



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Viola Spolin theatre ephemera

1940s-1994 [bulk 1980s-1994]

*T-Mss 1999-013

Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2015

Summary

Creator: Spolin, Viola

Title: Viola Spolin theatre ephemera

Date: 1940s-1994 [bulk 1980s-1994]

Size: .21 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of the Estate of Viola Spolin, 1998.

Abstract: Viola Spolin (1906-1994) was a theatre educator and acting coach who introduced improvisational techniques to American actors and directors through her book *Improvisation for the Theatre*. The Viola Spolin theatre ephemera contains programs, clippings, and periodicals that document theatrical productions on the West Coast of the United States in the late 20th century, particularly in San Francisco, California and the Bay Area. Most material relates to productions of the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, American Conservatory Theatre, El Teatro Campesino, and the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. Also included are an article about Spolin from after her death, and duplicate photographs of Spolin from throughout her life.

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: Viola Spolin theatre ephemera, *T-Mss 1999-013. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Weatherly Stephan, 2015

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)

Programs (documents)

Subjects

Theater -- California -- San Francisco Bay Area

Theater -- Pacific Coast (America)