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GENERAL INFORMATION

Accession Number:  94-08

Size:    0.4522 cu. ft.

Provenance:   Hunter College Playhouse

Restrictions   None.

Location:   Range  6  Section  4  Shelf  44

Archivist:  Prof.  Julio L. Hernandez-Delgado

Assistant:   Ms. Jennie Cheung

Date:    April 1997

Revised:    December 2014
HISTORICAL NOTE

The Hunter College Playhouse was an integral component of the new edifice that replaced the original Normal/Hunter College facility which was destroyed by fire on February 21, 1936. The “Palace on Park Avenue” on 68th Street and Lexington Avenue was inaugurated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940.

*The Yellow Jacket*, written by George C. Hazelton and Benrimo, and dramatized by students of the Varsity Club on November 28, 1940, was the inaugural performance in the Hunter College Playhouse. Subsequent legendary performances included several Shakespearean plays performed by the Oxford and Cambridge Shakespeare Company and directed by Johnathan Miller; Gilbert and Sullivan performed by the Blue Hill Troupe; dance performances by Martha Graham, Paul Taylor, Erick Hawkins, Merce Cunningham, Alwin Nikolais, and Murray Louis; plays written by Tennessee Williams and George S. Kaufman, and other outstanding artists and musical groups. The aforementioned productions elevated the Playhouse as one of the principal centers for music, dance, and theatre in New York City from 1940 - 1960.

The Hunter College Playhouse continued to serve as a venue for outstanding productions into the 1980's with performances like Emmanuel Ax, Myron Fink Violin Concerto, Just between Friends, and Gypsy: a Musical Comedy. Regrettably the Playhouse fell into physical decay and was closed by the end of the decade. In response to the closing of the Playhouse concerned administrators, faculty, students, and community residents organized a committee to save and restore the famed facility. Funding to the tune of $4.1 million came forth from the Sylvia and Danny Kaye Foundation to renovate the dilapidated structure. In 1993, the former Hunter College Playhouse was reopened to the public and was renamed The Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Hunter College Playhouse Collection consists of flyers, programs, and posters for events that were held at Hunter College from 1940 through 1987. These promotional materials were creatively assembled and provide general information on the publicized events. The collection contains no audiotapes, correspondence, contracts, memoranda, nor photographs. Researchers seeking information about a specific event(s) held at the Playhouse may consult the Hunter College Bulletin (1914 - 1948), the Hunter Arrow (1948 - 1966), and the Hunter Envoy (1966 - 1987). Two additional sources which may shed light on some of the stellar performances showcased in the Playhouse are The New York Times and the Village Voice for the years 1940 through 1987.

Fans of opera, drama, classical music, dance, and song will find this collection to be quite interesting. Even though the collection is small in size, it does highlight some of the major performers and production companies that graced the stage of the Hunter College Playhouse for forty-seven years.
SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series I – Programs

Series I consists of programs of events that were performed in the Hunter College Playhouse from 1940 to 1987. The programs are arranged alphabetically by title of event and chronologically therein.

Series II – Promotional Materials

Included are flyers and posters of events that were performed in the Hunter College Playhouse from the late 1960's through the 1980's. The materials in this series are arranged chronologically.
## CONTAINER LIST

### SERIES I – PROGRAMS

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| 1 | 1 | The Barrets of Wimpole Street, April, 1948  
   Ladies in Retirement, December, 1943  
   Les Precieuses Ridicules, December, 1945  
   When We're Professional, December, 1946  
   The Yellow Jacket, November, 1940 |
| 2 | | All My Sons, November, 1954  
   Antigone, November, 1950  
   Bayou Legend, May, 1950  
   The Crucible, November, 1954  
   Girls in Uniform, November, 1956  
   The Gondoliers or the King of Barataria, 1953  
   The Gondoliers or the King of Barataria, 1958  
   The Holy Innocents, December, 1957  
   Horizon, 1953  
   Lowland Sea, December, 1958  
   The Mikado or the Town of Titipu, 1956  
   Neck and Neck, 1952  
   Temerson – Ormandy String Quartet, 1956  
   The Three Clerks, December, 1957 |
| 3 | | David Amram’s Twelfth Night, 1969  
   Iolanth or the Peer and the Peri, 1964  
   The Mikado, March, 1960  
   Shaw’s Arms and the Man, November, 1960  
   Sing Out, Sweet Land, November, 1963  
   The Skin of our Teeth, April, 1960 |
| 4 | | Draw a Straight Line, September, 1973  
   Juilliard Quartet, December, 1972  
   Manon Lescaut, May, 1973  
   Utah Repertory Dance Theatre, September, 1972 |
| 5 | | Arts of the Caribbean, April, 1982  
   The Music of Louise Talma, May 31, 1983  
   Emmanuel Ax, September, 1985  
   Myron Fink Violin Concerto, March, 1987  
   The 4th Annual Torch of Hope Awards, November, 1989 |

### SERIES I – PROGRAMS
### Box 1 Folder 5 Contents

- Hunter College Dance Company, May, 1982
- Hunter College Dance Company, 1988
- Just Between Friends, March, 1986
- Princess Ida or Castle Adamant, March, 1983
- Radioactivity in the Service of Humanity, May, 1982
- Les Fete D'Hebe or Les Talents Lyriques, ca. 1985
- RAMEAU Les Fete D'Hebe, September 11, 2012

Programs – Undated

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- America-From Hitler to M - X
- Ariodante an Opera in Three Acts
- Dance of Siva and Bharat Natyam Recital
- Down in the Valley
- The Fire This Time
- A Flash of Lightning
- The Gondoliers
- An Italian Hat
- Inherit the Wind
- Les Fetes D'Hebe or Les Talents Lyriques
- Mozart: Don Giovanni
- Nieuw Amsterdam
- The Patience
- Public Purpose in a Democracy: The Role of the University
- SEEK and You Shall Find
- Symphony in Illusion
- These are Women
- We the People Sing and Play
- The Wise and Foolish Virgins
- You Can't Take It With You
- You Touched Me

### SERIES II – PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Flyers and Posters

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- The Playhouse: A Study for Hunter College, 1974 (proposal)

9

- Students Drama, Joe Londin, 1945

10

- Christophe Colomb, Production Book, Kate Carney, 1972