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Inventory of the Footlight Players Collection, 1885-1975

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Footlight Players collection
Date(s)	1885-1975
Date(s)	(bulk 1925-1964)
Creator:	Footlight Players (Charleston, S.C.)
Abstract:	Collection contains histories, scrapbooks, programs, copies of the <i>Footnotes</i> newsletter, scripts, photographs, posters, costume and set design sketches by Emmett Robinson, and other ephemera relating to the Footlight Players of Charleston, South Carolina.
Extent:	7.5 linear feet (13 document boxes, 2 slim document boxes, 1 oversize flat box)
Repository:	Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries 66 George Street Charleston, SC 29424 Phone: (843) 953-8016 Fax: (843) 953-6319 URL: http://archives.library.cofc.edu
Call Number:	Mss 0016
Language of Material:	Materials in English

Historical Note

Oldest community theater group in Charleston, South Carolina, organized in 1931. Most early plays were presented at the Academy of Music until 1936. In 1936 and 1937 plays were presented al fresco and at the Victory Theatre. In November 1937 the Footlight Players opened the reconstructed Dock Street Theatre (until May 1938 owned by the city and leased by the Carolina Art Association). The Footlight Players were affiliated with the Carolina Art Association from 1938 until 1941. At that time the Footlight Players remodeled their "Workshop" at 20 Queen Street and began seasonal productions.

Collection Overview

Collection contains histories, scrapbooks, programs, copies of the *Footnotes* newsletter, scripts, photographs, posters, costume and set design sketches by Emmett Robinson, and other ephemera relating to the Footlight Players of Charleston, South Carolina. Histories include the pamphlet *The Footlight Players* from 1946 and the typescript *Historical Summary: Twenty-Five Years of Community Theatre* by Paul R. Weidner. The collection also includes information about membership and meetings and a reprinted clipping of a letter from 1948 to the editor concerning the Dock Street Theatre lease. Scrapbooks contain clippings about the Footlight Players. The personal scrapbook of Eola Willis contains Willis's essay "Origin of the Footlight Players, Charleston's Little Theatre," clippings, reviews of her book *The Charleston Stage*, and other items. The collection also includes programs from 1931 to 1958, the *Footnotes* newsletter from 1937 to 1970, annotated scripts, nine black and white photographs of costumes and set designs, and ephemera including publicity materials and assorted materials related to the Film Society, the Family Agency, the Dock Street Theatre, and the Dock Street Theatre School. Oversized items include 15 small posters from 1951 to 1957 and six sketches of costumes (with fabric swatches) and set designs by Emmett Robinson.

Collection Arrangement

Materials are described at the folder level.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

Copyright Notice

The nature of the College of Charleston's archival holdings means that copyright or other information about restrictions may be difficult or even impossible to determine despite reasonable efforts. Special Collections claims only physical ownership of most archival materials.

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Related Material

Related materials in Special Collections include the Emmett Robinson papers, 1931-1977 (Mss 0039), the Patricia Anne Colbert Robinson papers, 1922-1998 (Mss 0107), and the pamphlet *The Footlight Players*.

Separated Material

The pamphlet *The Footlight Players* inscribed "Paul R. Weidner gift 1961" has been removed and cataloged separately.

Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person, family, or organization, by topical subject, by place, and by types of material.

Names

Footlight Players (Charleston, S.C.)--History--20th century
Dock Street Theatre (Charleston, S.C.)
Carolina Art Association

Subjects

Theater--South Carolina--Charleston--History--20th century
Theater programs--South Carolina--Charleston
Theater--Production and direction--South Carolina--Charleston
Theatrical posters--South Carolina--Charleston
Theaters--Stage-setting and scenery--South Carolina--Charleston
Costume design--South Carolina--Charleston

Types of Material

Scrapbooks
Scripts (documents)
Theater programs
Newsletters
Posters
Printed ephemera
Watercolors (paintings)
Black-and-white photographs
Catalogs (documents)
Pamphlets

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Footlight Players collection, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisitions Information

Scrapbooks, programs, and scripts were deposited at the College of Charleston in April 1950. A copy of the pamphlet *The Footlight Players* inscribed "Paul R. Weidner gift 1961" was donated in 1961.

Processing Information

Processed by Special Collections staff, date unknown.

Encoded by Joshua Minor, August 2016.

Reviewed and uploaded by Joshua Minor, August 2016.

Inventory

Box 1 Folder 1	<i>The Footlight Players</i> pamphlets, 1946
Box 1 Folder 2	Historical summary, "Twenty-Five Years of Community Theatre" by Paul Weidner, 1957
Box 1 Folder 3	"Association's Policy: The Dock Street Theatre Lease," 1948
Box 1 Folder 4	Manuscripts deposited by the Footlight Players, 1950 April
	List of play manuscripts deposited in the College of Charleston Library.
Box 1 Folder 5	Membership campaign and scheduled meetings, 1952-1953
Box 1 Folder 6	Meeting with the City of Charleston's Ways and Means Committee, 1948 March 15
	Scrapbooks, 1925-1964
Box 1 Folder 7	1925-1937
	Scrapbook of clippings and other ephemera compiled by Eola Willis. Also contains "Origin of the Footlight Players, Charleston's Little Theatre," a brief history of the Footlight Players written by Willis.
Box 2 Folder 1	1932 May-1933 December
Box 2 Folder 2	1933 December-1934 December
Box 2 Folder 3	1934 December-1935 October
Box 2 Folder 4	1935 October-1936 September
Box 2 Folder 5	1936 November-1937 December
Box 2 Folder 6	1937 November-1939 March
Box 2 Folder 7	1939 March-1939 December
Box 3 Folder 1	1939 December-1940 April
Box 3 Folder 2	1940 January-September 1940
Box 3 Folder 3	1940 May-1941 February
Box 3 Folder 4	1941 January-1941 March
Box 3 Folder 5	1941 March-1941 May
Box 4 Folder 1	1941 April-1941 September
Box 4 Folder 2	1941 September-1941 November
Box 4 Folder 3	1941 November-1942 February
Box 4 Folder 4	1942 February-1942 March
Box 4 Folder 5	1942 April-1942 June

Box 5 Folder 1	1942 June -1942 September
Box 5 Folder 2	1942 September-1942 October
Box 5 Folder 3	1942 October-1942 December
Box 5 Folder 4	1942 (duplicates)
	Annotation on envelope reads "Newspaper Clippings, Duplicates of items already entered in the Scrap Books, 1942."
Box 5 Folder 5	1942 December-1943 March
Box 5 Folder 6	1943 March-1943 April
Box 5 Folder 7	1943 April-1943 June
Box 5 Folder 8	1943 June-1943 December
Box 5 Folder 9	1943 (duplicates)
	Annotation on envelope reads "Newspaper Clippings, Duplicates of items already entered in the Scrap Books, 1943."
Box 6 Folder 1	1944
Box 6 Folder 2	1945 January-1945 June
Box 6 Folder 3	1945 June-1945 October
Box 6 Folder 4	1945 October-1946 March
Box 6 Folder 5	1946 March-1947 March
Box 6 Folder 6	1946 April-1951 June (duplicates)
	Duplicates of newspaper clippings already entered in scrapbooks from 1946 to 1951.
Box 7 Folder 1	1951 May-1952 January
Box 7 Folder 2	1952 January-1952 December
Box 7 Folder 3	1953 January-1953 December
Box 7 Folder 4	1954 January-1954 December
Box 8 Folder 1	1955 January-1955 December
Box 8 Folder 2	1956 January-1956 December
Box 8 Folder 3	1957 January-1957 December
Box 8 Folder 4	1958 January-1958 December
Box 8 Folder 5	1959 January-1961 May

Box 9 Folder 1 1960 September-1960 December
 Box 9 Folder 2 1961 January-1961 December
 Box 9 Folder 3 1962 January-1962 November
 Box 9 Folder 4 1963 January-1963 November
 Box 9 Folder 5 1964 January

Programs, 1931-1975

Box 9 Folder 6 1931-1934
 Box 9 Folder 7 1934-1936

Includes broadside for *Twelfth Night; or What You Will*.

Box 9 Folder 8 1936-1938

Includes copy of the rededication ceremonies program.

Box 9 Folder 9 1938-1940

Box 9 Folder 10 1938-1940 (duplicates)

Box 10 Folder 1 1940-1943

Box 10 Folder 2 1941-1946 (incomplete)

Box 10 Folder 3 1943-1945

Includes a list of plays from 1932 to 1947.

Box 10 Folder 4 1946-1947

Box 10 Folder 5 1947-1949

Box 10 Folder 6 1949-1951

Box 10 Folder 7 1949-1951 (duplicates)

Box 11 Folder 1 1949-1957 (incomplete)

Box 11 Folder 2 1952-1975 (incomplete)

Footnotes newsletter, 1937-1970

Box 11 Folder 3 1937-1948

Box 11 Folder 4 1948-1951

Box 12 Folder 1 1948-1953

Box 12 Folder 2 1951-1957

Box 12 Folder 3 1953-1957

Box 12 Folder 4	1958-1970
	Scripts, 1937-1974
Box 13 Folder 1	Anonymous, <i>Goldilocks and the Three Bears</i> , adapted by Emmett Robinson, 1945
Box 13 Folder 2	de Beaumont, Jeanne-Marie Leprince, <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> , adapted by Emmett Robinson, 1948
Box 13 Folder 3	Byars, Glynda, <i>Preppy and Isolde</i> , 1974
Box 13 Folder 4	Byron, Lord, <i>The Cosair</i> , adapted by Edwin C. Holland, undated
Box 13 Folder 5	Colbert, Patricia, <i>Hiddydoddy</i> , undated
Box 13 Folder 6	Colbert, Patricia, <i>Hiddydoddy</i> , undated
Box 13 Folder 7	Colbert, Patricia, <i>Syllabub</i> , 1946
Box 13 Folder 8	Colbert, Patricia, <i>Syllabub</i> , 1949
Box 13 Folder 9	Dumas, Alexandre, <i>Lady of the Camellias</i> , adapted by Patricia Colbert, undated
Box 13 Folder 10	Du Maurier, Daphne, <i>Rebecca</i> , undated
Box 14 Folder 1	Farquar, George, <i>The Recruiting Officer</i> , adapted by Emmett Robinson, 1937
Box 14 Folder 2	French, Mary, <i>Salt and Battery</i> , 1942
Box 14 Folder 3	French, Mary, <i>Salt and Battery</i> , 1943
Box 14 Folder 4	French, Mary, <i>Salt and Battery</i> , 1944
Box 14 Folder 5	Grimm, Jakob, Ludwig, Karl, <i>Hansel and Gretel</i> , adapted by Emmett Robinson, 1950
Box 14 Folder 6	<i>Rumpelstiltskin</i> , adapted by Elizabeth B. Grimbball, undated
Box 14 Folder 7	<i>Snow White and Red Rose</i> , adapted by Elizabeth Grimbball, undated
Box 14 Folder 8	Hilton, James, <i>Lost Horizon</i> , adapted by Emmett Robinson, 1949
Box 14 Folder 9	Hilton, James, <i>Lost Horizon</i> , adapted by Emmett Robinson, 1949
Box 14 Folder 10	Ioor, William, <i>Independence</i> , undated
Box 14 Folder 11	Noah, M. M., <i>Paul and Alexis or The Orphans of the Rhine</i> , undated
Box 14 Folder 12	Perrault, Charles, <i>Cinderella</i> , adapted by Emmett Robinson, 1947
Box 15 Folder 1	<i>Red Riding Hood</i> , adapted by Emmett Robinson, undated
Box 15 Folder 2	Pinero, Arthur, <i>The Enchanted Cottage</i> , undated
Box 15 Folder 3	Shakespeare, William, <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , adapted by Emmett Robinson, 1946
Box 15 Folder 4	Shakespeare, William, <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> , adapted by Emmett Robinson, 1949

- Box 15 Folder 5 Shakespeare, William, *Romeo and Juliet*, adapted by Emmett Robinson, 1946
- Box 15 Folder 6 Shakespeare, William, *The Taming of the Shrew*, adapted by Emmett Robinson, 1943
- Box 15 Folder 7 Stevenson, Robert Louis, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, adapted by Emmett Robinson, 1947
- Box 15 Folder 8 Stevenson, Robert Louis, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, adapted by Emmett Robinson, 1947
- Box 15 Folder 9 Tharin, Benford, *Sand-Sprite*, 1950
- Box 15 Folder 10 Photographs, undated
- Box 15 Folder 11 Publicity, 1951-1955, undated
- Box 15 Folder 12 Film Society, undated
- Box 15 Folder 13 Family Agency, 1951
- Box 15 Folder 14 Rededication of Dock Street Theatre program, 1937
- Box 15 Folder 15 Dock Street Theatre School catalog, 1948
- Box 15 Folder 16 Dock Street Theatre pamphlets, 1975, undated
- Box 15 Folder 17 Dock Street Theatre programs (Carolina Art Association), 1946-1951
- Box 15 Folder 18 United States post card, 1885
- Blank postcard found in the rafters of the front lobby of the Footlight Players Theatre in 1950.
- Box 16 Folder 1 Costume and set design sketches, 1945-1949
- Assorted watercolor sketches by Emmett Robinson.
- Box 16 Folder 2 Play posters, 1951-1957