

**Guide to Minor Latham Playhouse/
Brinckerhoff Theatre Records
BC13.53**

Finding aid prepared by Alice Griffin

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Barnard Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Barnard College. Department of Theatre.
Creator	Barnard College. Minor Latham Playhouse.
Title	Minor Latham Playhouse/Brinckerhoff Theatre Records
Date [inclusive]	1897-2005
Extent	8.59 Linear feet ; 5 document boxes, 2 flat file drawers
Location note	This collection is stored offsite and advance notice is required for access. To use this collection, please contact the Barnard Archives and Special Collections at 212.854.4079 or archives@barnard.edu.
Language	English
Abstract	This collection consists of scripts; song lyrics; sketches for posters, programs, costumes, and set design; lists of plays presented; programs; news clippings; press releases; and correspondence relating to plays and workshops presented in the Brinckerhoff Theatre and the Minor Latham Playhouse.

Preferred Citation

Minor Latham Playhouse/Brinckerhoff Theatre records, 1897-2005; Box and Folder; Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library, Barnard College.

Historical Background

Originally named Brinckerhoff Theatre, the Minor Latham Playhouse located in Milbank Hall was renamed in 1953 after Professor Minor White Latham. Professor Latham was a member of the English Department from 1914-1948. Her theatre classes and productions inspired devotion from students including: Helen Gahagan, Jane Wyatt, Ruth Gordon, Vera Allen and others. The long-running off-broadway musical , *The Fantasticks*, debuted at the Minor Latham Playhouse in 1959.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

This collection consists of materials from productions presented at the Brinckerhoff Theatre/Minor Latham Playhouse between 1897 and 2005. These materials include programs, posters, scripts, sketches for costumes and set designs, and correspondence. The organizations that produced these shows include: Wigs and Cues, The Barnard College Theatre Company, Associate Alumnae of Barnard College, Undergraduate Association, Philolexian Society, and Barnard Drama Workshop and Summer Theatre. Programs from the 1959 world premiere of *The Fantasticks* at the Minor Latham Playhouse are included in the material from the Barnard Drama Workshop and Summer Theatre.

The collection also includes programs from plays performed in the Marion Victor Studio, a small performance space in the same building as the Minor Latham Playhouse designed for informal and experimental work.

Administrative materials and materials from exhibits sponsored by the theatre are also in this collection. Of note are the papers of Kenneth Janes, English professor and director of Minor Latham between 1962 and 1983. He founded the Barnard College Theatre Company.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into five series:

- Series 1, Productions, 1897-2005
- Series 2, Kenneth Janes Papers, 1974-1985
- Series 3, Administrative Records, 1977
- Series 4, Minor Latham Scrapbook, 1970-1976

Series 5, Exhibits, 1973; 1990

Administrative Information

Publication Information

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Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Publication Rights

Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Barnard Archives and Special Collections. The Barnard Archives and Special Collections approves permission to publish that which it physically owns; the responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Accruals

Additions are expected.

Acquisition Information

Crew Show material transferred in 1985. The acquisition date and source of the rest of the material is unknown.

Processing History

This collection was processed and the finding aid written by Alice Griffin in July 2015.

Descriptive Rules Used: Finding aid adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Encoding: Machine readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002.

Finding aid written in English.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Clippings
- Correspondence

Subject(s)

- Barnard College. Dance Uptown, 1967-1989.
- College theater--New York (State)--New York
- Costume
- Dance
- Performing arts
- Press releases
- Theaters--stage-setting and scenery
- Universities and colleges--Departments

Productions,

Collection Inventory

Series 1. Productions,		
	Box	Drawer
Societas Classica Play, 1908		1
Undergraduate Association Plays, 1897-1913	1-2	9
Wigs and Cues Plays, 1913-1966	1-2	8-9
Scene from <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> , undated		1
Crew Shows, circa 1960s		1
Historical Background Crew shows were a Barnard tradition where the students who worked backstage (i.e. stage managers, sound and lighting technicians, stage hands) would write and perform their own play.		
<i>Bury the Dead</i> stage manager's script, 1971		1
<i>The Winter's Tale</i> stage manager's script, undated		1

Productions,

Lists and Announcements of Productions, 1949-2003	1, 5	
Sketches for unidentified poster or program, undated	2	
Costume designs for unidentified play, undated	2	
<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> , 1903	2	
Associate Alumnae of Barnard College Plays, 1904-1905	2	
Deutscher Kreis Plays, 1908	2	
Graduate Dramatic Association of Columbia University Plays, 1912-1913	2	
Philoexian Society Plays, 1922-1923	2	
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , 1945	2	
<i>Secret Love</i> , 1949	2	
	Box	Drawer
The Barnard Drama Workshop and Summer Theatre, 1959-1965	2	9
		Box
<i>Ring Round the Moon</i> set design, 1960		2
	Box	Drawer

Productions,

The Barnard College Theatre Company, 1966-1983	2-5	8-9
Barnard College Theatre Program, 1984-1986	3, 5	8-9
Theatre at Barnard, 1987-1994	5	9
		Box
Dance Uptown, 1969-1985		2-3
Barnard College Music Department, 1977		2
Barnard Gilbert & Sullivan Society, 1961-1992		2-3
Festival of the Arts, 1964-1967		2
Nigerian Student Theatre Group, 1964		2
Composers Circle, 1964		2
Student Theatre at Barnard, 1991-1995		3, 5
	Box	Drawer
Barnard Theatre Department, 1992-2005	3, 5	9
		Box
Barnard Dance Department, 1990-1991		3

Productions,

Ancient Greek Drama Group, 1987	3
<i>The Trip</i> , 1985	3
Barnard Center for Research on Women, 1985	3
Winter Festival, 1975; 1985	3, 5
<i>Drama for Strings</i> , 1985	3
Old Plays for a New Europe, 1990	3
Black Theatre and Performing Arts Ensemble, 1991	3
Mask Theatre, 1991	3
Playhouse News, 1990	3
Opera Uptown, 1984; 1986	3
Theatre Uptown, 1977	4
Musical Ensemble Theater, 1978-1979	4
<i>Trick or Treat</i> , 1993	5
<i>Female Parts</i> , 1998	5

Kenneth Janes Papers,

<i>Billy & Han</i> , 2001	5
Barnard Dance Theater Workshop, undated	4
Program in the Arts, undated	4
<i>Les Fetes Galantes</i> , 1974	2
The Daykarhanova Actors Company, 1974	2
<i>In Good Company</i> , undated	4
Columbia University Shakespearean Players, undated	4
	Drawer
<i>The Man of Mode</i> , circa 1953	8
<i>Wharf Edge</i> sheet music, 1964	8
<i>Strangers/USA</i> , undated	9
Series 2. Kenneth Janes Papers, 1974-1985	Box 3-4
Series 3. Administrative Records, 1977	Box 5
Series 4. Minor Latham Playhouse Scrapbook, 1975-1976	Box 4
Series 5. Exhibits, 1973; 1990	Box 5

Exhibits,

Bard at Barnard, 1990

Brander Matthews Collection of Theatre Models, 1973