

Jesse Hollis Scenic Design Collection
San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum

BIOGRAPHY

During his thirteen year career, Jesse Hollis designed sets for more than eighty productions, mostly for Bay Area theaters. After receiving his master's degree in scenic design from Southern Illinois University, he became design assistant at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, a position he held for two years. In 1975, he moved to San Francisco and slowly found employment as a free-lance designer. Mr. Hollis designed sets for plays (including a number of premiers), musicals, operas, and ballets in both large and small theaters. Among the companies he designed for are the American Conservatory Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, The Lamplighters, Magic Theatre, and the Berkeley (now California) Shakespeare Festival.

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CHRONOLOGY

AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATRE
1985-88

The Doctor's Dilemma
Private Lives
You Never Can Tell
Opera Comique
The Majestic Kid
Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
Golden Boy

OREGON SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
1980-87

Measure for Measure
Crimes of the Heart
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Member of the Wedding
The Majestic Kid
Death of a Salesman
Of Mice and Men

MARIN THEATRE COMPANY
1987

The Guardsman

SACRAMENTO THEATRE COMPANY
1984-86

What the Butler Saw
Joy Solution
"Master Harold"...and the Boys
Twelfth Night
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Dreamhouse
Cold Storage

FORT WORTH OPERA
1985

The Postman Always Rings Twice

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA
1984

The Abduction from the Seraglio

THE LAMPLIGHTERS
1983-85

Countess Maritza
Something's Afoot
The Gondoliers
La Belle Helene

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BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE
1980-84

A Touch of the Poet
Awake and Sing!
The Belle of Amherst
Heartbreak House
Savages
The Cherry Orchard
The Shadow Box
Fallen Angels
Hedda Gabler

BERKELEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
1983

All's Well That Ends Well

CONTRA COSTA MUSICAL THEATRE
1982-83

Cabaret
Oklahoma
Gypsy

FRONT ROW THEATRE COMPANY
1983

The Dolly

CIVIC ARTS THEATRE
1979-82

Arms and the Man
The Hostage
Joe Egg
The Play's the Thing
The Killing of Sister George
California Suite
And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little
A Christmas Carol
On Golden Pond
Once in a Lifetime
The Imaginary Invalid

MAGIC THEATRE
1978-80

Skywheels
True West

SAN FRANCISCO BALLET
1979

The Mistletoe Bride
Tempest Project

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SACRAMENTO MUSIC CIRCUS
1977-78

Damn Yankees
Shenandoah
Paint Your Wagon
Tom Sawyer
Bye, Bye Birdie
The Music Man
Finian's Rainbow
My Fair Lady
Can Can
The Desert Sons

WEST BAY OPERA
1978

The Marriage of Figaro

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
1978

Dialogues of the Carmelites

CALIFORNIA ACTORS THEATRE
1978

Plaza Suite
Butterflies Are Free
Play It Again, Sam
The Owl and the Pussycat
The Fourposter

**SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY
OF MUSIC**
1977

The Barber of Seville

OPERA PICCOLA
1977

The Bear/Un Mari a la Porte
Prima la Musica/L'Heure
Espagnole

MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM
1976

The Tales of Hoffman
L'Ajo nell Imbraccio

JESSE HOLLIS SCENIC DESIGN COLLECTION, 995.027

Three set models for:

1. Awake and Sing!, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 1983
2. All's Well That Ends Well, Berkeley Shakespeare Festival, 1983
3. Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, ACT production, 1987

3 color photographs of the above sets, as actually constructed Box 8

Sketch and floorplan for Ma Rainey's Black Bottom Box 8

Portfolio of sketches and plans for Majestic Kid and Opera Comique, ACT, 1985-88 Box 7

Portfolio of sketches and plans for Oklahoma, Gypsy, and Cabaret, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, 1982-83. Box 1

Portfolio of sketches and plans for Arms and the Man, Civic Arts Rep. , July 1980 and A Christmas Carol, Civic Arts Theatre, W.C., Dec. 1979 Box 3

Portfolio of sketches and plans for Barber of Seville, S.F. Conservatory, 1977; Countess Maritza, The Lamplighters, 1985; Ruddygore Project, The Lamplighters, 1978; The Bear/Un Mari a la Porte, Opera Piccola, 1977; Traviata Project, Western Opera Theatre, 1979; Prima la Musica/L'Heure Espagnole, Opera Piccola, 1977; Marriage of Figaro, West Bay Opera, 1978. Box 4 Box 7

Portfolio of sketches and plans for Heartbreak House and A Touch of the Poet, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 1980-84. Box 2

Portfolio of sketches and plans for Ma Rainey's Black Bottom and The Doctor's Dilemma, American Conservatory Theatre, 1985-88. Box 8

Portfolio of sketches and plans for Awake and Sing, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 1983 and for The Abduction from the Seraglio, SFO Center, 1984. Box 5

Portfolio of sketches and plans for The Guardsman, Marin Theatre Co., 1987 and for Golden Boy, ACT, 1988. Box 4

Portfolio of sketches and plans for The Postman Always Rings Twice, Fort Worth Opera, 1985. Box 5

Portfolio of sketches and plans for Cold Storage, A Midsummer Night's Dream, and Dreamhouse, Sacramento Theatre Company, 1984-86. Box 3

Portfolio of sketches and plans for The Belle of Amherst, The Cherry Orchard, The Shadow Box 9

Box, and Fallen Angels, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 1980-81. Box 9

Portfolio of sketches and plans for Twelfth Night, Master Harold and the Boys, Joy Solution, and What the Butler Saw, Sacramento Theatre Co., 1985-86. Box 4

Portfolio of sketches and plans for You Never Can Tell and Private Lives, American Conservatory Theatre, 1985-88. Box 9

Portfolio of sketches and plans for The Dolly, Front Row Theatre Company, 1983; Skywheels, Magic Theatre, 1979; True West, Magic Theatre, 1980; Plaza Suite, California Actor's Theatre, 1978; Butterflies are Free, California Actor's Theatre, 1978; Play it Again, Sam, California Actor's Theatre, 1978; The Owl and the Pussycat, California Actor's Theatre, 1978; and The Fourposter, California Actor's Theatre, 1978. Box 1

Portfolio of sketches and plans for La Belle Helene, The Gondoliers, and Something's Afoot, The Lamplighters, 1983-85. Box 3

Portfolio of sketches and plans for Dialogues of the Carmelites, Southern Illinois University, 1978 and Once in a Lifetime, Imaginary Invalid, and On Golden Pond, Civic Arts Theatre, 1981-82. Box 6

Portfolio of sketches and plans for Hedda Gabler, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 1980; The Hostage, Joe Egg, And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little, California Suite, The Play's the Thing, Civic Arts Theatre, 1980-82. Box 9

Portfolio of sketches and plans for Savages, Berkeley Repertory Theatre and All's Well That Ends Well, Berkeley Shakespeare Festival, 1983. Box 8

Portfolio of sketches and plans for Mistletoe Bride and Tempest Project, San Francisco Ballet, 1979. Box 6

Roll of sketches for decorations for Hearst Party, Davies Symphony Hall, February 1987.

Roll of sketches for The Postman Always Rings Twice, Fort Worth Opera, 1985. Box 10

Jesse Hollis Collection Container List

Created 4-29-98 by Lee Cox

Names of productions are taken from labels on original containers, checked against collection inventory. Boxes contain floor plans, elevations, sketches, detail drawings, parts of models, swatches, samples, etc. relating to the various productions.

Box 1:

- Skywheels - Magic Theatre
- True West - magic Theatre
- Plaza Suite - Calif. Actor's Theatre
- Butterflies Are Free - Calif. Actor's Theatre
- Play It Again, Sam - Calif. Actor's Theatre
- The Owl and the Pussycat - Calif. Actor's Theatre
- The Four Poster - Calif. Actor's Theatre
- The Dolly - Front Row Theatre Co.
- Oklahoma - Contra Costa Musical Theatre
- Gypsy - Contra Costa Musical Theatre
- Cabaret - Contra Costa Musical Theatre

Box 2:

- Heartbreak House - Berkeley Rep.
- A Touch of the Poet - Berkeley Rep.

Box 3:

- La Belle Helene - Lamplighters
- The Gondoliers - Lamplighters
- Something's Afoot - Lamplighters
- Arms and the Man - Civic Arts Theatre
- A Christmas Carol - Civic Arts Theatre
- Cold Storage - Sacramento Theatre Co.
- Dreamhouse - Sacramento Theatre Co.
- Midsummer Night's Dream - Sacramento Theatre Co.

Box 4:

- The Guardsman - Marin Theatre Co.
- Golden Boy - Americana Conservatory theatre
- Countess Maritza - Lamplighters
- Twelfth Night - Sacramento Theatre Co.
- "Master Harold" ... and the Boys - Sacramento Theatre Co.
- Joy Solution - Sacramento Theatre Co.
- What the Butler Saw - Sacramento Theatre Co.

Box 5:

The Postman Always Rings Twice - Fort Worth Opera
Awake and Sing! - Berkeley Rep.
The Abduction from the Seraglio - San Francisco Opera

Box 6:

Mistletoe Bride - San Francisco Ballet
Tempest Project - San Francisco Ballet
Dialogues of the Carmelites - Southern Illinois Univ.
Once in a Lifetime - Civic Arts Theatre
Imaginary Invalid - Civic Arts Theatre
On Golden Pond - Civic Arts Theatre

Box 7:

The Bear / Un Mari a la Porte - Opera Piccola
Prima la Musicia / L'Heure Espagnole - Opera Piccola
The Marriage of Figaro - West Bay Opera
The Barber of Seville - S.F. Conservatory
Ruddygore Project - Lamplighters
Traviata Project- Western Opera Theatre
Opera Comique - ACT
Majestic Kid - ACT

Box 8:

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom (incl. photo of finished set) - ACT
The Doctor's Dilemma - ACT
All's Well That Ends Well (incl. photo of finished set) - Berkeley Shakespeare Festival
Savages - Berkeley Rep
Photo of finished set of Awake and Sing!

Box 9:

Hedda Gabler -
The Hostage - Civic Arts Theatre
Joe Egg - Civic Arts Theatre
The Plays' the Thing - Civic Arts Theatre
And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little - Civic Arts Theatre
California Suite - Civic Arts Theatre
Fallen Angels - Berkeley Rep.
The Cherry Orchard - Berkeley Rep.
The Shadow Box - Berkeley Rep.
The Belle of Amherst - Berkeley Rep.
You Never Can Tell - ACT
Private Lives - ACT

Box 10: (roll)

The Postman Always Rings Twice - Fort Worth Opera