



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

John O'Shaughnessy papers

1927-1976 [bulk 1960s-1970s]

*T-Mss 2014-130

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2015

Summary

Creator: O'Shaughnessy, John, 1907-1985

Title: John O'Shaughnessy papers

Date: 1927-1976 [bulk 1960s-1970s]

Size: 3.3 linear feet (6 boxes, 1 volume)

Source: Donated by Hobe Morrison, date unknown.

Abstract: John O'Shaughnessy (1907-1985) was an actor and director. The collection, dated 1927 to 1976, mostly focuses on his career as a director through correspondence, clippings, photographs, playbills and scripts.

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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Creator History

John O'Shaughnessy (1907-1985) was a director for Broadway, Off-Broadway and regional theatres. A Seattle native, he began his career as an actor (returning occasionally to the stage), and became a director having his Broadway directorial debut with the play *Command Decision*. His other productions include *Sean O'Casey's Red Roses for Me*, *the American Negro Theatre in Freight* and other productions. During the 1960s and the 1970s he worked in regional theatres including the Arena Stage

and the Missouri Repertory Theater. O'Shaughnessy died in Los Angeles in 1985.

Scope and Content Note

The collection, dated 1927 to 1976 (bulk 1960s-1970s), reflects the career of director John O'Shaughnessy through clippings, photographs, playbills, and scripts.

The bulk of the collection is material from regional theatres that include Brandeis University Theatre, Missouri Repertory Theatre, and Pennsylvania State University; and the productions of William Wister Haines's *Command Decision*, and O'Casey's *Red Roses for Me*. The latter production is documented with correspondence, annotated scripts, performance photographs, reviews, playbills for out-of-town performances, and blueprints.

His career as an actor is sparsely documented and includes a playbill for the 1927 production *The Fool*, a Drama in Four Acts.

Arrangement: The collection is alphabetically arranged by file title.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actors (performing artists)
Directors (performing arts)

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Photographs
Playbills
Scripts

Titles

Command decision
Red roses for me

Subjects

Theaters
Theaters -- New York (State)

Container List

- v. 1 Ann Arbor Drama Season(s) Photographs c.1960
- b. 1 f. 1-2 Arena Stage. Washington, D.C 1957, 1959
- b. 1 f. 3 Art Institute of Chicago 1971
- b. 1 f. 4 Atlanta Memorial Arts Center 1969-1971
- b. 1 f. 5-6 Chicago University Theatre 1968
- b. 1 f. 7-10 Command Decision 1947, 1954
- b. 1 f. 11-12 Cut of the Axe 1960
- b. 2 f. 1-3 (The) Firebug 1964
- b. 2 f. 4-7 Freight 1949-1950
- b. 2 f. 8-10 Houston, Texas Arena Theatres 1951
Missouri Repertory Theatre
- b. 2 f. 11-15 1973-1976
- b. 3 f. 1-6 1973-1976
- b. 3 f. 7 Off-Broadway Plays (directed) 1962
- b. 3 f. 8-12 O'Shaughnessy, John. Photographs and Reviews as an Actor 1927-1963
Penn State Summer Festival
- b. 3 f. 13-16 1963-1966
- b. 4 f. 1-4 1966
Red Roses for Me
- b. 4 f. 5-12 1951-1959
- b. 5 f. 1-5 1955
- b. 5 f. 6-11 Regional Theatres 1960s
- b. 6 f. 1-2 San Juan Drama Festival 1946-1961
- b. 6 f. 3 Savo, Jimmy. (The) Boys From Syracuse 1938
- b. 6 f. 4 Summer Tryouts 1946-1947
- b. 6 f. 5 Under Milk-Wood
- b. 6 f. 6-9 University of Michigan 1957-1959
- b. 6 f. 10 University Theatres 1960s-1970s