

FINDING AID

Accession # XXX-XXX

**The Fred Ebb Collection, 1964 - 2002
Green-Wood Cemetery Archives, Brooklyn, NY.**

This finding aid was prepared by students in the Pratt Institute's MS in Library and Information Science program. Professor Anthony Cucchiara, the College Archivist at Brooklyn College, oversaw the processing of this collection in collaboration with Green-Wood Cemetery. The following students from Pratt Institute who contributed to this collection guide include: Caridad Bojorquez, Jesse Brauner, Grace Danico and Barbara Douglass

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Collection Summary

Title: *The Fred Ebb Collection*

Span Dates: 1964 - 2002

Extent: XX items; 4 boxes; XX linear feet

Language: Collection material in English, German, Italian, Polish and Japanese

Location: The Green-Wood Cemetery Archive: 500 25th Street Brooklyn, NY 11232

Summary: Newspaper and magazine clippings, audio recordings, photographs, ephemera and correspondence relating to Tony Award winning lyricist and composer Fred Ebb and musical partner John Kander, responsible for music relating to Broadway musicals such as *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, *New York, New York*, *The World Goes Round* and *Flora the Red Menace*.

Biographical/Organizational Note

From Ebay listing: Ebb, Fred. (1933–2004). Important Archive of letters, photographs, clippings and ephemera. An important archive from the influential musical theatre lyricist who had many successful collaborations with composer John Kander, and who regularly wrote for such performers as Liza Minnelli and Chita Rivera. Early writing collaborations with Phil Springer for Carmen McRae and Judy Garland (*Heartbroken*, 1953) led Hal Prince to hire Kander and Ebb for their first professional production *Flora the Red Menace*, for which Liza Minnelli won a Tony. Other famous Kander-Ebb collaborations include *Cabaret*, *Chicago* and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. Kander and Ebb also worked with director Martin Scorsese on the film *New York, New York*. This archive includes rare unpublished photographs, correspondence, from some of Ebb's closest associates (Carol Lawrence, Chita Rivera, Liza Minnelli, etc.), his personal clippings from files from the last years of his life, two personal acetate recordings, and a variety of personal and professional ephemera.

Schubertiade Music Online: The collection abstract originated from the Schubertiade Music catalog.

https://www.schubertiademusic.com/details/multiple_catalogs:yes/desc:Ebb%2C+Fred.+%281933+-+2004%29.

About Fred Ebb

- **Born:** April 08, 1933? in New York, New York, United States
- **Died:** September 11, 2004 in Manhattan, New York, United States
- **Nationality:** American
- **Occupation:** Lyricist

Lyricist whose collaboration with the composer John Kander over more than four decades resulted in

some of the most innovative and provocative musical plays in the American theater. Ebb was the youngest of three children of Harry Ebb, a clothing salesman, and Anna Evelyn (Gritz) Ebb. In 1955 he graduated from New York University with a BA in English literature; he then earned an MA in English literature from Columbia University in 1957. Starting with his early years, Ebb demonstrated an enthusiasm for the theater, and he began writing lyrics. In 1962 he met a composer named John Kander. They wrote songs for every available outlet, including cabaret showcases, nightclub acts, and the pop charts.

In addition to their many Tony Awards and nominations, they were jointly honored at the Kennedy Center Honors ceremony in 1998. In April 2005 the Fred Ebb Foundation, in conjunction with the Roundabout Theatre Company, initiated in honor of Ebb an annual award to aspiring musical theater songwriters.

Source: "Fred Ebb." *The Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives*. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2007. *Gale Biography In Context*. Web. 3 Dec. 2012.

About John Kander

- **Born:** March 18, 1927 in Kansas City, Missouri, United States
- **Nationality:** American
- **Occupation:** Composer

John Kander is a composer who has produced award-winning work for theater, film, and television. He is best known for his collaborative efforts with lyricist Fred Ebb. For almost 40 years the partners have produced hits for Broadway, such as *Cabaret*, *Chicago*, and *Kiss of the Spider Woman*. In television they are best known for their musical productions with actress, singer, and dancer Liza Minnelli.

"John Kander." *Contemporary Musicians*. Vol. 33. Detroit: Gale, 2001. *Gale Biography In Context*. Web. 3 Dec. 2012.

Fred Ebb is buried in Plot: Section 20, Lot 43458 at Green-Wood Cemetery, located in Brooklyn, New York. As part of the cemetery's initiative, collections relating to prominent deceased residents of the institution are acquired and will serve as primary resources for academic research.

Scope/Contents

This collection was not the product of an organic process; it was an intentional accumulation of items from various sources (including materials belonging to Fred Ebb) and purchased from an online dealer. The materials in this collection were received in a predetermined arrangement by format. Each series of material in the collection (Correspondence, Photographs, Ephemera and Newspaper Clippings) has its own strong points and shortcomings. Among the correspondence series, there are drafts of letters from Fred Ebb. These drafts include a letter to author Greg Lawrence regarding a book draft for *Colored Lights* (a book by Kander, Ebb, & Lawrence), as well as two pages from *Curtains*, the last play Ebb worked on prior to his death. There are short notes and cards from notable performers such as Rhonda Fleming, Liza Minnelli, Chita Rivera. Miscellaneous correspondence related to Fred Ebb's career, including a congratulatory letter from BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc) regarding an award he won. In the photography

series, many of the subjects can be easily identified due to their celebrity status, but there are virtually no dates or other writing to show when the photographs were taken. Also, the images contain multiple people whose identities are unknown. They could very well be friends/relatives of the featured celebrities, but this is by no means proven. With regard to the ephemera, a random assortment of material owned by Fred Ebb or having some association with his work is included. Some of the material is more loosely connected to his life than others. For example, the art catalogues and artist pamphlets from shows at Midtown Galleries are not directly connected with his work but might be souvenirs from exhibits he attended. The materials that make up the newspaper clipping series relate to articles about Ebb's plays, interviews with actors such as Chita Rivera, press related to award nominations, and play reviews from all over the world. The series contains many newspaper ads, and some articles lack a date and news source. Materials in this series also cover magazine clippings; a Japanese magazine featuring Chita Rivera and her role in *Kiss of the Spider Woman* is also included.

The New York Public Library houses a collection consisting of 85 linear feet (or 107 boxes) of Fred Ebb's papers. Spanning from 1927 all the way to 2004, the collection was contributed to by many of Ebb's colleagues and contemporaries, including Chita Rivera, Liza Minnelli and John Kander. See <http://www.nypl.org/archives/2644> for more information on NYPL's collection

This collection is catalogued at the **Folder level**, with some series catalogued at the item level.

LC Subject Headings

Green-Wood Cemetery--New York, N.Y.

Lyricists--Songwriters

Arrangement

The Fred Ebb Collection is arranged in the following four series:

- *Correspondence*
 - 12 folders organized alphabetically by personal name, individual items are arranged chronologically by date. Includes drafts of letters from Fred Ebb (including a few pages from his final work *Curtains*) in folder 1 and miscellaneous correspondence related to Ebb's career including information related to awards in folder 12. Personal correspondence from notable performers may be found in folders 2-11, performers include: Carol Lawrence, Rhonda Fleming, Liza Minnelli, and Chita Rivera. Notes relating to items of special interest are listed.

- *Photographs*
 - 5 folders containing photographs of notable celebrities such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Rhonda Fleming, Bob Fosse and of course Fred Ebb himself. Although not specifically dated (and in no particular order or arrangement), the images span the course of several

years (possibly several decades). In addition to the famous faces, there are also a great number of people in the photographs that remain unidentified, possibly friends or relatives of the celebrities.

- *Ephemera*
 - 15 folders each containing a variety of related material, with a separate box containing audio recordings. Items owned by Fred Ebb, connected to his cohorts in some way or material related to his work. Ephemera associated with his musicals *Cabaret*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, and *The World Goes Round*, include ticket stubs, invitations, postcards, programs, and playbills. Autographs, business cards, maps, a screenplay, and Superman comic presumably owned by Ebb are also included. A separate container (that remains part of the series) houses audio-reels that should be digitally re-formatted for research access and future preservation.

- *Newspaper clippings*
 - 11 folders. The largest collection of clippings relate to Broadway play *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*, containing national and international reviews. Clippings include articles and advertisements from newspapers such as the New York Times, New York Daily, the Los Angeles Times and Theater Weekly. Written articles relate to plays Ebb and Kander have composed, actors who have performed roles from their works, and articles about the pair themselves. Local versions of plays from University and smaller theaters, including actors, are included. Although catalogued at folder level, notes relating to items of special interest are listed. Celebrity clippings, correspondence, photographs and interviews related to or about: Liza Minnelli, Chita Rivera, Vanessa Williams and Brent Carver are also included.

Copyright/Rights

RESTRICTED- The Green-Wood Cemetery retains physical copyright of all material in this collection. Intellectual copyright remains unknown.

Container List

- *Series 1 : Correspondence*
 - Folder 1 - Fred Ebb
 - Includes two typewritten pages from *Curtains*, the musical Ebb was working on when he died.
 - Includes drafts to author Greg Lawrence regarding a book draft for *Colored Lights* (a book by Kander, Ebb, & Lawrence)
 - Folder 2 - Rhonda Fleming (Actress)
 - Includes a fan letter to Rhonda Fleming
 - Folder 3 - Correspondence between Fred Ebb and Scott Holmes (Actor)
 - Folder 4 - Burton Lane (Composer and Lyricist)
 - Folder 5 - Carol Lawrence (Actress)

- Folder 6 - Abby Lewis (Actress)
 - Folder 7 - Liza Minnelli (Actress)
 - Folder 8 - Dean Pitchford (Lyricist)
 - Folder 9 - Harold Prince (Producer)
 - Folder 10 - Lee Roy Reams (Director, Actor, Choreographer)
 - Folder 11 - Chita Rivera (Actress)
 - Postcard from Greece
 - Folder 12 - Miscellaneous
 - Includes a letter from Theodora Zavin, Senior Vice President and Senior Counsel of BMI regarding an award won by Kander & Ebb
 - 3 personal cards
- **Series 2 : Photographs**
 - **Featured Subjects:**
 - Mikhail Baryshnikov
 - Fred Ebb
 - Rhonda Fleming
 - Bob Fosse
 - Goldie Hawn
 - John Kander
 - Liza Minnelli
 - Chita Rivera
 - **Notes:**
 - Number of photographs on ebay listing “40”, actual number “46.”
 - Each name on ebay listing appears in photographs at least once, but there are multiple people (possibly friends/relatives) that remain unidentified/unlisted.
 - 1 image composed of photograph on one side of paper and poetic composition on the other (side-by-side, not obverse/reverse).
 - Writing on some folders (originals included in boxes)- one had multiple names/phone numbers on the front and another was originally a mailing envelope addressed to Rhonda Fleming (text copied from originals onto acid-free archival folder).
- **Series 3 : Ephemera**
 - Folder 1
 - Watercolor lithographs of color schemes for Adam Ceilings now in the Sir John Soane Museum in London
 - Folder 2

- Midtown Galleries artists' showing ephemera invitations, postcards etc.
- Folder 3
 - Samuel Adler catalogue
 - NY Times article on Francisco Goya February 28, 1972
 - Moshe Raviv artists' statement in English and Hebrew
- Folder 4
 - Collection of 8 highway, tourists, airplane route, and road maps
- Folder 5
 - Lithograph cartoon of the Shubert Theatre with *Chicago* the musical on the marquee
- Folder 6
 - Fred Ebb's business card
 - Fred Ebb's tennis registration card for the city of Los Angeles
 - Stack of business cards
- Folder 7
 - Invitation to "An evening with Liza and Friends, John Kander and Fred Ebb"
 - Liza Minnelli & Charles Aznavour concert tickets (2)
 - Liza Minnelli & Charles Aznavour Carnegie Hall backstage pass reading 6/1 Liza
 - *The Day After That* invitation performed at The United Nations Dec 1, 1993
- Folder 8
 - Field survey for Fred Ebb's property at 901 Strada Vecchia rd LA, CA 90077
- Folder 9
 - Collection of sports players' and others' autographs
 - Willie Reed (NY Knicks)
 - Ron Ely (actor- Tarzan)
 - Walt "Clyde" Frazier (NY Knicks)
 - Joe Garagiola (St. Louis Cardinals - Baseball Hall of Fame)
- Folder 10
 - *Cabaret* musical program from 1992/93 at Teatr Rozrywki w Chorzów, Poland (in Polish)
 - *Cabaret* musical program from 1993 for various Italian theaters (in Italian)
 - Roll of *Cabaret* stickers
- Folder 11
 - *Chicago* musical program from Selwyn College
- Folder 12
 - *The World Goes Round* musical ephemera-- tickets (2); note from Garth Drabinsky; the Bayview Playhouse program; San Diego Civic Theatre program; Broadway program; Broadway poster
 - Watch with *The World Goes Round* in the watch's face and with an inscription

on the back reading "Opening Nite November 10, 1992"

- Folder 13
 - Untitled screenplay in manila envelope
 - Antoinette Perry "Tony" Award invitation enclosure
 - Superman comic no. 296 February 1975
 - Letter for movie funding request addressed to Mr. And Mrs. Kaplan from Munson-Williams Proctor Institute
 - Certificate of merit for painting to Roslyn Kaplan
 - Program for *30 Years / 1964-1994* at Niagara University Theatre
 - Museu du Vieux Marseille pamphlet
 - Invitation for private viewing at Denise René New York
 - Black Bart Studio photographers sticker
 - Old envelope addressed to "Mrs. Gilbert Kerlin 6687 32nd st NW"
- Folder 14
 - *Kiss of the Spider Woman* musical performed on Broadway's ephemera-pamphlet for post-show party; ticket stubs; playbill for the National Theatre Magazine; playbill for the Broadhurst theatre
- Folder 15 (actually a separate box)
 - Sound recordings (2)
- **Series 4 : Newspaper Clippings**
 - Folder 1 - *Cabaret* (play)
 - Version starring Shannon Mulholland at Theater East
 - Various Italian Newspaper clippings in bound folder.
 - Folder 2 - Brent Carver (celebrity)
 - Cover and article in Theater Week 1993-07-05
 - New York Times article by Peter O'Toole
 - Folder 3 - *Chicago* (play)
 - Photocopy of *Chicago* Ad poster
 - Folder 4 - Fred Ebb and John Kander (lyricists/composers)
 - Crossword puzzle
 - Folder 5 - *Flora the Red Menace* (play)
 - February 1990 issue of "Performing Arts Magazine", on page 27
 - Folder 6 - *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (play)
 - Japanese Theater Review issue featuring Chita Rivera on cover
 - Folder 7 - Liza Minnelli (celebrity)
 - Hello! Article of Liza Minnelli at Chita Rivera's daughter's wedding, 1993-08-07
 - Folder 8 - Chita Rivera (celebrity)
 - Gay Time Magazine, 1992-10
 - Folder 9 - Vanessa Williams (celebrity)

- Folder 10 - *The World Goes Round* (play)
- Folder 11 - Miscellaneous
 - *Beckett* (film)
 - Susan Stroman (choreographer)
 - Scott Ellis (director)
 - Theater Week (magazine), 1993-06-14, 1993-07-19