



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Boris Brodenov papers

1919-1957

*T-Mss 1996-030

Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2015

Summary

Creator: Brodenov, Boris, 1896 or 1897-1960

Title: Boris Brodenov papers

Date: 1919-1957

Size: 4.38 linear feet (1 box, 5 volumes)

Source: Donated by Judith Fichler, 1996.

Abstract: Boris Brodenov (1895-1960) was an actor and radio announcer. The Boris Brodenov papers hold clippings, correspondence, photographs, programs, scripts, and scrapbooks documenting his career.

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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Processing note: Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2015

Creator History

Boris Brodenov (1895-1960) was an actor and radio announcer. He was born Maurice Braude in Minsk, Russia and fled to Czechoslovakia during the Bolshevik Revolution. He joined the L'Alliance Francaise productions in the Czech National Theatre while he was studying engineering at the Czech Institute of Technology. There he met his wife Lida Brodenová (née Leopoldine Dokulils), an opera singer. Brodenov was Jewish, and the couple immigrated to the United States in 1940 to avoid persecution and

changed their names to protect his family in Europe.

Brodenov settled in New York City and joined Vladimir Zelitsky's Theatre of Russian Drama, which produced Russian classical theatre from 1940 to the early 1950s. He was also a writer and announcer from 1946 to 1959 for the "Voice of America" radio show which was broadcast in Russia by the U.S. Department of State. Lida also performed on the radio; appeared in various operas in New York; and arranged benefit performances for war refugees. In 1954 Brodenov was transferred to the Washington, D.C. Voice of America office. In D.C., Brodenov joined the L. Marotte French Theatre and Lida staged small-scale performances of Russian operas. Brodenov died in 1960.

Scope and Content Note

The Boris Brodenov papers hold clippings, correspondence, photographs, programs, scripts, and scrapbooks documenting his career. Correspondence consists primarily of letters from Brodenov to his wife, as well a copy of a letter he wrote to the Ford Motor Company describing his affinity for the brand and detailing his work with automobiles in Czechoslovakia. There is one radio script (in Russian) for a 1955 "Voice of America" broadcast.

Programs are from productions of the L'Alliance Francaise and Theatre of Russian Drama. Many of the L'Alliance Francaise productions also feature his wife.

Photographs are both headshot and production photographs, primarily from Theatre of Russian Drama productions. There are three scrapbooks of photographs and programs related to the Theatre of Russian Drama dated 1942 to 1950. Other scrapbooks document Brodenov's performances with the L. Marotte French Theatre and a 1944 War Bonds rally featuring Lida Brodenová.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by file type.

Key Terms

Subjects

Actors -- United States -- 20th century
Opera -- Czechoslovakia
Theater -- United States -- 20th century
Theatre -- Czechoslovakia -- 20th century

Names

Brodenova_, Lida
Voice of America (Organization)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Clippings 1925-1957
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence 1919-1957
- b. 1 f. 3-5 Photographs 1940-1957
- b. 1 f. 6 Programs 1922-1952
- Scrapbooks
 - v. 1 L. Marotte French Theatre 1955-1957
Theatre of Russian Drama
 - v. 2 1942-1945
 - v. 3 1945-1947
 - v. 4 1947-1950
 - v. 5 War Bond Rally 1944
- b. 1 f. 7 *Voice of America script* 1955