



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the
Val Irving papers
1928-1987
*T-Mss 2006-030

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2015

Summary

Creator: Irving, Val

Title: Val Irving papers

Date: 1928-1987

Size: .5 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by Carole Blum.

Abstract: Val Irving (circa 1909-1995) was a vocalist and artist manager. The Val Irving papers, dating from 1928 to 1987, document Irving's performance and management careers through photographs and clippings.

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: Val Irving papers, *T-Mss 2006-030. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2015

Creator History

Val Irving (circa 1909-1995) was a vocalist and vaudeville performer from childhood. He was part of the trio of Clayton, Jackson and Irving before Jimmy Durante replaced him. After retiring from performing, Irving became an artist manager; his best-known clients were Audrey Meadows, Robert Merrill, Peggy Lee, and Eddie Fisher. Irving's brother was Jack Kelly, a pianist.

Scope and Content Note

The Val Irving papers, dating from 1928 to 1987, document Irving's performance and management careers through photographs and clippings.

Photographs comprise the bulk of the collection. They include prints of Irving with Lou Clayton and Eddie Jackson; Audrey Meadows; Jack Kelly; Rocky Marciano; Ed Sullivan, Robert Merrill; Jack E. Leonard; and Johnny Desmond. Also present are autographed prints of Bob Hope and Steve Allen. Later photographs (1970s – 1987) are informal shots of Irving with his family, and include prints with the pianist Bill Charlap. The photographs also contain publicity prints from the Associated Booking Corporation. These include images of Little Richard, Jackie "Moms" Mabley, Dr. John, David Peel, Pierre Lorenzi, and the bands Golden Earring, Spooky Tooth, and NRBQ.

The clippings date from 1928-1971 and mostly cover Irving's managerial career.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by format.

Key Terms

Subjects

Arts Management

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)

Photographs

Occupations

Managers

Singers

Names

Merrill, Bob

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Clippings 1928-1971
Photographs
- b. 1 f. 2-3 1930s-1987
- b. 2 f. 1 1950s, undated