



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Nuyorican Poets Cafe ephemera

1975-2000

8-MWEZ + n.c. 30,503

Summary

Creator: Nuyorican Poets Cafe

Title: Nuyorican Poets Cafe ephemera

Date: 1975-2000

Size: .25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: papers:

Abstract: The Nuyorican Poets Cafe was founded by Miguel Algarín in 1974. The original "cafe" was located in Algarín's own apartment, but by the late 1970s he had found a space on East 6th Street between Avenues B and C for poetry readings, music, live radio broadcasts, readings of plays and screenplays, and other performances. The cafe closed for renovations for several years in the mid-1980s, but reopened and found new popularity, especially after being featured in a cover story in the New York Times Magazine and a segment on MTV's Unplugged program, both in 1993. Plays performed at the cafe include Amiri Baraka's MEETING LILLIE, Rome Neal's JULIUS CAESAR SET IN AFRICA, Wesley Brown's LIFE DURING WARTIME, and Ishmael Reed's HUBBA CITY. The Nuyorican Poets Cafe ephemera consists of clippings, fliers, and programs. In addition to the documents, the collection includes photographs of playwrights Amiri Baraka and Vinie Burrows, and two production photographs from Baraka's play MEETING LILLIE.

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: Nuyorican Poets Cafe ephemera, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

The Nuyorican Poets Cafe was founded by Miguel Algarín in 1974. The original "cafe" was located in Algarín's own apartment, but by the late 1970s he had found a space on East 6th Street between

Avenues B and C for poetry readings, music, live radio broadcasts, readings of plays and screenplays, and other performances. The cafe closed for renovations for several years in the mid-1980s, but reopened and found new popularity, especially after being featured in a cover story in the New York Times Magazine and a segment on MTV's Unplugged program, both in 1993. Plays performed at the cafe include Amiri Baraka's MEETING LILLIE, Rome Neal's JULIUS CAESAR SET IN AFRICA, Wesley Brown's LIFE DURING WARTIME, and Ishmael Reed's HUBBA CITY.

Scope and Content Note

The Nuyorican Poets Cafe ephemera consists of clippings, fliers, and programs. In addition to the documents, the collection includes photographs of playwrights Amiri Baraka and Vinie Burrows, and two production photographs from Baraka's play MEETING LILLIE.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Fliers
Photographs
Programs

Names

Nuyorican Poets Cafe
Algari_n, Miguel