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Collection Summary

Repository: Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries

Creator: Vassar College. Department of Drama

Title: Vassar College Drama Department Records

Dates: circa 1910-2008

Quantity: 50 cubic feet (83 boxes), 2 framed items

Material documenting the history of the Vassar College Drama Department and its many components

Abstract: and programs (including the Experimental Theatre). Includes programs, news clippings, production material, photographs, negatives, slides, and film.

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Administrative History

The Vassar College Experimental Theatre was founded in 1925 by Hallie Flanagan Davis as a program of the English Department, and later became part of the Drama Department when it was founded in 1938. The predecessors of the Experimental Theatre included the Vassar Dramatic Workshop and the Vassar Players.

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Scope and Content Note

Programs, news clippings, production material, photographs, slides, and negatives documenting the history of the Vassar College Drama Department and its many components and programs (including the Experimental Theatre) from about 1905-2017.

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Access and Use

Access

Box 48 contains restricted material. Please contact the Archives and Special Collections staff for more information. The rest of the collection is open for research according to the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#) without any additional restrictions.

Restrictions on Use

Permission to quote (publish) from unpublished or previously published material must be obtained as described in the [regulations of the Vassar College Archives and Special Collections Library](#).
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Related Material

Related Materials

- [Hallie Flanagan Papers](#)

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Subject Headings

Names:

- Flanagan, Hallie, 1890-1969

Organizations:

- Experimental Theatre of Vassar College

Subjects:

- College theater
- Performing arts--New York (State)--Poughkeepsie
- Theater--Study and teaching

Document Types:

- Audiovisual materials
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Drawings (visual works)
- Negatives
- Open reel audiotapes
- Open reel videotapes
- Photographs
- Scripts
- Sheet music
- Slides

VCL Categories:

- Vassar College Academic Departments and Programs

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Encoding Information

Original encoding by Elizabeth Clarke, April 2007. Updated by Emma Gronbeck, October 2025.

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Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Vassar College Drama Department Records, Archives and Special Collections Library, Vassar College Libraries.

Processing Information

Collection processed April 2005 by Laura Streett. Updated in 2018 by Janine St. Germaine (added boxes 62-83).

Production files from 1980-1993 (A2020-003 and A2024-027) were integrated into Boxes 52-58.

Remainder of files from A2024-027 were added to Boxes 84-.

Acquisition Information

Transferred in several accessions, 2008-2024. (A2008-019, A2009-048, A2013-025, A2014-030, A2018-017, A2018-018, A2020-003, A2024-027)

The records of Martin Fallon, technician and then an instructor in stage management for the Drama Department from approximately 1936-1944, were added to the collection in 2010, a gift of Charles D. Fallon (A2010-009).

The 2011 accession included photographs presumed to have been taken by Raymon Traver.

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Series List

[Series I.](#) Subject Files, circa 1916-2003

Programs, news clippings, promotional material, and other records relating to the the Experimental Theatre and its productions as well as miscellaneous Drama Department files.

[Series II.](#) Miscellaneous Student Papers and Theses, 1930-1973

An incomplete set of student papers completed for various Drama Department classes.

*Please note: Some Drama Department theses have been cataloged separately and can be accessed via the [Vassar College Libraries Online Catalog](#).

[Series III.](#) Experimental Theatre Lantern Slides, 1931, 1937

Two sets of slides used in the Experimental Theatre productions, Can You Hear Their Voices (1931) and One-Third of a Nation (1937).

[Series IV.](#) Experimental Theatre Negatives, 1925-1942

Mostly 4"x5" negatives on cellulose acetate "Safety" film. Some are deteriorating and/or brittle and may not be available for duplication.

Series V. Experimental Theatre Photographs, 1925-1979

Photographs housed according to size, then in chronological order.

Boxes 10-21 and 68-79 contain 8" x 10" and smaller photographs

Boxes 4-5 contain 14" x 18" and smaller photographs

Boxes 22-24 contain 16" x 20" photographs

Items housed in map cases are approximately 12" x 48"

Only some of the photos in Box 25 are signed by Raymon Traver, but it is possible that all of them were taken by him.

There are additional photographs in the production files housed in boxes 59 and 60 (A2013-025).

Series VI. Drama Department Slides, 1944-1991

4 slide boxes within a larger box. Includes "Coursework, 1905-1981" and a set of numbered slides (with some numbers missing) of productions dating from 1944-1960.

Series VII. Drama Department Audio and Film Reels, 1961-1971

A small set of film and audio reels from miscellaneous productions.

Series VIII. Drama Department Production Material, circa 1910-2008

Scripts, prompt books, costume and set design, etc. including Experimental Theatre productions, Hall productions, senior theses*, and class projects. Organized in chronological order, but not listed by individual production. There is also a small collection of musical scores as well as the state management records of Martin Fallon. Boxes 59 and 60 also include programs, correspondence, photographs and other materials relating to productions dating from 1915-1949.

*Please note: Some Drama Department theses have been cataloged separately and can be accessed via the [Vassar College Libraries Online Catalog](#).

Container List

Series I. Subject Files

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Folder 1.2	Experimental Theatre Press Releases, 1960-1992
Folder 1.3	Experimental Theatre Programs, 1928-1949
Folder 1.4	Experimental Theatre Programs, 1950-1979
Folder 1.5	Experimental Theatre Programs, 1980-2003
Folder 1.6	Experimental Theatre Calendars and other Advertising Material, 1934-2002, undated
Folder 1.7	Experimental Theatre Report by Hallie Flanagan and Lester Lang, 1933 May 18
Folder 1.8	Experimental Theatre Building Plans, 1930
Folder 1.9	Experimental Theatre Production Files — Orpheus, 1939
Folder 1.10	Experimental Theatre Production Files — Pillars of Society, 1939
Folder 1.11	Predecessors to the Experimental Theatre at Vassar, circa 1917-1926
Folder 1.12	Mary Heinlein's Files, circa 1950-1955
Folder 1.13	Mary Heinlein's Files, circa 1956-1957

Folder 1.14	Mary Heinlein's Files, circa 1958-1959
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Folder 46.23	Publicity — Old, 1938-1953, undated
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Folder 46.27	National Theatre Conference, 1948-1949
Folder 46.28	National Theatre Conference, 1949-1953, undated
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Folder 46.30	New Dramatists Committee, undated
Folder 47.1	N.Y. State Regional Drama: NY State Community Theatre Association, 1947-1953, undated
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Folder 47.2	Scrapbook of Theatre Clippings, 1936-1937
Folder 47.3	Scrapbook of Theatre Clippings, circa 1937
Folder 47.4	Scrapbook of Theatre Clippings, 1937-1938
Box 80 (Oversize)	Scrapbooks, containing programs, press clippings, correspondence, 1935-1945 (2 volumes)

Boxes 81-82 (Oversize)	Scrapbooks, containing programs, press clippings, photographs, correspondence, 1927-1936 (2 volumes)
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Folder 48.2	"Faculty — (Coffee) Richards, Sally, 1949, 1951 [RESTRICTED]
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Series II. Miscellaneous Student Papers and Theses

Box 2	Miscellaneous Student Papers and Theses, 1930-1973
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Series III. Experimental Theatre Lantern Slides

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Box 3	One-Third of a Nation, 1937 Jul

Series IV. Experimental Theatre Negatives

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Folder 6.13	Simples by Moonlight? or Cartoon? or Mdme. Europe?, 1930 Mar
Folder 6.14	Man and the Masses, 1930 May
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Folder 9.15	Unidentified Production, circa 1940s
Folder 9.16	War Bonds Posters - for set design?, circa 1930s
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Folder 74.9	Smiles of a Summer Night, 1963 Oct
Folder 19.24	The Trojan Women, 1963 Dec
Folder 74.10	The Trojan Women, 1963 Dec
Folder 74.11	The Triumph of Honor, 1964 Feb
Folder 74.12	Pericles, Prince of Tyre, 1964 Mar
Folder 75.1	A Shakespeare Celebration, 1964 Apr
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Folder 75.3	Suddenly Last Summer, 1964 Apr
Folder 75.4	Ugly Duckling, 1964 Apr
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Folder 76.13	The Would-be Gentleman, 1966 Oct
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Folder 77.3	The Island, 1967 Oct
Folder 77.4	Six Characters in Search of an Author, 1967 Oct
Folder 77.5	The Pelican, 1967 Nov
Folder 77.6	The Rook This Property is Condemned, The Long Christmas Dinner, 1967 Dec
Folder 77.7	Angelina, The Passionate Pasha, 1968 Feb
Folder 77.8	When We Dead Awaken, 1968 Mar
Folder 77.9	The Women, 1968 Apr
Folder 77.10	The Field God, 1968 May
Folder 78.1	The Odd Lady Shows Her Medals, The Bald Soprano, Passion, Poison and Petrification, 1968 Oct
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Folder 78.4	Honey Sam, Crawling Around, 1969 Dec
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Folder 78.9	Miss Julie, 1969 Dec
Folder 78.10	The Miser, 1970 Feb
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Folder 78.12	Lysistrata, 1970 Oct
Folder 78.13	The Card Game, 1970 Dec
Folder 78.14	The London Merchant, 1971 Mar
Folder 78.15	Camino Real, 1971 May
Folder 78.16	Lady Precious Stream, 1971 Oct
Folder 78.17	The Servant of Two Masters, 1971 Dec
Folder 79.1	You Can't Take It With You, 1972 Mar
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Folder 79.3	Street Scene, 1972 Nov
Folder 79.4	The House of Bernanda Alba, 1972 Dec
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Folder 79.9	Alls Well That Ends Well, 1974 May
Folder 79.10	Six Characters in Search of An Author, 1975 Nov
Folder 79.11	Learned Ladies, 1978 Nov
Folder 79.12	Orpheus Descending, 1979 Oct
Folder 79.13	The Portrait, 1979 Nov
Folder 19.30	The People, Yes, 1972
Folder 20.1	Miscellaneous, circa 1920s
Folders 20.2-20.3	Miscellaneous, circa 1930s
Folder 5.3	Miscellaneous — Unidentified, circa 1930-1945
Folder 20.4	Miscellaneous, circa 1940-1959
Folder 20.5	Miscellaneous - props and make-up, circa 1940-1959

Folder 20.6	Miscellaneous, circa 1950s
Folder 24.7 (Oversize)	Miscellaneous – Unidentified, circa 1950s
Folder 20.7	Miscellaneous, circa 1960s
Box 83	Miscellaneous - Unidentified slides, 1970-1971
Folder 20.8	Candidates for Summer Theatre Program, 1935-1959
Folder 20.9	Assorted Portraits of Actors, including Eugenie Leontovich and Edgar Barrier, circa 1930s Vassar Experimental Theatre floor plans, undated (framed)

Series VI. Drama Department Slides

2 slide boxes (originally labeled, "Coursework") including images from the following productions:

Box 61	The Tempest, 1944 Mar
Box 61	Him, 1944 Dec
Box 61	Provok'd Wife, 1949 Mar
Box 61	Gardener's Dog, 1951 Feb
Box 61	Orphee, 1951 May
Box 61	Much Ado About Nothing, 1955 Mar
Box 61	The Alchemist, 1956 Mar
Box 61	Six Characters in Search of an Author, 1956 May
Box 61	The Critic, 1953 Mar
Box 61	Noah, 1957 Mar
Box 61	Him, 1957 May
Box 61	To Damascus, 1958 Mar
Box 61	The Lesson and the Bald Soprano, 1958 Dec
Box 61	The Masque of Camus, 1959 Mar
Box 61	Ring Round the Moon, 1959 May
Box 61	Arms and the Man, 1959 Dec
Box 61	Madwoman of Chaillot, 1960 May
Box 83	35 mm slides, production photos, 1964-1991 (approximately 66 boxes)

Series VII. Drama Department Audio and Film Reels

Box 83	4 audio reels from The Voice of Vassar, 1961 (4 audio reels)
Box 83	2 audio reels from Movers and Shakers, 1966 (2 audio reels)
Box 83	Unidentified production, probably Camino Real or One Third of a Nation, 1970-1971 (1 film reel, super 8)
Box 83	Vintage slide projector, undated
Box 83	Instructional footage, undated (35mm film, 3 rolls)

Series VIII. Drama Department Production Material

Production Files

Box 59	Production files, in chronological order, 1915-1947
Box 60	Production files, in chronological order, 1947-1962

Box 62	Production files, in chronological order, 1962-1972
Box 63	Production files, in chronological order, 1972-1979
Box 26	Production files, in chronological order, circa 1910-1931
Box 27	Production files, in chronological order, 1931-1934
Box 28	Production files, in chronological order, 1934-1937
Box 29	Production files, in chronological order, 1937-1940
Box 44	Production files - Vassar's Folly, 1938, 1940
Box 30	Production files, in chronological order, 1940-1941
Box 31	Production files, in chronological order, 1941-1944
Box 32	Production files, in chronological order, 1944-1948
Box 33	Production files, in chronological order, 1948-1952
Box 34	Production files, in chronological order, 1952-1954
Box 35	Production files, in chronological order, 1954-1955
Box 36	Production files, in chronological order, 1956-1957
Box 37	Production files, in chronological order, 1957-1958
Box 38	Production files, in chronological order, 1958-1960
Box 39	Production files, in chronological order, 1960-1962
Box 44	Production files - Hansel and Gretel, 1963
Box 40	Production files, in chronological order, 1962-1963
Box 41	Production files, in chronological order, 1963-1964
Box 42	Production files, in chronological order, 1965-1966
Box 43	Production files, in chronological order, 1967-1970
Box 49	Production files, in chronological order, 1971-1973
Box 50	Production files, in chronological order, 1973-1974
Box 51	Production files, in chronological order, 1975-1979
Box 52	The Tempest, 1980 Feb 21-23
Box 52	Right You Are, 1980 Feb 28 - Mar 1
Box 52	First Breeze of Summer, 1980 Mar 27-29
Box 52	The Knight of the Burning Pestle, 1980 Apr 18, 20
Box 52	The History of the American Film, 1980 Apr 24-26
Box 52	The House of Mirth, 1980 Oct 9-11 (2 folders)
Box 52	Fuente Ovejuna, 1980 Nov 20-23
Box 52	Dear Antoine, 1980 Dec 5-6
Box 52	Bury the Dead, 1980 Oct 30 - Nov 1
Box 52	Once in a Lifetime, 1981 Feb 26-28 (2 folders)
Box 52	The Dance of Death, 1981 Mar 27-28 (3 folders)
Box 52	To Be Young Gifted and Black, 1981 Apr 24-25
Box 52	Fumed Oak / Woyzeck, 1981 May 1-2
Box 52	Uncommon Women and Others, 1981 Oct 1-3
Box 52	Europeans by Henry James, 1981 Oct 8-10
Box 53	Cymbeline, 1981 Nov 18-21 (3 folders)
Box 53	Look Homeward, Angel, 1981 Dec 4-5 (2 folders)
Box 53	Video Life, 1982 Feb 19-20
Box 53	War and Peace, 1982 Feb 24-27 (3 folders)
Box 53	The Rose Tattoo, 1982 Apr 22-24
Box 53	Undine, 1982 Apr 30 - May 1
Box 53	Stage Door, 1982 Sep 30 - Oct 2

Box 53	Scapino, 1982 Oct 7-9
Box 53	Love for Love, 1982 Nov 18-20
Box 53	Aspern Papers, 1982 Dec 3-4
Box 53	Between Two Thieves, 1983 Feb 25-26
Box 53	The Seagull, 1983 Mar 31 - Apr 2 (2 folders)
Box 53	Dynamo, 1983 Apr 22-23
Box 53	The Further Adventures of Sally, 1983 May 6-8
Box 53	The Shoemaker's Prodigious Wife, 1983 Apr 28-30
Box 53	House of Blue Leaves, 1983 Sep 29 - Oct 1
Box 53	The Heiress, 1983 Oct 21-22
Box 53	Hedda Gabler, 1983 Oct 6-8
Box 54	The Lady's Not for Burning, 1983 Nov 17-19
Box 54	The Ponder Heart, 1983 Dec 1-3
Box 54	When We Are Married, 1984 Feb 23-25
Box 54	J. B., 1984 Mar 2-3
Box 54	Bus Stop, 1984 Apr 6-7
Box 54	The Children's Hour, 1984 Apr 19-21
Box 54	Life is a Dream, 1984 Apr 20-21
Box 54	Morning's at Seven, 1984 Oct 18-20
Box 54	A Clearing in the Woods, 1984 Oct 26-27
Box 54	Hitchin' in the Company of Saints, 1984 Oct 28, Nov 4
Box 54	Ladies in Retirement, 1984 Nov 29-Dec 1
Box 54	The Crucible, 1984 Dec 7-8
Box 54	Hippolytus, 1985 Feb 28-Mar 2
Box 54	The Affairs of Anatol, 1985 Mar 1-2
Box 54	Hay Fever, 1985 Apr 26-27
Box 54	You Can't Take It With You, 1985 May 2-4
Box 54	A Peculiar Position / Table No. 7, 1985 Oct 4-5
Box 54	The Matchmaker, 1985 Oct 10-12
Box 55	Vieux Carre, 1985 Nov 22-23
Box 55	Women Beware Women, 1985 Dec 5-7
Box 55	Under Milkwood, 1986 Feb 21-22
Box 55	Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's Macbeth, 1986 Feb 27-Mar 1
Box 55	Arms and the Man, 1986 Apr 26-27
Box 55	Dark at the Top of the Stairs, 1986 May 1-3
Box 55	The Lesson / The Maids, 1986 Oct 3-4
Box 55	Merrily We Roll Along, 1986 Oct 9-11
Box 55	The Age of Innocence, 1986 Nov 18-22
Box 55	The Skin of Our Teeth, 1986 Dec 4-6
Box 55	Antigone, 1987 Feb 27-28
Box 55	Nothing but the Truth, 1987 Mar 5-7
Box 55	Private Life of the Master Race, 1987 May 1-2
Box 55	Another Part of the Forest, 1987 May 7-9
Box 55	Liberty Belles, 1987 Oct 1-3
Box 55	The Visit, 1987 Oct 8-10
Box 55	The Portrait, 1987 Nov 15-17
Box 55	Morn to Midnight, 1987 Nov 18-21

Box 56	Morn to Midnight, 1987 Nov 18-21
Box 56	Pack of Lies, 1987 Dec 3-5
Box 56	Picnic, 1988 Feb 18-20
Box 56	The House of Bernanda Alba, 1988 Apr 22-23
Box 56	Tonight at 8:30, 1988 Apr 28
Box 56	The Importance of Being Earnest, 1988 Sep 29 - Oct 1
Box 56	Summer and Smoke, 1988 Oct 6-8
Box 56	The Trojan Women, 1988 Nov 17-19
Box 56	A Midsummer Night's Dream, 1988 Feb 25-27
Box 56	The Schoolmistress, 1988 Dec 7-10 (2 folders)
Box 56	The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, 1989 Feb 24-25
Box 56	The Good Person of Szechwan, 1989 Mar 2-4
Box 56	Three Plays by Yeats, Riddled with Light, 1989 Apr 26-29
Box 56	The Three Sisters, 1989 May 4-6
Box 56	Six characters in Search of An Author, 1989 Oct 5-7 (2 folders)
Box 57	Six characters in Search of An Author, 1989 Oct 5-7 (VHS and CD)
Box 57	Fen, 1989 Oct 26-28
Box 57	The Man Who Came to Dinner, 1989 Dec 7-9
Box 57	Praying Mantis, 1990 Feb 22-24
Box 57	Toys in the Attic, 1990 Mar 1-3
Box 57	Blithe Spirit, 1990 Apr 26-28
Box 57	Tango, 1990 Dec 6-8
Box 57	The Rivals, 1990 May 3-5
Box 57	Machinal, 1990 Oct 4-6
Box 57	Tartuffe, 1990 Oct 11-13
Box 57	Twelfth Night, 1990 Nov 29 - Dec 1
Box 57	The Glass Menagerie, 1991 Feb 21 - 24
Box 57	Man and Superman, 1991 Feb 27 - Mar 1
Box 57	The Eumenides, 1991 Apr 25 - 27 (2 folders)
Box 58	The Heiress, 1991 May 2 - 4
Box 58	The Wheel, 1991 Oct 3 - 6, 10 - 12
Box 58	The Winters Tale , 1991 Oct 11 - 13
Box 58	Crimes of the Heart, 1991 Nov 21 - 23
Box 58	A Christmas Carol, 1991 Dec 5 - 8
Box 58	Happy Birthday Vincent, 1992 Feb 20 - 23 (2 folders)
Box 58	Spring Awakening, 1992 Feb 27 - Mar 1
Box 58	Spring Awakening, 1992 Feb 27 - Mar 1
Box 58	Fefu & Her Friends, 1992 Apr 8 - 12
Box 58	The Importance of Being Earnest, 1992 Apr 23 - 26
Box 58	A Sampler of the 20th Century: Three Short Plays, 1992 Oct 8 - 11
Box 58	Euripides' The Bacchae, 1992 Nov 5 - 7
Box 58	A Mouthful of Birds, 1992 Nov 18 - 22
Box 58	After the Fact, 1992
Box 58	Female Parts, 1993 Feb 25 - 28
Box 58	Macbeth, 1993 Apr 1 - 4 (2 folders)
Box 58	Dream Times, 1993 Apr 8 - 10
Box 58	The Reign of Wazobia, 1993 Apr 14

Box 58	The Government Inspector, 1993 Apr 22 - 25
Box 58	The Threshold Above, 1993 May 1 - 2
Box 58	Uncle Vanya, 1993 Oct 7 - 10
Box 58	Blue Window, 1993 Nov 4 - 6
Box 58	The Danube, 1993 Nov 11 - 13
Box 58	Woyzeck, 1993 Nov 18 - 20
Box 63	Production files, in alphabetical order undated (26 folders)
Box 63	Production files and some miscellaneous material created by Martin Fallon while he was worked as a technician and then an instructor in stage management for the Experimental Theatre, circa 1936-1944

Stage Management Files

Box 64	Stage Management Files, in chronological order, 2000-2002
Box 65	Stage Management Files, in chronological order, 2002-2004
Box 66	Stage Management Files, in chronological order, 2004-2007
Box 67	Stage Management Files, in chronological order, 2006-2008

Miscellaneous Production Materials

Folder 24.8 (Oversize)	Miscellaneous Posters and Other Advertising Material, circa 1935-1991
Folder 24.9 (Oversize)	Poster for The Good Woman of Setzuan, undated
Folder 24.9 (Oversize)	Music for Frankie and Johnny, words from "Him" by e.e. cummings, undated
Box 45	Music for Antony and Cleopatra, 1934 Dec
Box 45	Music for Santos Vega, 1942
Box 45	Music for Peer Gynt, 1946
Box 45	Music for Finnegans Wake, 1951
Box 45	Music for Greed Play, undated
Box 45	Music for unidentified play, undated
Box 45	Music for miscellaneous plays, undated

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