

Finding Aid for the

Set Still Collection

Art Directors Guild, Library and Archives



ART DIRECTORS GUILD

LOCAL 800 IATSE

Studio City, California

Contact Information:

Art Directors Guild
Library and Archives
11969 Ventura Boulevard
Studio City, CA 91604

Telephone: (818) 762-9995

Processed by:

Tulip Tappenden, Brittany Voller, ADG Interns, June – July 2013

Finding Aid created by Tulip Tappenden and Brittany Voller

Last updated:

07/18/2013

Descriptive Summary

Title

Set Still Collection

Creator

The Art Directors Guild Library and Archives created the collection with photos obtained through donation from the CBS Research Library.

Extent

There are three Hollinger boxes in the collection (1.5 linear ft. [1 Hollinger box = .5 linear feet]). Collection files sit in the Archives Workroom.

Repository

Art Directors Guild, Library and Archives, Studio City, California

Abstract

The collection serves as a historical record of film productions in the mid 20th century. Through collecting and storing this group of set stills we are able to document and preserve the particular styles and developments in artistic direction throughout the middle of the 20th Century. The collection acts as an important record of the design and set decoration for not only the films that shaped our culture, but also, for many of the films, which fell beneath the radar.

The Set Still Collection consists of 492 black and white set stills (92 folders) ranging from 1922 to 1965. However, a substantial amount of archival materials are from films produced in the 1930s and 40s, consisting of an art deco interior style of furniture and architecture. From looking at the images you can witness the recycling of furniture, materials, and props amongst several of the RKO films produced in the early 1930s. The collection includes predominantly images of purely interior set furnishings, however there are some shots of exterior buildings, as well as images in which actors and members of the crew appear amongst the set. There is a small portion of the collection that currently remains unidentified; 15 of which, can be confirmed as RKO productions. The director of each film in this collection varies. However, Lloyd Bacon, Michael Curtiz, Ray Enright, and Louis King, are some of the directors who reappear most frequently. Alternatively, there is a consistent reappearance of credited Art Directors. Anton Grot, Hugh Reticker, Cedric Gibbons, Van Nest Polglase and Robert M. Haas each worked on a large percentage of the films of this collection. For many of the film titles there are two or three credited Art Directors; Van Nest Polglase, being one of the most frequent to be credited beside fellow Art Directors. For some of the film titles, such as *Honor of the Family*, *Lawful Larceny* and *Sergeant Murphy* the attributed Art Director remains unknown. *Draegerman Courage*, *The Angels Wash their Faces*, and *Country Boy* are all film titles that have been adapted from their original titles as seen on the set stills. Through sourcing the production companies of these set stills, we are able to visibly understand the Studio System that existed in the 30s and 40s era of filmmaking and acknowledge the tight group of studios who dominated the industry during this time. Warner Bros. and RKO can be seen to have the widest level of films produced within this particular collection.

Physical Location

The three Hollinger photograph boxes are kept on shelves in the Archives Workroom on the ground floor of the Art Directors Guild in Studio City, California.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction

Any reproduction, distribution, publication, or other commercial use, by any means, is prohibited.

Photocopies, copy prints and digital images can be provided for research purposes only.

The Art Directors Guild makes no claim of ownership and consequently makes no warranties in connection therewith.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is stored on-site at the Art Directors Guild. It is open to research with prior consent. A portion of the photograph collection can be browsed, digitally, via the Art Directors Guild Archives Flickr account at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/79596692@N07/sets/72157631963440695/>

Provenance/ Source of Acquisition

The photographs were acquired through donation from the CBS Research Library.

Preferred Citation

Set Still Collection, Art Directors Guild Library and Archives

Biography/History

The stills were donated from the CBS Research library in Studio City, which, for several years now has remained shut down. The stills were originally interfiled in the clipping files in order of subject. The information regarding CBS's initial sources of the set stills remains unknown. However, a few of the stills have been stamped by Art Directors, such as Anton Grot, which may indicate the original ownership of the images.

Organization and Arrangement

The collection is organized alphabetically by film title. The excel database records the title, date, number of set stills, art director and film director. The three Hollinger boxes are stored in the Archive room at the Art Directors Guild, Studio City. Box 1 contains 189 stills in 36 separate folders. Box 2 holds 157 in 32 folders, and box 3 contains 143 set stills in 23 folders. Each folder records the title and date of its film, and each vary in how many set stills they contain.

Digitization

The images in the collection are partially digitized and stored on the Art Directors Guild Archives Flickr account (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/79596692@N07/sets/72157631963440695/>) with the goal of complete digitization and access through the use of InMagic's software solution Presto. The software currently used in the digitization process was Adobe Photoshop version 8.0. The hardware used was a Canon CanoScan 9000F flatbed scanner.

Related Materials

There are substantial collections related to the Set Still Collection including Film Stills, Television Production Stills, and Personality Files.

The Set Stills Collection includes three boxes (1.5 linear feet [1 Hollinger box = .5 linear feet]) of black and white photographs, the Television Production Stills Collection includes four boxes (1.5 linear feet [1 Hollinger box = .5 linear feet]) of color and black and white photographs, the Personality Files include five file cabinet drawers of color and black and white photographs, negatives and clippings, and the film production stills consist of 13 boxes (1.5 linear feet [1 Hollinger box = .5 linear feet]).

Container List

All materials for the collection are stored in three labeled Hollinger boxes in the Archives Workroom and each box is stored in alphabetical order according to film title. Selected fragile materials have been sleeved in Mylar and placed in their appropriate folder and corresponding box.

Box 1 Set Still Collection

36 Folders

191 Set stills, Black & White

20 Mule Team (1940)

Set stills, 1

50 Million Frenchmen (1931)

Set stills 1

The Angels Wash their Faces (1939)

Set stills, 3

Anne of Green Gables (1934)

Set stills, 18

Another Dawn (1937)

Set stills, 4

Anthony Adverse (1936)

Set stills, 2

Backfire (1950)

Set stills, 5

Bosko's Soda Fountain (1931)

Set stills, 2

Bride of the Regiment (1930)

Set stills, 1

Bullets or Ballots (1936)

Set stills, 3

By your Leave (1934)

Set stills, 20

Cain and Mabel (1936)

Set stills, 2

Casablanca (1942)

Set stills, 27

The Case of the Velvet Claws (1936)

Set stills, 2

Christmas in Connecticut (1945)

Set stills, 1

Confession (1937)

Set stills, 1

Crime School (1938)

Set stills, 1

Christmas in Connecticut (1945)

Set stills, 2

The Cuckoos (1930)

Set stills, 2

Dangerous (1935)

Set stills, 3

Dangerous Corner (1934)

Set stills, 28

The Doughgirls (1944)

Set stills, 1

Draegerman Courage (1937)

Set stills, 2

Expensive Husbands (1937)

Set stills, 1

Female (1933)

Set stills, 2

The Footloose Heiress (1937)

Set stills, 2

Freshman Love (1937)

Set stills, 2

Give Me Your Heart (1936)

Set stills, 1

The Go Getter (1937)

Set stills, 25

God is My Co-Pilot (1945)

Set stills, 1

The Golden Arrow (1936)

Set stills, 1

Gridiron Flash (1934)

Set stills, 14

Haman (1934)

Set stills, 1

Hearts Divided (1936)

Set stills, 5

Hit the Deck (1929)

Set stills, 1

Hollywood Canteen (1944)

Set stills, 1

Honor of the Family (1931)

Set stills, 1

Box 2 Set Still Collection

32 Folders

157 Set stills, Black & White

Horn Blows at Midnight (1945)

Set stills, 3

If I were Free (1933)

Set stills, 33

I Found Stella Parish (1935)

Set stills, 1

In Our Time (1944)

Set stills, 1

Justice After Dark (Unknown)

Set stills, 2

Of Human Bondage (1946)

Set stills, 4

Kentucky Kernels (1934)

Set stills, 17

The Kings Vacation (1933)

Set stills, 5

Lawful Larceny (1930)

Set stills, 4

Little Big Shot (1935)

Set stills, 2

Love begins at 20 (1936)

Set stills, 3

Lucky Partners (1940)

Set stills, 24

Making of O'Malley (1925)

Set stills, 11

Married Pretty and Poor (Unknown)

Set stills, 1

Meanest Gal in Town (1934)

Set stills, 1

Melody for Two (1937)

Set stills, 1

Miss Pacific Fleet (1935)

Set stills, 1

Mr. Farrell (Unknown)

Set stills, 1

Mountain Justice (1937)

Set stills, 2

Murder by An Aristocrat (1936)

Set stills, 1

Murder in the Big House (1942)

Set stills, 6

Murder on the Blackboard (1934)

Set stills, 7

My Blood Runs Cold (1965)

Set stills, 1

My Reputation (1946)

Set stills, 1

Nine Lives is not Enough (1941)

Set stills, 1

No Place To Go (1939)

Set stills, 1

Nobody Lives Forever (1946)

Set stills, 3

Prison Farm (1938)

Set stills, 3

Public Enemy's Wife (1936)

Set stills, 3

Ready, Willing and Able (1937)

Set stills, 2

Box 3 Set Still Collection

24 Folders

144 Set Stills, Black & White

The Red Mill (1927)

Set Stills, 1

The Richest Girl in the World (1934)

Set stills, 29

Roughly Speaking (1945)

Set stills, 1

Secret Service (1931)

Set stills, 1

Sergeant Murphy (1938)

Set stills, 4

Silver Dollar (1932)

Set stills, 1

The Silver Streak (1934)

Set stills, 13

Saturday's Children (1940)

Set stills, 1

The Song of the Flame (1930)

Set stills, 1

Stage Struck (1936)

Set stills, 4

His Supreme Moment (1925)

Set Stills, 1

Swing Your Lady (1938)

Set stills, 4

Three Cheers for the Irish (1940)

Set stills, 1

A Thief in Paradise (1925)

Set stills, 6

Voice of Life (Unknown)

Set stills, 1

The Walking Dead (1936)

Set stills, 4

Wednesday's Child (1934)

Set stills, 9

When the Knighthood was a Flower (1922)

Set stills, 2

The Whip (1928)

Set stills, 3

The World Changes (1933)

Set stills, 1

Wyoming (1940)

Set stills, 2

UNIDENTIFIED

Production Company (RKO)

Production No. 350

Set stills, 1

Production Company (RKO)

Production No. (Unknown)

Set stills, 14

Production Company (20th Century Pictures)

Production No. (Unknown)

Set stills, 1

Production Company (Unknown)

Production No. (Unknown)

Set stills, 40