



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Geraldine Fitzgerald papers

1944-1990s [bulk 1970s-1980s]

*T-Mss 2019-008

Processed by Valerie Wingfield in 2019.

Summary

Creator: Fitzgerald, Geraldine, 1913-2005

Title: Geraldine Fitzgerald papers

Date: 1944-1990s [bulk 1970s-1980s]

Size: 6.83 linear feet (17 boxes, 1 volume)

Source: Gift of Susan Scheftel, July 2019.

Abstract: Geraldine Fitzgerald (1913-2005) was an actor, director, and writer who emigrated from Ireland to New York City in 1938. She was active in film, theater and television from 1932 to 1991, receiving an Academy Award nomination for a supporting role in *Wuthering Heights* (1939). This collection, dating from 1944 to the 1990s (bulk dates 1970s-1990s) primarily documents Fitzgerald's work as a director and writer and, to a lesser extent, as an actor. The musical production *Sharon's Grave* (later retitled *Sharon*) is represented heavily in the files. In the early stages of the production, Fitzgerald worked closely with playwright Bill C. Davis. Her Everyman Theatre Company, a Brooklyn-based street theatre company co-founded with Franciscan monk Jonathan Ringkamp (1929-1986), is also represented in the collection.

Conditions Governing Access:

Inquiries regarding audio and moving image materials in the collection may be directed to the Billy Rose Theatre Division (theatre@nypl.org). Audio and moving image materials may be subject to preservation and assessment and migration prior to access.

Preferred citation: Geraldine Fitzgerald papers, *T-Mss 2019-008. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Valerie Wingfield in 2019.

Creator History

Geraldine Fitzgerald (1913-2005) was an actor, director, and writer, who emigrated from Ireland to New York City in 1938. She was active in film, theater, and television from 1932 to 1991, receiving an Academy Award nomination for a supporting role in *Wuthering Heights* (1939). Other accolades included a Tony nomination for the revival of *Long Day's Journey into Night* and a Tony nomination as director for *Mass Appeal*. One of the productions that she worked extensively on was the musical *Sharon*, based upon *Sharon's Grave*, a play written by John B. Keane. Additionally, playwright Bill C. Davis often worked with Fitzgerald on productions.

In 1967, Fitzgerald and Franciscan Brother Jonathan Ringkamp (1929-1986) established the Everyman Theatre Company, a street theatre based in Brooklyn. Everyman developed the talent of high-school students who performed live street theater during the summer months across New York City.

Fitzgerald's last acting role was in the film *King of the Hill* (1993). She died in New York City in 2005 and is survived by her children Susan Scheftel and Michael Lindsay-Hogg.

Scope and Content Note

The Geraldine Fitzgerald papers, dating from 1944 to the 1990s (bulk dates 1970s-1980s), document the career of actor, director, and writer Geraldine Fitzgerald. The collection primarily documents her work as a director and writer and, to a lesser extent, as an actor. The musical production *Sharon's Grave* (later retitled *Sharon*) is heavily featured with documentation that includes agreements, correspondence, notes, notebooks and scripts.

The Everyman Theatre is documented primarily by scripts, including *Juno and the Paycock* and *Hamlet*. These files also document the company's activities and other productions through clippings, correspondence, notes, programs, organizational records, sheet music, slides, and media originals.

Other material reflects Fitzgerald's many years as an actor in film and theater with reviews of her performances; photographs; a photograph album celebrating her career; additional scripts (including *Mass Appeal*); tributes; and a *Life* magazine cover featuring Fitzgerald in 1944.

Additionally, audio and moving image materials document Fitzgerald's television appearances on *Murphy Brown*; and include audio recordings of performances in the theatre and talk radio; her narration for *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (film adaptation), and a retrospective video *Geraldine Fitzgerald Long Wharf Theatre Retro*.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged into seven groups: Everyman Theatre Company, Sharon's Grave, Theatrical Productions, Photographs, Printed Matter, Assorted Files, and Audio and Moving Image Materials.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Autograph albums
Scripts

Subjects

Musical theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Photographs
Street theater
Theatre -- New York (N.Y.)

Names

Davis, Bill, C., 1952-
Fitzgerald, Geraldine, 1913-2005
Ringkamp, Jonathan
Everyman Street Theatre Company

Container List

Everyman Theatre Company 1968-1972

Papers and Photographs

- b. 1 f. 1-4 **Correspondence** 1968-1978, 1989
Also includes programs, clippings, and other ephemera related to the theatre's activities and productions.
- b. 1 f. 5 ***Everyman and roach, photographs*** 1971 circa
- b. 1 f. 6-7 ***Everyman and roach, reviews*** 1971
- b. 1 f. 8 ***Hamlet, expense report*** 1978
For the production *Hamlet*.
- b. 1 f. 9 **Notes for scripts** circa 1970
Notes for scripts and songs.
- b. 1 f. 10 **Note for songs (?)** 1970 circa
- b. 1 f. 11 **Publicity** 1968
- b. 1 f. 12 **Everyman Theatre in Australia** circa 1970
A series of articles about Everyman theatres (unrelated) in Australia.
- b. 1 f. 13 **Workshop for Careers in the Arts, report** 1972
- b. 1 f. 14 **Workshop, supplemental materials** 1970-1972
Includes programs for *Fly Blackbird* and clippings, correspondence, reports, budgets, and ephemera about Workshop initiatives.
- b. 1 f. 15 ***Workshop: I am black and comely, manuscript sheet music*** undated

Scripts

The scripts are arranged by title of production.

- b. 2 f. 1-2 ***The Brothers*** 1970
Authors: Geraldine Fitzgerald and Brother Jonathan Ringkamp.
- b. 2 f. 3-4 ***Elena*** 1974
Author: Brother Jonathan Ringkamp.
- b. 2 f. 5-13 ***Everyman And Roach*** 1968
b. 3 f. 1-6 A poster from the production is located in box 3, folder 5. Authors: Geraldine Fitzgerald and Brother Jonathan Rinkamp.
- b. 3 f. 7-11 ***Hamlet*** 1978
Box 3, folder 10 holds a playbill.
- b. 3 f. 12-15 ***Mr. Estaban*** 1973
- b. 3 f. 16 ***The Seagull*** circa 1972

Sharon's Grave 1980-1993

The files are arranged by type.

Bill C. Davis was credited for working on the early version of Sharon's Grave.

- b. 4 f. 1 **Calendar** 1993
- b. 4 f. 2 **Contact Sheets** circa 1993
- b. 4 f. 3-6 **Correspondence** 1980, 1987-1992
- b. 4 f. 7-8 **Card Reads For Script** 1991
- b. 4 f. 9-13 **Notebooks** 1991
b. 5 f. 1-3 The files hold notebooks written by Fitzgerald regarding the development of the production.
- b. 5 f. 4-9 **Script Development Notes** 1991

Sharon's Grave (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 10-15 **Scripts 1991**
 - b. 6 f. 1-9
 - b. 7 f. 1

- b. 7 f. 2-6 **Lyrics 1991**

Playbills circa 1993

The files hold mock-up playbills.

Sharon

- b. 8 f. 1 **Playbill 1993**

- b. 8 f. 2 **Script**

Theatrical Productions 1957-1989

The scripts are arranged by title of production.

- b. 8 f. 3-6 ***Darlin Juno* 1976**

This script is a revised version by Geraldine Fitzgerald of *Juno And The Paycock*, based upon Sean O'Casey's original play.

- b. 8 f. 7 ***Juno And The Paycock* 1974**

- b. 8 f. 8-11 ***Long Day's Journey Into Night* 1981**

- b. 9 f. 1-2 Fitzgerald directed the production.

- b. 9 f. 3-11 ***Mass Appeal* 1981**

- b. 10 f. 1-3 The production was written by Bill C. Davis.

- b. 10 f. 4-6 ***Mother Courage* 1957**

Author: Bertolt Brecht; authorized translation of text and lyrics by Marc Blitzstein (1957).

- b. 10 f. 7-12 ***Streetsongs* circa 1980-1989**

- b. 11 f. 1-3

- b. 11 f. 4 ***The Tain***

- b. 11 f. 5-6 ***Three Penny Opera* 1972**

- b. 11 f. 7 ***To Whom It May Concern* 1985-1986**

Author: Carol Hall.

- b. 11 f. 8 ***Wrestlers* 1985**

Author: Bill C. Davis.

- b. 11 f. 9 **Unidentified**

Photographs 1950s-1990s

Fitzgerald, Geraldine

- b. 11 f. 10-11 **Movie Studio Stills 1950s-1960s**

- b. 11 f. 12-16 **Closeups and Individual Portraits 1960s-1990s**

Events and Individuals

The files are arranged alphabetically.

- b. 12 f. 1 **Adams, Mason**

Fitzgerald and Adams appear in the production *I Can't Remember Anything*.

- b. 12 f. 2 **Adephi University**

Fitzgerald received an honorary degree.

- b. 12 f. 3 **Carter, Jimmy and Rosalind 1980**

The file holds several autographed photographs and a letter by Jimmy Carter.

- b. 12 f. 4 **Dinkins, David 1990**

- b. 12 f. 5 **Gershwin, Frances**

- b. 12 f. 6 **Houseman, John**

- b. 12 f. 7 **Ireland. United States Council Dinner 1976**

Photographs (cont.)

Events and Individuals (cont.)

- b. 12 f. 8 Kiely, Richard
- b. 12 f. 9 Linden, Hal
- b. 12 f. 10 New York Public Library Lions Dinner
- b. 12 f. 11 O'Shea, Milo
- b. 12 f. 12 Smith, Liz
- b. 12 f. 13 *Streetsongs* 1970s-1980s
- b. 12 f. 14-15 Various Events 1980s-1990s
- b. 13 f. 1-4
- b. 17 f. 1 Unidentified Woman
- v. 1 *Juno And The Paycock* 1972
The album holds photographs from the production performed at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

Printed Matter 1944-1989

The printed matter is arranged by type.

Playbills

- b. 12 f. 17 *Ah, Wilderness!* 1975
- b. 12 f. 18 *Almost Perfect* 1989
- b. 12 f. 19 *The Cave Dwellers* 1961
- b. 12 f. 20 *Hide And Seek* 1956-1957
- b. 12 f. 21 *I Sent A Letter To My Love* 1978
- b. 12 f. 22 *Mass Appeal* 1980
- b. 12 f. 23 *Portrait In Black* 1945
- b. 12 f. 24 *The Shadow Box* 1977
- b. 12 f. 25 *Songs Of The Street* 1978
- b. 12 f. 26 *Streetsongs* 1989
- b. 12 f. 27 *Take Me Along* 1983
- b. 12 f. 28 *To Whom It May Concern*
- b. 12 f. 29 *A Touch Of The Poet* 1978
- b. 12 f. 30 *A Traditional Irish Christmas With The Chieftains* 1981

Posters

- b. 17 f. 4 Geraldine Fitzgerald In Concert c. 1980
Fitzgerald performed at the New York Cultural Center.
- b. 17 f. 5 *The Pawnbroker* 1964
- b. 17 f. 6 *Scenes Of Macbeth*

Reviews

- b. 12 f. 31 *Ah, Wilderness!* 1975
- b. 12 f. 32 *Danger: Memory!* 1987
- b. 12 f. 33 *The Field* 1987
- b. 14 f. 1 *Hide And Seek* 1957
- b. 14 f. 2 *I Sent A Letter To My Love* 1978
- b. 14 f. 3 *Juno And The Paycock* 1973
- b. 14 f. 4 *Long Day's Journey Into Night* 1971
- b. 14 f. 5 *Mass Appeal* 1980

Printed Matter (cont.)

Reviews (cont.)

- b. 14 f. 6 *Our Town* 1976
- b. 14 f. 7 *The Shadow Box* 1977
- b. 14 f. 8 *Songs Of The Street* 1976-1977
- b. 14 f. 9 *South Pacific* 1986
- b. 14 f. 10 *Streetsongs* 1974
- b. 14 f. 11 *Threepenny Opera* 1972
- b. 14 f. 12 *To Whom It May Concern* 1972
- b. 14 f. 13 *A Touch Of The Poet* 1977-1978
- b. 14 f. 14 *We The Women* 1974
- b. 17 f. 2-3 *Life Magazine* 1944

Assorted Files 1970s-1990s

- b. 14 f. 15 Address Book 1991
- b. 14 f. 16-17 Biographical, Interviews 1970s-1980s
- b. 14 f. 18-23 Contracts 1947, 1970s-1980s
- b. 15 f. 1-5 Correspondence 1957-1990s
- b. 15 f. 6 Eugene O'Neill Symposium 1988
The symposium was held in Stockholm, Sweden.
See also: Box 13 Photographs
- b. 15 f. 7-8 *Long Day's Journey Into Night* 1971
Outline and notes for a lecture.
- b. 15 f. 9-10 Notes circa 1980s-1990s
The file holds a mixture of assorted notes for reminders and tasks to do.

Awards And Recognitions 1981-1992

- b. 15 f. 11 American Celtic Ball 1992
- b. 15 f. 12 Centennial Charter Day Convocation 1984
St. Francis College presented a citation to Fitzgerald.
- b. 16 Geraldine Fitzgerald Remembers 1992
The album celebrates Geraldine Fitzgerald's career.
- b. 16 f. 1 Long Wharf Theater Recognition 1984
- b. 16 f. 2 *Mass Appeal* 1981
Geraldine Fitzgerald received a Tony nomination for director.
- b. 16 f. 3 Theatre Hall Of Fame 1986