

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

ARCHIVES DIVISION

Press Coverage Collection

Collection Number M0010

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& RECORDS COMMISSION

Collection Number: M0010

Title: Oregon Shakespeare Festival Press Coverage Collection

Dates: 1935-Present

Creator: No documentation exists, but it is likely that various OSF personnel compiled the clippings/articles and assembled the scrapbooks. Two of the most likely contributors for 1935-1985 are former Executive Director Bill Patton and former Archivist Nora Yeoman. Former Archivist Kit Leary performed the acquisitions for this collection from 1986 until her retirement in 2011.

Summary/Abstract: A collection of external press coverage about the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF). Consists of clippings and articles prominently featuring OSF or reviewing OSF productions. The majority of clippings/articles are from the U.S. press, with most being from newspapers in Oregon, Washington and northern California. From 1935 to 1985 the clippings/articles were compiled into scrapbooks; starting in 1986 they have been stored loose in chronological folders.

Quantity/Physical Description: 24.8 c.f.

Restrictions on Access: None

Restrictions on Use: Since this is a collection of external articles and news coverage, contact the original author and publisher for any and all permissions. Permission to publish cannot and will not be granted by OSF.

Preferred Citation: None. Cite the original date, author and source of the published article in a preferred and accepted citation form.

Acquisition: No documentation exists. May be the first effort to collect documentation on OSF, and the seminal collection of the OSF Archives. The clippings/articles themselves were acquired through the efforts of various OSF personnel, and with the help of commercial clippings services.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Many clippings and scrapbook pages are fragile or brittle, and should be handled with care. For some years, the tape or glue used to attach the clippings to the scrapbook pages has failed, and clippings are either loose or completely detached.

Processing Information: From 1935 to 1985 the clippings/articles were glued or taped into scrapbooks. The scrapbook pages were later cut from the binding and placed in flat boxes, most likely in the late 1980s or 1990s. Some articles were cut in two, or had portions left behind in the binding, which was later disposed of.

During processing in 2010 and 2011 the 1960-2011 portions of the collection were extensively weeded to eliminate heavy duplication and a large amount of irrelevant material. However, the 1935-1959 portions were not weeded so as to preserve what little documentation exists for these years of the Festival. Researchers should therefore expect to have to sort through a greater amount of redundant material in the early years of this collection.

Processed by: Lead Archivist Maria DeWeerd, 2010-2011.

Arrangement: Chronological. The Reviews subseries (1986-present) is arranged chronologically, with General reviews first, followed by the individual productions in alphabetical order.

Biographical/Historical Note: In July, 1935 Angus Bowmer, Lois Bowmer, Robert Stedman, and William Cottrell spearheaded efforts to stage Shakespearean plays on the grounds of the old Chautauqua Tabernacle in Ashland, OR as the 'First Annual Shakespearean Festival.' With the exception of the World War II era (1941-1946), the institution has been in continuous operation since that time, becoming one of the oldest and largest Shakespearean festivals in North America. Starting in 1959 non-Shakespearean productions were added to the regular OSF schedule. Non-Shakespearean plays had been produced by the Company in the early years, but these were usually staged at the Varsity Theatre under the auspices of the Vining Repertory. It was in 1970 that the non-Shakespearean productions ventured into the more modern era, motivated in part by the staging possibilities of the newly-opened Angus Bowmer Theatre. The addition of the Black Swan (1977-2001) and the New Theatre in 2002 also expanded opportunities for more adventurous productions.

Scope and Content: The collection contains clippings/articles prominently featuring OSF and its productions. It also contains reviews of OSF's productions. The collection consists of five loose subseries:

- Clippings Scrapbooks
- Clippings
- Ashland Daily Tidings Shakespeare Supplements
- Reviews
- Unsorted

Clippings Scrapbooks subseries: Consists of scrapbook pages with articles/clippings attached. Consists of news stories and production reviews, and represents nearly all of the collected news coverage from 1935 to 1985.

Clippings subseries: Consists of loose clippings/articles of news stories. Represents 1986 to the present.

Ashland Daily Tidings Shakespeare Supplements subseries: An annual supplement to the Ashland Daily Tidings that is dedicated to the current season of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Consists of supplements for the 1969 to 2011 seasons.

Reviews subseries: Consists of loose clippings/articles containing production reviews. Represents reviews from 1986 to the present.

Unsorted series: Consists of loose clippings/articles of news stories and reviews that have not been sorted and filed by year and month. Represents the unprocessed portion of the collection.

Collection Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Clippings scrapbooks: 1935-1940, 1947-1949
2	Clippings scrapbooks: 1950-1952
3	Clippings scrapbooks: 1953-1954
4	Clippings scrapbooks: December 1954-September 1956
5	Clippings scrapbooks: October 1956-1957
6	Clippings scrapbooks: January-July 1958
7	Clippings scrapbooks: August-December 1958
8	Clippings scrapbooks: 1959
9	Clippings scrapbooks: January-September 1960
10	Clippings scrapbooks: October 1960-September 1961
11	Clippings scrapbooks: October 1961-September 1962
12	Clippings scrapbooks: October 1962-September 1963
13	Clippings scrapbooks: October 1963-May 1964
14	Clippings scrapbooks: June 1964-June 1965
15	Clippings scrapbooks: July 1965-June 1966
16	Clippings scrapbooks: July 1966-July 1968
17	Clippings scrapbooks: July 1968-April 1970
18	Clippings scrapbooks: April 1970-March 1971
19	Clippings scrapbooks: April 1971-July 1972
20	Clippings scrapbooks: July 1972-July 1973
21	Clippings scrapbooks: July 1973-1974
22	Clippings scrapbooks: 1975-June 1976
23	Clippings scrapbooks: July 1976-1977
24	Clippings scrapbooks: 1978
25	Clippings scrapbooks: 1979
26	Clippings scrapbooks: 1980
27	Clippings scrapbooks: 1981
28	Clippings scrapbooks: 1981 Reviews and Special Events
29	Clippings scrapbooks: 1982
30	Clippings scrapbooks: 1982-1983 Reviews
31	Clippings scrapbooks: 1983
32	Clippings scrapbooks: 1984 (mixed dates)
33	Clippings scrapbooks: 1984 (mixed dates)-1985
34	Clippings: 1986-1988
35	Clippings: 1989-1991
36	Clippings: 1992-1994
37	Clippings: 1995-June 1998
38	Clippings: July 1998-June 2001
39	Clippings: July 2001-April 2004
40	Clippings: May 2004-2007
56	Clippings: 2008-October 2011
57	Clippings: November 2011-October 2012

- 58 Clippings: November 2012-July 2013
- 59 Clippings: August 2013-February 2014
- 60 Clippings: March 2014-Present
- 41 Ashland Daily Tidings Shakespeare Supplement: 1969-1979
- 42 Ashland Daily Tidings Shakespeare Supplement: 1979-1991
- 43 Ashland Daily Tidings Shakespeare Supplement: 1992-2011
- 44 Reviews: 1948-1986
- 45 Reviews: 1987-1989
- 46 Reviews: 1990-1992
- 47 Reviews: 1993-1995
- 48 Reviews: 1996-1998 (General, August-December)
- 49 Reviews: 1998 (*The Comedy of Errors*)-2000
- 50 Reviews: 2001-2002 (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*)
- 51 Reviews: 2003 (*The Piano Lesson*)-2005
- 52 Reviews: 2006-2008
- 53 Reviews: 2009-2011
- 54 Reviews: 2012
- 55 Reviews: 2013
- 61 Clippings: Unsorted, various years
- 62 Clippings: Unsorted, various years