



Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center

Ben and Ruth Liman Jazz Films Collection

NMAH.AC.0775

Megan McShea and Wendy Shay

2004

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Ben and Ruth Liman Jazz Films Collection
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0775
Date:	1930s-1940s.
Extent:	1 Cubic foot
Creator:	Carmichael, Hoagy Arnaz, Desi, 1917-1986 Mills Brothers. Calloway, Cab, 1907- Waller, Fats, 1904-1943 Liman, Ruth Liman, Ben James, Harry Horne, Lena Clooney, Rosemary
Language:	English
Summary:	16mm motion picture films, produced in the 1930s and 1940s by various film production companies, documenting performances by jazz and popular music performers, including Cab Calloway, Fats Waller, Lena Horne, the Mills Brothers, and Rosemary Clooney, and others listed below.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Ben and Ruth Liman Jazz Film Collection was donated to the Archives Center in 2001.

Provenance

Ben and Ruth Liman acquired this collection of popular and jazz music films for private use because of personal interest in the music and the performers. The films are musical shorts which were sold for home use by distributors such as Castle Films.

Related Materials

Materials in the Archives Center

Ernie Smith Jazz Film Collection (NMAH.AC.0491)

Smithsonian Jazz Oral History Program Collection (NMAH.AC.0808)

Processing Information

Collection processed by Megan McShea and Wendy Shay, 2004.

Preferred Citation

Ben and Ruth Liman Jazz Film Collection, 1930s-1940s, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

No reference copies exist. If their condition allow the films may be viewed.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Copyright and related intellectual property rights issues may restrict reproduction.

Scope and Contents

Five (5) reels of 16mm motion picture film created in the 1940s by various commercial film production companies, featuring performances by jazz and popular music performers. Individual titles have been assembled into compilation reels by the donor.

Arrangement

1 series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Jazz -- 20th century -- United States

Types of Materials:

Motion pictures (visual works)

Container Listing

- Reel OF 775.1 Rhumboogie , 1943
1 Reel (16mm black and white composite optical track print, 400 ft.)
Corporate Creator: Soundies Distributing Corp. of America (Official Films)
Performer: Maurice Rocco
- Reel OF 775.2 [Musical Shorts – Compilation Reel] , 1940s
1 Reel (16mm black and white composite optical track print, 1665 ft.)
Compilation reel created by donor consisting of:
- 1."Lazy Bones" Corporate Creator: Soundies Distributing Corp. of America (Official Films) Copyright: 1941 Performers: Hoagy Carmichael, Dorothy Dandridge, Peter Ray
 2. "Virginia, Georgia, and Carolina" Corporate Creator: Soundies Distributing Corp. of America Copyright: 1942 Performers: Cab Calloway and His Orchestra
 - 3."The Band Parade" Corporate Creator: Castle Films Copyright: 1949 Performers: Tony Pastor and His Band
 4. "Musical Film Revue" Corporate Creator: Official Films Performers:
 5. "The Band Parade" Corporate Creator: Castle Films Copyright: 1949 Performers: Tommy Tucker and his band.
 6. "Lazy Rhythms" Corporate Creator: Official Films Copyright: Performers: Mills Brothers
 7. "Boogie Woogie Dream" Corporate Creator: Soundies Distributing Corp. of America (Official Films) Copyright: 1944 Performer: Lena Horne
- Reel OF 775.3 [Musical Shorts – Jazz and Western] , 1940s
1 Reel (16mm black and white composite optical track print, 1100 ft.)
Compilation reel created by donor consisting of:
- 1.[No Title] Corporate Creator: Techniprocess Production Copyright: Performers:
 2. "Say Si Si" Corporate Creator: Soundies Distributing Corp. of America Copyright: 1941 Performers:
 3. "Siboney" Corporate Creator: Soundies Distributing Corp. of America Copyright: 1943 Performers: Gerald Marks and his orchestra
 4. "Sweet Hawaiian Dreams" Corporate Creator: Movie Newsreels Copyright: Performers:
 5. "Que Buena es la Conga" Corporate Creator: Soundies Distributing Corp. of America Copyright: 1943 Performers: Herbert Curbelo and his orchestra
 6. "Jazz and Jitters" [Jiveroo] Corporate Creator: Soundies Distributing Corp. of America (Castle Films) Copyright: 1943 Performers: Harry Day, June Taylor dancers, Billy Burt

7. "Breakfast in Rhythm" Corporate Creator: Soundies Distributing Corp. of America (Castle Films) Copyright: 1943 Performers: The Three Chefs

8. "Let's Sing a Western Song" Corporate Creator: Castle Films Copyright: 1934 Performers: Song Titles: "Home On the Range" "Wagon Wheel" "Red River Valley" "Deep In the Heart of Texas"

Reel OF 775.4

[Musical Shorts] , 1940s

1 Reel (16mm black and white composite optical track print, 1500 ft.)

Compilation reel created by donor consisting of:

1."Rhumba New York" Corporate Creator: Soundies Distributing Corp. of America Copyright: 1943 Performer: Caridad Garcia

2. "Trumpet Serenade" Corporate Creator: Universal Copyright: 1942 Performer: Harry James

3. "First Kiss" Corporate Creator: Copyright: Performers:

4. "Ain't Misbehavin'" Corporate Creator: Soundies Distributing Corp. of America Copyright: 1941 Performer: Fats Waller

5. "Blues In the Night" Corporate Creator: Soundies Distributing Corp. of America Copyright: 1942 Performers: Cab Calloway and his orchestra

6. "The Band Parade" Corporate Creator: Castle Films Copyright: Performers: Ted Lewis and his band Song Titles: "Sunny Side of the Street" "Me and My Shadow" "Three Blind Mice" "Isn't She Pretty?" "I'm the Leader of the Band"

7. "The Music Album" Corporate Creator: Castle Films Copyright: Performers: Desi Arnez and his orchestra, Ethel Smith Song Titles: (selections from the film CUBAN PETE, 1946) "Tropical Swing" "The Breeze and I"

Reel OF 775.5

[Unidentified Musical Short] , circa 1942

1 Reel (16mm black and white optical track print, 100 ft.)

This reel is extremely shrunken and has numerous torn sprocket holes as well as other tears. THIS REEL CANNOT BE VIEWED.