



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Louis Mélançon photographs

1937-1960s [bulk 1950s]

*T-Vim 1998-027

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2015

Summary

Creator: Mélançon, Louis, 1901-

Title: Louis Mélançon photographs

Date: 1937-1960s [bulk 1950s]

Size: 6.2 linear feet (15 boxes)

Source: Donated by Robert Tuggle, 1984.

Abstract: Louis Mélançon (1901-1974) was the in-house photographer for the Metropolitan Opera from 1947 to his death in 1974. The collection, dated 1937 to 1960s (bulk dates 1950s), consists primarily of photographic negatives representing images that Mélançon photographed prior to his appointment at the Metropolitan Opera, and during his hiatus from the Opera.

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 Valerie Wingfield, 2015

Creator History

Louis Mélançon (1901-1974) began his career as a vaudevillian pianist, having the opportunity to play in the White House during the Roosevelt administration. He changed his career to photography by first photographing ballet companies. In 1947, Mélançon became the in-house photographer for the Metropolitan Opera until 1950, and then again from 1956 until his death in 1974.

During his hiatus from the Met, he photographed a wide variety of subjects including actors, concerts, and theatrical performances.

He died in New York City in 1974.

Scope and Content Note

The collection, dated 1937 to 1960s (bulk dates 1950s), consists primarily of photographic negatives representing images that Mélançon photographed prior to his appointment at the Metropolitan Opera, and during his hiatus from the Opera. Subjects include actors, ballets, outdoor scenes, and theatrical productions.

Many of the photographs are unidentified and are not necessarily related to the negatives.

There are also color slides of actors, celebrities, friends, operatic performances, scenes and theatre productions.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet
Circus
Theater

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Black-and-white negatives
Photographs
Slides

Geographic Names

New York (N.Y.)
Yosemite National Park (Calif.)

Occupations

Photographers

Names

Gazzara, Ben, 1930-2012
Gossett, Louis, 1936-
American Theatre Wing

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-10 Assorted Photographs 1930s-1950s
- b. 2 f. 1-4 Slides 1960s
 - Negatives
 - b. 3 American Theatre Wing 1948-1950
 - b. 5 Brink, Jonathan c. 1953
 - b. 5 Broadway Tabernacle c. 1955
 - b. 5 Bus Stop c. 1950
 - b. 3 Callahan, Bill 1947-1948
 - b. 4 Children's Ballet c. 1943
 - b. 5 Circus 1953
 - b. 5 Clark, Lydia c. 1953
 - b. 5 Confidential Clerk c. 1955
 - b. 6 Crowell's c. 1955
 - b. 6 Dancing in a Checkered Shade c. 1953
 - b. 6 (The) Desk Set 1952
 - b. 6 Emerson, Barbara c. 1954
 - b. 6 (The) Emperor's Clothes c. 1954
 - b. 7 Empire Theatre c. 1953
 - b. 7 Flowering Peach c. 1955
 - b. 7 Gazzara, Ben c. 1955
 - b. 7 Gossett, Louis; Hemsley, Estelle c. 1954
 - b. 7 Gray, Harriette Ann c. 1954
 - b. 3 Hamilton, Peter c. 1948
 - b. 7 Herschland, Bonnie c. 1954
 - b. 8 Hillgardner, Billy c. 1952
 - b. 8 Hoyt, Edith; Hough, Sheila and Art c. 1952
 - b. 10 Kennis, Ed 1947
 - b. 10 Joy, Leatrice c. 1948
 - b. 8 Kingsbridge, St. Albans. New Year's 1950
 - Kismet
 - b. 8 c. 1955
 - b. 9 c. 1955
 - b. 9 Kobus, Joseph 1953
 - b. 9 Ladies of the Corridor
 - b. 9 Lancaster, Lucie; Linn, Christine
 - b. 10 Lenharts c. 1949
 - b. 3 Lippincott, Gertrude c. 1947
 - b. 9 Long, Kathryn c. 1950
 - b. 10 Martin, Lou and Lenore c. 1946

Negatives (cont.)

- b. 9 Matthys, Phil and Katy c. 1956
- b. 9 Mrs. McThing c. 1953
- b. 10 Miller and Davidson c. 1950
- b. 9 Moultrie, Jane c. 1950
- b. 10 Murphy, Doug 1947
- b. 10 My Sister Eileen 1942
- b. 11 Natural Man 1948
- b. 11 Nolte, Chuck c. 1952
- b. 11 Okun, Jack; O'Brien, Maggie c. 1952
- b. 11 Page, Geraldine c. 1953
- b. 11 Pearson, Beatrice c. 1952
- b. 11 Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp c. 1951
- b. 11 Portrait of a Lady c. 1955
- b. 12 Sager, Art
- b. 12 Saint Joan c. 1955
- b. 12 Saint John
- b. 12 Saul, Adel; Strong, Tao c. 1955
- b. 12 Shoestring 1957
- b. 12 (The) Skin of our Teeth c. 1956
- b. 12 Sinclair, Eric c. 1953
- b. 12 Starr, Frances c. 1953
- b. 13 Stars on Vacation c. 1950
- b. 13 Strong, Tao c. 1955
- b. 15 Theatre Stars c. 1953
- b. 13 Time of the Cuckoo c. 1953
- b. 13 Trevino, Elizabeth. My Heart Lies South c. 1954
- b. 13 Uta Hagen Show c. 1955
- b. 13 Waiting For Godot c. 1958
- b. 13 Wake Up Darling c. 1955
- b. 14 Winners and Losers c. 1949
- b. 14 Yosemite 1937, 1949
- b. 14 Unidentified Negatives
- b. 1 f. 11 Perry-Mansfield School of Theatre and Dance 1958
Brochure