



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Herbert Andrews collection

1933-1973 [bulk 1937-1954]

*T-Mss 1986-016

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2015

Summary

Creator: Andrews, Herbert

Title: Herbert Andrews collection

Date: 1933-1973 [bulk 1937-1954]

Size: 1.2 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Unknown, 1986.

Abstract: Herbert G. Andrews (1909-circa 1990) was a costume and scenic designer. The collection dates from 1933 to 1954 and holds set designs, photographs, and programs for theater, dance, and television productions.

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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Preferred citation: Herbert Andrews collection, *T-Mss 1986-016. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2015 A detailed, numbered inventory of the designs is provided with this collection and is available as an Additional Resource.

Creator History

Herbert Garnet Andrews (1909-circa 1990) was a costume and scenic designer who designed for theater, dance, and television productions between the 1930s and the 1950s. On Broadway he designed sets for *Sing for Your Supper*, *Cue for Passion*, *Porgy and Bess*, *My Heart's in the Highlands*, and *Swingin' the Dream*, the latter two of which he also designed costumes for. Andrews' stock work

included set design for the Milton Stiefel Company at the Ivoryton Playhouse, the Maplewood Theatre, and the Deertrees Theatre. During the 1940s, Andrews was assistant art director and scenic designer for the Roxy Theatre in New York City. He was also art director for motion pictures during the late 1940s and 1950s, including *Lost Boundaries*, *The Whistle at Eaton Falls*, *Walk East on Beacon*, and *Cinerama Holiday*.

Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from 1933 to 1973 and holds set designs, photographs, and programs for theater, dance, and television productions.

The majority of the collection consists of set designs created by Andrews between the late 1930s and the early 1950s for Broadway productions, such as *My Heart's in Highlands*, *Swingin' the Dream*, and *Porgy and Bess*, as well as productions staged at the Roxy Theatre in New York City, the NBC Television Center Theatre in Radio City Music Hall, and the Maplewood Theatre in Maplewood, New Jersey. The designs, mounted on mats, incorporate different visual media, such as sketches, drawings, paintings, conceptual designs, and production stills. Several of the mats juxtapose the original design with photographs of the production in its full realization. Some designs, such as that for *The Martha Raye Show*, contain movable painted layers representing backdrops. Other television productions represented through the designs include *Macbeth* (Kraft Television Theatre), *The Ray Bolger Show*, and *The Perry Como Show*. Roxy Theatre production designs date from the 1940s and are minimally labeled, usually with only the date or one performer's name, such as Arthur Knorr or Ilana Masey. Also present are designs that Andrews created for productions by Ruth Page and Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, such as *Billy Sunday* and *Baseball Ballet*.

Photographs and programs document productions staged at the Ivoryton Playhouse, the Maplewood Theatre, and the Deertrees Theatre. Photographs consist of production stills, photographs of stage sets and theaters, and a personal photograph album. Production stills depict plays that were designed by Andrews during the 1941 summer season at the Maplewood Theater, such as *Native Son* with Canada Lee, *A Kiss for Cinderella* with Luise Rainer, and *Twelfth Night* starring Helen Hayes and Maurice Evans. Photographs of the Deertrees Theatre depict the stage settings, Bela Blau standing outside of the theater, and Joe E. Brown in *Elmer the Great*. Photographs dating from 1937 to 1938 show stage settings and the Milton Stiefel's company at the Ivoryton Playhouse. The personal photograph album dates from the 1960s to 1973.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format. Designs are arranged numerically to correspond with the accompanying inventory.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Design drawings
Photographs
Scale models
Theater programs

Occupations

Set designers

Subjects

Theaters -- Stage-setting and scenery

Names

Maplewood Theatre

Roxy Theatre (New York, N.Y.)

Container List

b. 1 f. 1-4 Photographs 1937-1973

b. 1 f. 5-7 Programs 1938-1942

Designs

b. 2 f. 1-7 1933-1950

These designs correspond with inventory box 1, designs 1-12.

b. 3 f. 1-8 1940s-1950s

These designs correspond with inventory box 1, designs 13-15 and inventory box 2, designs 1-13. There is no design number 5 in inventory box 2.

b. 4 f. 1-3 1940s-circa 1950

These designs correspond with inventory box 2, designs 14-21.