



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Scott Schechter collection of Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli materials

1939-2006

*T-Mss 2010-108

Compiled by L. Reyman, 2011.

Summary

Creator: Schechter, Scott, 1961-2009

Title: Scott Schechter collection of Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli materials

Date: 1939-2006

Size: 10.1 linear feet (27 boxes, 1 tube)

Source: Donated by Russell Klein and Rene Klein, 2010.

Abstract: Scott Schechter was a Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli historian. He was an author and producer, devoting many years to researching the careers of Judy Garland and her daughter Liza Minnelli and in the process became an authority on their lives.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

Conditions Governing Access:

Inquiries regarding audio and video materials in this collection may be directed to the Rodgers and Hammerstein Archives of Recorded Sound (rha@nypl.org). Audio/visual materials will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

Preferred citation: Scott Schechter collection of Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli materials, *T-MSS 2010-108. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

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Creator History

Schechter was a Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli historian. He was an author and producer, devoting

many years to researching the careers of Judy Garland and her daughter Liza Minnelli and in the process became an authority on their lives.

Schechter was born February 26, 1961, the youngest of four children. He grew up in the Philadelphia area and began his dedication to Judy Garland while in junior high. For school projects, he wrote reports and created scrapbooks about Garland and Minnelli.

In 1998, Schechter co-produced what is considered the definitive audio overview of Garland's career: the 4-CD box set *Judy*, which spans the entire 40 years of her recorded legacy, from her earliest known recordings in 1929 at age 7, to one of her final appearances in 1969, shortly before her passing...Also that year Schechter was instrumental in bringing Garland's entire long-lost 1963-1964 TV series, *The Judy Garland Show*, to the DVD format.

In 2000, Schechter was instrumental in getting Garland's historic Grammy-winning Album of the Year *Judy at Carnegie Hall* released (on CD) complete and uncut, exactly as it happened that night in its proper running order, for the first time ever...

Schechter published the book *Judy Garland: The Day-by-Day Chronicle of a Legend*, in 2002. The book presented Garland's career and legacy in great detail.

Schechter also worked to get *Liza Minnelli: The Complete A & M Recordings* and *Liza Minnelli: Ultimate Collection* available to the public. In 2004 he published the book *The Liza Minnelli Scrapbook* containing never before seen photographs, extensive lists (records, television appearances, radio shows, movies, awards, etc.) and a detailed written overview of Minnelli's many achievements. Schechter and Minnelli had an on-going professional relationship which included invitations to attend recording sessions and other events.

At the time of his death, Schechter was working to release a CD set of *Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli- 'Live' at the London Palladium*. The CD, with liner notes written by Schechter, was to be re-mastered. He was also working to bring to CD for the first time ever, *Liza at the Winter Garden*.

Scott Schechter died suddenly on May 15th, 2009 of a heart attack. He leaves behind his long-time partner, Russell Klein.

Sources: Schechter, Scott, *The Liza Minnelli Scrapbook* (New York: Citadel Press Books, 2004), 226-227

Scope and Content Note

The Scott Schechter Collection of Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli materials contains both original documents that Schechter created as well as purchased documents regarding Garland and Minnelli. Files consist of correspondence, scrapbooks, photographs, lists, newsletters, fan club material, advertisements, press releases/kits, manuscripts, music, posters, souvenir programs and ephemera.

The bulk of the correspondence is mostly to Schechter, dating from the 1980s and 1990s, and is from other fans of Garland and Minnelli. The Garland letters are photocopies. The Minnelli correspondence is notes between her and Schechter. Photographs are primarily copies of studio publicity shots for movies that Garland and Minnelli starred in although there are copies of photographs of concert performances. Snapshots of both Garland and Minnelli were bought by Schechter and tend to be unidentified in both place and date. There are also personal photographs depicting Garland and her

family and friends. Please note that the publicity stills are not originals from the studios.

Schechter created the scrapbooks between the years 1975-1984. Each year's scrapbook contains clippings about Garland and/or Minnelli that were published and collected during that particular year. The scrapbooks are bound. Newsletters are from Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli fan clubs. The following titles are represented in the collection: *Rainbow Review* (1964-2005); *Garlands for Judy* (1995-2008); *The Garland Gazette* (1956-1966); *The Garland News* (1964-1968); *Limelight on Liza* (1965-1995) and many others. There is also music from *The Judy Garland Show*, some of the songs contain parts. Posters are for movies and concerts of Judy Garland and Liza Minnelli. Some of the posters are quite large (27" x 40"). These have been removed from the collection and are housed separately. Ephemera is wide-ranging with magnets, buttons, key rings, paper dolls and standees, fan magazines and decorative cases of various sizes. Souvenir programs are mostly from Liza Minnelli concerts and Broadway performances.

Arrangement: Collection is arranged alphabetically by format.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actors
Entertainers
Singers

Subjects

Actors and actresses -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Ephemera
Photographs
Scrapbooks

Names

Garland, Judy
Minnelli, Liza

Container List

Scott Schechter 1979-2002

- b. 24 f. 1 Business Cards undated
- Correspondence
 - b. 1 f. 1 A-Z 1983-2002
 - b. 1 f. 2 Dial, Dana 1979-1982
 - Gallagher, Sonny 1967-1990
- b. 24 f. 2 1968
- b. 1 f. 3-7 1967-1990
- b. 1 f. 8 Garlands for Judy 1994
- b. 1 f. 9 Judy 32 Records 1998
- b. 1 f. 10 Meyer, John undated
- Minnelli, Liza
- b. 24 f. 3 1984
- b. 2 f. 1 undated
- b. 2 f. 2 Suzan 1979-1980

Notes

- b. 24 f. 4 undated
- b. 2 f. 3 undated
- b. 24 f. 5 Photograph undated
Used for book jacket.
- b. 2 f. 4 *The Show That Got Away: Somewhere Over The Rainbow. The Judy Garland Show*
Written for English class

Judy Garland 1939-2006

- b. 3 f. 1 Advertisements undated
- b. 24 f. 6 *The Beauty of Judy by Bill Franklin* ca. 1970
- b. 3 f. 2 Birth Certificate and Last Will and Testament undated
photocopies
- b. 3 f. 3 Book Proposal by David Birman undated
- b. 3 f. 4 Canceled Checks undated
photocopies
- b. 3 f. 5 Capitol Records Master Reel Labels undated
photocopies
- b. 3 f. 6 Contracts and Agreements 1939-1961
photocopies
- b. 3 f. 7 Correspondence
photocopies of letters written by Judy Garland
- b. 15 Ephemera
- b. 17 Ephemera
- b. 26 Ephemera
- b. 3 f. 8 Eulogy by James Mason 1969
photocopy

Judy Garland (cont.)

- b. 24 f. 7 *The Funny Phoenix*
- b. 3 f. 9-10 Griffin, Mark 2000
interview transcripts
Judy at the Stonewall Inn
- b. 3 f. 11 ca. 1997
- b. 24 f. 8 2000
- b. 24 f. 9 Judy! Auction Catalog 1978
Also includes prices of items sold.
- b. 3 f. 12 *Judy Garland: The Capitol Years*
- b. 3 f. 13 The Judy Garland Club undated
- b. 24 f. 10 The Judy Garland Collector Catalog 1986
- b. 3 f. 14 Judy Garland Festival undated
- b. 3 f. 15 Judy Garland Museum undated
- b. 3 f. 16-19 *The Judy Garland Show*
Lists of Achievements
- b. 4 f. 1 Audio Cassettes undated
- b. 4 f. 2 Radio Performances undated
- b. 4 f. 3 Recorded Songs compiled by Albert J. DiOrio 1995
- b. 4 f. 4 Videos undated
- b. 4 f. 5 Manuscript undated
untitled
- b. 4 f. 6 Metropolitan Opera Show Script undated
- b. 4 f. 7 *Me and My Shadows: Life with Judy Garland* 2001
- b. 16 f. 1-15 Music ca. 1963-1964
Newsletters
- b. 4 f. 8 *The Baum Bugle* 1979, 1989, 1999
Beyond Rainbows 1990-1995
- b. 4 f. 9-11 1990-1995
- b. 24 f. 11 1993
- b. 4 f. 12 *The Fan Club Observer* 1978, 1981
The Garland Gazette 1956-1966
- b. 24 f. 12 1961-1964
- b. 5 f. 1-5 1956-1966
The Garland News
- b. 24 f. 12 1964
- b. 5 f. 6-9 1964-1965
- b. 6 f. 1-4 1966-1968
- b. 6 f. 5-9 *Garlands for Judy* 1995-2008
- b. 7 f. 1 *Get Happy* 1996
the magazine of the Judy Garland Society
- b. 7 f. 2 *Judy* 1966
- b. 7 f. 3-4 *The Judy Collector* 1986-1987

Judy Garland (cont.)
Newsletters (cont.)

The Judy Garland Club

- b. 24 f. 14 1981
- b. 7 f. 5 undated
- b. 7 f. 6 *The Judy Garland Internet Club Newsletter* 1997
- b. 7 f. 7 *The Judy Garland Showcase* undated
- b. 7 f. 8 *The Judy Room* 2006-2007

Newsflash

- b. 24 f. 15 1968
- b. 7 f. 9 1968-1969

Rainbow Review

- b. 7 f. 10-12 1964-1968
- b. 8 f. 1-7 1970-1983
- b. 24 f. 16 1974
- b. 9 f. 1-8 1984-2005
- b. 10 f. 1 Notes to Self undated
photocopies
- b. 10 f. 2 Olympia Recording Liner Notes undated

Photographs

- b. 10 f. 3-6 Concerts 1951-1967
 - b. 10 f. 7-16 Family undated
 - b. 10 f. 17-27 Movies 1939-1965
publicity stills listed alphabetically by movie title
 - b. 10 f. 28-30 Television Show 1963-1964
- Unidentified
publicity stills, snapshots, slides, negatives
- b. 24 f. 17 1940-1959
 - b. 24 f. 18 1960-1969
 - b. 11 f. 1-4 undated

Posters undated (oversized)

Extra large posters have been housed separately from the main collection.

- b. 27 undated
- b. 17 undated

- b. 18 f. 1 Press Kit undated

- b. 11 f. 5 Press Releases undated

- b. 11 f. 6 *The Property Known as Garland* 2006
stage production starring Adrienne Barbou

- b. 11 f. 7 Russell, Michelle 1997
Musical Memories: Songs the Gumm Family Sang, 1895-1935

- b. 11 f. 8 Schulman, Lawrence 2009
The Plagued History of Judy Garland/Liza Minnelli 'Live' at the London Palladium, 1965-2009

Scrapbooks

- b. 11 f. 9-10 1975
- b. 19 1977-1981

- Judy Garland (cont.)
Scrapbooks (cont.)
- b. 25 f. 1 1978
 - b. 20 1982-1984
 - b. 21 undated
 - b. 25 f. 2 *A Special Tribute Issue: Judy Garland* undated
 - b. 22 Souvenir Programs
 - b. 11 f. 11-12 *A Star Is Born* 1954
purchased photocopy of script and other materials
 - b. 11 f. 13 Unpublished Memoir undated
 - Lorna Luft undated
 - b. 11 f. 14 Notes and Correspondence undated
 - Liza Minnelli 1965-1996
 - b. 12 f. 1 Advertisements undated
 - b. 12 f. 2 Correspondence 1977-1981
 - b. 12 f. 3 Capitol Records Master List undated
 - b. 15 Ephemera undated
 - Fan Club Newsletters
 - b. 12 f. 4 *Judy and Liza* 1967
Limelight on Liza
 - b. 12 f. 6-10 1965-1989
 - b. 25 f. 3 1981
 - b. 13 f. 1-3 1987-1995
 - b. 13 f. 4-6 *The Liza Letter* 1993-1995
 - b. 13 f. 7 *Liza "Birthday Wishes"* undated
 - b. 13 f. 8 *Liza "Get Well Wishes"* undated
 - b. 13 f. 9 *Liza* undated
 - b. 13 f. 10 List of Liza Minnelli on Video undated
 - b. 17 *LP Liza Minnelli Live at Carnegie Hall* 1981
autographed to Scott Schechter with photograph attached
 - Photographs
 - Concerts
 - b. 13 f. 11-13 1996
 - b. 25 f. 4 2008
 - b. 13 f. 14 Family undated
 - b. 14 f. 1-9 Movies 1967-1982
arranged alphabetically by movie title
 - b. 14 f. 10 Portraits undated
 - b. 14 f. 11-12 Slides and negatives undated
 - Snapshots
 - b. 25 f. 5 1960-1969
 - b. 14 f. 13-14 ca. 1970s
 - b. 25 f. 6 1970-1979
 - b. 25 f. 7 1974-1976

Liza Minnelli (cont.)
Photographs (cont.)
Snapshots (cont.)

- b. 25 f. 8 1977
- b. 25 f. 9 1980-2000
- b. 25 f. 10 2003-2007
- b. 25 f. 11 undated

Playbills, Stagebills and Other Programs

- b. 25 f. 12 *Lizadelphia* 2007
- b. 23 undated

Posters

extra large posters have been housed separately from the main collection

- b. 28 1980-2008
- b. 17 undated
- b. 18 f. 2-12 Press Kits

Press Releases

- b. 25 f. 13 1993
- b. 14 f. 15 undated

- b. 22 Souvenir Programs

Ticket Stubs for Liza Minnelli Concerts undated

- b. 25 f. 14 2002
- b. 14 f. 16 undated