

Richard M. Hoover Biography



Richard M. Hoover, - Class of 1965 - 1947 - is an American scenic designer, production designer, and art director for theater, television, and film. The collection represents Hoover's professional work as a scenic designer for theater and as a production designer and art director for television and film. It contains designs, production binders, photographs, sketches, and video recordings related to his career from 1970 to 2011.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Richard Hoover (b. 1947) is an American scenic designer, production designer, and art director for theater, television, and film. He won a Tony Award for scenic design for the Broadway production of *Not About Nightingales* (1999), and is known for his work on the television show *Twin Peaks*.

Hoover received his undergraduate degree at Knox College, and his graduate degree from the University of Minnesota, where he was a McKnight fellow. While in Minnesota, Hoover apprenticed in set design at the Tyrone Guthrie Theater and began designing sets for various theater companies. In addition to the Guthrie Theater, Hoover has designed sets for *The Actors' Gang*, the Geva Theater, and the Mark Taper Forum. His other Broadway credit includes *After the Fall* (2004).

In 1982, Hoover began working on films, first as an art director and then later as a production director. His film credits include *It Takes Two* (1988); *Prime Target* (1989); *Ed Wood* (1994); *Apt Pupil* (1998); *Girl, Interrupted* (1999); *Payback* (1999); and *The Mothman Prophecies* (2002). Hoover developed a long-standing working relationship with actor and director Tim Robbins and was the production director for films Robbins directed including *Bob Roberts* (1992), *Dead Man Walking* (1995), and *Cradle Will Rock* (1999). He also worked on the cult television series *Twin Peaks* (1990-1991) and the television movie *Live From Baghdad* (2002). In addition to film and television series, Hoover has done commercial work for companies such as Acura, Barbie, British Gas, and Budweiser.

Hoover was affiliated with the Lester Polakov Design Studio, later known as the Studio and Forum of Stage Design, and also taught workshops at the Filmschule in Cologne, Germany. He is a member of the Art Directors Guild, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees (IATSE), and Moving Picture Technicians. In addition to his Tony Award, he has won a London Critics Circle Theatre Award and Evening Standard Award for Best Designer and a

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Drama Desk Award for outstanding set design of a play. He was nominated for an Emmy Award for Live From Baghdad (2003).

Hoover is active professionally at the time of this writing (2014) and lives in Los Angeles, California.

SCOPE AND ARRANGEMENT

The collection represents Hoover's professional work as a scenic designer for theater, and a production designer and art director for television and film. It contains designs, production binders, photographs, sketches, and video recordings related to his career from the early 1970s to 2011. The collection is arranged in three series: Theater; Film and Television; and Photograph and Sketch Files. The first two series represent Hoover's work as a scenic designer and as a production director, respectively. While the bulk of the collection consists of production binders and designs, the content within these two formats varies depending on whether Hoover was designing for a staged production or for a film/television production. As a scenic designer, Hoover was primarily in charge of the set, but as a production designer he headed the art department and oversaw all visual elements of a commercial, television show, or film.

The bulk of the collection is composed of set designs, production designs, sketches, and technical designs. The set designs, production designs, and sketches are in pencil, charcoal, and watercolor and depict sets and scenes. The technical designs depict set specifications for staged productions, film sets, and location shooting. Though the collection spans Hoover's entire professional career, the collection particularly documents the theater productions *39 Steps*, *After the Fall*, *Not About Nightingales*, *The Thing About Men*, and *Twelfth Night*; films *Ed Wood*, *It Takes Two*, *Lackawanna Blues*, *Live From Baghdad*, *The Mothman Prophecies*, and *Torch Song Trilogy*; and the television show *Twin Peaks*. This collection also contains electronic records consisting of 139 computer files (117.8 Megabytes). Inquiries regarding electronic records may be directed to the Billy Rose Theatre Division (theatrediv@nypl.org).