



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Lamb's Theatre Company records**

1985-1996

\*T-Mss 1996-046

Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Lamb's Theatre Company (New York, N.Y.)

**Title:** Lamb's Theatre Company records

**Date:** 1985-1996

**Size:** 1.05 linear feet (3 boxes)

**Source:** Gift of Carolyn Rossi Copeland, 1996.

**Abstract:** Lamb's Theatre Company was an Off-Broadway production company and resident theatre in New York City between 1978 and 2006. The Lamb's Theatre Company records date from 1985 to 1996 and contain scripts, contracts, photographs, correspondence, programs, and other materials that document eleven of the company's productions in the Little Lamb's Theatre.

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**Preferred citation:** Lamb's Theatre Company records, \*T-Mss 1996-046. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2014 Original order was maintained, and files were moved from binders to folders. Four floppy disks, from the Johnny Pye and the Foolkiller and Promised Land production files, were removed during processing. These disks, which likely contain commercial control board files, cannot be imaged and are therefore unavailable to researchers.

## Creator History

The Lamb's Theatre Company was founded in 1978 as an Off-Broadway production company in New York City. It operated at 130 West 44th Street, a building owned by the Manhattan Church of the Nazarene that was formerly home to the Lambs Club fraternal organization for actors. From its founding until 1996, the company was run by producer and director Carolyn Rossi Copeland.

The company used two performing spaces within the building: a 360-seat main stage on the third floor, which was renovated in 1981; and a 140-seat stage on the first floor, which opened in 1984 and was

known as the Lamb's Little Theatre. Many of its productions on both stages centered on religious or inspirational themes, including *Godspell* (1988), *St. Hugo in Central Park* (1988), and *The Revelation of John* (1989). The Lamb's Theatre Company also hosted productions for outside companies and staged productions outside of its home theatre, as was the case with productions of *Johnny Pye and the Foolkiller* in 1988 at the George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and in 1993 at the Lamb's Little Theatre.

Lamb's Theatre Company continued staging productions in the Lamb's building on West 44th Street until 2006, when the building was sold and the company was evicted.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Lamb's Theatre Company records date from 1985 to 1996 and contain scripts, contracts, photographs, programs, and other materials that document eleven of the company's productions in the Little Lamb's Theatre. A general file of contact sheets lists production staff, casting, and investor information for individual productions, some of which originate from shows not otherwise documented in the collection. Each production file includes a script, often annotated with stage directions, cues, and line edits. Files for musical productions contain published piano/vocal scores. Production files also consist of contact sheets, contracts, budgets, correspondence, programs, and publicity documents. Correspondence discusses royalties, cast album recordings, video recordings of shows, and ticket sales. Show publicity is documented with clippings, invitations, draft ads, scripts of radio announcements, press releases, and letters to reviewers. A limited number of production files also contain rehearsal and publicity photographs and set and costume design notes.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged alphabetically by file title or production name.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Financial records  
Photographs  
Programs (documents)  
Scores  
Scripts

### **Subjects**

Off-Broadway theater  
Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 *Big Time* 1986
- b. 1 f. 2 *The China Fish* 1986
- b. 1 f. 3 Contact Sheets 1985-1996
- b. 1 f. 4 *Crossin' the Line* 1989
- b. 1 f. 5-6 *Godspell* 1988
- b. 1 f. 7 *Johnny Pye and the Foolkiller* 1988-1993
- b. 2 f. 1-3 *Johnny Pye and the Foolkiller* 1993
- b. 2 f. 4 *Maggie Magalita* 1986
- b. 2 f. 5 *Nancy Marsh on Broadway* 1986
- b. 2 f. 6-7 *Promised Land* 1991
- b. 3 f. 1 *The Revelation of John* 1989
- b. 3 f. 2 *St. Hugo of Central Park* 1988
- b. 3 f. 3 *The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit* 1987