In Black and White: Photographs of Black Theater by Alix Jeffry

Citation

Permanent link
https://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:HUL.INSTREPOS:37371835

Terms of Use
This article was downloaded from Harvard University’s DASH repository, and is made available under the terms and conditions applicable to Other Posted Material, as set forth at http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:dash.current.terms-of-use#LAA

Share Your Story
The Harvard community has made this article openly available. Please share how this access benefits you. Submit a story.

Accessibility
Alix Jeffry (1929–1993) documented the rise of the Off-Broadway movement in the 1950’s and ’60s, with a focus on the visual history of African American theater. Her archive at Houghton Library represents the definitive visual record of a pivotal period in American theater, including groundbreaking productions of Amiri Baraka’s *Dutchman* and Adrienne Kennedy’s *Funnyhouse of a Negro*, which premiered in 1964 at the height of the civil rights movement. Both plays cast a stark light on the state of race in America and portray with unsettling power the experience of millions of Black Americans for whom the promise of equality was still a lie.

Jeffry went on to photograph many leading Black figures in the performing arts as a freelancer for the *New York Times*. She credited African American artist and activist Lena Horne with encouraging her to pursue a career in photography after Horne invited her backstage to take her picture. In addition to over forty thousand production photos, Jeffry’s archive contains nearly twenty thousand portraits. A few are published here for the first time.

Dale Stinchcomb, Assistant Curator of the Harvard Theatre Collection

The Alix Jeffry Archive was a gift of Frederick R. Koch and Jeffry’s partner, Mary Alice Morris.