



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

J. Peter Happel photographs

1950-1980s

*T-Vim 2018-006

Processed by Christopher Arena in 2020.

Summary

Creator: Happel, J. Peter

Title: J. Peter Happel photographs

Date: 1950-1980s

Size: 55.08 linear feet (90 boxes)

Source: The collection was donated by Sing Tom Happel in 2018.

Abstract: J. Peter Happel was an American photographer known for his work photographing mid-20th century television productions. The J. Peter Happel photographs includes negatives, proofs, and prints from across his career, with emphasis on his work covering early CBS television productions including The Jackie Gleason Show and The Garry Moore Show.

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:

Inquiries regarding audio and moving image materials in the collection may be directed to the Billy Rose Theatre Division (theatre@nypl.org). Audio and moving image materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

Preferred citation: J. Peter Happel photographs, *T-Vim 2018-006. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Christopher Arena in 2020.

Creator History

J. Peter Happel (1922-2015) was a freelance photographer known for his work photographing theater and television productions. Born in Frankfurt, Germany, Happel fled to the United States in 1936 with his mother and sister. During World War II he served in the US Navy. After the war he studied at the New School for Social Research where his photographs were noticed by Herbert Berghof, co-founder of HB Studio, who hired Happel to photograph his work. This introduction led to work with Yul Brynner and Jackie Gleason, documenting their early work in television. Happel's association with Gleason in particular led to work documenting the growing television medium of the 1950s and early 1960s, including extensive work for CBS photographing shows such as *The Jackie Gleason Show*, *The Garry Moore Show*, *Camera Three*, *The United States Steel Hour*, and a number of network variety shows and specials. In addition to his work in television, Happel also photographed theater productions, cityscapes, art shows, commercial products, weddings and events, and portraits. Happel continued to work into his eighties. He died in Port Washington, New York in 2015.

Scope and Content Note

The J. Peter Happel photographs largely cover Happel's work photographing television and stage productions in New York City. The bulk of this work was done for CBS Television from the early 1950s through the late 1960s.

Productions that are well documented include *The Garry Moore Show*, *The Jackie Gleason Show*, *The United States Steel Hour*, *Camera Three*, *Studio One*, *You Are There*, *Omnibus*, various Carol Burnett productions and more.

Included in the files on *Omnibus*, *You Are There*, *Danger*, and other early 1950s productions are shots of Yul Brynner and Sidney Lumet directing on set.

Other productions of note include Harry Belafonte's 1959 special, *Tonight with Belafonte*, which includes shots of both Belafonte and Odetta performing; the 1962 television production of Igor Stravinsky and George Balanchine's *Noah and the Flood*; and the first televised production of *The Nutcracker* on a 1957 episode of *The Seven Lively Arts*.

Also documented is the personal and professional life of Herbert Berghof and Uta Hagen, the founders and principle teachers of HB Studio. Happel's close association with the couple lead to shots from their acting and teaching careers, in addition to their home and family life.

Images of Berghof and Hagen include photographs and negatives documenting the Sea Cliff Summer Theatre series with emphasis on the 1951 summer season. Located in Sea Cliff on the north shore of Long Island, the Sea Cliff Summer Theatre was a 1950s summerstock favored by many stars of the day for its close proximity to New York City.

In addition to Happel's work in television, he worked extensively as a portrait photographer collaborating with models, agencies, and businesses to capture personal portraits and headshots. As a freelance commercial photographer, Happel worked in advertising, producing shots for brands such as Lipton, Revlon, Canada Dry and more. Other commercial work includes photography for his alma mater, the New School for Social Research, and shots documenting public art works created by metal fabricators, Milgo Art Systems.

Other examples of Happel's work represented in the collection include travel, New York cityscapes and

street shots, landscapes, and still life photography, in addition to his work as a wedding and social gathering photographer.

The physical state of the collection is represented through 8x10" prints, 2x3" proofs, slides, oversized prints (both matted and unmatted), color negatives, negative strips, and negative rolls.

The material is arranged in the following groups: Television and Stage Productions, Portraits, Commercial Work, Weddings and Social Gatherings, and Travel, Landscape, Still Life. Within groups subjects are arranged alphabetically; at the item level material is arranged chronologically.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Negatives (photographs)
Photographs

Occupations

Photographers.

Subjects

Television
Television -- Production and direction -- United States

Names

Berghof, Herbert
Burnett, Carol
Gleason, Jackie, 1916-1987
Hagen, Uta, 1919-2004
Happel, J. Peter
HB Studio

Container List

Television and Stage Productions

- b. 1 f. 1 *Accent* 1962 (One negative roll in Box 60.)
b. 60
- b. 1 f. 2 Allen, Woody 1960s
- b. 1 f. 3-5 *All in Love* 1961 (Nine negative rolls in Box 60.)
b. 57 f. 1 Covers multiple performances and rehearsals.
b. 60
- b. 1 f. 6 Ameche, Don 1950s
- b. 1 f. 7 *American Cowboy* 1960
- b. 1 f. 8 *Angel Street* 1950s
b. 60 *Apollo and Miss Agnes* 1963 (Four negative rolls.)
Covers multiple performances and rehearsals.
b. 60 *archy & mehitabel* 1960 (One negative roll.)
- b. 1 f. 9-10 *Armstrong Circle Theatre* 1957-1962 (Four negative rolls in Box 60.)
b. 60 One roll also contains shots of *Studio One*.
- b. 59 f. 1 Armstrong, Louis
- b. 1 f. 11 *Beat the Clock* 1957 (One negative roll in Box 60.)
b. 60
- b. 60 Benny, Jack 1961 (Contains one negative roll.)
- b. 26 f. 1-5 Berghof, Herbert and Hagen, Uta 1950-1968
b. 27 f. 1-6 Includes shots of Herbert Berghof and Uta Hagen acting in productions, teaching classes,
b. 57 f. 2 portraits, both solo and together, and the couple at home. This is documented through prints
b. 79 and negatives. Also here are photographs and negatives of Hagen's daughter Letty Ferrer;
these include portraits of her as a child and photographs from her wedding.
- b. 1 f. 12 *Best of Broadway, The* 1955 (Four negative rolls in Box 60.)
b. 60
- b. 1 f. 13 *Bid 'n' Buy* 1958 (One negative roll in Box 60.)
b. 60 Roll also contains shots of *For Love or Money*.
- b. 1 f. 14 *Big Record, The* 1957-1958
b. 2 f. 1-6 Documents much of the lone season of the musical variety show hosted by Patti Page. Of note
b. 3 f. 1-5 are photographs of Fats Domino and Jerry Lee Lewis performing on an episode. For more
b. 57 f. 3 photographs see Page, Patti.
b. 59 f. 2
b. 69
- b. 3 f. 6 *Biography* 1950s
Stage production of *Biography* starring Luise Rainer.
- b. 3 f. 7 *Boomed in Texas* 1950s
- b. 3 f. 8 Borge, Victor 1958
- b. 3 f. 9 Brynner, Yul 1950s
Unidentified prints only
For more Yul Brynner see Omnibus and You Are There.
- b. 3 f. 10 *Buick-Electra Playhouse -- "The Killers"* 1959 (One negative roll in Box 61.)
b. 61
- Burnett, Carol
For more Carol Burnett see The Garry Moore Show and The Entertainers.
- b. 4 f. 2-5 *Julie and Carol* 1962-1963 (Eighteen negative rolls in Box 64.)
b. 57 f. 4 Includes a copy of the April 13, 1963 edition of *Look Westward*, which covered the television
b. 59 f. 3 special.
b. 64

Television and Stage Productions (cont.)

Burnett, Carol (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 6-7
b. 57 f. 5
b. 64
Calamity Jane 1963 (Eight negative rolls in Box 64.)
- b. 4 f. 8
b. 57 f. 6
b. 64
Once Upon a Mattress 1964 (Eight negative rolls in Box 64.)
- b. 4 f. 1
b. 64
Portraits and Unidentified 1963-1964
Contains portrait proofs of Burnett, three negative rolls of an unidentified 1963 television production, and one negative roll of Burnett in the hospital.
- b. 5 f. 1-4
b. 57 f. 7
b. 60
Camera Three 1957-1964 (Ten negative rolls in Box 60.)
Negative rolls also contain shots of *Armstrong Circle Theatre*, *The Big Record*, and *TVR*.
- b. 5 f. 5
b. 60
Candid Camera 1960 (One negative roll in Box 60.)
- b. 57 f. 8
Carroll, Diahann 1960
- b. 5 f. 6
b. 61
CBS Election Coverage 1960-1964 (Nine negative rolls in Box 61.)
For more on election and convention coverage see *Westinghouse Presents*.
- b. 5 f. 7-8
b. 59 f. 4
b. 60
CBS Production and Props and Design Workshop 1958-1966 (Seven negative rolls in Box 60.)
Covers CBS production, technical staff, set design, and prop workshops.
- b. 5 f. 9
b. 57 f. 9
b. 60
Childhood of Christ, The 1964 (Two negative rolls in Box 60.)
- b. 5 f. 10-11
b. 60
Chronicle 1963-1964 (Five negative rolls in Box 60.)
- b. 5 f. 12-13
b. 57 f. 10
b. 60
Cindy 1964 (One negative roll in Box 60.)
- b. 57 f. 11
Cole, Nat King 1961
- b. 5 f. 14
Creative Horizons ABC 1969
- b. 6 f. 1-3
b. 60
Danger 1954 (One negative roll in Box 60.)
Includes episodes directed by Yul Brynner and Sidney Lumet.
- b. 59 f. 5
Davis, Jr., Sammy
b. 60
Defenders, The 1960 (Four negative rolls in Box 60.)
- b. 6 f. 4
Douglas, Melvyn 1950s
- b. 6 f. 5-7
b. 61
DuPont Show of the Month 1957-1959 (Nine negative rolls in Box 61.)
Of note are proofs and three negative rolls of a 1959 production of "Hamlet." The remaining six negative rolls also include shots from episodes of *The Big Record* and *The Phil Silvers Show*.
- b. 6 f. 8
b. 61
Ed Sullivan Show, The 1958-1964 (One negative roll in Box 61.)
- b. 6 f. 9
Emerson, Faye 1950s
- b. 6 f. 10
b. 61
Enchanted Nutcracker, The 1961 (One negative roll in Box 61.)
- b. 6 f. 11-12
b. 7 f. 1-3
b. 57 f. 12
b. 59 f. 6
b. 70
Entertainers, The 1964-1965
Includes a 1964 taping and airing schedule of *The Entertainers*.
- b. 7 f. 4
b. 57 f. 13
Fitzgerald, Ella 1959-1960
- b. 7 f. 5
b. 61
Flower Drum Song 1959 (One negative roll in Box 61.)
- b. 7 f. 6
For Love or Money 1958

Television and Stage Productions (cont.)

- b. 28-33 *Garry Moore Show, The* 1957-1969
b. 71-79 Covers a large portion of *The Garry Moore Show* from 1957 to 1964, with some coverage of the 1966 season. Also included are headshots of Garry Moore from 1969, headshots of Durward Kirby, taping and airing schedules from the 1960 through 1964 seasons, and slides that also contain shots from Carol Burnett specials and *The Entertainers*.
- b. 7 f. 7 *George Burns and Gracie Allen Show, The* 1950s
- b. 34-42 Gleason, Jackie 1952-1957
Covers multiple seasons of *The Jackie Gleason Show* from 1952 to 1954, including some of *The Honeymooners*. Also included are shots of Gleason's 5th Avenue apartment; photographs of Gleason caricatures; shots from Gleason's personal life, including his daughter's graduation party; and shots of Gleason in a recording session.
- b. 7 f. 8-9 Godfrey, Arthur 1956-1964 (Three negative rolls in Box 61.)
b. 57 f. 16 Covers various CBS series and specials hosted by Arthur Godfrey.
b. 61
- b. 7 f. 10 *Golden Showcase -- "Tonight in Samarkand"* 1962
b. 61 One negative roll in Box 61.
- b. 7 f. 11 *Good Years, The* 1961
b. 61 One negative roll in Box 61
- b. 61 Gormé, Eydie 1965
Contains two negative rolls of Gormé performing at the Copacabana. For more on Gormé check *The Garry Moore Show* and *The Steve Lawrence Show*.
- b. 7 f. 12 *Harrigan's Orpheum* 1960s
- b. 7 f. 13 *Her Cardboard Lover* 1952
- b. 8 f. 1 *Hit Parade* 1958-1959
b. 61 Four negative rolls in Box 61.
- b. 8 f. 2 *Innocents, The* 1959 (One negative roll in Box 61.)
b. 61
- b. 8 f. 3 *I've Got A Secret* 1964 (One negative roll in Box 61.)
b. 61
- b. 61 *Jig-Jag* 1958 (One negative roll in Box 61.)
- b. 61 *Jimmy Dean Show, The* 1963-1965 (Seven negative rolls in Box 61.)
- b. 8 f. 4 *Joyful Noise, A* 1961 (One negative roll in Box 61.)
b. 61
- b. 61 *King's Men, The* 1959 (Two negative rolls in Box 61.)
- b. 8 f. 5-7 *Kraft Music Hall* 1969-1970
b. 57 f. 17 Included are shots of the Friar Club's Roast of Milton Berle.
- b. 9 f. 1 *Lady From the Sea* 1950
- b. 9 f. 2-4 *Lamp Unto My Feet* 1959-1964 (Three negative rolls in Box 61.)
b. 61
- b. 9 f. 5 *Leave it to Larry* 1952
- b. 9 f. 6 Lee Hale Singers 1965
- b. 9 f. 7 Lenya, Lotte 1964
b. 61
- b. 9 f. 8 *Look Up and Live* 1957-1965 (One negative roll in Box 61.)
b. 61
- b. 9 f. 9 *Love of Life* 1958
- b. 9 f. 10 *Mama* 1950s
- b. 9 f. 11 *Man Behind the Badge, The* 1950s
- b. 9 f. 12 *Manhattan* 1960
- b. 9 f. 13-14 Marshall, E.G 1953-1967

Television and Stage Productions (cont.)

- b. 9 f. 15 Mostel, Zero 1960s
- b. 9 f. 16 *Murder and Love for Love* 1950s
- b. 10 f. 1 *Noah and the Flood* 1962 (Two negative rolls in Box 61.)
- b. 57 f. 18
b. 61
- b. 10 f. 2 *NTA Play of the Week* 1960 (Two negative rolls in Box 62.)
b. 62
Anthology television series from the syndicated NTA Film Network. Plays include "A Clearing in the Woods," and "Duet for Two Hands."
- b. 10 f. 3 *Nutcracker, The* 1960-1961
Prints from unidentified productions of *The Nutcracker*.
- b. 10 f. 4 *Odyssey* 1957
b. 61
- b. 10 f. 5-11 *Omnibus* 1953-1954 (Four negative rolls in Box 61.)
b. 61
Contains shots of Yul Brynner and Sidney Lumet directing on set.
- b. 11 f. 1-4 *On Broadway Tonight* 1964-1965 (Eleven negative rolls in Box 61.)
b. 57 f. 19
b. 61
One roll contains shots of *CBS Repertoire Workshop*.
- b. 11 f. 5 *One Touch of Venus* 1950s
- b. 11 f. 6 Page, Patti 1950s
Included here is a bound album of Patti Page photographs. For more Patti Page see *The Big Record*.
- b. 11 f. 7 *Perry Como Show, The* 1961-1967
b. 57 f. 20
Includes a portrait of Perry Como with George Burns and Lena Horne.
- b. 11 f. 8 *Phil Silvers Show, The* 1958
b. 62
Picture This 1963
One negative roll. Also contains shots of *Talent Scouts*.
- b. 11 f. 9 *Playhouse 90* 1959
b. 62
Includes one negative roll from the episode "Silver Whistle."
- b. 11 f. 11 *Prince and the Pauper, The* 1957 (Three negative rolls in Box 62.)
b. 62
- b. 12 f. 1 *Question of Chairs, A* 1961 (One negative roll in Box 62.)
b. 62
- b. 12 f. 2 Quinn, Anthony 1950s
- b. 12 f. 3-4 *Repertoire Workshop* 1963 (One negative roll in Box 62.)
b. 62
Shots are also on a negative roll filed under *On Broadway Tonight*.
- b. 12 f. 5 *Right Man, The* 1960 (One negative roll in Box 62.)
b. 62
- b. 12 f. 6 *Rodgers & Hart Revisited* 1963
b. 57 f. 21
b. 62
- b. 14 f. 1 *Saint-Just*
- b. 12 f. 7 Schildkraut, Joseph
b. 57 f. 22
- b. 12 f. 8-10 Sea Cliff Summer Theatre 1951
b. 62
Secret Life of Eddie Hodges, The 1960 (One negative roll in Box 62.)
- b. 13 f. 1 *Secret Storm, The* 1958
- b. 13 f. 2 *Seven Lively Arts, The* 1957-1958 (Three negative rolls in Box 62.)
b. 62
Two negative rolls and some proofs include the first televised version of *The Nutcracker*. One roll also includes shots of *The United States Steel Hour*.
- b. 13 f. 3 Shaw Productions 1950s
Negatives of two unidentified George Bernard Shaw plays.

Television and Stage Productions (cont.)

- b. 13 f. 4 *Showcase* 1950s
- b. 13 f. 5 *\$64,000 Question, The* 1950s
- b. 13 f. 6 *Somerset Maugham TV Theatre* 1950
- b. 13 f. 7 *Souvenir* 1950s
- b. 13 f. 8-11 *Steve Lawrence Show, The* 1965
 - b. 57 f. 23 Includes taping and airing schedule for Fall 1965.
 - b. 66
 - b. 62 *Streisand, Barbra* 1966
 - Two negative rolls of a Barbra Streisand concert.
- b. 14 f. 2-8 *Studio One* 1956-1957
- b. 15 f. 1-7
- b. 16 f. 1-8
 - b. 67-68
- b. 17 f. 1 *Sure as Fate* 1950
- b. 17 f. 2 *Suspense* 1950-1952
- b. 17 f. 3 *Talent Scouts* 1963
 - b. 62 *Teleguide* 1962 (Two negative rolls in Box 62.)
 - b. 62 *Terezín Requiem, The* 1964 (Four negative rolls in Box 62.)
- b. 17 f. 4 *They Knew What They Wanted* 1952
- b. 17 f. 5 *Tonight With Belafonte* 1959 (One negative roll in Box 62.)
 - b. 62
- b. 17 f. 6 *Trap, The* 1950
- b. 17 f. 7 *TVR* 1958
 - Includes proofs of four episodes, including "The Sheriff's Wife," and a performance by Patachou.
 - b. 62 *TV Tonight* 1962 (Three negative rolls in Box 62.)
- b. 17 f. 8-11 *United States Steel Hour, The*
 - b. 18 f. 1-6 Some negative rolls include other shows such as *The Big Record* and *The Vic Damone Show*.
 - b. 19 f. 1-2
 - b. 80
 - b. 62 *Verdict is Yours, The* 1958
 - One negative roll. Also contains shots of *United States Steel Hour*.
 - b. 19 f. 3 *Vic Damone Show, The* 1957 (Six negative rolls in Box 62.)
 - b. 62 The rolls also contain shots of *United States Steel Hour*, *The Big Record*, and *Studio One*.
- b. 19 f. 4 *Web, The* 1950s
- b. 19 f. 5-6 *Westinghouse Presents* 1960-1963
 - b. 62 Contains prints, proofs, and thirteen negative rolls covering various CBS specials titled *Westinghouse Presents*. Included are shots from the 1961 television movie *The Dispossessed*, a Westinghouse commercial, and special election coverage.
- b. 57 f. 24 *West Side Story* 1962
- b. 19 f. 7 *Wonderful Town* 1958 (One negative roll in Box 62.)
 - b. 62
- b. 19 f. 8-10 *You Are There* 1953-1954
 - b. 20 f. 1-5 Includes prints, proofs, and negative strips and rolls. Seasons 1 through 3 of the series is well documented with proofs. Also included are proofs of Walter Cronkite, host of *You Are There*.
 - b. 21 f. 1-4
 - b. 22 f. 1-6
 - b. 23 f. 1-4
 - b. 57 f. 25
 - b. 59 f. 7
 - b. 68
- b. 23 f. 5 *Your Show of Shows* 1950s

Television and Stage Productions (cont.)

- b. 23 f. 6-9
 - b. 24 f. 1-7
 - b. 25 f. 1-10
 - b. 58 f. 1-2
 - b. 59 f. 8
 - b. 63
- Unidentified Productions 1950s-1960s

Portraits

- b. 43-49
 - b. 58 f. 3-4
 - b. 59 f. 9
 - b. 81-85
- Female Models 1950s-1980s
- b. 50 f. 5-7
 - b. 51 f. 1-6
 - b. 58 f. 5
 - b. 86-88
- Male Models 1950s-1980s
- b. 52 f. 1-12
 - b. 59 f. 10
- Children, Families, Groups, Musicians 1950s-1980s

Commercial Work

- b. 53 f. 1-6
 - b. 58 f. 9-13
 - b. 90
- Advertisements 1950s-1980s
Contains advertising work by Happel, including campaigns by Revlon, Canada Dry, Lipton, and more. Also included are newspaper clippings with Happel's photographs, storyboards for a Lipton commercial, and product packaging that used Happel's images.
- b. 54 f. 1-6
 - b. 59 f. 11
- Milgo Gitlin Statues 1970-1971
Covers Happel's work with Milgo Art Systems, includes correspondence with the company, a matted *Art Forum* cover using one of Happel's images, and other notes about the project.
- b. 53 f. 7-8
- New School for Social Research 1969
Includes exhibition catalogue for the New School for Social Research Graduate Faculty Center, 1969.
- b. 55 f. 1-5
 - b. 89-90
- Weddings and Social Gatherings
- b. 56 f. 1-14
 - b. 58 f. 6-8
 - b. 59 f. 12-13
 - b. 90
- Travel, Landscape, Still Life 1950s-1980s

Film

Included here is a copy of the 1962 special, *Julie & Carol at Carnegie Hall*, and *Dr. Dolittle's "Trip To Africa,"* which used Happel's travel photography.