Collection Summary

Title: Florence Klotz Costume Designs
Span Dates: 1971-1985
Call No.: ML31.K606
Creator: Klotz, Florence
Extent: 670 items
Extent: 19 containers
Extent: 11.5 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2015667105

Summary: Florence Klotz was an American costume designer best known for her work on Broadway musical collaborations with composer Stephen Sondheim and director Harold (Hal) Prince, including Follies (1971), A Little Night Music (1973), and Pacific Overtures (1976). The collection contains finished costume designs, sketches, fabric samples, and other materials for five musicals and one film adaptation.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Coleman, Cy. On the Twentieth Century.
Klotz, Florence.
Sondheim, Stephen. Follies.
Sondheim, Stephen. Little night music.
Sondheim, Stephen. Pacific overtures.

Subjects
Costume design.
Costume designers.
Musical theater--United States.
Theater--United States.
Women costume designers.

Form/Genre
Drawings (Visual works)
Sketches.
Swatches.

Provenance
Purchase, 2011.

Accruals
No further accruals are expected.
Processing History

The Florence Klotz Costume Designs were processed by Alexandra Ley and Abigail Werner in 2018. Christopher Hartten coded the finding aid for EAD format in 2018.

Other Repositories


Copyright Status

Materials from the Florence Klotz Costume Designs are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

Access and Restrictions

The Florence Klotz Costume Designs are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Florence Klotz Costume Designs, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Florence Klotz was born Kathrina Klotz on October 28, 1920, in Brooklyn, New York. Little is known about her childhood. Klotz graduated from the Parsons School of Design and soonafter went to work painting fabrics at Brooks Costumes, where she met Irene Sharaff, costumer for Rodgers and Hammerstein's The King and I. Throughout the next ten years, Klotz served as assistant costumer to Sharaff, Joan Personnette, Miles White, and Lucinda Ballard before starting her own career.

Klotz's most noteworthy design credits were for productions by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, Stephen Sondheim, and director Harold (Hal) Prince. Prince and Klotz worked on sixteen productions together, including Kiss of the Spider Woman (1993), Show Boat (1994), Follies (1971), A Little Night Music (1973), Pacific Overtures (1976), Grind (1985), and On the Twentieth Century (1978), among others. In addition to theater, Klotz also costumed three films, two of which were adapted from previous productions. Reuniting with Hal Prince for A Little Night Music (1977) and Something for Everyone (1970), the pair worked together on the only two films Prince directed. Pacific Overtures was recorded in 1976 at the Winter Garden Theatre for distribution on Japanese television.

Over her nearly thirty year career, Klotz won six Tony Awards for Best Costume Design for Follies, A Little Night Music, Pacific Overtures, Grind, Kiss of the Spider Woman, and Show Boat. She was also honored with five Drama Desk Awards for Follies, Pacific Overtures, On the Twentieth Century, Kiss of the Spider Woman, and Show Boat. Klotz passed away at her home in Manhattan on November 1, 2006, at the age of 86.

Scope and Content Note

Little Night Music starred actress Elizabeth Taylor, with whom Klotz had a close professional relationship. The collection also contains designs for other notable performers, including Len Cariou, Imogene Coca, Hermione Gingold, Madeline Kahn, Stubby Kaye, John McMartin, and Ben Vereen.

The Klotz materials are comprised mostly of finished designs, many of which have attached fabric samples. These often contain numbers assigned by Klotz during the design process, some of which correspond to accompanying budget lists. These have been arranged in numerical order wherever possible. Some finished designs are accompanied by sketches and preliminary designs that provide insight into Klotz's approach to her work. With the exception of Grind, each production in the collection also includes some amount of historical research materials. Klotz's notes (which detail historical era, construction materials, etc.) for costumes are often written on the designs themselves, occasionally with the name of the performer designated for the costume and/or the scene or song title in which the costume would appear. Measurement cards for actors in these productions are laid in with their corresponding designs.

Organization of the Florence Klotz Costume Designs

The Collection is organized in one series:
  • Costume Designs, 1971-1985
Description of Series

Container   Series
BOX 1-19 MAPCASE 3  **Costume Designs, 1971-1985**

Chiefly finished designs, some with attached fabric samples. Also includes sketches, notes, measurement cards, and related research materials.

Arranged alphabetically by show title, then numerically by design number therein where possible.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1-19 MAPCASE 3 | **Costume Designs, 1971-1985**  
Chiefly finished designs, some with attached fabric samples. Also includes sketches, notes, measurement cards, and related research materials.  
Arranged alphabetically by show title, then numerically by design number therein where possible. |
Costume designs |
| BOX-FOLDER 7/1-24 | Follies, 1971-1972  
Costume designs |
| MAPCASE-DRAWER 3/1 | Follies, 1971-1972  
Costume designs |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/1-7, 8/1-3 | Follies, 1971-1972  
Costume designs and research materials |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/8-10, 8/4-21 | Grind, 1985  
Costume designs |
| BOX-FOLDER 9/1-22, 10/1-11 | Grind, 1985  
Costume designs |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/11-28, 2/1-27 | A little night music, 1973-1974  
Costume designs |
| BOX-FOLDER 5/19-20, 6/1-5 | A little night music, 1973-1974  
Costume designs |
| BOX-FOLDER 15/1-4 | A little night music, 1973-1974  
Costume designs |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/1-21 | A little night music, 1973-1974  
Costume designs, research materials, and notes |
| BOX-FOLDER 6/7-9, 15/5-23 | A little night music [film], 1977  
Costume designs |
| BOX-FOLDER 3/22-24 | A little night music [film], 1977  
Costume design, fabric sample, and notes |
Costume designs |
| BOX 16-19 | On the Twentieth Century, 1978-1979  
Costume designs |
Research materials |
| BOX-FOLDER 10/12-15 | Pacific overtures, 1976  
Costume designs |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 11-14</td>
<td>Pacific overtures, 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Costume designs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 3/26-31</td>
<td>Pacific overtures, 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Costume designs, sketches, and fabric sample</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 6/17-18</td>
<td>Pacific overtures, 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miscellaneous documents and research materials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>