



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Bramwell Fletcher papers

1934-1981

*T-Mss 1988-006

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

Summary

Creator: Fletcher, Bramwell

Title: Bramwell Fletcher papers

Date: 1934-1981

Size: 1.5 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Unknown.

Abstract: Bramwell Fletcher (1904-1988) was a British stage, film, and television actor best known for his work in plays by George Bernard Shaw, and for his one-man show, *The Bernard Shaw Story*. The Bramwell Fletcher papers (1934-1981) document his career in theater and television through photographs; annotated scripts and readings; and business papers.

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>

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Processing note: Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

Creator History

Bramwell Fletcher (1904-1988) was a British stage, film, and television actor best known for his work in plays by George Bernard Shaw, and for his one-man show, *The Bernard Shaw Story*. He worked in theater and film in Britain before moving to the United States in the early 1930s. Fletcher worked in Hollywood through the thirties, appearing in many films, most notably *The Mummy* and *Svengali*. He left

the film industry in the early 1940s and returned to the stage, appearing in over 20 Broadway productions, and working in television as well. Fletcher frequently toured in *The Bernard Shaw Story*, a script he compiled from Shaw's writings, in the 1960s and 1970s. He died in New Hampshire in 1988.

Scope and Content Note

The Bramwell Fletcher papers (1934-1981) document the actor's career in theater and television through photographs, annotated scripts and readings, programs, and business papers. Photographs and scripts comprise the bulk of the collection.

Photographs contain negatives, contact sheets, and prints, and consist of publicity and performance images of Fletcher and other actors in both theater and television productions. Productions featured include *The Bernard Shaw Story*, *Pygmalion*, *Little Glass Clock*, *Getting Married*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, *To What Red Hell*, *Goodbye Mr. Fancy*, *Candida*, and *Saint Joan*. Other actors present in the photographs include Alison Stanley, Carol Channing, and Zsa Zsa Gabor. One folder (box 1, folder 3) holds negatives and contacts sheets of Richard Avedon photographs taken to promote *The Bernard Shaw Story*. Sixteen large prints, produced by the National Endowment for the Humanities, show Fletcher in a dressing room preparing for his role as Shaw.

The annotated scripts and readings hold various versions of *The Bernard Shaw Story*; and plays by Shaw, John L. Balderston, Sean O'Casey, Charles C. Mark, and Molière. They also contain a lecture by Fletcher titled "If Shaw Were Alive Today"; a folder of poetry and other readings meant for public performance; and the original incidental music for the play *Within the Gates*, by Sean O'Casey (copies of manuscripts).

Business papers hold a contract, itineraries for *The Bernard Shaw Story*, and letters of thanks from presenters of the show.

Arrangement: The papers are arranged by format.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actors (performing artists)

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Business records

Photographs

Programs (documents)

Scripts

Names

Shaw, Bernard, 1856-1950

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Business Papers 1962-1972
- b. 1 f. 2-11 Photographs 1934-1981, undated
 - b. 2 f. 1 Photographs 1971
- b. 1 f. 12 Programs 1948-1978
- b. 3 f. 1 Programs 1948-1978
- b. 3 f. 2-9 Scripts and Readings 1956-1977, undated
- b. 4 f. 1-11 Scripts and Readings 1956-1977, undated