 2014.

Creator History

Florence Klotz was born Kathrina E. Klotz in Brooklyn, New York on October 28, 1920. Klotz began her career as assistant to Irene Sharaff on the original production of *The King and I* (1951). She went on to assist Sharaff on *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* (1951), *Of Thee I Sing* (1952), *Flower Drum Song* (1958), and *Do Re Mi* (1960). She also assisted Joan Personette on *Two on the Aisle* (1951); Miles White on *Pal Joey* (1952), *Jamaica* (1957), and *Time Remembered* (1957); Robert Mackintosh on *Wish You Were Here* (1952); Alvin Colt on *Pipe Dream* (1955); and Ruth Morley on *Toys in the Attic* (1960).

Klotz's collaboration with costume designer Lucinda Ballard began with the 1953 comedy *My 3 Angels*. Lucinda Ballard was a prominent costume designer on Broadway from the late 1930s until her retirement in the early 1960s. In 1947 she won the first Tony Award for Best Costume Design for her work on *Street Scene*, *John Loves Mary*, *Another Part of the Forrest*, *Happy Birthday*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Klotz became Ballard's protégé and assisted her on plays such as *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (1955), *Orpheus Descending* (1957), *J.B.* (1958), and *A Loss of Roses* (1959); and such musicals as *Carnival in Flanders* (1953), *Silk Stockings* (1955), *The Sound of Music* (1959) and *The Gay Life* (1961).

Klotz's first job as sole costume designer was for a City Center revival of *Carousel* in 1957, but her big break came with *A Call on Kuprin* (1961). This play was directed and produced by Harold Prince, who would be one of Klotz' major collaborators over the course of her career. Many of her greatest successes would be in Prince productions. Their collaborations included *Take Her, She's Mine* (1961); *It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman* (1966); *Follies* (1971); *A Little Night Music* (1973); *Pacific Overtures* (1976); *Side by Side by Sondheim* (1977); *On the Twentieth Century* (1978); *A Doll's Life* (1982); *Grind* (1985); *Roza* (1987); *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (1993); and *Show Boat* (1994). Klotz also designed costumes for many non-Prince productions, including *Nobody Loves an Albatross* (1963), *The Owl and the Pussycat* (1964), *Mating Dance* (1965), *Legend* (1976), *The Little Foxes* (1981), *Jerry's Girls* (1985), *Rags* (1986), and *City of Angels* (1989).

Klotz won seven Tony Awards for Best Costume Design. Klotz's partner was the stage manager Ruth Mitchell. Florence Klotz died in New York on November 1, 2006.

Scope and Content Note

The Florence Klotz papers document the career of Florence Klotz from the 1970s to the 1990s with scrapbooks and costume design materials. Shows represented most extensively in the scrapbooks are *Follies*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Pacific Overtures*, and *On the Twentieth Century*. Scrapbooks contain programs, clippings, correspondence and photographs. Correspondence consists mainly of good luck cards, letters, telegrams and notes from friends and colleagues. Photographs include backstage candids, production shots, and official costume bible photographs. The scrapbook for *Pacific Overtures* is a particularly rich source for production shots. In addition to shows designed by Klotz, there is also a scrapbook of costume bible photographs from *The Phantom of the Opera*, which was designed by Maria Björnson.

There are original Klotz designs for *A Doll's Life*, *Goodbye Fidel*, *Grind*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *On the Twentieth Century*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Roza*, *Show Boat*, and *La Traviata*. These watercolor paintings will be of particular interest to researchers. Other design materials include sketches, swatches, fabric samples, and photocopies of photographs and illustrations of period costumes Klotz collected for research purposes. This collection also holds eight original watercolor designs by Lucinda Ballard from *Carnival in Flanders*, on which Klotz served as Ballard's assistant.

Arrangement: This collection is separated into two categories: Scrapbooks and Design Materials.

Key Terms

Subjects

Costume design -- New York (State) -- New York

Musicals -- New York (State) -- New York -- 20th century
Theater -- United States -- 20th century
Women costume designers -- United States -- 20th century

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Costume design drawings
Swatches

Occupations

Costume designers

Names

Ballard, Lucinda
Prince, Harold, 1928-

Container List

Scrapbooks 1971-1997

1971

v. 1 *Follies*

v. 2 *Follies*

v. 3 1973-1981

Includes *Broadway, Broadway*; *The Little Foxes*; *A Little Night Music*; *On the Twentieth Century*; and *Side by Side* by Sondheim.

1976

v. 4 *Pacific Overtures*

v. 5 *Pacific Overtures*

v. 6 1976-1985

Includes *A Doll's Life*, *Jerry's Girls*, *Legend*, *The Little Foxes*, *On the Twentieth Century*, *Peg*, and *Madame Butterfly* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

v. 7 1985-1988

Includes *Grind* and *Roza*.

v. 10 1988

Includes *The Phantom of the Opera*.

v. 8 1993-1994

Includes *City of Angels* (London), *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, and *Show Boat*.

v. 9 1996-1997

Includes *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (international productions), Theater Hall of Fame Gala, and *Whistle Down the Wind*.

Design Materials 1953-1993

b. 1 f. 1 *Carmen*

b. 1 f. 2 *Carnival in Flanders* 1953

Designs by Lucinda Ballard.

b. 1 f. 3 *A Doll's Life* 1982

b. 1 f. 4 *Goodbye Fidel* 1980

b. 1 f. 5 *Grind* 1985

b. 1 f. 6 *Jerome Robbins' Ballet USA* 1984

b. 1 f. 7 *Kiss of the Spider Woman* 1993

b. 1 f. 8 *A Little Night Music* 1973

b. 1 f. 9 *New York Export OpusJazz* 1969-1993

b. 1 f. 10 *On the Twentieth Century* 1978

b. 1 f. 11 *Pacific Overtures* 1976

b. 1 f. 12 *Roza* 1987

b. 1 f. 13 *Show Boat* 1994

b. 1 f. 14 *Symphony on Ice* 1984

b. 1 f. 15 *La Traviata*

b. 1 f. 16 Fabric Samples from Hannett Morrow Fischer, Inc

b. 1 f. 17 Unidentified Design