



## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

<b>NAME OF COLLECTION</b>	Melbourne Theatre Company
<b>ACCESSION NO</b>	2002.0044
<b>CATEGORY</b>	University, official
<b>ACTIVITY</b>	Theatres, Repertory theatre company
<b>DATE RANGE</b>	1980-1989
<b>SIZE OF COLLECTION</b>	2 boxes
<b>HISTORICAL NOTE</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>DATE OF TRANSFER</b>	13 Sep 2002
<b>ACCESS CONDITIONS</b>	Access: Restricted
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>UM 968. Files contain background research on various productions, and can include supporting documentation about the writer of the production, the historical context of the production and information about previous versions of the production (including other stage shows, television shows etc). Some files contain photographs and newspaper clippings.</p>
<b>LISTED BY</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	

