



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Maurice Kurtz papers**

1965-1999

\*T-Mss 2000-024

Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan.

## Summary

**Creator:** Kurtz, Maurice, 1913-

**Title:** Maurice Kurtz papers

**Date:** 1965-1999

**Source:** Gift, Kurtz, Maurice, 07/--/2000

**Abstract:** Maurice Kurtz, playwright and adapter, and one of the founders of International Theatre Institute (ITI). Papers include correspondence with notables of the international theater community.

**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:

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**Conditions Governing Use:** For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

**Preferred citation:** Maurice Kurtz Papers, \*T-Mss 2000-024, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Processing note:** Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan.

## Creator History

Maurice Kurtz is a writer, playwright and adapter of plays. In his early career he was an assistant to Erwin Piscator in the Studio Theater. He was instrumental in starting the theater program in UNESCO and was a former secretary-general of the International Theatre Institute (ITI). He has also written

about theater for *Arts*, *Le Monde* and *The New York Times*.

## **Custodial History**

The collection was donated to the Billy Rose Theatre Division of the New York Public Library by Maurice Kurtz in July 2000.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Maurice Kurtz papers span the years 1965-1999 and include correspondence from playwrights and members of the international theatrical community. There is considerable correspondence between Maurice Kurtz and Arthur Miller, and Kurtz and J. B. Priestley. Kurtz's interest in international theater and his involvement and relationship with UNESCO and ITI is apparent in most of the correspondence. Letters from Eugène Ionesco, René Maheu and Rolland Romain are in French. Other correspondents include Samuel Beckett, Al Hirschfeld, Arthur Miller and J. B. Priestley. The Arthur Miller correspondence is primarily about a French published version and later a French production of *Incident at Vichy*.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Correspondence

### **Subjects**

Theater -- New York (State) -- New York

### **Names**

Kurtz, Maurice, 1913-

Beckett, Samuel, 1906-1989

Hirschfeld, Al

Ionesco, Euge\_ne

Maheu, Rene\_

Miller, Arthur, 1915-2005

Priestley, J. B. (John Boynton), 1894-1984

Priestley, Jacquetta

Rolland, Marie Romaine

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence / Samuel Beckett February 20, 1982 (1 folder)  
Note from Samuel Beckett to Maurice Kurtz.
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence / Eugène Ionesco 1982 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 3 Correspondence / Eduardo De Filippo 1983-1984 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 4 Correspondence / Al Hirschfeld 1997-1999 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence / René Maheu 1965-1967 (1 folder)
- b. 1 f. 6 Correspondence / Arthur Miller 1967-1999 (1 folder)  
Miller, Arthur, 1915-2005  
Correspondence from Arthur Miller to Maurice Kurtz. Correspondence includes much discussion about Miller's play Incident at Vichy.
- b. 1 f. 7 Correspondence / J. B. (John Boynton) Priestley 1965-1984 (1 folder)  
Priestley, J. B. (John Boynton), 1894-1984  
Correspondence from J. B. Priestley to Maurice Kurtz. Correspondence includes much discussion about a French adaptation of Priestley's play The Scandalous Affair of Mr. Kettle and Mrs. Moon.
- b. 1 f. 8 Correspondence concerning Romain Rolland 1981-1982 (1 folder)  
Rolland, Romain, 1866-1944