
Guide to the Robert Cohen Papers

Processed by Audrey Pearson; machine-readable finding aid created by Audrey Pearson

Special Collections and Archives

The UCI Libraries

P.O. Box 19557

University of California, Irvine

Irvine, California 92623-9557

Phone: (949) 824-3947

Fax: (949) 824-2472

Email: spcoll@uci.edu

URL: <http://special.lib.uci.edu>

© 2007

The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary

Title: Robert Cohen papers

Date: 1966-2004

Collection Number: MS-P069

Creator: Cohen, Robert, 1938 -

Extent: 7.1 linear feet (16 boxes and 1 oversized folder)

Languages: The collection is in English.

Repository: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.
Irvine, California 92623-9557

Abstract: This collection comprises papers of Robert Cohen, a professor of drama and founding faculty member at the University of California, Irvine. Forty-six production books, which include scripts, reviews, photographs and stage directions, document Cohen's work as director for theater productions at UCI and the Utah and Colorado Shakespeare Festivals. The collection also includes reviews, correspondence, and information about UCI Drama Department alumni.

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Property rights reside with the University of California. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or to publish, please contact the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

Preferred Citation

Robert Cohen Papers. MS-P069. Special Collections and Archives, The UC Irvine Libraries, Irvine, California.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Robert Cohen, 2005. Additions are expected.

Processing History

Processed by Audrey Pearson, 2007.

Biography

Robert Cohen is the founding chair of the University of California, Irvine Drama Department and a renowned professor, director, translator, playwright, essayist, and drama critic. In 2001 he was named Claire Trevor Professor of Drama at UCI. Cohen was born in Washington, D.C. in 1938. As an undergraduate he studied at Dartmouth College and UC Berkeley. After earning his Doctor of Fine Arts at Yale University in 1965, he joined the faculty at UCI.

Over the course of his career, Cohen has directed over 70 stage productions at UCI. He is also the author of many books on theatre, including *Acting One/Acting Two*, *Acting Professionally*, *Acting Power*, *Acting in Shakespeare*, *Theatre*, *More Power To You*, *Creative Play Direction*, *Giraudoux: Three Faces of Destiny*, two dramatic anthologies, and many plays, translations, scholarly articles, and reviews. He has frequently directed productions for the Utah and Colorado Shakespeare Festivals. In 1993 he was awarded the UCI Medal, UCI's highest honor, and in 1999 he received the Career Achievement Award from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education.

Biography/Organization History

1938 Born in Washington, D.C.

1965 Received Doctor of Fine Arts from Yale School of Drama.

1965 Appointed founding chair of UCI's Drama Department.

1967 Founded the Student Repertory Theatre at UCI.

1990 Stepped down as Chair of the Drama Department.

1993 Awarded the UCI Medal.

1999 Received the Career Achievement Award from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education.

2001 Named Claire Trevor Professor of Drama.

2005 Re-appointed Chair of the Drama Department.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

This collection comprises papers of Robert Cohen, a drama professor at the University of California, Irvine. The collection spans his career at UCI, beginning with the opening of the campus in 1965. Forty-six production books, which include scripts, reviews, photographs and stage directions, document Cohen's work as director for theater productions at UCI and the Utah and Colorado Shakespeare Festivals. The collection also includes reviews, correspondence, information about UCI Drama Department alumni, and an unpublished manuscript titled *Edwin Booth in Performance*.

Collection Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series.

Series 1. Production books, 1966-1999. 5.6 linear feet

Series 2. Subject files, 1966-2004. 1.5 linear feet

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

Cohen, Robert, 1938- -- Archives.

University of California, Irvine -- Faculty -- Archives.

University of California, Irvine. Dept. of Drama -- Archives.

Drama -- 20th century -- Study and Teaching -- College and school drama -- Archives.

Genres and Formats of Materials

Theater programs -- 20th century.

Acting editions -- 20th century.

Acting editions -- 21st century.

Costume design drawings -- 20th century.

Photographic prints -- 20th century.

Scripts (documents) -- 20th century.

Occupations

Actors.

Directors.

Professors.

Series 1. Production books 1966-1999

Physical Description: 5.6 linear feet

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains production books for plays directed by Cohen. Most of the plays were staged at UCI, but a few were at other institutions and Shakespearean festivals, as indicated in the inventory. Each book is hardbound and includes some or all of the following: programs, production and publicity photographs, reviews, director's notes, scripts, rehearsal schedules, costume lists, and other details of stage production.

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically by date of production.

Box 1	<i>The Night of the Iguana</i> 1966
Box 1	<i>Oedipus Tyrannos</i> 1967 February
Box 1	<i>The Apollo of Bellac, Play, and The Death of Morris Biedermann</i> 1967 March
Box 2	<i>Six Characters in Search of an Author</i> 1967 April
Box 2	<i>The Hostage</i> 1968 April
Box 2	<i>The Good Woman of Setzuan</i> 1968
Box 2	<i>The Madwoman of Chaillet</i> 1969 May
Box 3	<i>Waiting for Godot</i> 1969

Scope and Content Note

Notebook contains production photographs only. A handwritten note by Cohen indicates that the original production book disappeared in 1970.

Box 3	<i>Cabaret</i> 1971 January
Box 3	<i>Othello</i> 1971 February
Box 4	<i>The Möbius Strip</i> 1971 April
Box 4	<i>Ondine</i> 1972 November

Box 5	<i>After the Fall</i> 1973 December
Box 5	<i>Our Town</i> 1974 November
	Scope and Content Note
	Production staged at the Repertory Company of the Virginia Museum Theatre.
Box 5	<i>Misalliance</i> 1975 May
Box 6	<i>Guys and Dolls</i> 1976 November
Box 6	<i>Butley</i> 1977 February
Box 6	<i>The Three Sisters</i> 1977 June
Box 6	<i>Richard III</i> 1978 May
Box 7	<i>Equus</i> 1980 February
Box 7	<i>Three Penny Opera</i> 1980 November
Box 7	<i>Bourgeois Gentlemen</i> 1982 February
Box 8	<i>Betrayal</i> 1983 February
Box 8	<i>Tokyo Bar</i> 1984 April
Box 8	<i>The Plaie Called Corpus Christi</i> 1985 October
Box 8	<i>Hamlet</i> 1986 February
Box 9	<i>The Plaie Called Corpus Christi Part II: The Nativity</i> 1986 September
Box 9	<i>King Lear</i> 1986 July
	Scope and Content Note
	Production staged at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival.
Box 9	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> 1987 August
	Scope and Content Note
	Production staged at the Utah Shakespeare Festival.
Box 10	<i>The Concluding Episodes of the Plaie Called Corpus Christi: "The Passion," "The Ressurrection," "The Judgement"</i> 1987 September
Box 10	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> 1988 July
	Scope and Content Note
	Production staged at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival.
Box 10-11	<i>The Magic Flute</i> 1989 November
Box 11	<i>The Winter's Tale</i> 1989 July
	Scope and Content Note
	Production staged at the Utah Shakespeare Festival.
Box 11	<i>The N-Town Passion</i> 1990
	Scope and Content Note
	Production of <i>The Plaie Called Corpus Christi</i> , funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.
Box 12	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> 1991 August
	Scope and Content Note
	Production staged at the Beverly Hills Repertory at Theatre Forty.
Box 12	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> 1992 May
Box 12	<i>Macbeth</i> 1996 June
	Scope and Content Note
	Production staged at the Utah Shakespeare Festival.
Box 13	<i>King Lear</i> 1989 January
Box 13	<i>Dangerous Liaisons</i> 1993 April
Box 13	<i>As You Like It</i> 1994 November

Box 13	<p>Suburbia 1996 May</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Production staged at the Graduating Acting Students at the Queensland University of Technology.</p>
Box 14 Box 14	<p>The Misanthrope 1997 January</p> <p>Measure for Measure 1998 July</p> <p>Scope and Content Note</p> <p>Production staged at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival.</p>
Box 14 Box 14	<p>Carmen 1999 February</p> <p>Oklahoma! 1999 April</p>
	<p>Series 2. Subject files 1966-2004, 1967-1999</p> <p>Physical Description: 1.5 linear feet</p> <p>Series Scope and Content Summary</p> <p>This series comprises subject files accumulated by Cohen throughout his career at UCI. Files include correspondence and clippings, articles, materials from the Student Repertory Theatre, and information on the careers of past students. Also included is an unpublished manuscript titled <i>Edwin Booth in Performance</i> and accompanying illustrations and research materials. Booth (1833-1893) was a celebrated American stage actor and brother of the assassin of Abraham Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth.</p> <p>Arrangement</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject or format.</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 1	<p>Advertisements and order forms for Cohen books and productions 1985-1993</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 2	<p>Articles by Cohen</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 3	<p>"Acting at University of California, Irvine" undated</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 4	<p>"Acting power ou la puissance creatrice de l'acteur" 1992</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 5	<p>"Coming of Age in Elsinore" 1988</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 6	<p>"Dragging Carcasses to the Firepit: Acting Theory, Practice, and Pedagogy" undated</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 7	<p>"Quince's Moon--Disfiguring Reality in <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>" 1989</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 8	<p>"Repertory Theatre at Irvine" 1967</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 9	<p>"Shakespeare's Sixteen-Year-Old Hamlet" 1973</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 10	<p>"Some Political Implications of <i>The Madwoman of Chailot</i>" 1968</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 11	<p>"Spoken Dialog in Written Drama" 1984</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 12	<p>"Tears (and Acting) in Shakespeare" 1995</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 13	<p>Miscellaneous 1976, 1987, undated</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 14	<p>Articles on distancing actors from their roles 1999, undated</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 15-20	<p>Biographical information 1986-1992, undated</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 21	<p>Clippings 1967-2004</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 22-27	<p>Conferences and symposiums 1983-1988, 1999</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 28	<p>Correspondence 1967-1999, undated</p>
Box : Folder 15 : 29-31	<p><i>Edwin Booth in Performance</i></p> <p>Bibliography and chronology 1967</p> <p>Manuscript 1967</p>

Box : Folder 15 : **Offprint: "Hamlet as Edwin Booth" 1969**
32

Box : Folder 15 : **Plates 1967**
33-34

Box : Folder 15 : **Plate captions 1967**
35

Box : Folder 15 : **Lectures and talks 1987, undated**
36

Box : Folder 15 : **McCulloch, Samuel: interview transcript 1990**
37

Box : Folder 15 : **Photographs undated**
38

Box : Folder 15 : **Play reviews 1986-1989**
39

Box : Folder **Poster: *The Prince* 2001**
FB-063 : 4

Box : Folder 15 : **Programs 1962-1968, 1999, undated**
40-41

Box : Folder 15 : **Reviews and citations lists 1986-1992**
42

Box : Folder 16: 1 **Student's Repertory Theatre (UCI)**
 Audition materials 1967
 Clippings
Box : Folder 16 : 2 **General 1967**
Box : Folder 16 : 3 ***Oedipus* 1967**
Box : Folder 16 : 4 **One acts 1967**
Box : Folder 16 : 5 ***Six Characters* 1967**
Box : Folder 16 : 6 **Tours 1967**
Box : Folder 16 : 7 **Exercises 1967**
Box : Folder 16 : 8 **Photographs 1967**
Box : Folder 16 : **Posters 1967**
9, FB-063 : 4

Box : Folder 16 : **Press releases 1966-1967**
10

Box : Folder 16 : **Schedules 1966-1967**
11

Box : Folder 16 : **Tour business materials 1967**
12

Box : Folder 16 : **UCI graduates**
 Filmographies, headshots, and other materials 1997-2003, undated
13-15

Box : Folder 16 : **Photographs undated**
16

Box : Folder 16 : **Writings dedicated to Cohen 1983-1984**
17