**New Accessions**

Recent highlights include:
- The Rosalinde Fuller Collection [donated by The University of Wyoming]
- The Dorothea Fernandez Hodge Lantern Slide Collection [donated by Maureen Armstrong]
- Costume and Set Designs by Owen Paul Smyth [donated by Di Homer]
- The Moving Target Theatre Company Archives [donated by Alison Sterling]
- The queerupnorth Video Archive [donated by queerupnorth]

**Forthcoming Events**

- **Theatre Collection AGM**
  - Monday 3rd December
  - 5.30 for 6.00 pm

- **Volunteer Sessions**
  - Wednesday 2nd April 2008 (afternoon)
  - Tuesday 24th June 2008 (morning)

- **Friends Event**
  - Hamlet at the Tobacco Factory
  - Tuesday 25th March 2008

- **Christmas Closing Dates**

  Please note that the Theatre Collection will be closed from Friday 21st December to Friday 4th January 2008 (inclusive).

  **Have a very Happy Christmas!**

**Research Centre plans move a step closer.**

The Drama Department/Theatre Collection plans for a new post-graduate research centre, alongside a state of the art archive facility and a dedicated museum space for the Theatre Collection are progressing well. The facilities will meet national standards for archives and museums and also provide a publicly accessible exhibition gallery. The project has the support of the University and has now passed several of the key approval stages. Additionally, it has the backing of the University Centenary Campaign which will be fundraising £1.5M toward this ambitious £13m project. A full progress report will appear in the Spring newsletter.
There are good luck messages sent in 1834 to Sarah Desmond Macready when she took over the lease of the Bristol Theatre Royal, after the death of her husband William "Mac" Macready. There is also a love letter written in 1843 to Sarah’s step-daughter Mazzarina by her future husband John Henry Chute, in which he remembers:

“Ah Bristol, dear Bristol comes full upon my mind with pleasant recollections, delightful associations and sweet remembrances to remind me that I was once happy.”

In addition, letters from important figures of the day include some from Tim Healey, the first governor-general of the Irish Free State, the Pre-Raphaelite artist Sir John Everett Millais, and the novelist Mary St Leger Harrison who wrote under the pseudonym of Lucas Malet.

The digitised letters can be viewed at the University of Bristol’s Theatre Collection online. Many thanks to Rachel for all her hard work in making these available.

Dr Catherine Hindson, lecturer in Performance Studies, who has recently arrived in the department of Drama.

Catherine writes:

“My research interests connect with much of the material that is held by the Theatre Collection. My recent work has focused on popular female performance in London and Paris at the turn of the twentieth century.

I have explored the importance of dance, song and impersonation to women in developing their own performance practice and, crucially, in making a living. A book covering this subject has just been produced (Female Performance Practice on the Fin-de-siècle Stages of London and Paris) and a copy has been deposited in the collection’s library.

My interests are now being focused on the Beerbohm Tree Collection: a diverse body of material that includes contracts, letters, programmes, clippings, costume designs, calling cards, bills, notebooks and prompt books. These ephemeral objects can tell us much about what drove and influenced cultural production in this period and are fascinating for anyone interested in performance in this period. I look forward to meeting you all.”

Dr Catherine Hindson, 2007

Catherine will be talking at this year’s AGM.

Welcome back to the previous Keeper of the Theatre Collection, Sarah Cuthill, who is working on the Herbert Beerbohm Tree Collection letters. This short project is jointly funded by the Arts Faculty Research Director’s Fund and the Theatre Collection and Sarah is working closely with Dr Catherine Hindson.

Hello to Anna Fineman who has joined us for work experience. Anna has just completed an MA in Art Gallery and Museum Studies at the University of Manchester.
Exhibitionists - Unlocking the Theatrical Archive through Performance

Final year drama students have been seen (and heard!) in the Theatre Collection applying their new archive interpretation and museum theatre skills. They have been preparing material for a Review style performance that will use songs, sketches and speciality acts typical of the interwar period to "provoke, relate and reveal" the various political, cultural, economic and professional contexts of objects that they have chosen to interpret.

The performance will take place in the Wickham Theatre on Friday 18th and Saturday 19th January 2008, with a matinee on Saturday. Tickets will be available from St George's box office (0845 4024001) from Monday 3rd December, priced £4 (£3 concessions).

Did you know ...........?

The amount of digital data held by the Theatre Collection is greater than the University of Bristol Meteorology and Particle Physicists' departments.

* Ira Aldridge
* The Arnold Ridley Collection
* The Eric Jones Evans Collection
* The John Perry Collection
* Tyntesfield

Also inspiring creative, informative and entertaining interpretations are Olivier’s gloves from The Entertainer, old make-up boxes, production photographs, and programmes from the Intimate Reviews staged at The Ambassadors.

Collections and themes that they have been investigating so far are wide ranging and include:

* Ira Aldridge
* The Arnold Ridley Collection
* The Eric Jones Evans Collection
* The John Perry Collection
* Tyntesfield

Any Questions ..........?

The Theatre Collection dealt with 66 research enquiries from July to the end of September 2007. Subjects included the history of acting styles, the origins of the Trilby hat and Malcolm Arnold's score for the London Old Vic's 1953 production of 'The Tempest'. We also had 327 visitors this quarter.

Professor George Brandt

George W Brandt
Emeritus Professor of Drama
1920—2007

It was with great sadness that the Theatre Collection received news of the death of Professor George Brandt on 24th September 2007. Professor Brandt joined the Drama Department at the University of Bristol in 1951, and during his 35 years on its staff, during which he served as Head of Department over a number of years, he shaped much of its policy. Among George's many achievements was the introduction of film studies to British universities, and he made Bristol the pioneer in the study of film and television, including creating the first practical postgraduate course in film production at a British University. Since his retirement he had continued to be a staunch and loyal supporter of the Department, the Theatre Collection, and the Theatre Collection Friends, and he will be very much missed. Our thoughts and best wishes go to George’s wife, Toni, and his children and grandchildren at this sad time.

A tribute to George, his life and career, by Professor Martin White and John Adams can be found on the University of Bristol web page at http://www.bris.ac.uk/news/2007/5674.html

A memorial service for George will be held on Sunday 8th June 2008, from 2.30 - 4.30 pm. Please contact the Theatre Collection for more information.

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The Theatre Collection has recently acquired the queerupnorth Video Archive to complement the Live Art Archives. Since its inception in 1992, the queerupnorth festival has been redefining queer culture. Challenging stereotypical notions of 'queer', the festival has embraced every conceivable art form from hip hop to puppetry and everything in between, pushing at the frontiers of creativity and sexuality. Attracting dozens of major international artists to Manchester, it has helped to establish the North West as a major hub of queer and alternative culture. For further information on the festival, visit the official web-site at queerupnorth.com.

Great Western Research Project
PERFORMING THE ARCHIVE: Works Past to Present 2
ARNOLFINI, BRISTOL
14th December, 7.30pm
Renowned live artist Franko B will screen extracts from his past performances, selected from the Live Art Archives. He will revisit them publicly, in critical dialogue with writer and researcher Jennifer Doyle, using video as a spur to memories and meanings. Contact Bex on 0117 33 15186 for more details.

The next National Review of Live Art Festival will be held in Glasgow from 6th - 10th February 2008. More details are available at http://www.newmoves.co.uk/nrlaintroduction.aspx

Volunteer News
Volunteer Afternoons
Why not come along and help out in the Theatre Collection while meeting other Friends?
The next practical work sessions for sorting programmes are on:

- Wednesday 2nd April 2008 (afternoon)
- Tuesday 24th June 2008 (morning)

Tea and cake are provided. Phone Jo on 0117 33 15086 for more details.

Library News
Unlocking the Archives
Don't forget that the Theatre Collection contains an extensive reference library of over 13,000 theatre related books and plays which, in addition to being of general interest, also act as a key to access and help interpret much of our archival material.

TC Exhibition News
Images of Sarah Siddons
3 Dec 2007 – 29 Feb 2008
Monday - Friday
10am - 3pm
at 21 Park Row, Bristol
Sarah Siddons was one of the most successful actors of the eighteenth century. It was at the Theatre Royal in Bath that she established her reputation, and outstanding performances in Bath and at Bristol’s Theatre Royal elevated her to iconic status. Through such celebrity, Siddons became a popular subject for artists. This exhibition is an opportunity to explore the Theatre Collection’s diverse range of works representing Siddons, on display together for the first time. Siddons excelled in roles of Shakespearean tragedy, and artworks depicting her in character as Lady Macbeth and Queen Katharine in Henry VIII will be exhibited.
Heartfelt Thanks

Many thanks to Marion Reed for her exciting and informative talk entitled ‘Playhouse Creatures: 18th Century Actors and Theatres in Bath and Bristol’ on 12th September. The event, presented in conjunction with the Bristol Magpies was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Friends Event

Hamlet

Tuesday 25th March 2008

The Friends of the Theatre Collection have arranged an evening visit to see Hamlet, part of the 2008 Shakespeare at the Tobacco Factory season. The play is directed by Jonathan Miller. There will be a post-show talk and refreshments for Friends.

Contact us on 0117 33 15186 for further details

WANTED

Student Rep

The Friends are looking for a student representative to sit on the Friends Council. If you are a student who is interested in having a say in what the Friends do and want to get involved, please ask Jo, Rachel or Bex for further information. We need you!

From the Archive ...

Dear Maud.....

The following is an extract of a letter from Constance Beerbohm (Tree’s sister) to Maud Beerbohm Tree (his wife):

April 6th Saturday

“I can’t tell you the excitement there’s been over this appalling [sic] case. Nobody is reticent. Everybody talks of it. Imagine what I felt when I saw Herbert’s name put in; though of course I didn’t mind when I read it. I hoped no one would think he had even [sic] done a friendly act towards Oscar Wilde. However, the next day the Judge & both barristers spoke so nicely in court of the propriety with which he had acted. It is all too terrible. And though one wishes Oscar Wilde kept away from the rest of the world, it shocks me so when one hears of his annihilation & his arrest like a criminal. I can do nothing but think of good Mrs Wilde & all her belief & affection for him.

I suppose you’ve read Irving has engaged the American actress Julia Arthur to share roles with Ellen Terry, such as Rosamund in Becket & Hero in “Much Ado” & so on - Is it not a very new move? - Alexander goes on with his farce, notwithstanding everything at present & the public feeling against Oscar Wilde. I can’t make out whether Forbes Robertson is going to have Marion Terry or Kate Rorke at the Lyceum in September when Jones’ play is to be given—”

Transcribed by Sarah Cuthill

Arnold Ridley Archive

now available online

The archive of Arnold Ridley OBE (1896-1984) can now be searched via the Theatre Collection’s online catalogue [http://www.bris.ac.uk/theatrecollection].
FRIENDS OF THE THEATRE COLLECTION
AGM
Monday 3rd December 2007, 6 pm
In The Brandt Cinema,
University of Bristol Drama Department
This year’s guest speaker is Dr Catherine Hindson, Lecturer in Performance Studies, who will give a talk on ‘Magicians and Illusion in Late 19th Century Performance’

Friends News

New cards

The Friends have produced a new range of cards from original material held in the Theatre Collection.

Nutcracker: Sleigh. Design by David Walker.

The cards are available in blank and Christmas versions, and the Hippodrome design is also available as a postcard. Please see the enclosed leaflet and order form for more information.

New Display Case Arrives!
To celebrate their 30th Anniversary, the Friends of the Theatre Collection have made a very generous donation towards a large, museum standard display case. Sited in the Theatre Collection entrance foyer, the case will provide a much needed permanent display area to showcase the Theatre Collection’s holdings.

Laurence Olivier’s (signed) gloves from The Entertainer 1957
Pre-ordered cards can be collected at the AGM.

Tosca, Bristol Hippodrome. Design by Trevor Haddrill, 2006

Friends News

Cards continued …….