

Guide to the Dorothy Greener Papers, 1942-1966

*T Mss 1993-049

Billy Rose Theatre Division



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

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Dorothy Greener Papers, 1942-1966

Collection ID: *T Mss 1993-049

Creator: Greener, Dorothy .

Extent: .6 linear feet (2 boxes)

Repository: The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.
Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Abstract: Papers of actress, singer, comedienne Dorothy Greener consisting of letters, opening night telegrams, revue sketches and other humor pieces, school compositions, scrapbooks, and ephemera.

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.

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Biographical Note

Musical comedy actress Dorothy Greener was born in Gateshead, England in 1917. When she was eight the Greener family emigrated to Canada and three years later settled in East Hartford, Connecticut [some sources say West Hartford] where she attended school and studied the viola. After graduation she worked for The Hartford Times writing reviews and human interest stories. In 1947 Ms. Greener headed for New York where, to support herself, she became a secretary and switchboard operator. Her theatrical career began when she sang two of her own songs at an amateur show in Provincetown. Winning the competition led to an engagement at No. 1 Fifth Avenue. In 1950 her performance in Michael Stewart's revue *Come What May*, which later became *Razzle Dazzle*, received rave reviews. Success followed. Ms. Greener's other New York appearances include *Shoestring Revue*, *Shoestring '57*, *Joy Ride*, and *Leave It To Jane*. She understudied Nancy Walker in *Girls Against the Boys* and appeared on many major television shows. Ms. Greener died of cancer in New York City in 1971.

Scope and Content Note

The Dorothy Greener Papers consist of correspondence, writings and clippings scrapbooks documenting the career of Dorothy Greener. Included in the writings are revue sketches by Michael Stewart, humorous writings and her school compositions.

Organization

- Series I: Correspondence
- Series II: Writings
- Series III: Scrapbooks and Ephemera

Series Descriptions and Container Listing

Series I: Correspondence, 1947-1961

2 folders

This series includes letters, notes, and opening night telegrams to Ms. Greener from friends and colleagues. Among the correspondents are Red Buttons, Ezra Stone, Frederic March, and Lew Gilbert.

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence "A-Z", 1947-1961
Letters and notes to Dorothy Greener from friends and colleagues.
- b. 1 f. 2 Telegrams "A-Z", 1950-1959
Telegrams to Dorothy Greener celebrating many of her opening nights.

Series II: Writings

4 folders

This series consists of humor pieces and school compositions by Ms. Greener and revue sketches from *Come What May* and *Razzle Dazzle* by Michael Stewart. There are a few unidentified sketches and lyrics. Also included is a biographical outline of Ms. Greener's life and career compiled by Paul Rawlings.

- b. 1 f. 3 Writings / Dorothy Greener
Humor pieces by Dorothy Greener and others.
- b. 1 f. 4 Writings / Dorothy Greener, 1934-1936
School compositions written by Dorothy Greener.
- b. 1 f. 5 Revue sketches / Michael Stewart, 1950-1951
1 folder
Sketches written by Michael Stewart for *Come What May* and *Razzle Dazzle*.
- b. 1 f. 6 Biographical sketch of Dorothy Greener / Paul Rawlings, 1972
1 folder
Biographical information about Dorothy Greener compiled by Paul Rawlings.

Series III: Scrapbooks and Ephemera, 1942-1966

1 box, 4 folders

There are three scrapbooks. The first is filled with newspaper articles written by Ms. Greener from 1942-1947. The second, photocopied for preservation purposes, contains clippings about many of her performances and her articles which appeared in *Etude Magazine*. Programs for *The Bells Are Ringing*, *On the Town*, and *Chicago* [by Maurine Watkins] were removed and added to the Theatre Collection Program Files. The third scrapbook consists of clippings from 1955-1960. Ephemera consists of clippings from 1956-1966, two pencil sketches, a pen and ink drawing [of Dorothy Greener probably in *Leave It to Jane*], and a promotional handout.

- b. 1 f. 7 Scrapbooks / Dorothy Greener, 1942-1947
1 scrapbook.
Scrapbook of newspaper articles by Dorothy Greener.
- b. 1 f. 8 Scrapbooks / Dorothy Greener, 1947-1953
1 folder
Scrapbook contains clippings by and about Dorothy Greener. Also includes 1 letter and 1 telegram. Programs for *Bells Are Ringing*, *On The Town*, and *Chicago* [by Maurine Watkins] were removed and placed in the theatre collection program files.
- b. 1 f. 9 Ephemera / Dorothy Greener
1 folder
Pen and ink drawing, two pencil sketches, and a Dorothy Greener promotional handout.
- b. 1 f. 10 Clippings / Dorothy Greener, 1956-1964
1 folder
Clippings about the career of Dorothy Greener.
- b. 2 Scrapbooks / Dorothy Greener, 1955-1960
1 box.
Scrapbook of clippings about the career of Dorothy Greener.
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