



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Dan Langan collection**

1927-2016

\*T-Mss 2017-046

Collection processed by Heather Halliday, 2018.

## Summary

**Creator:** Langan, Dan

**Title:** Dan Langan collection

**Date:** 1927-2016

**Size:** 2.5 linear feet (6 containers)

**Source:** The collection was donated by Dan Langan's daughter, Sheila Langan, in November, 2017.

**Abstract:** Dan Langan (1935-2018) was a press agent who represented theatrical performers and works of musical theatre. He was also an avid collector of recordings of musical theatre performances. The Dan Langan collection includes a selection of these audio and video recordings and files relating to his public relations work.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

**Preferred citation:** Dan Langan collection, \*T-Mss 2017-046. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Collection processed by Heather Halliday, 2018.

## Creator History

Dan Langan (1935-2018) was a press agent who represented theatrical performers and works of musical theatre. As a young man, Langan worked for newspapers including the *Syracuse Post Standard*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *Variety* as a reporter, editor, columnist, and critic. He moved to New York City and worked at the WYNC radio station for a time, then began working in public relations, eventually establishing his own firm, Langan Communications, sometime in the late 1960s or early

1970s. Langan specialized in representing musical theatre productions and performers, especially touring companies. Over the years Langan amassed an extensive collection of audio and video recordings of musical theatre performances. He was an active member of the New York chapter of the Association for Recorded Sound Collections and frequently wrote liner notes for record labels.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Dan Langan collection, which dates from about 1927 through 2016, comprises two categories: Langan's papers and his collection of musical theatre performance recordings.

Langan's papers primarily consist of work files. Each work file relates to a particular performer, production title, venue, or subject and contains a mix of materials, typically including: press releases written by Langan; clippings; budgets; correspondence; photographs; contracts; performance schedules; handwritten notes; and promotional items. Many publicity, performance, and rehearsal photographs are included in these files, some by notable theatre photographers such as Martha Swope and Bill Ray. A few files containing personal and miscellaneous items are interfiled among the work files. Langan's papers are arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Langan's collection of musical theater performance recordings spans well beyond productions he promoted, consisting primarily of audio and video recordings of theatrical performances. Langan used these recordings for his professional reference purposes but also pursued amassing this collection as a hobby. Many rare recordings, including opening and closing night performances are present. A few demo reels of individual musicians and actors are also included. Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

**Arrangement:** The papers section of the Dan Langan collection is arranged alphabetically by folder title. The recordings section is divided into audio and video subsections and then arranged chronologically.

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

Collectors.  
Public relations consultants.  
Publicists.  
Talent agents.

### **Subjects**

Musicals  
Theater -- 20th century

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Photographs  
Press releases  
Sound recordings  
Video recordings

### **Names**

Bennett, Tony

Brockett, Don  
Brown, Michael  
Dearie, Blossom  
Drake, Alfred, 1914-1992  
Gleason, Jackie, 1916-1987  
Langan, Dan  
Laughton, Charles, 1899-1962  
Liberace, 1919-1987  
Lovelace, Linda  
Morath, Kathryn, 1955-  
Morath, Max  
Ray, Bill, 1936-  
Reisman, Leo, 1897-1961  
Roberti, Lyda, 1912-1938  
Styne, Jule, 1905-1994  
Swope, Martha  
Travers, Mary, 1936-2009  
Walter, Cy, 1915-1968  
Waring, Fred, 1900-1984  
Whiting, Margaret  
Whiting, Richard A., 1891-1938  
Williams, Emlyn, 1905-1987  
Club Méditerranée  
Earl Carroll Orchestra  
Pennsylvanians (Musical group)

## Container List

### Papers

- b. 1 f. 1 Advertising 1978-1979
- b. 1 f. 2 *Beatrice Libretto* circa 1960
- b. 1 f. 3 Bennett, Tony 1985  
Performance at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh.
- b. 1 f. 4 Brockett, Don 1987
- b. 1 f. 5 Brown, Michael 1965-1976, 2009
- b. 1 f. 6 Carrier Theater 1970s
- b. 1 f. 7 *Cats* 1987-1991
- b. 1 f. 8 Council of Fashion Designers of America Awards 1980-1981
- b. 1 f. 9 Cultural Resources Council of Syracuse, New York 1985-1986
- b. 1 f. 10 *Cyrano* 1973
- b. 1 f. 11 Club Me\_diterrane\_e 1974-1976
- b. 1 f. 12 Dailey, Don circa 1970
- b. 1 f. 13 Dearie, Blossom 1973
- b. 1 f. 14 *Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope* 1973
- b. 1 f. 15 *Early American Showstopper Book Project* 1988
- b. 2 f. 1-2 *Estrada* 1977
  - b. 2 f. 3 *Fiddler on the Roof* 1970-1971
  - b. 2 f. 4 *Flora the Red Menace* 1965
  - b. 2 f. 5 Goodspeed Opera House Library 1976-1977
  - b. 2 f. 6 *Grease* circa 1971
  - b. 2 f. 7 Harvey, Lilian 1938
  - b. 2 f. 8 Hermès 1974
  - b. 2 f. 9 Hi Fi Stereo Music Show 1976-1979
- b. 2 f. 10 Japanese Martial Arts 1976
- b. 2 f. 11 *Jesus Christ Superstar* circa 1971
- b. 2 f. 12 Liberace 1985-1986  
Performance at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh.
- b. 3 f. 1 Lithgow, John 2008
- b. 2 f. 2 *Little World, Hello* 1965
- b. 3 f. 3 Lovelace, Linda 1973, 2003
- b. 3 f. 4 *Lysistrata Script* 2002
- b. 3 f. 5 *Marigolds* 1973
- b. 3 f. 6 *The Karl Marx Play* 1973
- b. 3 f. 7 Miscellaneous Photographs 1970s
- b. 3 f. 8 Miscellaneous Writing 1960s-1970s
- b. 3 f. 9 *Mister Dooley Script* 1980
- b. 3 f. 10 Morath, Kathy 1979
- b. 3 f. 11 Morath, Max 1974-1983

Papers (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 1-2 *Music! Music!* 1973-1974
- b. 4 f. 3 National Theatre of Greece 1976  
Includes photographs of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis at a reception for a performance.
- b. 4 f. 4 Personal 1927-2005
- b. 4 f. 5 Phoenix Theatre 1962, 1971-1973
- b. 4 f. 6 The Players Club 1969-1973
- b. 4 f. 7 *Promises, Promises* 1968
- b. 4 f. 8-9 Record Collection 1938-1999  
Research material relating to musicians and Langan's record collecting activities.
- b. 5 f. 1 Reisman, Leo 1920s-1940s
- b. 5 f. 2 *Rembrandt Film Stills* 1936
- b. 5 f. 3 Rodgers and Hart 1973-2005
- b. 5 f. 4 *Shangri-La* 1955
- b. 5 f. 5 Shubert Theatre 1985-1984
- b. 5 f. 6-9 *Sly Fox* 1976-1978  
Starred Jackie Gleason in San Francisco production.
- b. 5 f. 10 Snug Harbor Cultural Center 1982
- b. 6 f. 1 Stanton, Dakota 1986
- b. 6 f. 2 *A Star Is Born Script* 1953-1954
- b. 6 f. 3 Somalia Relief 1992
- b. 6 f. 4 Tennessee Performing Arts Foundation 1976-1977
- b. 6 f. 5 Tierney, Mary 1975
- b. 6 f. 6 Travers, Mary 1975-1977
- b. 6 f. 7 *Trilby* 1895
- b. 6 f. 8 Video Collection 1930s-2000s
- b. 6 f. 9 Waring, Fred circa 1961
- b. 6 f. 10 Whiting, Margaret 1984-1986
- b. 6 f. 11 Whiting, Richard 1986
- b. 6 f. 12 Williams, Emlyn 1975-1976
- b. 6 f. 13 Wushu Delegation of China 1974
- b. 6 f. 14 Yartan Dance Company 1977
- b. 6 f. 15 *Zorba* 1968

Recordings

497 audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

Audio

183 audio recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

Video

314 video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.