

REC 0049 Guide to the motion picture theatre matron license applications, circa 1933 to 1949

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Language: English

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The collection was processed by Barbara Hibbert, 2022-2023. Finding aid by
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New York City Department of Records and Information Services,
Municipal Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	New York City Department of Records and Information Services, Municipal Archives
Creator:	New York (N.Y.). Department of Health
Creator:	New York (N.Y.). Board of Health
Source:	New York (N.Y.). Department of Health
Title:	Motion picture theatre matron license applications, circa 1933 to 1949
ID:	REC 0049
Date [inclusive]:	circa 1933-1949
Physical Description:	37 Cubic Feet 88 half cubic foot boxes and 1 quarter cubic foot box
Language of the Material:	English.
Abstract:	The Motion Picture Theatre Matron License Applications consists of original applications and Board of Health approvals for applicants to become motion picture theatre matrons. The files contain physical exam reports, personal history questionnaires, photographs, renewal applications, and signatures by the Board of Health.

Preferred Citation

Identification of item, date; Motion picture theatre matron license applications, circa 1933 to 1949; REC 0049; Series name; box number; folder number; Municipal Archives, City of New York

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Biographical / Historical

In 1937 the New York City Administrative Code, Chapter 2 of Title 20 (Consumer Affairs) was amended to add a new Subchapter 1 (Motion Picture Exhibitions), licensing motion picture theatres, and a new Subchapter 2 (Admission of Children) to regulate the admission of children to motion picture theatres without adult escorts. In 1943, the City began requiring a

health examination and licensing requirements for motion picture theatre matrons. At some point, New York City theatres no longer required theatre matrons, but the 1937 rules were not repealed by the City until 1995 and the 1943 rules requiring a health examination and licensing requirements were repealed in 2013. In 1990, before the rules were repealed, the New York City Department of Health transferred the theatre matron collection to the New York City Municipal Archives.

Sources

- 1 [Rules for Examination, Licensing and Procedure to Motion Picture Theatre Matrons](#)
- 2 [The City Record, Volume CXL Number 45, Thursday, March 7 2013, Agency Rules, Health and Mental Hygiene](#)

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Content Description

The Motion Picture Theatre Matron License Applications consists of original applications and Board of Health approvals for applicants to become motion picture theatre matrons. The files contain physical exam reports, personal history questionnaires, photographs, renewal applications, and signatures by the Board of Health.

Each application generally includes the name and location of the theatre; a small passport-sized black and white photograph of the applicant; the applicant's name, home address and years lived there; date and place of birth; marital status and name of husband (if married or widowed); names and ages of children; places, dates, and other information regarding past employment; level of education; a brief physical description; and general health questions. Renewal applications contain much less data but still include the applicant's home address and the name and address of the theatre.

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Arrangement

Arranged numerically by permit number.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

New York City Department of Records and Information Services, Municipal Archives

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research. The collection has not been digitized. Original materials can be reviewed onsite at 31 Chambers Street in Manhattan. Please [contact us](#) to arrange access.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection was transferred to the New York City Municipal Archives from the New York City Department of Health in 1990.

Processing Information

The collection was processed by Barbara Hibbert, 2022-2023.

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Controlled Access Headings

- New York (N.Y.)
- Motion picture theaters
- Women employees
- License applications
- New York (N.Y.). Department of Health