



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Dan Langan collection

1927-2016

*T-Mss 2017-046

Collection processed by Heather Halliday, 2018.

Summary

Creator: Langan, Dan

Title: Dan Langan collection

Date: 1927-2016

Size: 2.5 linear feet (6 containers)

Source: The collection was donated by Dan Langan's daughter, Sheila Langan, in November, 2017.

Abstract: Dan Langan (1935-2018) was a press agent who represented theatrical performers and works of musical theatre. He was also an avid collector of recordings of musical theatre performances. The Dan Langan collection includes a selection of these audio and video recordings and files relating to his public relations work.

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>

Conditions Governing Access:

Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

Preferred citation: Dan Langan collection, *T-Mss 2017-046. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Collection processed by Heather Halliday, 2018.

Creator History

Dan Langan (1935-2018) was a press agent who represented theatrical performers and works of musical theatre. As a young man, Langan worked for newspapers including the *Syracuse Post Standard*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *Variety* as a reporter, editor, columnist, and critic. He moved to New York City and worked at the WYNC radio station for a time, then began working in public relations, eventually establishing his own firm, Langan Communications, sometime in the late 1960s or early 1970s. Langan specialized in representing musical theatre productions and performers, especially touring companies. Over the years Langan amassed an extensive collection of audio and video recordings of musical theatre performances. He was an active member of the New York chapter of the Association for Recorded Sound Collections and frequently wrote liner notes for record labels.

Scope and Content Note

The Dan Langan collection, which dates from about 1927 through 2016, comprises two categories: Langan's papers and his collection of musical theatre performance recordings.

Langan's papers primarily consist of work files. Each work file relates to a particular performer, production title, venue, or subject and contains a mix of materials, typically including: press releases written by Langan; clippings; budgets; correspondence; photographs; contracts; performance schedules; handwritten notes; and promotional items. Many publicity, performance, and rehearsal photographs are included in these files, some by notable theatre photographers such as Martha Swope and Bill Ray. A few files containing personal and miscellaneous items are interfiled among the work files. Langan's papers are arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Langan's collection of musical theater performance recordings spans well beyond productions he promoted, consisting primarily of audio and video recordings of theatrical performances. Langan used these recordings for his professional reference purposes but also pursued amassing this collection as a hobby. Many rare recordings, including opening and closing night performances are present. A few demo reels of individual musicians and actors are also included. Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

Arrangement: The papers section of the Dan Langan collection is arranged alphabetically by folder title. The recordings section is divided into audio and video subsections and then arranged chronologically.

Key Terms

Occupations

Collectors.
Public relations consultants.
Publicists.
Talent agents.

Subjects

Musicals
Theater -- 20th century

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Press releases
Sound recordings
Video recordings

Names

Bennett, Tony
Brockett, Don
Brown, Michael
Dearie, Blossom
Drake, Alfred, 1914-1992
Gleason, Jackie, 1916-1987
Langan, Dan
Laughton, Charles, 1899-1962
Liberace, 1919-1987
Lovelace, Linda
Morath, Kathryn, 1955-
Morath, Max
Ray, Bill, 1936-
Reisman, Leo, 1897-1961
Roberti, Lyda, 1912-1938
Styne, Jule, 1905-1994
Swope, Martha
Travers, Mary, 1936-2009
Walter, Cy, 1915-1968
Waring, Fred, 1900-1984
Whiting, Margaret
Whiting, Richard A., 1891-1938
Williams, Emlyn, 1905-1987
Club Méditerranée
Earl Carroll Orchestra
Pennsylvanians (Musical group)

Container List

Papers

- b. 1 f. 1 Advertising 1978-1979
- b. 1 f. 2 *Beatrice Libretto* circa 1960
- b. 1 f. 3 Bennett, Tony 1985
Performance at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh.
- b. 1 f. 4 Brockett, Don 1987
- b. 1 f. 5 Brown, Michael 1965-1976, 2009
- b. 1 f. 6 Carrier Theater 1970s
- b. 1 f. 7 *Cats* 1987-1991
- b. 1 f. 8 Council of Fashion Designers of America Awards 1980-1981
- b. 1 f. 9 Cultural Resources Council of Syracuse, New York 1985-1986
- b. 1 f. 10 *Cyrano* 1973
- b. 1 f. 11 Club Me_diterrane_e 1974-1976
- b. 1 f. 12 Dailey, Don circa 1970
- b. 1 f. 13 Dearie, Blossom 1973
- b. 1 f. 14 *Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope* 1973
- b. 1 f. 15 *Early American Showstopper Book Project* 1988
- b. 2 f. 1-2 *Estrada* 1977
- b. 2 f. 3 *Fiddler on the Roof* 1970-1971
- b. 2 f. 4 *Flora the Red Menace* 1965
- b. 2 f. 5 Goodspeed Opera House Library 1976-1977
- b. 2 f. 6 *Grease* circa 1971
- b. 2 f. 7 Harvey, Lilian 1938
- b. 2 f. 8 Hermès 1974
- b. 2 f. 9 Hi Fi Stereo Music Show 1976-1979
- b. 2 f. 10 Japanese Martial Arts 1976
- b. 2 f. 11 *Jesus Christ Superstar* circa 1971
- b. 2 f. 12 Liberace 1985-1986
Performance at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh.
- b. 3 f. 1 Lithgow, John 2008
- b. 2 f. 2 *Little World, Hello* 1965
- b. 3 f. 3 Lovelace, Linda 1973, 2003
- b. 3 f. 4 *Lysistrata Script* 2002
- b. 3 f. 5 *Marigolds* 1973
- b. 3 f. 6 *The Karl Marx Play* 1973
- b. 3 f. 7 Miscellaneous Photographs 1970s
- b. 3 f. 8 Miscellaneous Writing 1960s-1970s
- b. 3 f. 9 *Mister Dooley Script* 1980
- b. 3 f. 10 Morath, Kathy 1979
- b. 3 f. 11 Morath, Max 1974-1983

Papers (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 1-2 *Music! Music!* 1973-1974
- b. 4 f. 3 National Theatre of Greece 1976
Includes photographs of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis at a reception for a performance.
- b. 4 f. 4 Personal 1927-2005
- b. 4 f. 5 Phoenix Theatre 1962, 1971-1973
- b. 4 f. 6 The Players Club 1969-1973
- b. 4 f. 7 *Promises, Promises* 1968
- b. 4 f. 8-9 Record Collection 1938-1999
Research material relating to musicians and Langan's record collecting activities.
- b. 5 f. 1 Reisman, Leo 1920s-1940s
- b. 5 f. 2 *Rembrandt Film Stills* 1936
- b. 5 f. 3 Rodgers and Hart 1973-2005
- b. 5 f. 4 *Shangri-La* 1955
- b. 5 f. 5 Shubert Theatre 1985-1984
- b. 5 f. 6-9 *Sly Fox* 1976-1978
Starred Jackie Gleason in San Francisco production.
- b. 5 f. 10 Snug Harbor Cultural Center 1982
- b. 6 f. 1 Stanton, Dakota 1986
- b. 6 f. 2 *A Star Is Born Script* 1953-1954
- b. 6 f. 3 Somalia Relief 1992
- b. 6 f. 4 Tennessee Performing Arts Foundation 1976-1977
- b. 6 f. 5 Tierney, Mary 1975
- b. 6 f. 6 Travers, Mary 1975-1977
- b. 6 f. 7 *Trilby* 1895
- b. 6 f. 8 Video Collection 1930s-2000s
- b. 6 f. 9 Waring, Fred circa 1961
- b. 6 f. 10 Whiting, Margaret 1984-1986
- b. 6 f. 11 Whiting, Richard 1986
- b. 6 f. 12 Williams, Emlyn 1975-1976
- b. 6 f. 13 Wushu Delegation of China 1974
- b. 6 f. 14 Yartan Dance Company 1977
- b. 6 f. 15 *Zorba* 1968

Recordings

497 audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

Audio

183 audio recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

Video

314 video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.