



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Wooster Group ephemera

1976-1999

8-MWEZ 30512

Summary

Creator: Wooster Group

Title: Wooster Group ephemera

Date: 1976-1999

Size: .25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: papers:

Abstract: The Wooster Group was formed in the mid-1970s by members of the Performance Group, a New York-based theatrical troupe devoted to experimental work. The Performance Group was founded by Richard Schechner in 1967 and counted among its members Spalding Gray and Elizabeth LeCompte. After Schechner left in 1975, LeCompte became director of the company, which was renamed for its space's location, 33 Wooster Street. The Wooster Group became known for avant garde "deconstructions" of such familiar texts as OUR TOWN, THE THREE SISTERS, and Arthur Miller's THE CRUCIBLE, although use of excerpts from the latter play in a work called L.S.D. provoked legal action from Miller and forced the show to close. Prominent actors in the Wooster Group include Spalding Gray, Willem Dafoe, Steve Buscemi, and Kate Valk. Other notable Wooster productions include NORTH ATLANTIC, ROUTE 1 & 9, and Vawter's one-person show ROY COHN/JACK SMITH. The Wooster Group ephemera consists of clippings, magazine articles, fliers, and other documents related to the activities of the troupe. In addition to the documents, there are two photographs of Ron Vawter performing his one-person show, ROY COHN/JACK SMITH.

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: Wooster Group ephemera, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

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Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings

Fliers

Photographs

Names

Wooster Group

Gray, Spalding, 1941-2004

LeCompte, Elizabeth

Vawter, Ron