



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Richard Woods papers

1948-1999

*T-Mss 2001-045

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2015

Summary

Creator: Woods, Richard, 1923-2001

Title: Richard Woods papers

Date: 1948-1999

Size: 5.7 linear feet (5 boxes, 18 volumes)

Source: Donated by Ann Cooper, 2001.

Abstract: Richard Woods (1923-2001) was an actor who had a long career on stage, screen, and television. The Richard Woods papers, dating from 1948 to 1999, document his career through scrapbooks, datebooks, and annotated scripts. Eighteen scrapbooks comprise the bulk of the collection.

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, 2015

Creator History

Richard Woods (1923-2001) was an actor who had a long career on stage, screen, and television. He was active from 1948 onward, appearing in regional theaters in New Hampshire, and was in New York by the early 1950s, appearing on Broadway and television.

From 1962 to 1969, Woods was a member of the APA-Phoenix Repertory Company, working with the director Ellis Rabb. He appeared in over 30 productions with the company, including in the original cast of *Sail Away*, two revivals of *You Can't Take It With You* (he was also in Rabb's 1984 revival), *Exit the King*, and *Hamlet*. In the 1970s, his Broadway appearances included *Coco*, *Gigi*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Deathtrap*, and *Man and Superman*.

Woods made several more Broadway appearances in the 1980s and 1990s, and acted in productions with Circle in the Square. Off-Broadway, he created the role of Daddy in Edward Albee's *The Sandbox*, and worked with Playwright's Horizons.

Woods acted in regional theatres around the country, including the Williamstown Theatre Festival, the Kennedy Center, Long Wharf Theatre, the Forum Theatre in Chicago, and Yale Repertory Theatre. He also toured nationally in productions of *Coco*, *The Royal Family*, and *Harvey*.

Woods's film credits included the Coen Brothers' *Miller's Crossing* and *The Hudsucker Proxy*; *Lolita*; and *In and Out*.

Richard Woods died at Englewood Hospital in New Jersey at the age of 77.

Scope and Content Note

The Richard Woods papers, dating from 1948 to 1999, document the actor's career through scrapbooks, datebooks, and annotated scripts. Eighteen scrapbooks comprise the bulk of the collection.

The scrapbooks contain photographs, programs, letters, and clippings. Arranged chronologically, they are organized around stage productions, with each production usually having a program; production shots; informal cast photographs; notes and letters from other cast members; and clippings. Each book documents multiple productions. There are also a few clippings regarding Woods's film appearances. One scrapbook, (volume 7), contains sketches and designs by Woods, as well as personal photographs of friends.

Two of the volumes (two and seven), contain letters from Katherine Hepburn, as well as production photographs with her. Both date from the Broadway run and national tour of *Coco* (1969-1971).

The datebooks cover the years 1968 to 1999. Some of the books contain ticket stubs clipped to the day Woods attended plays or concerts.

The scripts, all undated, contain Woods's performance notes for nine plays. They include seven by Noël Coward, one by Samson Raphaelson, and one by Page Johnson.

Arrangement: The papers are in three divisions: Datebooks, Scrapbooks, and Scripts.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actors (performing artists)

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Appointment books

Scrapbooks

Scripts

Subjects

Theater -- United States -- 20th century

Names

Hepburn, Katharine, 1907-2003

Container List

Datebooks

- b. 1 1968-1977
- b. 2 1978-1987
- b. 3 1988-1995
- b. 4 1996-1999

Scrapbooks

- v. 1 1948-1962
- v. 2 1965-1976
- v. 3 1969-1973, 1985-1995
- v. 4 1970-1980
- v. 5 1972-1974
- v. 6 1974-1976
- v. 7 1976-1977
- v. 8 1977
- v. 9 1978
- v. 10 1979
- v. 11 1979-1980
- v. 12 1980-1981
- v. 13 1981-1983
- v. 14 1983-1984
- v. 15 1984-1986
- v. 16 1985-1987
- v. 17 1988-1990
- v. 18 1990-1999
- b. 4 f. 1-3 Scripts undated
- b. 5 f. 1 Scripts undated