KARAMU HOUSE.
Karamu House collection from the Billops-Hatch Archives, 1925-2007

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Karamu House.
Title: Karamu House collection from the Billops-Hatch Archives, 1925-2007
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1236
Extent: 8.25 linear ft. (17 boxes), 2 oversized papers (OP), and 1 bound volume (BV)
Abstract: Collection of material related to the Karamu House, a neighborhood settlement that was nationally known for its dedication to interracial theater and the arts. The collection includes correspondence, programs, playscripts, reports, clippings, and interviews.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Related Materials in Other Repositories
Russell and Rowena Jelliffe papers and the Karamu House records, Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio.

Related Materials in This Repository
Additional Karamu Theatre playscripts may be found in the Billops-Hatch Archives at Emory University.

Source
Gift, 2002.

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Custodial History
Forms part of the Camille Billops and James V. Hatch Archives at Emory University

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Karamu House collection from the Billops-Hatch Archives, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing
Processed by Susan Potts McDonald, unknown.

Collection Description

Biographical Note
The Karamu House (Cleveland, Ohio) is a neighborhood settlement that became nationally known for its dedication to interracial theater and the arts. It was founded in 1915 by two young white social workers, Rowena Jelliffe and Russell Jelliffe, with the support of the Second Presbyterian Church, but it soon was popularly known as the Playhouse Settlement. The Jelliffes began producing plays with interracial casts in 1917. In 1920, they sponsored the Dumas Dramatic Club, which was renamed the Gilpin Players, after the noted black actor Charles Gilpin in 1922. A theater was acquired adjacent to the settlement in 1927 and named "Karamu," Swahili for "a place of joyful meeting," a name adopted by the entire settlement in 1941.

Scope and Content Note
The collection contains material related to the Karamu House and Theatre from 1925-2007. This artificially created collection created by James V. Hatch and Camille Billops contains correspondence, programs, play scripts, reports, clippings, and interviews related to the Karamu House and the Karamu Theatre.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by record type.
## Container List

### Correspondence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
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### History/Reports/Studies

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Dalva, Harry O., &quot;A Study of Karamu,&quot; February 2, 1952</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jelliffe, Russell W. and Rowena W. Jelliffe, &quot;Proposed Program of the Neighborhoods Association of Cleveland, Ohio,&quot; 1939</td>
</tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jelliffe, Russell W. and Rowena W. Jelliffe, &quot;Suggested Arts and Education Programs Designed to be Included in the Model City Plans for St. Louis, Missouri,&quot; May 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jelliffe, Russell W. and Rowena W. Jelliffe, &quot;Recommended Community Arts Program for Canton, Ohio,&quot; May-June, 1968</td>
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<td>Newald, Cora Geiger, <em>Karamu: 48 Years of Integration through the Arts, 1970</em> [1 of 3]</td>
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<td>Newald, Cora Geiger, <em>Karamu: 48 Years of Integration through the Arts, 1970</em> [2 of 3]</td>
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</table>
Newald, Cora Geiger, *Karamu: 48 Years of Integration through the Arts, 1970 [3 of 3]*


**Personal papers**

Jelliffe, Rowena W. and Russell W., 1925-1992

Spivey, Terrence, 1990-2006

**Interviews**

Rowena, Jelliffe, April 25, 1961 [Interviewer Reuben Silver]

Rowena, Jelliffe and Rusell Jelliffe, May 21, 1961 [Radio Station WABQ]

Rowena, Jelliffe, April 23, 1977 [Interviewer Gail Cohen]

Roger Furman, January 7-10, 1978 [Interviewer Carmen Bell]

Rowena, Jelliffe, December 30, 1982 [Interviewer Gail Cohen]

**Printed material**

Gilpin Players: Brochures, 1938-1940

Gilpin Players: Clippings, 1930-1947

Gilpin Players: Programs, 6th-19th Seasons, 1924?-1940

Annual Report, 1983-1984

Book and Magazine Lists about Karamu House, 1925-1961

Brochures: Activity Schedules, 1958-1996

Brochures: General, undated-1986

Brochures: Season Guides, circa 1958-2004

Certificate: Junior Women's League Special Award (Cleveland, Ohio), November 21, 1964

Clippings, 1941-1982

Clippings, 2003-2006

Fliers, 1974-2003


Photograph, no date

Season Production Lists, 1955-1974

Souvenir Book, Karamu House, 75th Anniversary, 1991

**Programs: Karamu Theatre**

28th Season, 1951-1952

29th Season, 1953-1954
Programs: Karamu Children's Theatre [includes Children's Dance Concerts, Karateens, Karamettes, and Youth Theatre]

Play scripts

Alger, Esther Marion, *Greater Love Hath No Man*

Alger, Esther Marion, *In'ependence*

Alger, Esther Marion, *Tag End*

Allan, Otto, *Hallucinations*

Anderson, Harold, *Smell the Sweet Savor*

Archer, Leonard C., *Study War No Mo’*

Baker, Ruby Bell, *Over-Comin’*

Baker, Ruby Bell, *A Primitive Baptist*

Baker, Ruby Bell, *A Restaurant*

Bancroft, J.W., *This Freedom*

Barley, Anne, *Jungle Mission*

Bateman, S. (Mrs.), *Self* (Act 3 only)

Bein, Albert, *Heavenly Express*

Bennett, Isadora, *Coastwise*

Bennett, Isadora, *Soon Bright Day* [1 of 2]

Bennett, Isadora, *Soon Bright Day* [2 of 2]

Bentkover, Jacob, and Albert Arkules, *Kappala*, 1933

Bethea, Junius, *Upside Down*, 1942

Bond, Frederick W., *Family Affair*
Bontemps, Arna and Countee Cullen, *St. Louis 'Oman or Leaving Time*

Brecht, Bertoldt, *Mother Gut*

Brown, Oscar, Jr., *Oscar, Kicks and Co.*

Brownell, John Charles, *Nothin But Trouble* (Act 1 only)

Burris, Andrew, *You Mus' Be Born Again* (Acts 2 and 3)

Buttitta, Anthony, *Singing Piedmont*, 1936

Carroll, Walter, *Tin Top Valley*, 1947

Chapman-Heath, Tedwell Eric, *Dusky Gods*

Chase, Richard, *Home to Canaan* (with music sheets)

Cobey, Herbert Todd, *The People in the Book*

Cooksey, Curtis, *Miss Starlight*

Courlander, Harold, *Swamp Mud*

Davidson, Gerald, *Fresh Out O' Hebben*

Davis, Bernard, *Dark Corner*

Disney, Loren, *Land of Cotton*

Dodson, Owen, *Doomsday Tale* (Scene 1 only)

Dubois, William, *Haiti*

Edmonds, Randolph, *Earth and Stars*, 1946

Edmonds, Randolph, *The Land of Cotton*

Edmonds, Randolph, *Simon in Cyrene*

English, H.C., *King Cristophe*

Evans, J. Wellington, *The Other Woman*

Eyre, Laurence, *Sazus Matazus*

Fisher, Rudolph, *The Conjure Man Dies*

Flagg, Ann K., *Make No Tarrying*

Fowke, H. Shirley, *Mister Job*

Gold, Michael, *Hoboken Blues*


Gould, Maggy, *Bamboula*

Green, Paul, *Blackbeard*, 1927

Green, Paul, *The No' Count Boy*

Green, Paul, *Roll Sweet Chariot*

Greensfelder, Elmer, *Nobody Knows*

Greggs, Herb D., *Touch a Star*

Hamilton, Roland J., *Crack of the Whip*

Hartman, Jan, *Freeman! Freeman!*, 1967

Henneke, Ben Graf, *Good Old War!*

Hill, Hugh M., *Song for a Broken Horn*, 1952

Howard, Jr., F.E., *Black Jesus*
Hughes, Langston, *Little Ham and Mule Bone* [See Langston Hughes collection]

Hunkins, Eusebia, *Smoky Mountain*

Hurn, Philip, and William Chambers, *Heaven and Hell*, Inc.

Jelliffe, Rowena, *How Come Br'er Rabbit Do No Work*, [A Play for the Children's Theatre, no date]


Jelliffe, Rowena, *Sat'd'y Evenin',* A Play for the Children's Theatre

Jelliffe, Rowena, *Shoes Fer de Feets*, A Play for the Children's Theatre


Julian, Doris, *The Crystal Tree*

Keep Your Fingers Crossed

Landau, Julius, *The Sorrows of Chester Avenue*, 1956

Lawson, John Howard, *Marching Song*

Lee, Edd, *Bread Out of Stones*

Lee, Frank, *Smoke Dreams*

Lengyel, Cornel, *Eden, Inc.*

Lindsay, Powell, *Young Man of Harlem*, 1937

Lucas, Ottis, *Laugh-Sing-and-Pray*, 1935

Mason, Clifford, *Gabriel: The Story of a Slave Rebellion*

Mitchell, Loften, *Land Beyond the River*

Mitchell, Loften, *Star of the Morning*

Mitchell, Sam, *Book-of-Bits-Gags-and-Scenes*

O'Neill, Eugene, *The Emperor Jones*

*The Owl's Nest*


Patterson, McEvoy, *American Primitive*, 1947

Patterson, McEvoy, *Elim*, 1952 [1 of 2]

Patterson, McEvoy, *Elim*, 1952 [2 of 2]

Pawley, Thomas D., *Crispus Attucks*, 1949

Paxton, Dorothy, *It's Better Fo' to Sing*

Perry, Charlotte, and Arnold Sundgaard, *Way up Yonder*

Peterkin, Julia, *Scarlet Sister Mary*

Reed, Daniel, *Black April*

Richardson, Willis, *Compromise*

Riggs, Lynn, *Big Lake*

Rivers, Leon, *Father Seth's Daughter*

Rodman, Selden, and Fleming Macliesh, *The Revolutionists*

Roos, Joanna, *Golden Ladder*
15 4  Ross, John Mac, *Doc's Place*, 1935
15 5  Ross, John Mac, *Strivin’,* 1937
15 6  Rutenborn, Guenter, *The Sign of Jonah*
15 7  Schoenfeld, Bernard C., *Trouble with the Angels*
15 8  Seiler, Conrad, *Darker Brother* [1 of 2]
15 9  Seiler, Conrad, *Darker Brother* [2 of 2]
15 10  Seiler, Conrad, *Sweet Land*
15 11  Shaik, Haleemon V., *House of Eternal Darkness*
15 12  Shine, Theodis, *The Bats out of Hell*
15 13  Shokunbi, Mae Gleaton, *Dream Dust*
15 14  Sklar and Peters, *Stevedore*
16 1  Smith, J.A., *Just Ten Days*
16 3  Stephens, Nan Bagby, *Karamu*
16 4  Stephens, Nan Bagby, *Roseanne*
16 5  Stevens, Thomas Wood, *The Circle of Chalk*
16 6  Torrence, Ridgely, *Rider of Dreams*
16 7  Totheroh, Dan, *Wild Birds*
16 8  Unidentified Karamu
16 9  *Union Play*
16 10  Walker, C. Lester, *Goshen*, 1964
16 11  Watkins, Maurine, *Marshland*
16 12  Williams, Eugene Hummons, *The Return of John Evans*
17 1  World War II Propaganda Play
17 2  Worthington, Walter Coslou, *Pilgrimage*
17 3  Yamazaki, Masakazu, Zeami, 1964
17 4  Zalk, Mark, *Litany for the Man*, 1964

**Scrapbook**

BV1  Gilpin Players and Other Theatre Productions, 1928-1930