



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Roxy and Radio City Music Hall costume designs: [graphic,]

ca. 1930-1939

*T-Vim 1993-036

Summary

Creator: Packard, Albert

Title: Roxy and Radio City Music Hall costume designs: [graphic,]

Date: ca. 1930-1939

Size: 355 designs in 3 boxes

Abstract: Albert Packard was the business manager of the costume shop for both the Roxy Theatre and Radio City Music Hall from 1930 until 1982. The Roxyettes/Rockettes, a precision chorus line marked by synchronized high kicking, began as the Missouri Rockets in 1925. After moving to New York City, they becoming the resident performers at the Roxy Theatre and were renamed the Roxyettes. The Roxyettes were part of the opening show at Radio City Music Hall in 1932, stayed on and were renamed the Rockettes in 1934. Both theaters had a ballet corps as well as the precision dancers. The Roxy Theatre and Radio City Music Hall costume design drawings executed in gouache provide detailed and colorful documentation of many Roxyette and Rockette performances. Most of the materials are unsigned, undated and lack titles though some character names are given making the stories recognizable for Alice in Wonderland, Hansel and Gretel, Madame Butterfly, and Scheherazade among others. Some designs are labelled for the Christmas or Easter shows. It appears that most productions were assigned a number which is written on the back of the designs. The lower numbers are for costumes for the Roxyettes and the higher are for the Rockettes. The collection also includes costumes for individual featured performers such as Patricia Bowman and for the Radio City Corps de Ballet. The designs have penciled notations on fabric type, and sometimes, the names of the chorus line performers. Some have fabric swatches attached. Marco Montadoro drew the designs for Alice in Wonderland and some others.

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>

Preferred citation: Roxy and Radio City Music Hall costume designs: [graphic,], Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator History

Albert Packard was the business manager of the costume shop for both the Roxy Theatre and Radio City Music Hall from 1930 until 1982. The Roxyettes/Rockettes, a precision chorus line marked by synchronized high kicking, began as the Missouri Rockets in 1925. After moving to New York City, they becoming the resident performers at the Roxy Theatre and were renamed the Roxyettes. The Roxyettes were part of the opening show at Radio City Music Hall in 1932, stayed on and were renamed the Rockettes in 1934. Both theaters had a ballet corps as well as the precision dancers.

Scope and Content Note

The Roxy Theatre and Radio City Music Hall costume design drawings executed in gouache provide detailed and colorful documentation of many Roxyette and Rockette performances. Most of the materials are unsigned, undated and lack titles though some character names are given making the stories recognizable for Alice in Wonderland, Hansel and Gretel, Madame Butterfly, and Scheherazade among others. Some designs are labelled for the Christmas or Easter shows. It appears that most productions were assigned a number which is written on the back of the designs. The lower numbers are for costumes for the Roxyettes and the higher are for the Rockettes. The collection also includes costumes for individual featured performers such as Patricia Bowman and for the Radio City Corps de Ballet. The designs have penciled notations on fabric type, and sometimes, the names of the chorus line performers. Some have fabric swatches attached. Marco Montadoro drew the designs for Alice in Wonderland and some others.

Arrangement: Arranged according to a numbering system found on the back of most of the designs. The unnumbered are at the end of the collection.

Key Terms

Subjects

Costume design -- New York (State) -- New York

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Costume design drawings
Gouaches

Names

Bowman, Patricia
Montadoro, Marco
Packard, Albert
Radio City Music Hall (New York, N.Y.)
Roxy Theatre (New York, N.Y.)

Container List

- b. 1 All Roxy Theatre or Roxyettes, numbered 4 - 43 1933
Includes Alice in Wonderland (#34), Patricia Bowman (#35, 36 and 39).
- b. 2 All Roxy Theatre or Roxyettes, numbered 46-127 1938
Roxyettes: Scheherazade (#46), Glory of Easter (#59), Madame Butterfly (#63); 1st Rockette (#84); Hansel and Gretel (#87).
- b. 3 All Roxy Theatre or Roxyettes, numbered 143-344 and unnumbered
No number, but a letter code - large group of Spanish/Italian style, religious processional; signed Guy Kent for O'Halloran's Luck; signed Mostaller; signed SonderRine; unsigned, unnumbered, grouped by costume type.