

# **Guide to the Arthur Siegel Papers, 1938-1994**

**JPB 07-4**

## **Music Division**

**The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts  
New York, New York**

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Processed by: Matthew Snyder  
Date Completed: March 2008

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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Arthur Siegel Papers</b>
<b>Collection ID:</b>	<b>JPB 07-4</b>
<b>Creator:</b>	<b>Siegel, Arthur</b>
<b>Extent:</b>	<b>23 linear feet, 26 boxes</b>
<b>Repository:</b>	<b>Music Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts</b>

### Abstract

Arthur Siegel was a pianist, composer, lyricist and vocalist who wrote for musicals, revues and cabaret. His papers contain scores, clippings, correspondence, programs, promotional material and lyrics.

## Administrative Information

### Access

Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

### Publication Rights

For permission to publish, contact the Chief, Music Division.

### Preferred Citation

Arthur Siegel Papers, JPB 04-7, Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

### Custodial History

The Arthur Siegel Papers were donated to the Music Division in 2006 by Berthe Schuchat.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2008.

## Biographical Note

Arthur Siegel (born Lakewood, NJ, Dec. 31, 1923; d. New York City, Sept. 13, 1994) was a pianist, composer, lyricist and vocalist. He grew up in Asbury Park, NJ, and began to act in high school theater productions as well as write songs. After high school he studied acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and music at the Juilliard School. Eddie Cantor's daughter, Marilyn, was a classmate of Siegel's at the Academy, and through that connection Siegel got a job as Cantor's accompanist, launching his career.

Siegel's first Broadway show was *Lovely Me* (1946-47), on which he worked with lyricist Jeff Bailey. He also began working with the producer Leonard Sillman, producer of the *New Faces* series of Broadway revues. Siegel achieved lasting fame for his contributions to *New Faces Of 1952*, which featured the debuts of Eartha Kitt, Paul Lynde and Alice Ghostley. Beginning a long working relationship with the lyricist June Carroll, Siegel wrote some of his most well-known songs for the show, including *Love Is A Simple Thing*, *Monotonous* (a feature for Eartha Kitt) and *He Takes Me Off His Income Tax*. He also composed for Sillman's 1956, 1962 and 1968 editions of *New Faces*, though none were as successful as the 1952 version. Siegel worked on several shows with June Carroll and other lyricists, some of which were never produced, such as a version of the S.N. Behrman play *Serena Blandish*. He also worked on many musicals and revues that were produced off Broadway in the 1970s and 1980s. These included *A Quarter For The Ladies Room* (1972), *Corkscrews* (1982), *Tallulah* (1983), *Offbeats* (1985), *A Split Decision* (1986) and *The Last Musical Comedy* (1988). Siegel worked several times with the producer Ben Bagley, recording for his *Revisited* album series of obscure Broadway songs, and contributing to Bagley's shows *Seven Come Eleven* and *Shoestring Revue*.

Siegel performed as well as composed. He was the pianist for Stanley Holloway's one-man show, *Laughs And Other Events* (1960), and for over 30 years he accompanied the singer/comedienne Kaye Ballard. Other vocalists he worked with included Sandy Stewart, Gypsy Rose Lee, Imogene Coca and Hermione Gingold, contributing songs and sketch material in addition to accompaniment. In the late 1970s Siegel began performing solo, singing a huge repertoire of standards and lesser-known Broadway songs as well as his own material, and he was popular on New York's cabaret circuit. He continued to perform until shortly before his death from heart failure at the age of 70.

## Scope and Content Note

The Arthur Siegel Papers consist of clippings, correspondence, programs, promotional material, lyrics and scores. Nearly every project the composer was involved in is represented in the collection, including *New Faces Of 1952*, *Corkscrews*, *The Last Musical Comedy*, *Tallulah* and the unproduced projects *Serena Blandish*, *It's Nancy!*, and *Heaven Indiana*. The collection also documents Siegel's work with collaborators such as June Carroll, Kaye Ballard, Sandy Stewart and Ben Bagley. The scores, almost entirely in manuscript, consist of lead sheets for Siegel's songs, as well as an extensive set of songs by other songwriters. The papers contain no documentation of Siegel's personal life.

## Organization

The collection is organized into two series and five sub-series. They are:

### Series I: Papers, 1938-1994 and undated

Sub-series 1 – Collaborators, 1955-1991 and undated

Sub-series 2 – Shows and Projects, 1951-1986 and undated

Sub-series 3 – General, 1938-1994 and undated

### Series II: Scores, ca.1942 – 1989 and undated

Sub-series 1 – Shows and Projects, ca.1942 – 1989 and undated

Sub-series 2 – Songs, 1961-1994 and undated

## Series Descriptions

### Series I: Papers, 1938-1994 and undated

**5 boxes**

This series consists mainly of clippings, programs, promotional material and correspondence documenting Siegel's collaborations and the projects with which he was involved. Collaborators appear in sub-series 1 and include Kaye Ballard and Sandy Stewart. Project files appear in sub-series 2 and include documentation of *New Faces Of 1952*, *Corkscrews*, *Tallulah*, *The Last Musical Comedy* and unproduced projects such as *It's Nancy!* and *Serena Blandish*. General papers appear in sub-series 3 and document Siegel's own composing and cabaret performance career.

#### Sub-series 1 – Collaborators, 1955-1991 and undated

**1 box**

#### Arrangement: Alphabetical

This sub-series documents Siegel's work with the producer Ben Bagley and with the singers Sandy Stewart and Siegel's long-time performing partner Kaye Ballard. The Ballard papers are mostly clippings, but include extra documentation of Ballard's show *Hey, Ma...*(1984). The Sandy Stewart papers have files for specific performances in the mid-1980s but also have general

clippings going back to 1977. Though there is only one folder devoted to Siegel's work with Ben Bagley, there are scores for Siegel's contributions to Bagley's revues *Seven Come Eleven* and *Shoestring Revue* in Series II.

**Sub-series 2 – Shows and Projects, 1951-1986 and undated** **3 boxes**  
**Arrangement: Alphabetical**

This sub-series consists of clippings, programs, promotional material, scripts and correspondence relating to the shows, revues and cabaret projects with which Siegel was involved. *New Faces Of 1952*, *New Faces Of 1956*, *New Faces Of 1962*, *Corkscrews*, and the unproduced *Serena Blandish* have the most material. Other projects in this sub-series are Siegel's two shows with Diane David Harris, *Ms. Pres* and *A Split Decision*; and his shows with Tony Lang, *Offbeats*, *Corkscrews*, *Tallulah*, *The Last Musical Comedy* and the unproduced *It's Nancy!*.

**Sub-series 3 – General, 1938-1994 and undated** **1 box**  
**Arrangement: Alphabetical**

This series contains clippings, correspondence, programs, promotional material, set lists, lyrics and other papers documenting Siegel's entire career, starting with his high school theater activities and ending with the set lists for his last performances in August, 1994. Material in this sub-series generally focuses on Siegel himself and his performing and composing career, as opposed to clippings in other sub-series which focus on his projects and partnerships.

**Series II: Scores, ca. 1942 – 1989 and undated** **21 boxes**

The scores consist mostly of manuscript lead sheets for songs, usually containing a melody line with chord changes and lyrics, though sometimes lyrics are written or printed on a separate sheet (and occasionally lyrics are absent). The songs are in two sub-series. Sub-series 1 groups songs by the show or project they were written for, and sub-series 2 contains songs usually not associated with a particular show or project. It also contains Siegel's earliest attempts at songwriting, and songs by other composers.

**Sub-series 1 – Shows and Projects, ca. 1942-1989 and undated** **8 boxes**  
**Arrangement: Alphabetical**

The shows and project scores in this sub-series parallel the files in Series I, sub-series 2. The earliest show in this sub-series (untitled) was written while Siegel was attending the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. The shows with the most scores are *Corkscrews*, *New Faces Of 1952* and *A Quarter For The Ladies Room*. Though most of the scores are manuscripts, some shows occasionally contain published lead sheets (or reproductions of them), and one cabaret project, *The Cat And The Fiddle*, consists entirely of published music. Unproduced shows in this sub-series include *It's Nancy!* and *Serena Blandish*.

**Sub-series 2 – Songs, 1961-1994 and undated** **13 boxes**  
**Arrangement: Alphabetical**

This sub-series consists of songs by Siegel and songs by other composers. Songs by Siegel are sub-divided further into songs Siegel wrote by himself and those he wrote with a lyricist. In addition to a general alphabetical listing, the songs wholly by Siegel contain four special

categories: early attempts at songwriting, songs Siegel wrote for friends on birthdays or other special occasions, songs he wrote for his cabaret shows as openers or closers, and “name songs” (songs with a name as a title). The songs Siegel wrote with others are arranged by the name of the lyricist. June Carroll and Jeff Bailey are the two lyricists with the most songs in that category.

As with Siegel’s own songs, almost all the songs by other composers are in manuscript form, written out by Siegel, and often include the name of the show or film in which the song first appeared. These songs are in two divisions: songs arranged by composer, and songs set in medleys (used by Siegel in his cabaret performances). Composers with the most material in the first set are George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart. The medleys are arranged several ways: by composer, by film or show, by performer and by subject (i.e. “spinach”, “love”, “40s jive”, etc.). Some composers appear in both the main alphabetical listing and in the medleys.

## Series I: Papers, 1938-1994 and undated

### Sub-series I: Collaborators, 1955-1991 and undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	Bagley, Ben, 1955-1991 Clippings and programs. See also scores for <i>Seven Come Eleven</i> and <i>Shoestring Revue</i> .
		Ballard, Kaye, 1958-1990 and undated <i>Hey, Ma...</i> , 1984
	2	Clippings and programs.
	3	Script.
		General, 1958-1990 and undated Clippings, 1958-1989 and undated
	4	1958-1962
	5	1963-1965
	6	1966-1970
	7	1971-1974
	8	1975-1978
	9	1979-1984
	10	1985-1987
	11	1988-1989
	12	Undated
	13	Programs, 1962-1990 and undated
	14	Promotional Material, Lyrics and Scripts, 1980-1985 and undated
		Stewart, Sandy, 1977-1989 and undated Saint Peter's Church, 1984-1985 Programs and promotional material.
	15	
	16	<i>Songs Of The 30's</i> , 1989 Script. See also scores, Box 13, Folder 1.
	17	Wolf Trap Foundation, 1983 Programs, promotional material and lyrics ( <i>Jerome Kern Revisited</i> ).
		General, 1977-1986 and undated Clippings, 1977-1986
	18-	
	19	
	20	Programs and Promotional Material, 1984-1986 and undated

### Sub-series 2: Shows and Projects, 1951-1986 and undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	21	<i>Come As You Are</i> , 1955 Program and clippings. Lyrics by June Carroll. See also scores, Box 6, Folder 2.
	22	<i>A Connecticut Cowboy</i> , 1982 Unproduced. Book and lyrics by Shirley Kaplan. Script. See also scores, Box 6, Folder 4.
		<i>Corkscrews</i> , 1981-1982 Sketches and lyrics by Tony Lang. Additional material by Paul Trueblood. See also scores, Box 7, Folders 1-4.
2	1	Clippings, Contracts and Promotional Material, 1981-1982
	2	Script, 1982
	3	Song and Skit Cues, 1982
	4	<i>Curtain Going Up</i> , 1951-1952 Clippings, correspondence and programs. Siegel was one of many contributors to this revue.
	5	<i>Heaven, Indiana</i> , undated

- Unproduced script. Lyrics by Jeff Bailey. Book by Billy Gilbert, Jeff Bailey and Ted Tiller.
- 6 *It's Nancy! A Comic Strip*, 1983  
Unproduced script. Lyrics by Tony Lang. See also scores, Box 7, Folder 6.
- 7 *The Last Musical Comedy*, 1988  
Script, clippings and program Book and lyrics by Tony Lang. See also scores, Box 7, Folder 7.
- 8 *Laughs And Other Events*, 1960  
Correspondence, programs and clippings. Stanley Holloway one-man show.
- 9 *Love That Girl*, undated  
Unproduced script. Lyrics by Jeff Bailey, book by Jeff Bailey and Ted Tiller. See also scores in Box 8, Folder 2.
- 10 *Mask And Gown*, 1957  
Revue containing songs by Siegel and June Carroll. Clippings, correspondence and programs.
- 11 *Ms. Pres*, 1979-1983  
Book and lyrics by Diane David Harris. Clippings, correspondence, programs, promotional material and script. Also contains script and outline of *Circle* by Diane David Harris. See also scores, Box 8, Folders 4-5.
- 12 *New Faces*, 1948  
Clippings and program. See also scores, Box 8, Folder 6.
- 3 1 *New Faces*, 1957  
Production at Coconut Grove Playhouse, Miami. Clippings and program.
- New Faces Of 1952*, 1952-1988  
Lyrics by June Carroll, Herbert Farjeon and Dorothy Morgan, and others. See also scores, Box 9, Folders 1-3.
- Clippings, 1952-1988
- 2-3 1952
- 4 1953
- 5 1954-1961
- 6 1971-1988 and undated
- 7 Film Contract and Script, 1953
- 8 Programs and Promotional Material, 1952-1982
- New Faces Of 1956*, 1956  
See also scores, Box 9, Folder 4.
- 9 Clippings
- 10 Correspondence and Programs
- New Faces Of 1962*, 1958-1962  
See also scores, Box 9, Folders 5-6.
- 11 Clippings, 1958-1962
- 12 Programs, 1962
- 13 *New Faces Of 1968*, 1968  
Programs and clippings. See also scores, Box 10, Folder 1.
- 14 *New Faces*, General, 1958-1979  
Clippings.
- 15 *Not While I'm Eating*, 1961-1962  
Sketches and lyrics by Arthur Sherman. Clippings, correspondence and programs. See also scores, Box 10, Folders 1-2.
- 16 *Offbeats*, 1985  
Sketches and lyrics by Tony Lang. Clippings and promotional material.
- 4 1 *Our Hearts Were Young And Gay*, undated  
Lyrics by June Carroll, book by Sidney Carroll. Based on book by Cornelia Otis Skinner and and Emily Kimbrough. Script. See also scores, Box 10, Folders 4-5.
- 2 *A Quarter For The Ladies Room*, 1972  
Lyrics by Ruth Batchelor, additional music by John Clifton. Programs and clippings.



- See also scores, Box 11, Folders 1-3.
- 3-4      *A Split Decision*, 1985-1986  
 Book and lyrics by Diane David Harris. Lyrics, script, programs and clippings. See also scores, Box 13, Folders 2-4.
- Serena Blandish*, 1955 and undated  
 Unproduced musical version of play by S.N. Behrman, based on novel by Enid Bagnold. Lyrics by June Carroll.
- 5            Clippings, 1955  
 6            Lyrics, undated
- Scripts, undated
- 7            Early version  
 8            Version I  
 9            Version II  
 10          Version III
- 11-        *Tallulah*, 1982-1983  
 12        Book by Tony Lang, lyrics by Mae Richard. Program, promotional material and clippings.

**Sub-series 3: General, 1938-1994 and undated**

- Clippings, 1938-1993 and undated  
 See also clippings in show/project files.
- 5      1        Record Reviews, 1958-1964 and undated  
           Reviews of recordings of Siegel's songs by others.
- General, 1938-1993 and undated
- 2            1938-1942  
           Documents Siegel's theatre career in high school and at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.
- 3            1958-1975  
 4            1976-1979  
 5            1980-1981  
 6            1982  
 7            1983-1985  
 8            1986-1987  
 9            1988-1991  
 10          1992-1993  
 11          Undated
- 12        Correspondence, 1953-1990 and undated  
           Includes letters from Katharine Hepburn and Barney Josephson.
- 13        Financial Papers, 1962-1983
- 14        Lyrics, undated  
           Most untitled, some by Siegel and June Carroll, others unidentified.
- 15        Programs, 1939-1994 and undated  
           Some programs have clippings with them. Contains programs from Siegel's early career.
- 16-       Promotional Material, 1938-1986 and undated  
 17        Includes press kit and photograph.
- 18        Set Lists, 1988-1994  
           Includes set list for final performance at City Corp building, August 1994.

**Series II: Scores, ca. 1942 - 1989 and undated**

**Sub-series 1: Shows and Projects, ca. 1942 - 1989 and undated**

- |            |            |   |
|------------|------------|---|
| <u>Box</u> | <u>Fol</u> |   |
| 6          | 1          | <i>The Cat And The Fiddle</i> , undated<br>All Jerome Kern songs. Reproductions of published sheet music. |
|            | 2-3        | <i>Come As You Are</i> , 1955<br>Lyrics by June Carroll. See also papers, Box 1, Folder 21.               |

- 4            *A Connecticut Cowboy*, 1982  
Book and lyrics by Shirley Kaplan. See also papers, Box 1, Folder 22.
- 7    1-4       *Corkscrews*, 1982  
Sketches and lyrics by Tony Lang. Additional material by Paul Trueblood. See also papers, Box 2, Folders 1-3.
- 5            *Curtain Going Up*, 1951-1952  
See also papers, Box 2, Folder 4.
- 6            *It's Nancy!*, 1983  
Lyrics by Tony Lang. See also Box 2, Folder 6.
- 7            *The Last Musical Comedy*, 1988  
Book and lyrics by Tony Lang. See also papers, Box 2, Folder 7.
- 8    1           *Life, Love And Other Minor Matters*, undated  
Lyrics by June Carroll. Unproduced. Lead sheets, lyrics and script excerpt.
- 2            *Love That Girl*, undated  
See also papers in Box 2, Folder 9.
- 3            *Mask And Gown*, 1957  
See also papers in Box 2, Folder 10.
- 4-5         *Ms. Pres*, 1983  
Book and lyrics by Diane David Harris. See also papers, Box 2, Folder 11.
- 6            *New Faces*, 1948  
See also papers, Box 2, Folder 12.
- New Faces Of 1952*, 1952  
See also papers, Box 3, Folders 2-8.
- 9    1-2         *Songs By Arthur Siegel*.
- 3            *Songs By Other Composers*.
- 4            *New Faces Of 1956*, 1956
- 5-6         *New Faces Of 1962*, 1962
- 10   1           *New Faces Of 1968*, 1968  
See also papers, Box 3, Folder 13.
- 2-3         *Not While I'm Eating*, 1961  
Lyrics by Arthur Sherman. See also papers, Box 3, Folder 15.
- 4-5         *Our Hearts Were Young And Gay*, undated  
See also papers, Box 4, Folder 1.
- 11   1-3         *A Quarter For The Ladies Room*, 1972  
See also papers, Box 4, Folder 2.
- 12   1-2         *Serena Blandish*, undated  
See also papers, Box 4, Folders 5-12.
- 3            *Seven Come Eleven*, undated  
See also papers, Box 1, Folder 1.
- 4            *Shoestring Revue*, undated  
See also papers, Box 1, Folder 1.
- 13   1           *Songs Of The 30's*, 1989  
Duet with Sandy Stewart. See also papers, Box 1, Folders 16.
- 2-4         *A Split Decision*, 1985-1986  
See also papers, Box 4, Folders 3-4.
- 5            *Untitled Show*, ca. 1942  
Written while Siegel was attending the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

### **Sub-series 2: Songs, 1961-1994 and undated**

- By Arthur Siegel, 1961-1994 and undated  
With Lyrics By Arthur Siegel, 1973-1994 and undated
- 14   1           *Birthdays and Special Occasions*, 1973-1994 and undated  
Written for friends.
- 2            *Early Work*, undated  
Likely from high school and post-high school days, some untitled.
- 3            *Opening and Closing Songs*, 1990-1994

		Songs sung by Siegel to open and close his solo performances.
	4	Name Songs, undated
		All songs with names as titles.
		General, undated
	5	A
	6	B-C
15	1	D-F
	2	G-H
	3	I
	4	J-L
	5	M
	6	N-R
	7	S-V
	8	W-Y
		Other Lyricists, 1961 and undated
		Bailey, Jeff, undated
16	1	A-K
	2	L-M
	3	N-R
	4	S
	5	T-Z
	6	Bar - Bo, undated
	7	Batchelor, Ruth, undated
		See also <i>A Quarter For The Ladies Room</i> , Box 11, Folders 1-3.
	8	C, undated
		Carroll, June, undated
		Songs not included in shows Carroll wrote with Siegel.
17	1	A-E
	2	F-K
	3	L-P
	4	S-Y
	5	Recording Project
		Songs recorded at unidentified recording session.
18	1	E, undated
		Includes work with Fred Ebb.
	2	Eskilson, Dick, 1961 and undated
	3	Ewal, Marnie, undated
	4	F, undated
	5	G-H, undated
	6	Gasman, Ira, undated
	7	K-L, undated
	8	Kent, Charlotte, undated
	9	Laron, Elaine, undated
	10	M, undated
	11	McWhinney, Michael, undated
	12	R, undated
	13	Rice, Rosemary, undated
		Some lead sheets lack lyrics.
	14	Rosenblatt, Lenore, undated
	15	S-W, undated
	16	Siegel, June, undated
		No relation.
	17	Unidentified, undated
		Some lyrics in this folder may be by Siegel.

## By Other Composers, 1994 and undated

Almost all are written out by Siegel, not published. Some note the show or film the song originally appeared in.

- Individuals, undated
- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 19 | 1 | A-C  |
|    | 2 | Arlen, Harold  |
|    | 3 | Bergerson, Baldwin   |
|    | 4 | Berlin, Irving   |
|    | 5 | Brown, Lew   |
|    | 6 | Brown, Nacio Herb  |
|    | 7 | Carmichael, Hoagy  |
|    | 8 | Coward, Noel   |
|    | 9 | D-G  |
| 20 | 1 | DeSylva, B.G., Lew Brown and Ray Henderson   |
|    | 2 | Duke, Vernon   |
|    | 3 | Fain, Sammy  |
|    |   | Gershwin, George   |
|    | 4 | A-D  |
|    | 5 | L-W  |
|    | 6 | Gordon, Mack and Harry Revel   |
| 21 | 1 | H-M  |
|    | 2 | Henderson, Ray   |
|    | 3 | Herbert, Victor  |
|    | 4 | Hupfeld, Herman  |
|    | 5 | Kalmar, Burt and Harry Ruby  |
|    | 6 | Lane, Burton   |
|    | 7 | Lerner, Alan Jay and Frederick Loewe<br>For Alan Jay Lerner revue with Margaret White. |
|    | 8 | McHugh, Jimmy  |
|    | 9 | N-S  |
|    |   | Porter, Cole   |
|    |   | See also medleys.  |
| 22 | 1 | A-L  |
|    | 2 | M-Y  |
|    | 3 | Robin, Leo and Ralph Rainger   |
|    |   | Rodgers, Richard and Lorenz Hart   |
|    |   | See also medleys.  |
|    | 4 | A-I  |
| 23 | 1 | J-Y  |
|    | 2 | Concert Collection<br>Music assembled for concert of Rodgers and Hart music.           |
|    | 3 | Romberg, Sigmund   |
|    | 4 | Rome, Harold   |
|    | 5 | Schwartz, Arthur   |
|    | 6 | T-W and Unidentified   |
|    | 7 | Warren, Harry  |
| 24 | 1 | Weill, Kurt  |
|    | 2 | Youmans, Vincent   |
|    | 3 | Whiting, Richard   |
|    |   | Medleys, 1994 and undated  |
|    |   | Composers, 1994 and undated  |
|    | 4 | Porter, Cole, 1994 and undated   |

	5	Rodgers, Richard and Lorenz Hart,
	6	General, 1994 and undated
		Films or Shows, undated
25	1	A-L
	2	M-Z
	3	Performers, undated
		Subjects, undated
26	1	A-M
	2	O-W