**New Accessions**

*Recent highlights include:*

- Bodies in Flight Archive [donated by Simon Jones]
- Joe Aveline Archive [donated by Joe Aveline]
- Frederick Norton Archive [purchased from Eva Hornstein]
- Phil Smith Archive [donated by Phil Smith]
- Miriam Karlin Archive [donated by Philip Headley]
- London Old Vic Archive [donated by the Royal Victoria Hall Foundation]

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**Forthcoming Events**

**Friends AGM**  
28th November 2011  
5.30pm

Speaker: Dr Mervyn Heard  
"You Left Me for the Limelight"

The magic lantern’s view of popular entertainment in the 19th century.  
*Meet in the Theatre Collection Reading Room*

**Volunteers**  
**Thank You Lunch**  
Theatre Collection Reading Room  
Tuesday 6th December 2011  
More details to follow

**Volunteers**  
Please contact us if you would like to join our team of volunteers.  
Phone Jo, Bex or Heather on 0117 33 15086 or email theatre-collection@bristol.ac.uk

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**THEATRE COLLECTION MAILINGS**

Please note: if you have received this newsletter by mail it means that your name and address are stored on the Theatre Collection mailing list. These details may be used by the Theatre Collection, and also more widely by the University of Bristol. Should you wish your details to be removed from the mailing list, please contact us.

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**Forthcoming Events**

**Exhibition:**  
**Unfurl**  
26th September - 11th November 2011

Curated by Clare Thornton, our first Artist in Residence, the Unfurl Exhibition in the Theatre Collection foyer focuses on the recently acquired Mander & Mitchenson Collection, revealing some unexpected treasures and making new work inspired by its holdings.

Clare’s approach to this exhibition has been informed by her research into depictions of the fold as a visual & conceptual trigger to exploring display, concealment and transformation. Through the production of objects, garments and writing, Clare works with diverse materials to explore a poetic tension between concealment and display.

The exhibition follows a performance with Rogelio Vallejo and Clare which took place at the Red Lodge on 3rd September. Unfurl is supported by Arts Council England.

**Artist Rogelio Vallejo**  
*Photo courtesy of Zoe Childerley (performance documentation) and Clare Thornton*
Did you know?

The Mander & Mitchenson Collection holds 1500 reference boxes containing playbills, programmes, engravings, press cuttings, correspondence and production photographs of London and regional theatres.

There are also files on every actor and actress of note in the British theatre, and sections on circus, dance, opera, music-hall, variety, dramatists, singers and composers.

Changes!

To tie in with our 60th anniversary this year, the Theatre Collection is currently undertaking a visual identity exercise which includes the development of a new logo, suite of leaflets and a much improved website. We are also planning to launch a new look newsletter for our Spring 2012 issue.

Facebook

The Theatre Collection has a new Facebook page where you can find out more about the team, current projects and how things work ‘behind the scenes’.

We’ve been busy publicising our recent events, particularly those surrounding the Unfurl project by our inaugural Artist in Residence Clare Thornton and also letting people know how things are going on a day to day basis.

We’re delighted that we already have a significant number of people who ‘like’ us and hope that our fans will continue to grow.

Check out what’s happening on our page (University of Bristol Theatre Collection)

Any questions ...?

The Theatre Collection dealt with 157 research enquiries from May - September 2011, including 8 regarding the Live Art Archives.

Subjects of the enquiries ranged from family history researchers trying to find information on their ancestors to academics researching everything from Music Hall to Meyerhold.

We have also had a large increase in picture enquiries through our new arrangement with ArenaPAL (see website for more details).

We welcome all queries and give each the same care and attention.

We also had 378 visitors in the Reading Room during the same period.

Researchers are encouraged to use our online search facility: www.bristol.ac.uk/theatrecollection as a first point of reference.

Theatre Collection Opening Hours

Monday 12.00pm - 4.45pm
Tuesday to Friday 9.30 am - 4.45 pm

We are closed at weekends and on Bank Holidays and University closure days. We close for 2 weeks in early September for collections management and may very occasionally close for other reasons - please phone us on 0117 33 15086 or check our website for any forthcoming closure dates.

In order to make the most of your visit to the Theatre Collection, especially as our holdings are split across two sites, it is advisable (but not essential) to make an appointment with us, either by phone (0117 33 15086) or e-mail (theatre-collection@bristol.ac.uk).

We can then discuss your requirements and retrieve any archival material requested in time for your arrival.
Helping to unpack from the M&M Collection at the new Langford store, I was intrigued by a ‘tinsel print’ which showed a man on a horse and a large dog jumping onto him. The dog is made out of something resembling fuzzy felt and wears a gold collar inscribed with the name Hector. Research led me to the archive of the East London Theatre (www.elta-project.org/) where an 1847 playbill from the Pavilion Theatre in Whitechapel Road advertised the ‘re-engagement of the favorites [sic] of the million Messrs Cony & Blanchard’ in ‘The Forest of Bondy! Or the Dog of Montargis’. The part of Lieutenant Landy was played by Mr Cony and that of Captain Aubry by Mr Blanchard while Dragon was played by the DOG HECTOR.

In the 19th melodrama, the murderer, Macaire has an accomplice, Landry. They kill Lieutenant Aubry in the forest and go to the inn, the scene of the stage action. They accuse a mute servant of the murder but the dog provides evidence of the servant’s innocence. When the true murderers are revealed, Landry tries to escape but he is pursued and mauled by Dragon. The tinsel print obviously depicts the mauling of Landry/Mr Cony by Dragon/Hector (but it looks as though Hector is giving the villain an affectionate kiss). The melodrama has subsequently been celebrated for its depiction of a silent witness, the dog, defending a silent/mute innocent servant.

Liz Bird, Volunteer

The Dog of Montargis : Tinsel Print in M&M

The text at the foot of the print tells us that it shows Mr Cony as Landry and the name Hector on the dog collar would seem to suggest that this is the 1847 production. Who was the dog of Montargis? The melodrama of the Forest of Bondy came to London from Paris. It was based on a legend from medieval France which tells of a knight murdered by his rival while crossing the forest of Bondy. The dog was the only witness. In the legend the accused murderer is tried by unarmed combat with the dog.

One From the Archive...

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Liz Bird, Volunteer

Festival of the Arts

The Theatre Collection was pleased to be involved in the University’s first Festival of the Arts – InsideArts 2011.

We had an exhibition at Royal Fort House for the official launch event on 17th October which showcased treasures from the recently acquired Mander & Mitchenson Collection which the university was successful in acquiring for the Theatre Collection. This exhibition sat alongside the artworks from the Theatre Collection which are on permanent display at Royal Fort House.

The Theatre Collection also ran tours on 18th October, for the general public. These included an opportunity to see the current exhibition – Unfurl – by our first Artist in Residence, Clare Thornton, and to hear her talk about her work, followed by a behind the scenes tour of the Theatre Collection.

Jo, Heather and Bex assisted with the research for the programme and Emilia was interviewed by Dr Catherine Hindson, Lecturer in Performance Studies in the Drama Department.
Live Art News

‘Into the Future: Sustainable Access to the National Review of Live Art Digital Archive’ Project

The project deadline has now been extended to 31st March 2012.

To date, all the footage of performances for the last four years of the NRLA (2007 - 2010) has been digitised and is accessible on the Viewing Station in the Theatre Collection Reading Room alongside the 1986 - 2006 footage; the production of DVDs of the material is underway; work is ongoing to make the videos available online where permissions allow; the Case Studies have been completed and the findings are to be published on the new interactive website in due course. Please contact Bex for further information.

Live Art News

Bodies in Flight Archive

Bodies in Flight (BiF) was one of the Case Studies from the Into the Future project and as a result, Professor Simon Jones, Co-Director of this prestigious performance company, has now kindly donated the BiF archive to the Live Art Archives.

BiF state that “We make performance work that has at its heart our contemporary, everyday experience of being caught between our physical and psychological selves. The encounter between flesh and text where words move and flesh utters, where the ordinary is made central and rendered unique.”

The archive is in the process of being catalogued and is another interesting addition.

New Archives

Pinkie and the Fairies.typescript

Our main interest is the work he undertook on the Herbert Beerbohm Tree production Pinkie and the Fairies and the musical comedy Chu Chin Chow.

The archive comprises four boxes of manuscript, typescript and printed music scores, playscripts, and other miscellaneous material relating to Norton’s career in the theatre.

Procedures

A Reminder ….

It is vital that we keep a record of people using the Theatre Collection, therefore, the TC has a system where all external researchers (including those only using the library) will be asked to complete a researcher’s form. A visitor’s card will then be issued and must be produced when signing in each day.

A Warm Welcome

The Theatre Collection will be welcoming Dr Catherine Hindson, Lecturer in Performance Studies, in the New Year as she has been seconded to work with us 1 day a week, focusing on developing the research potential of our collections, particularly M&M, looking at partnerships and submitting grant applications.
Joe Aveline Archive

Joe Aveline is a production manager and lighting technician who began his career at the Bristol Hippodrome in 1957, then trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

He worked for Bristol Old Vic for a number of years before a transfer to the London Old Vic meant a jump to working in the West End was possible – a great career move for a young man working backstage.

Since then, Joe has written about and taught theatre production and production history and this is reflected in his archive, recently deposited at the Theatre Collection – his Bristol links proving strong elements in his decision to donate the material.

The archive consists of lighting plots and designs, teaching notes, photographs, information regarding many European theatres, and information relating to the lighting installation of Alexandra Palace Theatre.

Frederic Norton Archive

The Theatre Collection has recently purchased some archive material relating to Frederic Norton.

Norton was a composer, who also worked on a number of theatrical productions from the 1890s through to the 1930s.

P-form

The Theatre Collection has recently acquired a set of 'P-Form' which is an exciting addition to our Live Art resources.

P-Form is a performance art magazine that ran from 1986 to 1999. It was published four to six times a year by Randolph Street Gallery, an experimental not-for-profit arts organization in Chicago existing from 1979 to 1998.

The magazine was started to facilitate a dialogue with the rest of the world about performance art in Chicago. It provided the public with up-to-date information on performance art and granted artists exposure. Each issue is composed of articles, reviews, interviews and event calendars, all revolving around a central theme, such as censorship, audio art and performance text.

Live Art News

Performing Documents: Modelling Creative and Curatorial Engagements with Live Art and Performance Archives

This new project involving the Live Art Archives is now underway. A joint collaboration between the University of Bristol Drama Department, the University of Exeter and the Arnolfini arts centre, the project will run over the next three years and cover three strands: (1) artists revisiting their own archives, (2) artists using and re-using the archives of others and (3) curatorial responses to archives.

Each strand will include workshops and symposia which will culminate in a 2 day conference during an 8 week archival exhibition at Arnolfini, together with the production of a website/wiki pages and the publication of a book and DVD.
M&M Update

The Mander & Mitchenson Collection is now safely stored at the Theatre Collection in Bristol and our new archive store at Langford. Bex is currently working her way through all the journals which have come in as part of M&M. The details of new journal runs (many of which are from the 1800’s and early 1900’s) and additional issues to existing runs are now available on our website: www.bristol.ac.uk/theatrecollection/periodicals.html.

More will be added as they are sorted and listed.

Funding

The Theatre Collection has just submitted its application to the second round of the National Cataloguing Grant Scheme, having successfully moved through the first round.

We have applied for funding to catalogue the 1500 reference boxes in the Mander & Mitchenson Collection. This will make the material in these boxes more accessible to researchers and ensure the long term preservation of these precious archives.

Keep your fingers crossed and watch this space for news of the outcome!

Drama Dept Update

Professor Simon Jones’ Inaugural Lecture and Performance

Thursday, 9th June 2011

The Wickham Theatre was full for this year’s event entitled “Still Moving: a double bill of ‘Krapp’s Last Tape’ (Samuel Beckett) & ‘Model Love’ (Bodies in Flight): a case-study of practice as research in performance.”

Simon Jones introduced a performance of two one-act plays: one an interpretation of a modern classic by playwright Samuel Beckett; the other a recent work Simon has made with his company Bodies in Flight, also reflecting on his practice of over 16 works with the company. This double bill specifically explored the use of technology on stage: for Beckett the tape-recording; for Jones the photograph. It was Beckett’s insight, in 1958, that foresaw some of the consequences of technological developments for human identity and in response to that legacy, Bodies in Flight continues to work away at the everyday problem of how we use the machines that record our voices and our faces to hold on to who we think we are.

Drama Dept Building Work

The Department has seen a significant amount of refurbishment work carried out during the summer, including work on the Wickham Theatre, the Brandt Cinema and the film and television edit suites. Although disruptive, hopefully it will all make a positive difference to the working environment for both students and staff.
TC Exhibition News

60 Years of the Theatre Collection

The latest exhibition to adorn the walls of the Theatre Collection Reading Room celebrates our 60th anniversary, with examples from all of our major collections from Bristol Old Vic and London Old Vic, to Julia Trevelyan Oman and the National Review of Live Art.

It also looks at the origins of the Theatre Collection, and its role now with its current collections and activities.

There are images showing highlights from the collection, including the oldest and newest items, the most traditional and the most obscure.

The exhibition will be running in parallel with the Unfurl exhibition in the Theatre Collection foyer.

Doors Open Day 2011

The Theatre Collection was pleased to be included as part of the Bristol Doors Open Day this year and welcomed nearly 140 visitors to a special public preview of the Unfurl exhibition (see left) by Artist in Residence, Clare Thornton, who was on hand throughout the day to talk to people about her work.

In addition, a selection of the new oil paintings acquired as part of the Mander & Mitchenson collection were available to view in Royal Fort House, alongside other theatrical portraits from the existing holdings of the Theatre Collection.

Volunteer News

As usual, all our Volunteers have been extremely busy assisting us and we are as grateful as ever. In addition to the ongoing programme sorting and other general tasks:

John has been busy reorganising, listing and packaging the John Vickers photographs. We have a number of photos of ‘unidentified’ people, so if you’d like to have a look at the ‘rogues gallery’ do let us know!

Mervyn is working with Heather and Bex on developing the Collection Level Descriptions for all our collections and archives. As part of this, he has also helped us at Langford by sorting and identifying the Cecil Madden material.

Ellie has been working her way through cataloguing some newly deposited Bristol New Vic programmes amongst other things.

New Volunteers

Welcome to Chris who has joined us to investigate and catalogue the contents of the M&M music boxes. His PhD based in Bristol’s Music Department should hopefully prove useful in this.

Peter has started working on ensuring more of the Record of Live Art Practice (RLAP) material is sorted and filed, continuing the valuable work already done by Tracy and Lauré over the past couple of years.

Cara is beginning to look at sorting and cataloguing the Franko B Archive as part of her PhD which is affiliated to the Performing Documents project (see p.5).

Thank you event

The Theatre Collection will be inviting all our Volunteers to a thank you lunch on 6th December 2011. Look out for further details and an invitation in due course.
Friends News

Friends’ Visit to The Laskett Gardens
6th September 2011

We set out with trepidation from Bristol, the wet and windy weather swirling around us was not the best for garden visiting. However, by the time we arrived at The Old Station near Tintern most of our group was happily picnicking outdoors. The café provided a tasty lunch for the rest before we completed our journey to the Laskett Gardens in Herefordshire.

The Laskett was chosen for a visit because this garden was created by the late Julia Trevelyan Oman with her husband Sir Roy Strong. Julia’s personal archive is one of the highlights of the Theatre Collection, covering her entire career as a designer for theatre, television, ballet and opera. Her stage-design skills are clearly visible in this idiosyncratic and very English garden with its rooms and vistas.

Sir Roy was there to introduce the garden and stayed to wander around with us answering questions. We also met one of the gardeners and our two hours passed happily in this fascinating place.

Our thanks to Jo Elsworth, Director of the Theatre Collection, for giving us an overview of Julia’s work during our coach journey and to Sir Roy for his hospitality. We were a good mix of Friends of the Theatre Collection, garden historians from the University’s MA course, and others who heard about the trip through Friends News.

Friends of the Theatre Collection AGM 2011
Monday 28th November, 5.30pm
Meet in the Theatre Collection Reading Room

“You Left Me for the Limelight”

The magic lantern’s view of popular entertainment in the 19th century. An illustrated talk featuring vintage slide material and original apparatus.

Dr Mervyn Heard has presented magic lantern shows all over the world and devised special projects for the Tate, Hayward Gallery, British Library, Magic Circle and Old Vic.

He is also the author of ‘Phantasmagoria - The Secret Life of the Magic Lantern’.

CELEBRATION!

Jo, Heather and Bex were delighted to invite Friends, Volunteers and Supporters of the Theatre Collection to celebrate 60 years of the Collection at Royal Fort House on 12th October 2011.

With a chance to see the paintings on display from the Theatre Collection’s holdings, the event provided an opportunity to reflect on our activities and collections that have developed over the past six decades.

Thank you!

A big thank you to Kate Holmes, one of the Drama Department MA students who, as part of her independent study, has been tirelessly helping us with our new Facebook page and other ideas for developing our visual identity. She has also worked closely with our Artist in Residence Clare Thornton on the Unfurl project.