



## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

**NAME OF COLLECTION**

MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY

**ACCESSION NO**

1974.0008

**CATEGORY**

University, official

**ACTIVITY**

Theatres, Repertory theatre company

**DATE RANGE**

1900-1973

**SIZE OF COLLECTION**

13 boxes

**HISTORICAL NOTE**

Melbourne Theatre Company was established at the University of Melbourne in 1953 where it was first known as the Union Theatre Repertory Company. It was originally administered and directed by John Sumner, an English theatre professional. Sumner was the driving force at MTC for thirty-four years, turning the Union Theatre into the nation's largest theatre company. Ray Lawler and Wal Cherry were the Artistic Directors of the company from the mid-1950s when Sumner took a position with the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust. He returned in 1959 and remained with MTC until 1987. Roger Hodgman led the company from 1984 until 1999 when Simon Phillips became Artistic Director. In 1966 the company moved from the University to the Russell Street Theatre. Its subsequent venues were St Martin's Theatre in South Yarra, the Athenaeum in Collins Street. It left the latter in 1984 for the Playhouse Theatre at the Victorian Arts Centre and in 1994 moved from the Russell Street Theatre to the Fairfax Theatre at the Arts Centre.

**DATE OF TRANSFER**

12 Jul 1974

**ACCESS CONDITIONS**

Access: Open  
This collection may not be available for immediate retrieval. Please discuss with Archive staff.

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Theatre programmes, photographs, newspaper clippings, 1900-1973, given to the M.T.C. in response to an appeal for records of Melbourne theatre. They include items relating to G.J. Dunning (theatre orchestra violinist) c. 1900-1920; St. Martin's and the Melbourne Little Theatre 1957-1970s; the Union Repertory Theatre and Union Theatre 1949-1960s;p Theatre Royal 1926-1930. Melbourne Theatre Company box office records 1953-1971; 14 photographs from productions 1965-1973; 17 colour slides of production of Henry IV, Part One, 1969; 2 tapes of interview with director Joachim Tenschert, 1973; 7 spools of 16 mm. film, sound, "The Cherry Orchard", 1973 (4 spools), "The Man Who Shot the Albatross" 1972 (2 spools), AVC-TV film "Union Repertory In Vision" 1963 (one spool).
<b>NOTE ON COLLECTIONS</b>	13/1 and 13/2 have been recalled by MTC
<b>LISTED BY</b>	Tony Prescott and Mark Richmond
<b>DATE</b>	24 Oct 1974

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY.

NAME: Melbourne Theatre Company, Second Accession  
(with sub-Collection names, as listed)

ADDRESS: 224 Normanby Road, South Melbourne.

TRANSFEROR: Mr. Carrillo Ganter, Melbourne Theatre Company.

PERIOD

COVERED: c. 1900-1973

MATERIAL: Theatre programmes and photographs, M.T.C. box office records, tapes, films, and colour transparencies.

QUANTITY: Twelve Archives boxes, plus 7 spools of 16mm. film, and two tapes.

DATE

RECEIVED: 12 July 1974.

GENERAL

NOTE: The early material in this accession came to the Company as the result of a public appeal; the names of the donors are recorded in the following list of records.

LIST OF RECORDS:

1. G.J. Dunning Group

(Note: Dunning was a theatre orchestra violinist in Melbourne at the turn of the century).

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|--------|-----|---|
| Unit 1 | 1/1 | Theatre Photographs, c. 1900 - 1910.  |
| Unit 2 | 1/2 | Theatre and personal photographs, c. 1900 - 1910.   |
| Unit 3 | 1/3 | Programmes, theatre and concert (mainly Melbourne, some European), 1900 - 1920; personal trivia (tickets, etc.) |

2. Mrs. S.M. Mills Group

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|--------|-----|--|
| Unit 4 | 2/1 | Theatre Programmes, 1900 - 1919                            |
| Unit 5 | 2/2 | Theatre Programmes, 1920 - 1929                            |
| Unit 6 | 2/3 | Theatre Programmes, 1930 - 1939.                           |
| Unit 7 | 2/4 | Theatre Programmes, 1940 - 1959.                           |
| Unit 8 | 2/5 | Theatre brochures, concert programmes, 1900s, 1930s 1940s. |

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- Unit 9 3. Barry Balmer Group  
3/1 Theatre Programmes, Melbourne, 1950s.  
3/2 Theatre Programmes, European, 1950s.
- Unit 9 4. Margery Kerr Group  
4/1 Theatre Programmes, Melbourne some 1920s, 1940s, mainly 1950s, 1960s.  
4/2 Scrapbook of newsclippings, etc.
- Unit 10 5. Joy Williams Group  
5/1 Theatre Photographs, 1920 - 1980  
5/2 Theatre Royal Programmes, 1926 - 1930.
- Unit 10 6. Unattributed Group - Theatre and concert programmes, Melbourne, 1950s and 1960s.
- Unit 11 7. St. Martin's Theatre Group - St. Martin's (and Melbourne Little) Theatre programmes, 1957 - 1970s.
- Unit 12 8. Box Office Records - Melbourne Theatre Company, 1953-7.
- Unit 12 9. Miscellaneous Material, Union Repertory and Melbourne Theatre Company.  
9/1 T.B. Steen - Union Theatre Programme, 1949.  
9/2 P. Haas - Union Repertory Programmes, 1950s.  
9/3 Leigh Ellemor - Union Repertory Programmes, c.1957.  
9/4 K. Sloane - Union Repertory Programmes, late 1950s, early 1960s.  
9/5 Preston Reid.  
1. Union Repertory Programmes, 1960 - 1964  
2. Newspaper reviews, 1959.  
9/6 Melbourne Theatre Company - Union Repertory and M. T. C. Programmes, 1960s, 1970s.

- Currently not available 10. Photographs - 14 Photographs from M. T. C. productions, 1965-73.
- Currently not available 11. Colour Transparencies - 17 slides of M. T..C. production of "Henry IV, Part One", 1969.
- Currently not available 12. Tapes - Two tapes of interview with director Joachim Tenschert, 1973.
13. Films, 16MM. Sound
- See Note on collections 13/1 M. T. C. Production of "The Cherry Orchard", 1973; 4 spools.
- See Note on collections 13/2 M. T. C. Production of "The Man Who Shot the Albatross", 1972; 2 spools.
- Units 13&14 13/3 AVC-TV film "Union Repertory In Vision", 1963; one spool.

24th October 1974

Tony Prescott &  
Mark Richmond  
Assistant Archivists