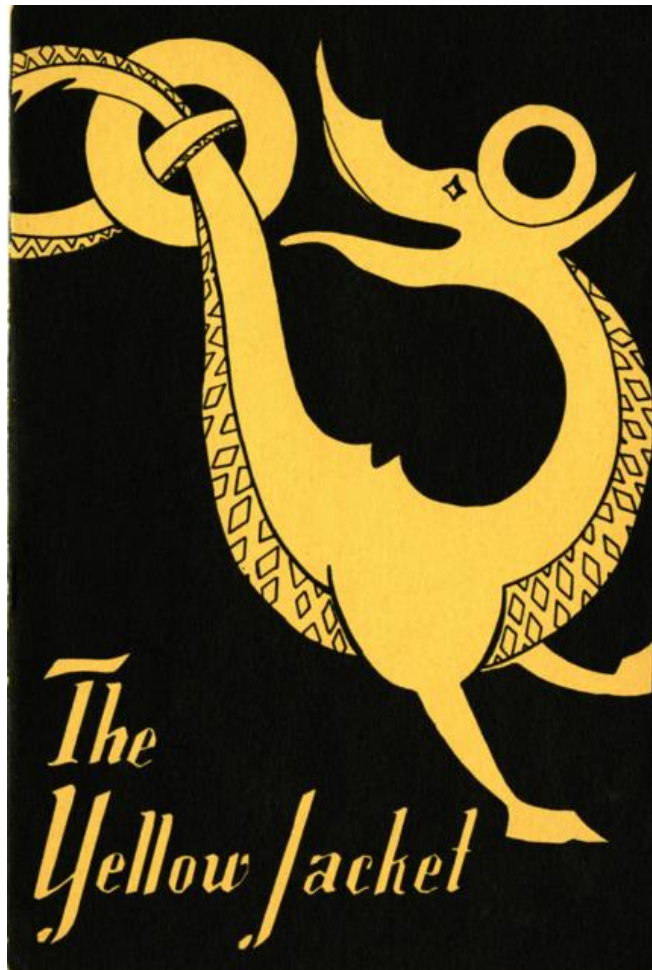


Hunter College Playhouse Collection
1940 - 1987
Finding Aid



Archives and Special Collections



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Accession Number: 94-08

Size: 0.4522 cu. ft.

Provenance: Hunter College Playhouse

Restrictions: None.

Location: Range 2 Section 4 Shelf 22

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

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
		Programs
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 Holy Innocents, December, 1957 Lowland Sea, December, 1958 The Three Clerks, December, 1957
	3	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 4 th Annual Torch of Hope Awards, November, 1989 Gypsy: A Musical Comedy, March, 1987 Hunter College Dance Company, May, 1982 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

SERIES I – PROGRAMS

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	6	Programs – Undated 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 Lighting 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

1	7	Flyers and Posters 1960, 1973, 1982, 1985 - 1987, 1989, 2002
	8	The Playhouse: A Study for Hunter College, 1974 (proposal)
	9	Students Drama, Joe Londin, 1945