



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Rochelle Owens papers

1967-2010

*T-Mss 2001-052

Compiled by cdee, 2015

Summary

Creator: Owens, Rochelle

Title: Rochelle Owens papers

Date: 1967-2010

Size: .4 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of Rochelle Owens, 2010-2013

Abstract: The Rochelle Owens papers contain photocopied scripts of several of her plays, with related materials, as well as recordings of her poetry.

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

Avant-garde American playwright and poet, Rochelle Bass Owens was born in Brooklyn, New York on April 2, 1936. She attended The New School and Herbert Berghof Studios and was a founding member of the St. Mark's Poetry Project, Deux Megot, New York Theater Strategy, and the Women's Theater Council. She married George Economou in 1962. Owens received a 1966-1967 Obie award for her experimental play, *Futz*, and is considered a seminal playwright in American experimental theater.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains photocopied scripts of plays by Rochelle Owens: *Three Front* in English and French, a French translation by Richard Caron of *Futz*, and related publicity materials and reviews, as well as an English translation by Owens of the French play, *The Passersby*, by Liliane Atlan (1989). Reviews and clippings about Owens's plays *Beclch*, *Chucky's Hunch* and *The Karl Marx Play*, as well as materials on her professional activities, are also included. There is also a small poster for The American Place Theatre production of *The Karl Marx Play* (1973-1974) signed by Rochelle Owens, some biographical material, publishers' catalogs, a few pieces of correspondence, and several unidentified color photographs, possibly of hurricane aftermath.

Also included are three recordings of Owens's poems, with an accompanying note and postcard picturing *Triptych Details* (original artwork) by her. Original folder titles and annotations do not always reflect the contents accurately.

Key Terms

Titles

Beclch
Chucky's hunch
Futz
The Karl Marx Play
The Passersby
Three Front

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Photographs
Recordings
Reviews
Scripts
Videos

Occupations

Playwrights
Poets

Subjects

Women dramatists, American -- 20th century
Women poets, American

Names

Atlan, Liliane, 1932-
Caron, Richard