Guide to the Peter Wexler Photographs and Designs, 1957-1996

*T-Vim 1998-044

Billy Rose Theatre Division
The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
New York, New York

Contact Information

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Billy Rose Theatre Division
40 Lincoln Center Plaza
New York, New York 10023-7498
Phone: 212/870-1639
Fax: 212/870-1868
Email: theatrediv@nypl.org
Web address: http://www.nypl.org/research/lpa/the/the.html
Descriptive Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Peter Wexler Photographs and Designs, 1957-1996</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collection ID:</td>
<td>*T-Vim 1998-044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator:</td>
<td>Wexler, Peter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent:</td>
<td>41.25 linear feet (105 boxes)</td>
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<td>Repository:</td>
<td>Billy Rose Theatre Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts</td>
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Abstract

Peter Wexler (b.1936-) is primarily a set and costume designer for theater, music, and television, as well as a producer, artistic director, lighting designer, photographer, and visual artist. This collection contains set designs, correspondence, photographs, slides, and other materials related to his production designs from the 1970s to the mid-1990s. Also included are materials for original projects on which he collaborated as a design consultant.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open to the public. Photocopying prohibited. Advance notice may be required.

Publication Rights

For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Preferred Citation


Source

The Peter Wexler Photographs and Designs were donated to the Billy Rose Theatre Division in 1998 by Peter Wexler.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2008.
Biographical Note

Peter Wexler has had a prolific career as a designer of vast range, creating the scenic, costume, and lighting designs for several theatrical, television, opera, and music festival productions. He studied at the University of Michigan, graduating in 1958, and attended the Yale School of Drama. During the 1960s and 1970s, he actively exhibited his drawings and painting in numerous journals and magazines such as Theatre Crafts, Opera News, Theatre Design and Technology, as well as in galleries such as the Wright-Hepburn-Webster Gallery in New York City, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the Cooper-Hewitt Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. It was also during this time that his designs for the stage brought him critical acclaim. His Broadway credits include Murderous Angels, The Trial of the Catonsville Nine, Camino Real, and In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer. Off-Broadway design work included Unfinished Stories and Candide at the Mark Taper Forum, The Web and the Rock at the Lucille Lortel Theatre, and The Big Knife at the Seven Arts Playhouse.

He founded his own production company, Peter Wexler, Inc., as a way to promote, design, plan and execute for a variety of theatrical events. With his company, Wexler worked as a Visual Consultant for such television productions as Lifetime Medical Television and The Big Deal. He also worked as a design consultant for Reebok River Stage and as Artistic Director for the Spring Creek and Texas Arts Festivals in the 1990's. During the 1960's and 1970's, Wexler designed sets for several opera productions, including Lizzie Borden for New York City Opera, Le Prophete, Les Troyens, and Un Ballo in Maschera for the Met. His work for the New York Philharmonic includes interior designs for the Promenade Concerts and Rug Concerts at Avery Fisher Hall.

Scope and Content Note

The work represented in this collection includes Wexler's designs for Broadway, Off-Broadway, regional, music, outdoor festivals, and television productions. The material consists of lighting plots and sections, theater ground plans, stage plans, photographs, slides, and costume designs. Production materials includes design processing papers, project proposals, photographs, scripts, memos, production notes, contracts and some correspondence relating to many productions. Photographs/Slides also contain slides of his early drawings and paintings that are examples of artwork Wexler has exhibited in galleries. There are no personal papers are in this collection.

Related Materials

Organization

The collection is organized into three series. They are:

Series I: Production Materials, 1987-1996
Series II: Photographs/Slides, 1957-1996; undated
   Subseries I: Flat Boxes, 1986-1995
   Subseries II: Rolled Tube Boxes, 1986-1995

Series Descriptions/Container List

Series I: Production Materials, 1987-1996  46 boxes

Alphabetical

This series includes materials such as vendors' promotional materials, correspondence, design processing papers, resumes, magazine and newspaper articles, materials from conferences in which Wexler participated, photographs, and several project proposals, scripts, memos, production notes, contracts, and some correspondence relating to many productions.

Series II: Photographs/Slides, 1957-1996; undated  21 boxes

Alphabetical

This series contains black and white/color photographs, slides, and negatives, including production and publicity photographs. It may contain photographs taken for use in scenic and costume design.


This series contains oversize technical designs for Broadway, Off-Broadway, regional productions, and international tours. The materials included are lighting plots and sections, theater ground plans, set design plans, and costume designs, some with fabric swatches or notes attached.

Subseries I: Flat Boxes, 1986-1995  5 flat oversize boxes

Alphabetical

This sub-series contains oversize technical designs for Broadway, Off-Broadway, regional productions, and international tours. The materials included are lighting plots...
and sections, theater ground plans, set design plans, and costume designs, some with fabric swatches or notes attached.

Subseries II: Rolled Tube Boxes, 1986-1995

Alphabetical

This sub-series contains oversize technical designs for Broadway, Off-Broadway, regional productions, and international tours. The materials included are lighting plots and sections, theater ground plans, and set design plans, some with notes attached.

Container List

Series I: Production Materials, 1987-1996

After Words, 1989
See box 47 for photographs/slides of this production.

<table>
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<th>Box</th>
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Boston Symphony Orchestra, 1990

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Broadway Theatre Institute, 1996

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Calgary Philharmonic, 1995

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Candide, 1995
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<th>Sites - Spring Creek Walk</th>
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Columbus, The Musical-Potential Projects, 1989
See box 67 for oversized drawings of this production.

Dallas Symphony Orchestra, 1990

Cleveland Playhouse-Business, 1987

Jules Fisher-Research, 1990

Lifetime Medical Television, 1989
See box 54 for photographs/slides of this production.
Memorandum

Logo

Contact List

Design as Submitted

Memorandum

Research

Transmittals

Manual

Memorandum

Press and Publicity

Research

Schedules

Transmittals

Lifetime Medical Television II, 1989

Business

Contact Sheets

Contract

Design as Installed

Design as Submitted

Memorandum

Props and Dressing

Shooting Schedules

Transmittals

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, 1996 (Contains color photographs.)

Lost in the Stars at Carnegie, 1988

Background

Design as Installed

Design as Submitted

Directorial

Directorial-Guggenheim

Image 1A

Image 1B

Image 1C

Image 1D

Image 2

Image 2A

Image 3

Image 4

Image 5

Image 6

Image 7A

Image 7B

Image 7C

Image 8

Image 8A
22 Image 9A
23 Image 9B
24 Lighting Schematics and Cue Sheets
25 Memorandum
26 Press and Publicity

12
1 Production Book
2 Scripts
3 Six Projector Storyboard (Contains slides.)
4 Storyboards
5 Transmittals
6 Visuals/Permission
7 Masked Ball at New York Philharmonic-Business, 1988
8 Movie Palace-Sketch, 1988

New York City Opera, 1991-1992

13
1 Articles, 1991
2 Donor Name Information, 1991
3 Logo Research, 1991
4 Master List, 1991
5 New Dimensions, 1992
6 Additional Names
7 Contracts
8 Plinthe, 1991
9 Contract Document
10 Correspondence
11 Design Sketch Submitted 3/4/91
12 Design Sketch Revised Submitted 3/9/91
13 Memorandum
14 Research
15 Transmittals
16 Variety Scenic Contract Draft
17 Press and Publicity, 1991
18 Press and Publicity - Information Sheet, 1991
19 Punchlist

New York Grand Opera, 1988

18 Un Ballo en Machera -Business, 1988
19 Rigoletto, 1988
20 See box 58 for photographs/slides of this production.

21 Business
22 Lighting
23 Contains track sheets, script with cues, dimmer hookup, and instrument schedule.

24 New York Philharmonic, Ellington and Gershwin, 1987
Design

Radio City Music Hall/Pier 84, 1988

14
1 Business
2 Design as Submitted
3 Meeting Notes
4 Memorandum
5 Photo Negatives
6 Pier Information
7 Press and Publicity
8 Pricing
9 Proposal Draft
10 Proposal
11 Proposal Phase Information
12 Radio City Music Hall Information

Radio City Music Hall/Pier 84, 1989

13 Business
14 Contact Sheets
15 Memorandum
16 Transmittals

Radio City Music Hall III, 1989

15
1 Ancillary Facilities
2 Banner Poles and Hardware
3 Blank Transmittals
4 Business
5 Contact List
6 Design as Submitted
7 Electric Service
8 Fabric and Banners
9 Highway Demolition
10 Lighting

16
1 Meeting Notes
2 Pier Engineer Study
3 Pier Information
4 Press and Publicity
5 Pricing
6 Reebok Enhancements
7 Scaffolding/Seating
8 Signage
9 Sound
10 Stage
11 Transmittals

17
1 Shakespeare Festival of Dallas-Business, 1987
2 Spring Creek Festival-Potential Personnel, 1991

Spring Creek Festival, 1992

3-5 Articles re: Spring Creek Festival
<table>
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<th>6</th>
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<td>Artists Correspondence/Agreements</td>
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*Spring Creek Festival, 1993*

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2  Alabama
3  Correspondence
4  Fort Worth Ballet
5-6  General
7  National Symphony Orchestra
8  Willie Nelson
9  Van Cliburn Piano Competition
10  Box Office

Box Office Report
11  Consignments and Daily Reports
12  Overview
13  Part A
14  Part B
15  Part C

23  1-5  Budget
6  Budget Drafts
7  Budget Tracking

Business
8  Financials
9  Forms
10  General
11  Stationary
12  Calendar
13  City Council
14  City General

24  1  Contact Sheets
2  Contracts

Contract Book
3  American Airlines
4  Arttix
5  City of Richardson
6  Dallas Morning News
7  D.B.D.T. and Van Cliburn
8  DC Cheerleaders, Rimes and Fireworks
9  Dixie Chicks and Fort Worth Ballet
10  Bud Franks
11  Frank Flyer
12  Garland Symphony and the Spinners
13  General Liability Policy
14  Lee Hamilton
15  Harvey Hotel
16  CH2M Hill, Merrill Lynch, 1st SW
17  KSCS/KLTY
18  La Mad., K. Buresh, Banners, Sec.
19  Management
20  Willie Nelson, D. Riprock, Brenda Lee
21  NSO and LeAnn Rimes
22  Phillips Foundation, TCI Storer
23  P. Overstreet, Emer'd City and Rsym
24  Ramada Renaissance Hotel
25  C.W. Shaver and Co.
26  Sky River, Rachel Rachel, S. Curtis
27  South'n Wind, VC Medalist and FWS
28  SW Bell Mobile Systems
29  Taco Bell
30  B.J. Thomas and Crystal Gayle
31  Tom Thumb
32  Jo Via and Assoc.
33  D. Warwick and Hamilton P.K. Chorus
34  Peter Wolf and Co.
35  The Young Co.

Corporate Sponsorship

25  1  American Airlines
2    City Group
3    Comp Book
4    Corporate Sponsors
5    Corp. Tables and Art Comps.
6    Drafts
7    Media Sponsor #1
8    Media Sponsor #2
9    Media Sponsor #3
10   Media Sponsor #4
11   Outreach
12   Phillips
13   Tom Thumb
14   Correspondence
15   Memos
16   Transmittals

Foundations

26  1  City Sponsors
2-3  Texas Commission
4    Fourth of July
5    Fourth of July-Star Spangled 4th-Script
6    Funding- C.W. Shaver Co.
7    Fundraising
8    Income
9    Income Summary
9    Ancillary Income

27  1  Box Office
2    Consignments and Daily Reports
In-kind
Part A
Part B
Part C
Outreach Report-Commissions
Overview-Corporate
Lists and Charts
Meeting Notes
Office Management-General Correspondence
Organizational Assistance Grant
Performers/Sponsors- C.W. Shaver and Company

Physical World
  Banners
  Dallas Backup
  Fireworks
  Parking Lots
  Signs
  Site Operations
  Tents
  Turnstiles

Press and Publicity
  Aerial Photographs
  Arttix
  Artwork
  Artwork for Ads
  Banners
  Box Sales '93
  Flyers/Ads
  Flyers
  General
  Programs

Publicity and Sponsorship Summary

Rain Date
Rain Insurance

Script-Final Copy
  6/11/93
  6/18/93
  6/19/93
  6/25/93
  7/2/93
  7/3/93
  7/4/93
  Staff Resumes
  Tickets
Spring Creek Festival, 1994
See box 60 for photographs/slides of this production.

Artists

1. Arts Group
2. Confirmed Performers
3. Dalena
4. Dixie Chicks
5. General
6. New York Philharmonic
7. Pavarotti
8. Reference
9. Rough Notes
10. Van Cliburn Concert

Attendance Data (1992-1993)

Automobile Insurance Information

Budget

Business

Affidavits of Bills Paid
Complimentary Seats
General
Insurance

Business Plan

Background Information
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42 1 Promotional “Gas Insert” Finals
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8 Economic Impact of the Arts
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43 1 Jaffe Acoustics Background
2 Local Movie Theatres/ Video Rental
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11 Board of Directors
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_Unfinished Stories, 1992-1994_

See box 64 for photographs/slides of this production.

Mark Taper Forum, 1992

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Contains micro-groundplans of the Roundabout Theatre and seating maps of Lucille Lortel
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Series II: Photographs and Slides, 1957-1996; Undated

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*Aircoa*, 1984-1985

2 Colorado Springs, 1985
3 San Francisco, 1984
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5 *Albany Urban Cultural Park*, 1986
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7 *Antony and Cleopatra*, 1959
8 *Antony and Cleopatra* and Shakesphere Project, 1959
9 *Archives*, 1989
10 Avery Fisher Hall, 1977
15 *Bandstand*, 1988
16 *Berda Wexler Apartment*, 1979
17 Berkshire Museum, 1984
18 *Berkshire Music Festival*, 1976
19 *The Big Deal*, 1989
See box 66 for oversized drawings of this production.
20 *The Big Knife*, 1959
21 *La Boheme*, 1965
22 *The Book of Job*, 1958

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*Britten's Church Trilogy*, 1966, 1973

5 Scenery, Lighting and Costume Design, 1966
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7 *A Broadway Musical*, 1978
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9 Building Sculptures-Trammel Crow, 1985
10 *The Burning Ground*, 1957
11 *By Strouse*, 1978

*Camino Real*, 1968-1970

49 1-2 Scenery and Lighting Design, 1968
3 Scenery and Costume Design, 1970

*Candide*, 1966-1995
See boxes 66, 72-74 for oversized drawings of this production.
4 Scenery, Lighting, and Costume Design, 1966
5 Scenery Design, 1995
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58 1  Reebok Riverstage, 1989
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59 1  San Francisco Ballet, 1994
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60 1  Spring Creek Festival, 1994
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   See box 103 for oversized drawings of this production.
3  Artistic Direction, Event Production, and Scenery Design
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61 1  Summer Music Festival, 1988
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**Series III: Design, 1986-1995**

**Subseries I: Flat Boxes, 1986-1995**

| 66     |                                                                                                                      |
| 1      | *After Words*, 1989                                                                                                 |
|        | Includes groundplan, elevations, and scenic drawings                                                                   |
| 2      | *The Big Deal*, 1989                                                                                                |
|        | Includes scenic drawings.                                                                                           |
| 3-4    | *Candide*, 1994-1995                                                                                                |
|        | Includes set designs.                                                                                               |
| 67     |                                                                                                                      |
| 1      | Central Park Bandshell, 1986-1988                                                                                   |
|        | Includes detail drawings.                                                                                            |
| 2      | *Central Park SummerStage*, 1987-1988                                                                                |
|        | Contains masking schematics.                                                                                        |
| 3      | *Columbus the Musical*, 1989                                                                                       |
Includes scenic drawings.

4  *Cry The Beloved Country*, 1994
   Includes groundplan and sectional lighting plots

5  *Dallas Symphony Orchestra*, 1991
   Includes set designs, posters, and maps.

*Lifetime Medical Television*, 1989

68  1  Scenery Design
    Includes studio dimension drawings, scenic drawings, shop list, list summary, detail drawings, and costume swatches.

2  Logo Design
   Includes design sketches, storyboards, photocopies, and negatives.

3  *Lost in the Stars*, 1988
   Includes projection design.

4  *Reebok Riverstage*, 1989
   Includes schematic plans, banner designs, production calendar, item summary sheet, demolition contracts, contact sheet, and other design support documentation.

Radio City Music Hall/Pier 84, 1988

5  Proposal
   Includes scenic drawings and maps.

6  Performance
   Includes sail and banner elevations.

69  1  *Salute to Slava*, 1994
    Includes scenic designs, banner fabrics, and invitation.

San Francisco Ballet, 1994

2  Design Development

3  Other Facilities

4  Progress Schematic Design

5  Rough Schematic Design

6  Sketches

7  War Memorial Opera House Research Drawings

*Spring Creek Festival*, 1992-1994

8  Designs, 1992
   Includes scenic drawings, posters, and maps.

9  Costume Designs and Advertising Designs, 1994

*Unfinished Stories*, 1991-1992

70  1  Show Posters, 1991

2  Set Designs, 1992

3  University of New Rochelle, 1987 - Set Designs

**Subseries II: Rolled Tube Boxes, 1986-1995**

71  *After Words*, 1989
   Includes scenery designs.

72-74  *Candide*, 1994-1995
   Includes groundplans, scenery designs, and theater reconfiguration plan.

75-77  *Central Park Bandshell*, 1986-1988

78  *Central Park Summerstage*, 1987-1988

79  *Columbus the Musical*, 1989
Includes scenery designs.

80  Dallas Symphony Orchestra, 1991
     Includes scenery designs.

81  Liberty Weekend '86, 1986
     Includes groundplans.

82-83  Lifetime Medical Television, 1989
     Includes scenery designs and schematics.

84  Menze Music Theater Corporation, 1988 - Proposed Stage Roof Designs

85-86  Radio City Music Hall/Pier 84, 1989
     Includes scenic drawings.

87-90  Reebok Riverstage, 1989
     Includes groundplan, elevations, and scenic drawings.

91  Salute to Slava, 1994
     Includes scenery designs, poster, flag designs, banner and elevation plans.

San Francisco Ballet, 1994

92  Design Development

93  Other Facilities

94-95  Progress Schematic Design

96  Roughs Schematic Design

97  Sketches

98  Temporary Quarters Project Feasibility Study
     Includes footprint study, groundplans, sections, existing condition study, and suggested
     accommodations.

99  War Memorial Opera House Research Drawings

100  Spring Creek Festival, 1992
     Includes groundplan, elevations, and scenic drawings.

102  Starfest, 1981
     Includes feasibility study, schematics, site plans, and other support design documentation.