

Warren recommended: [A Storm Part Crippling and Part Enchanting](#)

FEB 6

HOME PAGE TODAY'S PAPER VIDEO MOST POPULAR TIMES TOPICS

My Account Welcome, [newbijou](#) Member Center Log Out

The New York Times  
Saturday, April 3, 2010

# Obituaries

Search All NYTimes.com



WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION ARTS STYLE TRAVEL JOBS REAL ESTATE AUTOS

## THEATER COMMUNITY HONORS AUDREY WOOD

By HERBERT MITGANG  
Published: January 16, 1986

The playwrights she had nurtured, the producers she had challenged but who respected her, and hundreds of other members of the theatrical community paid tribute yesterday to Audrey Wood, the doyenne of agents, who died at age 80 on Dec. 27. She had been in a coma since suffering a stroke almost five years ago.

The memorial service for Miss Wood, who grew up around the Palace Theater, which her father, William H. Wood, managed in the early part of the century, was held at the Shubert Theater, hard by Shubert Alley and a few blocks from her longtime home at the Royalton Hotel, on West 44th Street.

Robert Anderson recalled that Miss Wood had tracked him down on a battleship in the Pacific during World War II and informed him, "I'd like to see you, young man." After the war came "Tea and Sympathy" and a dozen other of his plays, under her guidance.

Describing the diminutive agent, Mr. Anderson said: "She was a very vigorous lady, but very susceptible to high winds. She also knew how to hustle producers. She never gave up on a play. She used to say, 'The plays ran for five years in my office and one week on Broadway.' James Mason called her 'a guardian agent.' "

Kay Brown said that in the nearly 40 years spent in adjacent offices at International Creative Management, they had never had a cross word. Nobody remembered Miss Wood raising her voice, although several of the playwrights affectionately recalled her habit of hanging up the telephone before saying "Goodbye."

Murray Schisgal said: "When I first met her, I was terrified. Later, she would call ever few weeks and ask me what I was doing. Imagine - an agent calling you."

Arthur Kopit described her as "magical." Others recalled the major role she had played in putting together the original production of "Porgy and Bess," and how she had guided the career of her most famous playwright, Tennessee Williams.

Producers who offered tributes from the stage included Morton Gottlieb, Roger Stevens, George White and Robert Whitehead. Among her other writer-clients present were David Berry, Diane Kagan, Eve Merriam, Sybil Pearson, Robert Wallstein, Jeff Wanshel, Arnold Weinstein, Max Wilk and Ruth Wolff.

RECOMMEND

TWITTER

E-MAIL

PRINT

REPRINTS

### Politics E-Mail



Keep up with the latest news from Washington with the daily Politics e-mail newsletter. [See Sample](#)  
[warren@newbijou.com](mailto:warren@newbijou.com) [Sign Up](#)  
[Change E-mail Address](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

### MOST POPULAR

E-MAILED BLOGGED VIEWED

- Next Big Thing in English: Knowing They Know That You Know
- On the Runway: Young Trendsetters Streak Their Hair With Gray
- Paul Krugman: Financial Reform 101
- Vatican Priest Likens Criticism Over Abuse to Anti-Semitism
- Financial Tuneup: Retain Your Records No Longer Than You Must
- Growth of Unpaid Internships May Be Illegal, Officials Say
- Cycling Provides a Break for Some With Parkinson's
- 36 Hours in San Antonio
- Pay Garnishments Rise as Debtors Fall Behind
- David Brooks: The Ecstasy of Fiscal Policy

[Go to Complete List >](#)

Recommend

INSIDE NYTIMES.COM



N.Y. / REGION »	OPINION »	TRAVEL »	OPINION » <a href="#">Op-Ed: The End of History</a>	MUSIC »	FASHION & STYLE »
-----------------	-----------	----------	--	---------	-------------------



Recommended: [A Storm Part Crippling and Part Enchanting](#)

FEB 6



[Harlem Arts School Shuts Over Financial Problems](#)



[Allison Arieff: Rebuilding in Haiti](#)



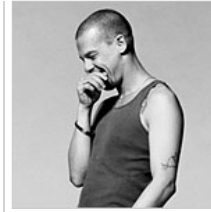
[On Mauritius With a Non-Jet-Set Wallet](#)

### (Books)

For e-books to thrive, the model for permission to use copyrighted material in new work has to be fixed.



[Trustees Find Board Seats Are Still Luxury Items](#)



[Alexander McQueen's Final Bow](#)

[Home](#) | [World](#) | [U.S.](#) | [N.Y. / Region](#) | [Business](#) | [Technology](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Arts](#) | [Style](#) | [Travel](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Autos](#) | [Back to Top](#)

Copyright 2010 The New York Times Company | [Privacy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [First Look](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Site Map](#)