



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	La Mama Theatre
ACCESSION NO	1977.0109; 1978.0058, 1979.0122
CATEGORY	Culture and the Arts, organisations
ACTIVITY	Theatres
DATE RANGE	1967-1977,
SIZE OF COLLECTION	
HISTORICAL NOTE	Named after the off-Broadway theatre in New York, La Mama was established in Carlton, Melbourne by Betty Burstall in 1967 for avant-garde theatre, music, poetry readings, improvisations and screenings of new films. In 1977 Liz Jones was appointed artistic director and administrator of the theatre.
DATE OF TRANSFER	1977-1979
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Open
DESCRIPTION	Administrative and Production Files
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	
NOTE ON LISTING	
LISTED BY	Fiona Wiseman; Victoria Triggs, Rhonda Day
DATE	2011

Collection:

Accession:

Box No	Item No	Description	Date
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Series Table of Contents

Items 1-18	Administration Files		1967-1977
Items 19- 43	Production Files		1967-1977

Box No	Item No	Description	Date
		Series Title: Administration Files	1967-1977
1	1	Correspondence General correspondence, a La Mama Newsletter, Oct 1969 and funding correspondence.	1966-12 Nov 1969
	2	Correspondence General correspondence and Health Department documents.	21 Jan 1970-4 Aug 1970
	3	Correspondence General correspondence, Financial reports and funding application. Government of Victoria re. Sunday Entertainment Act 1967.	1971
	4	Correspondence General correspondence, Australian Council for the Arts correspondence, funding application, financial reports and Government of Victoria re. Sunday Entertainment Act 1967.	25 Feb 1972-12 Dec 1972
	5	Correspondence General correspondence, Australian Council for the Arts funding application, financial reports and correspondence. Transcript of interview with Betty Burstall by De Berg Tapes: National Library, tape 660.	30 Jan 1973-5 Dec 1973
	6	Correspondence General correspondence, Australian Council for the Arts correspondence, funding application, financial reports, budget and Government of Victoria re. Sunday Entertainment Act 1967.	4 Jan 1974-29 Sept 1974
	7	Correspondence General correspondence, Australian Council for the Arts correspondence, financial reports, funding application, budget and APRA.	7 Jan 1975-28 Aug 1975
	8	Correspondence General correspondence, Australian Council for the Arts correspondence, funding application, production report, budget, CV, original floor plan and lighting information.	19 Mar 1976-20 Dec 1976
	9	Correspondence General correspondence, Australian Council for the Arts and Victorian Ministry for the Arts correspondence, funding application, financial reports, budget, APRA and CVs.	25 Jan 1977-12 Dec 1977

Box No	Item No	Description	Date
	10	Receipts General and production receipts. Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd: account reconciliation booklet.	1969
	11	Receipts General and production receipts. Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd: account reconciliation booklet, deposit book and bank statements.	19 Jan 1971-7 Dec 1971
	12	Receipts General and production receipts. Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd: account reconciliation booklet, and bank statements.	28 Jan 1972-29 Dec 1972
	13	Receipts General and production receipts. Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd: account reconciliation booklet.	11 Jun 1973-2 Jan 1974
2	14	Receipts General and production receipts. Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd: account reconciliation booklet, deposit book, bank statements, debits and credits and 1974 Audit.	2 Jan 1974-31 Dec 1974
	15	Receipts General and production receipts. Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd: account reconciliation booklet, and bank statements.	27 Feb 1975-31 Dec 1975
	16	Receipts General and production receipts. Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd: account reconciliation booklet, deposit books, cheque book butts, list of yearly expenses and book of wages.	12 Jan 1976-8 Dec 1976
	17	Receipts General and production receipts. Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd: account reconciliation booklet, cheque book butts, book of Aug/Sept expense and Box Office takings, payments and wages book.	19 Jan 1977-9 Dec 1977
	18	Receipts La Mama cash book.	27 Jan 1972-31 Aug 1977
		Series Title: Production Files	1967-1977
3	19	La Mama Productions Press cuttings, lists of plays performed, description of season, a rehearsal schedule and some programmes.	1967-1969

Collection:

Accession:

Box No	Item No	Description	Date
	20	Scripts Three Old Friends by Jack Hibberd, An Hairy Man by Frank Bren, The Blind by Kris Hemensley, The Soul Seekers by Kris Hemensley, The Man From Chicago by John Romeril, Stephany & The Abdication by Kris Hemensley and Saturday by Barry McKimm.	July 1967-Dec 1969
	21	La Mama Productions Press cuttings, list of production from 1967-1969 in "Dimboola" and "The English Lesson" programme (14 copies), description of season, a rehearsal schedule and some programmes.	14 Feb 1970-16 Dec 1970
	22	Scripts The Hieronymus Bosch Hour by Kris Hemensley. Two unidentified scripts we think by David Williamson, one could belong to "You've Gotta Get On Jack" June, 1970.	1970
	23	La Mama Productions Press cuttings, programmes: Birthday Present, Party Games, Pieces, Big Pieces little pieces, The Gooseberry Moth, Gethsemane, The Elephant Calf, Hands Down Gourds, First Quarter Report, Four Fairy Ballads, Repeat Ritual, Five Pages Of Yapp, Even Kheal & Honest Injun and programme notes.	2 Jan 1971-14 Dec 1971
	24	Scripts It's a Chocolate World by Barry Oakley, Cullity On Furniture by Barry Oakley, Party Games by John Smythe and Love Play by Max B Richards.	Jan 1971-Dec 1971
4	25	La Mama Productions Press cuttings and programmes: Birthrite, Love Play etc., Mirrors, Nothing like "Jesus Christ Superstar", "My Foot, My Tutor", "Passion", Regret Vanishes and "Links". Also of Theatresphere- Festival of University Drama pamphlet 1972, Melbourne University.	27 April-22 Dec 1972
	26	Scripts Sadie and Neco by Max B Richards, Links by Norman Thompson and The War is Over by Kris Hemensley (includes programme).	Feb 1972-Nov 1972
	27	La Mama Productions Press cuttings, Programmes: "Night Flowers", "Bones", Cripple Play, Film and The Female, The Weight, The Garden, The Babysitter and Is Mimicry For Territorial Defence. Also "A case for freeways- an event" – Community arts seminar.	3 March 1973-5 Dec 1973

Box No	Item No	Description	Date
	28	Scripts Night Flowers by Max B Richards (4 copies), The Garden by Lloyd Jones-The Catalogue Etc., Cripple Play by Max B Richards and “ Bones” by Roger Pulvers.	Jan 1973-Dec 1973
	29	La Mama Productions Press cuttings and programmes: “The Four Leave Clover, Or, In Search Of”, “Looking Radiant”. Also The Cage-Carlton Festival.	15 April 1974-16 May 1974
	30	Scripts Marmalamur by Valerie Kirwan, “Looking Radiant” by Peter Carmody, Mog and Wog(A Metamorphosis in Four Parts) by Denis Conroy and “Tombstone” by Max B Richards.	May-Dec 1974
	31	La Mama Productions Press cuttings and programmes: Ghosts, Hamjamb and The Gigolo, “Tent”, Obsessive Behaviour in Small spaces and Mishka and Nomargava. Also collective mobile exhibition by Melbourne greek artists.	Aug 1975-26 Nov 1975
	32	Scripts Obsessive Behaviour in Small Spaces by Ian Stocks, Robert Trebor-Lang and Dickie Weight.	May 1975
5	33	La Mama Productions Press cuttings and programmes: Cascando, Albert Names Edward, Finger to the Trigger, Gargoyle Cartoons, “Hello and Goodbye”, Smog Poetics, Endgame, Play Strindberg and Spider Rabbit. Press release for 3 plays in November. Posters for Endgame and Cascando.	1 Mar 1976-Dec 1976
	34	Scripts Cascando by Valerie Kirwan (2 copies) and “Still Life” by James Clayden (3 copies, visual scripts or programmes).	Nov 1976-Dec 1976
	35	Thesis Part 1: La Mama: A Critical And Historical Survey. A 4 th year thesis by Susan Whitelaw. Part 2: Chronology of La Mama Productions, August 1967-July 1976. A 4 th year thesis by Susan Whitelaw. (Copy brought in by Peter Holloway 4/4/1978.	July 1976
	36	La Mama Productions Press cuttings and programmes: Up The Right Channels, No Worries, Yamashita, Stuffed, Ravages and Edges of Meaning: Arthur and Corinne Cantrill. Miscellaneous items by Chris Mann, Hoopla Theatre. Posters: No Worries and Norm and Ahmed, “Stuffed” and	25 Feb 1977-31 Dec 1977

Box No	Item No	Description	Date
		Yamashita.	
	37	Scripts “Search” by Graham Parker, No Worries by Cliff Ellen, “Only Chaos” by John A’Beckett, The Interview by Barry Dickins, Let’s Murder Manet by Graham Parker, Violin Bird by Chris Dickens, Sadie and Neco by Max B Richards, Laugh After Death by Lloyd Jones and “Yamashita” & “Stuffed” by Roger Pulvers. Audio recording “Eliza Survivor” 14/8/1977.	Feb 1977-Dec 1977
	38	La Mama 10th Birthday Celebrations Correspondence, submissions and preparations for the celebrations.	10 Feb 1977-30 Sept 1977
	39	La Mama 10th Birthday Celebrations Programmes for celebration season timetable (brown and white) and individual shows.	4 Aug 1977-Oct 2 1977
6	40	La Mama 10th Birthday Celebrations Press cutting: originals	5 Mar 1977-31 Dec 1977
	41	Scripts Unidentified script fragments pre 1987.	1970-1979
	42	Scripts Undated: At Valentine’s and New York City For Two by Ken Taylor, Something Up There, Death Is Not Enough by Stephen French, “The Thieves” By Kris Hemensley, Eugene Flockhart’s Desk by Barry Oakley, Three-Quarter Time by Rivka Odell, Gone With Hardy by David Allen and Arthur of the Antipodes by David Williamson.	1967-1977
	43	If Ever I Get Back Here Again I’ll Stay by David Allen, The Grand Centenary Cricket Match by Kris Hemensley, Mr & Mrs Fat by K.G. Fish, How to Fall in Business, “You Can’t Be Serious”, “Only An Old Kitbag”, by Barry Dickins, “A Sense of Loss” by Norma Bloom, “Fish” and “The Marshmallow Fist” by Frank Bren, On The Nature Of Lo, Etc. by Ernest Bunbury, S.L., The Assassin by Nora Dugon and An Émigré Waltz by Robert Chuter?	1967-1977