

# Chelsea Theater Center

## Collection Identifier

98\_Chelsea\_Theater\_Center

## Dates

1965 – 1981 inclusive

1966 – 1980 bulk

## Abstract

The Chelsea Theater Center Collection is comprised of photographs, press clippings, promotional materials, programs, and other documents related to the Chelsea Theater Center's ten-year residency at BAM.

## Extent

4 document boxes

## Agency History

The Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), founded in 1861, is a thriving arts center in Brooklyn. Originally conceived as a home for classical music, it quickly broadened to include theater and lectures, and welcomed the star performers of the day. After the original location in Brooklyn Heights was destroyed by fire in 1903, a new theater was built at 30 Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, and the BAM campus has now grown to comprise three buildings. Today, BAM is known as an adventurous multi-arts center with world-renowned programming. It is celebrated for its Next Wave Festival in the fall, which presents contemporary experimental performance, and for its spring season of international theater, dance, and opera. BAM also offers a robust roster of film, a comprehensive Education & Humanities program, and serves an important civic function, hosting numerous community events.

## Historical/Biographical Note

The Chelsea Theater Center was a not-for-profit theater company, founded in 1965 by artistic director Robert Kalfin and dedicated to the production of innovative and lesser-known works. The Chelsea Theater Center experimented with the use of multimedia, revived forgotten historic plays, and presented new, groundbreaking productions from lesser-known playwrights. After presenting its first three seasons in Manhattan, in 1968 the Chelsea Theater Center became a company in residence at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. During its decade-long residency, Chelsea utilized BAM theater and office space and publicity resources while retaining full artistic control over its productions. Chelsea's BAM residency saw the production of shows such as *Candide*, *Slave Ship*, *The Beggar's Opera*, *Saved*, *Tarot*, *The Screens*, *Yentl the Yeshiva Boy*, and *Kaspar*. Both *Candide*

and Yentl moved to Broadway. Chelsea moved back to Manhattan in 1978, although four former Chelsea members - Michael David, Des McAnuff, Sherman Warner, and Edward Strong - remained in Brooklyn and continued to present experimental works at BAM as associate directors of the Dodger Theater. The Dodger Theater received BAM funding and theater space from spring 1978 until March 1980. Due to a lack of funding, the Chelsea Theater Center ended its operations in 1984.

### **Scope & Content**

The Chelsea Theater Center files consist of news clippings (reviews of productions and feature articles), production photographs (including slides and contact sheets), promotional materials (including advertisements and special event materials), and programs from nearly 15 years of Chelsea Theater productions. The files also contain materials such as budget spreadsheets, scripts, actors' kits, and set design plans for certain shows.

### **Arrangement**

Materials are grouped by production and type and arranged in chronological order. Set design plans are flattened and stored separately.

### **Processing Note**

Photographs, contact sheets, and press clippings were removed from binders and, where possible without causing damage, separated from plastic sleeves and glued-on backings. Newspaper clippings were photocopied.

### **Restrictions**

Open to researchers. Appointments are necessary for the use of archival collections.

### **Use Restrictions**

Collection use is subject to all copyright laws. Permission to publish materials must be obtained in writing from the Director of the BAM Hamm Archives. For more information, contact BAM Hamm Archives 1000 Dean Street Brooklyn, NY 11238 Phone: 718.724.8151 Email: slehner@bam.org

### **Provenance**

Received from Museum of the City of New York, 2015.

### **Preferred Citation**

Published citations should take the following form: Identification of item, date (if known); BAM Chelsea Theater Collection, box number, BAM Hamm Archives, Brooklyn Academy of Music.

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[Chelsea Theater Center event "Candide Welcomes Broadway's New Season," October 12, 1974], 1973

[Brochure for Chelsea Theater Center 1973-1974 Season], 1973

[Lewis J. Stadlen as Voltaire in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Maureen Brennan as Cunegonde in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Maureen Brennan as Cunegonde in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Deborah St. Darr as Paquette, Mark Baker as Candide, Lewis J. Stadlen as Dr. Pangloss, and Sam Freed as Maximillian in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Scene from Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Mark Baker as Candide and Maureen Brennan as Cunegonde in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Lewis J. Stadlen as Voltaire in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Mark Baker as Candide in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Sam Freed as Maximillian in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Joe Palmieri as the Baron, Deborah St. Darr as Paquette, and Mary-Pat Green as the Baroness in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Lewis J. Stadlen in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Scene from Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Deborah St. Darr as Pacquet, June Gable as the Old Woman, and Mark Baker as Candide in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Lewis J. Stadlen and Sam Freed in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Mark Baker and Maureen Brennan with audience members in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Mark Baker as Candide and Maureen Brennan as Cunegonde in the Chelsea Theater Center

production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[June Gable as the Old Woman, Deborah St. Darr as Pacquet, and Mark Baker as Candide in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide," BAM Fall Series 1973 and Broadway 1974], 1973

[Invitation to Final Dress Rehearsal for the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide"], 1973

[Brochure for Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide," 1973], 1973

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[Mark Baker, Maureen Brennan, and June Gable in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Mark Baker as Candide and Maureen Brennan as Cunegonde in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

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[Scene from Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Scene from Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Brochure for Chelsea Theater Center 1968-1969 Season], 1968

[Stockard Channing and Jill Clayburg in a scene from the Chelsea Theater production "The Wax Museum" during BAM Spring Series, 1969], April 1969

[Philip Dean in the Chelsea Theater production "Thunder in the Index" during BAM Spring Series, 1969], January 1969

Chelsea Theatre Benefit: The Revolution In Popular Taste & Culture, October 10, 1969

[Sylvia Soares in a scene from the Chelsea Theater production "A Black Quartet: Four Plays" during BAM Spring Series, 1969], April 1969

[Sylvia Soares in a scene from the Chelsea Theater production "A Black Quartet: Four Plays"

during BAM Spring Series, 1969], April 1969

[Brochure for Chelsea Theater Center, Fourth Season, Spring Series, 1969], 1969

[Chelsea Theater Center 1969 Premieres], January 23 – February 1, 1969

[Portrait of Michael David, 1970s], 1970

[Scene from "Slaveship" during BAM Fall Series, 1969], 1969

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[Julia Bovasso as Mother and Robert Jackson as Said in the Chelsea Theater Center of Brooklyn production "The Screens" during BAM Fall Series, 1971], 1971

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[Scene from the Chelsea Theater Center of Brooklyn production "The Screens" during BAM Fall Series, 1971], 1971

[Scene from the Chelsea Theater Center production of "The Beggar's Opera" during BAM Spring Series, 1972], 1972

[Robert Kalfin and Sonia Zomina in rehearsal for the Chelsea Theater Center production "Sunset" during BAM Fall Series, 1972], 1972

[Christopher Lloyd in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Kaspar" during BAM Spring Series, 1973], 1973

[Scene from the Chelsea Theater Center production "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[From left to right, Reid Shelton, George Taylor, Michael Finn and (foreground) Joseph Maher in a scene from Chelsea Theater Center production of "The Contractor", 1973], 1973

[Scene from the Chelsea Theater Center production "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], December 11, 1973 – January 20, 1974

[Scene from the Chelsea Theater Center production "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], December 11, 1973 – January 20, 1974

[Scene from the Chelsea Theater Center production "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], December 11, 1973 – January 20, 1974

[Scene from Chelsea Theater Center production of "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Scene from the Chelsea Theater Center production "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], December 11, 1973 – January 20, 1974

[Scene from a Chelsea Theater Center production, 1974], 1974

[Maureen Brennan, Mark Baker, and June Gable in the Chelsea Theater Center production "Candide" during BAM Fall Series, 1973], 1973

[Handbill from Chelsea Theater Center production of Total Eclipse, Spring 1974], 1974

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[Lani Gerrie Miyazaki and Stephen D. Newman in the Chelsea Theater Center production of "Santa Anita '42 during BAM Spring Series, 1975], 1975

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[Patricia Elliott, Robert Kalfin, Frank Langella for the Chelsea Theater Center production of "The Prince of Homburg" during BAM Fall Series, 1976], 1976

[Frank Langella in Chelsea Theater Center production "The Prince of Homburg" during BAM Fall Series, 1976], 1976

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[Scene from the Chelsea Theater Center production "Crazy Locomotive" during BAM Spring Series, 1977], 1977

[Prudence Wright Holmes and Dwight Schultz in the Chelsea Theater Center production "Crazy Locomotive" during BAM Spring Series, 1977], 1977