



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Dave Mallen papers

1928-1945

*T-Mss 2006-020

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2015

Summary

Creator: Mallen, Dave

Title: Dave Mallen papers

Date: 1928-1945

Size: 1.6 linear feet (3 boxes, 3 volumes)

Source: Donated by Carole Blum.

Abstract: Dave Mallen was a musical and comedic performer active in the first half of the 20th century. The Dave Mallen papers, dating from 1928 to 1945, document his career through scrapbooks, scripts, and sheet music.

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: Dave Mallen papers, *T-Mss 2006-020. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2015

Creator History

Dave Mallen was a musical and comedic performer active in the first half of the 20th century. He began his career in the burlesque circuit, where he was noticed by representatives of George M. Cohan, whom he physically resembled. Cohan hired Mallen to be his understudy, a job Mallen kept for 12 years which promoted him to vaudeville, and eventually to Broadway. Mallen toured the United States and abroad with many productions, often playing roles originating with or associated with Cohan. He

appeared in the Broadway musicals *The Show is On* (1937) and *Ringside Seat* (1938), as well as national tours of *Oklahoma* and its 1951 Broadway revival.

Scope and Content Note

The Dave Mallen papers, dating from 1928 to 1945, document the career of the performer through scrapbooks, scripts, and sheet music.

The five scrapbooks are composed of clippings, photographs, and programs. The photographs are of Mallen, his colleagues, and his family and friends. Many of the prints of performers are autographed.

The scripts are for comedy skits and musicals. A few note the authors or producers, which include Mallen in some cases. Most scripts are typed, and one is hand-written by Mallen. None are dated.

The sheet music primarily contains published songs dating from the 1910s to the 1920s. Some contain Mallen's notes or edits. A few published arrangements of songs are also present, as well as manuscript arrangements or transcriptions for small bands or orchestras.

Arrangement: The papers are arranged by format.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actors (performing artists)
Singers

Subjects

Burlesque (Theater)
Theater -- United States -- 20th century
Vaudeville

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs
Scrapbooks
Sheet music

Container List

- Scrapbooks
- v. 1 1924-1929
- b. 1 f. 1 1928-1929
- v. 2 1928-1933
- v. 3 1933-1945
- b. 1 f. 2 1935-1938
- b. 1 f. 3-4 Scripts undated
- b. 2 f. 1-3 Sheet Music 1910s-1920s
- b. 3 f. 1-4 Sheet Music 1910s-1920s