**Don’t forget these Theatre Collection events!**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th January</td>
<td>Volunteer Afternoon at the Theatre Collection. 2.00-4.30 pm. Tea and cakes provided! BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL. Contact Jo Elsworth on 0117 331 5086</td>
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<td>Thursday 8th February</td>
<td>Talk by Fran Birch of the Theatres Trust in association with Heritage Lottery Fund &quot;History of Theatres from 1750 to 2000&quot; 5:30 pm in the Wickham Theatre. Fran will present a brief history of theatres in the UK, illustrating the story through an introduction to the Trust's information resources.</td>
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<td>Wednesday 14th February</td>
<td>Julia Trevelyan Oman Archive. Amanda Goode, Project Archivist, will use examples from the archive to illustrate Julia’s career as one of Britain’s leading designers for theatre, ballet and opera. 2-3pm. Places are limited. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL. Contact Jo Elsworth on 0117 331 5086</td>
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**Acquisition of the Live Art Archives**

The Theatre Collection has extended its role as a highly valued research centre into the area of contemporary performance through the acquisition of the Live Art Archives which transferred to Bristol from Nottingham Trent University in January 2006. The Archives are a unique collection of performance materials, which include the National Review of Live Art Archive, Digital Performance Archive, Performance magazine and a wide range of other audio-visual and printed materials. Established in 1994, they provide a fascinating insight into the establishment and development of performance/live art in the late 20th and early 21st century. Further information on the Live Art Archives is available on the Theatre Collection website and/or by contacting us at liveart-archives@bristol.ac.uk

Moving into the Future ……….. Following the acquisition of the Live Art Archives, the Theatre Collection is now working in partnership with the Drama Department on an exciting and innovative Arts and Humanities Research Council funded 3 year project to digitally preserve the National Review of Live Art Video Archive for posterity...
Amanda Goode, Project Archivist, completed the cataloguing of the Glynne Wickham bequest in November 2005. Over 1500 catalogue entries were made, and approximately 2500 books were added to the library.

The Theatre Collection, in conjunction with the Centre for Medieval Studies, held a very successful launch event in May 2006 which was attended by Professor Wickham’s widow, Hesel, and family. The archive, which is an important source for Medieval, Tudor and Jacobean drama, has already been widely consulted by students.

Thanks to the University of Bristol Annual Fund for funding this project.

Do’s for Men, by a Man
Don’t go on the stage for a lazy life.
Don’t go on the stage if you have no ability.
Don’t go on the stage with appearance and no brains.
Don’t tell everybody you are the greatest Actor.
Don’t think the Art of Acting is ever completely learned.
Don’t be effeminate.
Don’t bluff, bluster or bully.
Don’t think women love “boasters”.
Don’t forget a woman loves a Cavalier.
Don’t be anything but manly.
Don’t pose and don’t think you are a lady killer.
Don’t neglect your appearance; on the other hand
Don’t be dandyish.
Don’t drink for the sake of drinking.
Don’t become lazy, and
Don’t let your brain get rusty.
Don’t fail to read good books.
Don’t fail to learn from all you see.
Don’t fail to learn from the masters of your Art.
Don’t neglect deep breathing and your vocal exercises.
Don’t think anything is got without effort.
Don’t be offended at being told by one who knows.
Don’t be discourteous to anyone.
Don’t spend more than you can afford.
Don’t become a gambler – someone else may win.
Don’t think you know all the secrets of the race course.

Do’s for Ladies, by a Mere Man
Don’t go on the stage just to please your vanity.
Don’t think the stage an easy life.
Don’t lose interest.
Don’t be disheartened.
Don’t neglect your appearance.
Don’t encourage untidy habits.
Don’t pose.
Don’t drink.
Don’t be unkind or unreasonable.
Don’t let flattery sway you.
Don’t get slangy.
Don’t raise your voice – it attracts attention.
Don’t smoke too much – if you do smoke
Don’t inhale – it ruins your voice.
Don’t wear such small shoes that you hobble as if on stilts.
Don’t bee “mannish”.
Don’t overdo make-up in the street, with glaring red lips and pearly powdered nose, it destroys your natural charm.
Don’t wear glaring, gaudy colours that not only
Don’t suit you, but do draw attention – such attention is not flattering.
Don’t dye your hair some glaring colour that does not suit you.
Don’t dye it at all.
Don’t powder your sunburnt face.
DO BE NATURAL!
Exciting New Initiative for the Theatre Collection

The Theatre Collection, in conjunction with the Department of Drama has proposed plans for a new Research Centre which will include state-of-the-art purpose-built archive storage for the Collection, and dedicated exhibition space. Much of 2006 has been spent exploring the options available and undertaking a feasibility study with architects. The University will decide whether to go ahead in early 2007. We’ll keep you up to date with progress!

New Staff

Bex Carrington joined the Theatre Collection as Assistant Keeper (Live Art), having transferred from Nottingham Trent University with the Live Art Archives where she was Project Manager for the Performance Arts Research Unit. Hannah Hervé-Petts joined us in August as the Visualising Theatre Imaging Project Officer and will be with us until the end of March working on the ‘Illumination: magic lantern slide project’.

TC Acquisitions 2006


DON'T PUT YOUR DAUGHTER ON THE STAGE!

During the 1920’s a series of booklets entitled *The Bransby Williams Course of Acting* were published. In these booklets the actor, Bransby Williams, undertook to educate and enlighten any would-be actors about every aspect of the profession they were entering. The booklets formed a series of lessons and covered everything from monologues to make-up and ambition to appearance.

In Lesson 10 Williams summarised his advice in two lists - for men and "ladies". The lists make very interesting reading for anyone who has ever contemplated treading the boards!

Friends AGM

This year’s Friends AGM was held on 14 November 2006. Friends may be interested to know that two of the speakers from 2005 and 2006 have recently had books published:


Professor Pamela King, Professor of Medieval Studies, University of Bristol Faculty of Arts, has had her book entitled ‘The York Mystery Cycle and the Worship of the City’ published by D. S. Brewer as part of the Westfield Medieval Studies series (ISBN 184384098 7). Pam has generously donated a copy to the Theatre Collection library.

Visualising Theatre Project

The Visualising Theatre project aims to unlock the Theatre Collection’s archive for educational use using digital technologies to provide an accessible on-line picture library. Building on the success of the current on-line catalogue and search facility, this project digitised more than 1000 examples of the visual holdings (photographs, designs, artwork etc) to enable students and other users to view the items via the internet. Researchers of many disciplines will benefit by having easier access to an important resource for education and research uses. The resource will be available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. All the digitised images are licensed as free to use for educational purposes. Digitising rare and sometimes fragile items will also help to protect and preserve them for future generations.

The project was carried out as an Arts and Business Skills Banks Scheme, and was funded by the Museums, Libraries and Archives South West, the Alumni Foundation, the Vice Chancellor’s Strategic Fund and the Faculty of Arts Research Director’s Fund. For further information, and to access the online picture library, go to www.bristol.ac.uk/theatrecollection
Following a range of speculation in the press, this is the official position concerning closure of the Theatre Museum's Covent Garden site:

The Covent Garden premises will close to the general public on 7 January 2007. The Museum will continue to run its usual education workshops and other activities for groups at its Covent Garden site until August 2007. The Museum's collections will be maintained as usual at the V&A Collections Centre at Blythe Road, W14 (Olympia), where research facilities are provided. The Theatre Museum will continue to fulfil its remit as the national collection of the performing arts and to seek acquisitions and donations to enhance the collections which are of international importance.

The V&A will be developing a new performance display at South Kensington and the Theatre Museum will also be ensuring greater access to the collections (including the National Video Archive of Performance) through national touring exhibitions, on-line publications and digital projects, and maintenance of research facilities.

To add to the huge mailbag already received by the V&A we wrote our own letter of protest (22 March) on behalf of the Friends. We stressed that the Museum was in exactly the right location at the heart of London's historic Theatre land and incorporating it into the V&A would diminish its importance. In April the V&A issued a 'consultation paper' outlining the two options open: one was a possible merger with the Royal Opera House - eventually deemed to be unviable. (For the information of those wondering why the National Heritage Lottery fund did not cough up: two applications were made, but turned down on the grounds that investment in the building, which is held on a lease which expires in 2028, would not represent 'value for money'). Now at the eleventh hour the big guns are being lined up; high profile figures in the Industry have united in a last ditch attempt to save the Museum from closure; a new association, Guardians of the TM, has been convened by Save London's Theatres Campaign who seek 100,000 signatures on a petition to be presented before January 2007. You can access it online at the following address: www.theatremuseumguardians.org

Your Theatre Museum needs your signature NOW!

Marion Reed 30/11/06

One of the most valuable ways in which Friends can help the TC is by giving time. Exciting and important initiatives, such as the Oral History Project, would not have happened without the Friends, who have helped to complete and transcribe almost 50 interviews with actors, directors, set designers and all kinds of theatre practitioners whose careers have been shaped by Bristol.

While not all volunteers' activities are as exciting as the Oral History project, they are nevertheless of enormous importance to TC, and our aim is to make even the more routine jobs enjoyable for everyone by bringing Friends together to help out. Even programme numbering and sorting can be fun when punctuated by coffee, cake and a chat about productions we’ve seen – good and bad and ugly!

Volunteer Days are not only a more enjoyable way for Friends to get involved but they are particularly helpful for Jo and the team, who can prioritise a list of much needed jobs for us to tackle.

If you would like to help out at the TC, learn what is happening there, meet other Friends and have some cake, then please do give Jo a ring and book in on one of the following sessions:

- Wednesday 17th January 2-4 pm
- Wednesday 4th April 2-4 pm
- Wednesday 27th June 2-4 pm
- Wednesday 26th September 2-4 pm

Hope to see you there!

Philippa Neaverson
Secretary

PAULA SPIELMAN

We are sad to report the death of Paula Spielman, a long time supporter of the Theatre Collection. Friends will be interested to know that in her will, she bequeathed her Theatre Royal Bristol token to the Friends, and that it is now held in the safekeeping of the Theatre Collection.

Theatre Royal Bristol, Token May 1766