



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Robert Benchley papers

1920-1956

8-MWEZ 21,227-21,233

Summary

Creator: Benchley, Robert, 1889-1945

Title: Robert Benchley papers

Date: 1920-1956

Size: 1 linear foot (5 boxes)

Abstract: Robert Benchley, humorist, critic, actor, writer and director was born in 1889 in Worcester, Massachusetts. His writing career began as early as his college days as president of the LAMPOON, in which he wrote many articles. His reputation as a humorist grew when he became editor of the New York Tribune's Sunday Magazine. During the 1920's he was the dramatic editor for both Life Magazine and the New Yorker. His career also included writing, acting and directing for MGM. The Robert Benchley Papers consist of correspondence, photographs, clippings, scrapbooks, programs and reviews and document both the careers of him and his son, Nathaniel.

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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Creator History

Robert Benchley, humorist, critic, actor, writer and director was born in 1889 in Worcester, Massachusetts. His writing career began as early as his college days as president of the LAMPOON, in which he wrote many articles. His reputation as a humorist grew when he became editor of the New York Tribune's Sunday Magazine. During the 1920's he was the dramatic editor for both Life Magazine and the New Yorker. His career also included writing, acting and directing for MGM.

Scope and Content Note

The Robert Benchley Papers consist of correspondence, photographs, clippings, scrapbooks, programs and reviews and document both the careers of him and his son, Nathaniel.

Arrangement: Chronological

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Scrapbooks

Subjects

Motion pictures -- United States
Theater -- United States

Names

Benchley, Robert, 1889-1945
Benchley, Nathaniel, 1915-1981
Fairbanks, Douglas, 1883-1939