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Guide to the Melvin Bernhardt Papers

YCAL MSS 1196



by Beinecke Staff, Annalise Hennessey

February 2023

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 1196

CREATOR: Bernhardt, Melvin (1931-2015) , author

TITLE: Melvin Bernhardt papers

DATES: circa 1955-2015

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 10.38 linear feet (17 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection includes audiovisual media, certificates, correspondence, financial papers, newspaper clippings, notes, pencil sketches, photographs, playbills, resumes, and scripts for plays directed by Melvin Bernhardt.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.bernhardt>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.bernhardt>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder
■■■■ item barcode

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Jeff Woodman, 2018-2019.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Boxes 1-2 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Melvin Bernhardt Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Melvin Bernhardt Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Melvin Bernhardt (1931-2015)

Born Melvin Bernhard in Buffalo, New York, Bernhardt attended the University of Buffalo and Yale University before beginning his career directing regional theater. In 1965, Bernhardt made his directorial debut in New York City with Off-Broadway productions of John Guare's *Cop-out* and *Muzeeka*. He also directed *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* in 1970. In addition to a Tony Award for Hugh Leonard's *Da*, Bernhardt won the 1978 Drama Desk Award for directing *Da*. In 1974, Bernhardt began directing American daytime television dramas, including *Another World*, *One Life to Live*, and *All My Children*.

In 2011, Bernhardt married actor Jeff Woodman, known for his roles in television shows like *Person of Interest*, *Law and Order: Special Victims Unit*, and *Law and Order*. Bernhardt died on September 12, 2015 in New York City.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes audiovisual media, certificates, correspondence, financial papers, newspaper clippings, notes, pencil sketches, photographs, playbills, resumes, and scripts for plays directed by Melvin Bernhardt, including John Guare's *Cop-Out*, Beth Henley's *Crimes of the Heart*, Hugh Leonard's *Da*, and Paul Zindel's *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*.

Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. June 2018 Acquisition, 1955-2015. II. July 2019 Acquisition, 1955-1969, undated.

Collection Contents

Series I: June 2018 Acquisition, 1955-2015

9.55 linear feet (15 boxes)

This series contains playbills, notes, correspondence, newspaper clippings, bound scripts, photographs, and other papers related to the career of Melvin Bernhardt.

Arranged into four subseries: Production Materials, Bound Scripts, Other Papers, and Audiovisual Material.

Production Materials

This subseries contains playbills, notes, correspondence, and newspaper clippings relating to Bernhardt's work as director of several plays, including *The Ballad of the Sad Café*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Da*, and *The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds*.

Arranged alphabetically by file title.

And Miss Reardon Drinks A Little

b. 3, f. 1-2	<i>And Miss Reardon Drinks A Little</i> materials and correspondence	1971-1972
b. 3, f. 3-4	<i>Miss Reardon</i> - nat'l co.	1971-1972
b. 3, f. 5	<i>Another World</i>	1979-1987
b. 3, f. 6	<i>Arms and the Man</i>	1955
b. 3, f. 7	<i>Ballad of the Sad Café</i>	1963-1965
b. 3, f. 8	<i>Ballad</i> playbills	1963
b. 3, f. 9	<i>The Beach House</i>	1985-1986
b. 3, f. 10	Beckett-Pinter	1963-1964
b. 3, f. 11	Beckett film	1964-1965
b. 3, f. 12	<i>Bedrock</i>	1983-1984
b. 3, f. 13	<i>The Blues Are Running</i>	1996
b. 4, f. 14	<i>Breaking the Code</i>	1993
b. 4, f. 15-16	<i>Breaking the Silence</i>	1994
b. 4, f. 17	Caldwell, Zoe	1991
b. 4, f. 18-19	<i>Children</i>	1974-1977
b. 4, f. 20	<i>Conerico Was Here to Stay</i>	1963-1988
b. 4, f. 21-22	<i>Cop-Out</i>	1968-1969
b. 4, f. 23	Cornell, Katharine	1974-1979

Crimes of the Heart

Production Materials > Crimes of the Heart (continued)

b. 4, f. 24-25	<i>Crimes</i> - Broadway	1981-2000
b. 5, f. 26-27	<i>Crimes</i> clippings	1981-1983
b. 6, f. 28-29	<i>Crimes</i> clippings	1980-1981
b. 6, f. 30	<i>Crimes</i> correspondence	1980-1981
b. 6, f. 31	<i>Crimes</i> - L.A.	1983
b. 6, f. 32	<i>Crimes</i> playbills	1981
<i>Da</i>		
b. 6, f. 33-35	<i>Da</i>	1978
b. 6, f. 36	<i>Da</i> - B'way	1978-1979
b. 6, f. 37	<i>Da</i> (HGT)	1978
b. 6, f. 38	<i>Da</i> playbills	1979-1980
b. 6, f. 39	<i>Da</i> - Tour	1979-1980
b. 6, f. 40	<i>Dancing in the End-Zone</i>	1984-1985
b. 6, f. 41	<i>Diary of a Scoundrel</i>	1956
b. 6, f. 42	<i>Early Morning</i>	1969-1970
b. 6, f. 43	<i>Echoes</i>	1973
<i>The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds</i>		
b. 6, f. 44	<i>Marigolds</i> - Boston	1970-1971
b. 7, f. 45-46	<i>Marigolds</i> clippings	1970-1971
b. 7, f. 47	<i>Marigolds</i> designs	1970-1971
b. 8, f. 48	<i>Marigolds</i> - Detroit	1970-1971
b. 8, f. 49	<i>Marigolds</i> - L.A.	1970-1971
b. 8, f. 50-51	<i>Marigolds</i> - London	1970-1971
b. 8, f. 52-53	<i>Marigolds</i> materials and correspondence	1970-1971
b. 8, f. 54	<i>Marigolds</i> photographs	1970-1971
b. 8, f. 55	<i>Marigolds</i> - San Fran	1970-1971
b. 8, f. 56	<i>Marigolds</i> - San Juan	1970-1971
b. 8, f. 57	<i>Eh?</i>	1966
b. 8, f. 58	<i>Father Uxbridge</i>	1967
b. 8, f. 59	<i>Fugue</i>	1991-1993

Production Materials (continued)

b. 8, f. 60	Gabler, Hedda	1961-1962
b. 8, f. 61	<i>Gingerbread Lady</i>	1995
b. 8, f. 62-63	Goodman Theatre	1960-1961
b. 9, f. 64	<i>Harry and Thelma</i>	1987-1988
b. 9, f. 65	<i>Harvey</i>	1990
b. 9, f. 66	<i>Hide and Seek</i>	1980
b. 9, f. 67	<i>Homecoming</i> - Hartford	1969
b. 9, f. 68	<i>Honor and Offer</i>	1968
b. 9, f. 69-70	Hughes, Barnard	1978-2011
b. 9, f. 71	<i>If! If! If!</i>	1979
b. 9, f. 72-73	<i>Is There Life After High School?</i>	1981-1982
b. 9, f. 74	<i>La Strada</i>	1969
b. 9, f. 75	<i>Lion in Winter</i>	1969
b. 9, f. 76	<i>Littlest Revue</i>	1955-1957
b. 9, f. 77	Lunts	1999-2003
b. 9, f. 78	MB assorted	1955-2008
b. 9, f. 79	<i>The Middle Ages</i>	1978
b. 9, f. 80	<i>Other Voices</i>	1973
b. 9, f. 81	Pinter	1962-1967
b. 9, f. 82	<i>Theatre Guild</i> cruise (ALA)	1984
b. 9, f. 83	<i>Tiny Alice</i>	1964-1965
b. 9, f. 84	<i>A View From the Bridge</i>	1967
b. 9, f. 85	<i>What I Did Last Summer</i>	1982
b. 9, f. 86	<i>Who's Happy Now?</i>	1968

Bound Scripts

This subseries contains copies of scripts and notes for Jan Buttram's *Texas Homos*, Roger Hedden's *Count*, Jerome Kilty's *Margaret Sanger/Unfinished Business*, Jeffrey Kindly's *Is There Life After High School?*, Lezley Havard's *Hide and Seek*, and A.R. Gurney Jr.'s *What I Did Last Summer*, among others.

Arranged alphabetically by author.

b. 10, f. 87	Bernhardt, Melvin. <i>The Piped Piper of Hamelin</i>	undated
b. 10, f. 88	Bond, Edward. <i>Early Morning</i>	undated

Bound Scripts (continued)

b. 10, f. 89	Broad, Jay. <i>In Honored Memory of a Quince Tree</i>	1974
b. 10, f. 90-91	Buttram, Jan. <i>Texas Homos</i>	2003, 2005
b. 11, f. 92	Capote, Truman. <i>Other Voices Other Rooms</i> Adapted for the stage by Anna Marie Barlow.	undated
b. 11, f. 93	Cheever, John. <i>The Shady Hill Kidnapping</i>	undated
b. 11, f. 94-95	Cristofer, Michael. <i>The Blues Are Running</i>	1995-1996
b. 11, f. 96-97	Donahue, Nancy. <i>The Beach House</i>	1985
b. 12, f. 98	Gurney, A. R., Jr. <i>The Middle Ages: A Comedy in Two Acts</i>	undated
b. 12, f. 99	Gurney, A. R., Jr. <i>What I Did Last Summer: A Play in Two Acts</i>	1982 February
b. 12, f. 100	Gurney, A. R., Jr. <i>Children: A Play in Two Acts</i>	1972
b. 12, f. 101	Havard, Lezley. <i>Hide and Seek</i>	1980 March
b. 13, f. 102	Hedden, Roger. <i>The Count</i>	2007
b. 13, f. 103	Heggen, Thomas (w. Joshua Logan). <i>Mister Roberts</i>	undated
b. 13, f. 104	Henley, Beth. <i>Crimes of the Heart</i>	1980-1981
b. 13, f. 105	Kilty, Jerome. <i>Margaret Sanger/Unfinished Business: A Play</i>	1989
b. 14, f. 106-107	Kindley, Jeffrey. <i>Is There Life After High School?</i>	1982
b. 14, f. 108	Leonard, Hugh. <i>Da</i>	1968 May
b. 14, f. 109-110	McCullers, Carson. <i>The Ballad of the Sad Café</i> Adapted for the stage by Edward Albee.	undated
b. 15, f. 111	Peck, Charles K., Jr. <i>La Strada</i> Adapted for the stage by Lionel Bart.	1960s
b. 15, f. 112-113	Peck, Charles K., Jr. <i>La Strada</i> Adapted for the stage by Lionel Bart.	1969
b. 15, f. 114	Poliakoff, Stephen. <i>Breaking the Silence</i>	1984
Other Papers		
This subseries contains financial papers, resumes, certificates, photographs, and other personal papers.		
Arranged alphabetically by file title.		
b. 15, f. 115-116	Headshots and resumes	1974-2004
b. 15, f. 117	Krementz photos	1978
b. 15, f. 118	Other papers	1956-2015

Audiovisual Materials

This subseries contains audiovisual material related to Bernhardt's career as a director.

Arranged under two subheadings: Audiocassettes and Videocassettes. Within each subheading, materials maintain original order.

Audiocassettes

Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 1, [REDACTED] 39002104611174	Barnard Hughes <i>1 Audiocassette 01:34:33 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program begins and ends abruptly. High background noise can be heard. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1986 August 19
b. 1, [REDACTED] 39002104611182	Barnard Hughes (Douglas Hughes) <i>1 Audiocassette 01:30:21 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> High background noise can be heard on the tape. The program ends abruptly. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1986 August 19
b. 1, [REDACTED] 39002104611190	914 <i>1 Audiocassette 00:00:20 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 1, [REDACTED] 39002104611158	Paola Turci - Una sgommata e via / pp. 86-93, chapter 10 <i>1 Audiocassette 00:56:55 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Static can be heard on the tape. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	circa 1995
b. 1, [REDACTED] 39002104611166	Linda Lavin <i>1 Audiocassette 01:12:59 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program ends abruptly. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1987 August 5
b. 1, [REDACTED] 39002104611208	Judd Hirsch <i>1 Audiocassette 01:25:49 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Static can be heard on the tape. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1986 August 6
b. 1, [REDACTED] 39002104611216	Judd Hirsch 2 <i>1 Audiocassette 01:27:25 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Static can be heard on the tape. High background noise is on the tape. The program is distorted at times. The program ends abruptly. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1986 August 28

Audiovisual Materials > Audiocassettes (continued)

b. 1, [] 39002104611240	Joan Rivers <i>1 Audiocassette 00:46:17 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> High background noise can be heard on the tape. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1988 August 31
b. 1, [] 39002104611224	Rosetta LeNoire <i>1 Audiocassette 01:18:50 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program is distorted at times. Static can be heard on the tape. Audio sometimes sounds weak or hollow. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1987 April 9
b. 1, [] 39002104611232	Helen Hayes <i>1 Audiocassette 01:27:22 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Static can be heard on the tape. High background noise is also present. A warble can be heard during the program. The program gradually speeds up and slows down throughout the recording. The program ends abruptly. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1986 August 26
b. 1, [] 39002104611257	Armina Marshall <i>1 Audiocassette 01:34:42 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Static can be heard on the tape. High background noise is present. The program ends abruptly. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1986 May 15
b. 1, [] 39002104611265	Morton Gottlieb <i>1 Audiocassette 01:18:49 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program begins and ends abruptly. Static can be heard on the tape. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1986 April 9
	Videocassettes Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
b. 1, [] 39002104611109	"Of Interest with David Aaron," spotlighting: Melvin Bernhardt <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 00:29:11 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Restricted Fragile Material. Reference copies of audiovisual material may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1987 June 23
b. 1, [] 39002104611117	SSDC Seminar: Jerry Zaks (Cam1 Only) Unedited Master <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 01:24:49 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Audio drop outs can be heard throughout the program. Restricted Fragile Material. Reference copies of audiovisual material may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated

Audiovisual Materials > Videocassettes (continued)

b. 1, [] 39002104611125	SSDC Seminar: Hal Prince (Rough Edit) <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 01:30:34 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program starts abruptly. There are hits in the video at 08:20 and 57:56. Restricted Fragile Material. Reference copies of audiovisual material may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 2, [] 39002104611133	American Theater Wing Seminar - Director / Playwright <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 02:03:39 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Following the seminar, an episode of "The X-Files" television show was recorded. Restricted Fragile Material. Reference copies of audiovisual material may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1997
b. 2, [] 39002104611141	SSDC Seminar: Susan Schulman (Cam1 Only) Unedited Master <i>1 Videocassette (VHS) 01:11:50 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> There are hits in the videotape at 22:17 and 51:30. Restricted Fragile Material. Reference copies of audiovisual material may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated

Series II: July 2019 Acquisition, 1955-1969, undated*0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)*

This series contains various bound scripts relating to Melvin Bernhardt's work as a director.

Arranged alphabetically by author.

b. 16, f. 119	Beckett, Samuel. <i>Play</i>	undated
b. 16, f. 120	Gagliano, Frank. <i>Conerico Was Here to Stay: A Play in Seven Scenes</i>	undated
b. 16, f. 121	Guare, John. <i>Cop-Out</i>	1968 January 14
b. 16, f. 122	Guare, John. <i>Home Fires</i>	1969 February 21
b. 16, f. 123	Guare, John. <i>Blue Leaves</i>	1965
b. 16, f. 124	Guare, John. <i>Muzeeka</i>	1967
b. 16, f. 125	Livings, Henry. <i>Eh?</i>	undated
b. 17, f. 126	Pinter, Harold. <i>A Night Out</i>	undated
b. 17, f. 127	Pirandello, Luigi. <i>Six Characters in Search of An Author</i>	1955
b. 17, f. 128	Pirandello, Luigi. <i>Six Characters in Search of An Author</i>	undated
b. 17, f. 129-130	Shaw, Bernard. <i>Arms and the Man</i>	undated
b. 17, f. 131	Zindel, Paul. <i>The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds</i>	undated
b. 17, f. 132	Zindel, Paul. <i>And Miss Reardon Drinks A Little</i>	undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials
Pencil drawings
Photographs
Playbills
Plays (performed works)
Scripts (documents)

Subjects

Broadway (New York, N.Y.)
Off-Broadway theater
Playwriting
Theater -- United States -- 20th Century
Theater -- United States -- 21st century
Theatrical producers and directors -- United States -- Archives

Occupations

Theatrical producers and directors -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Bernhardt, Melvin (1931-2015)
Guare, John, 1938-
Henley, Beth
Leonard, Hugh
Zindel, Paul