Guide to the Craig Noel collection

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Overview of the Collection

Title: Craig Noel collection

Date (inclusive): circa 1920-2010

Date (bulk): 1958-2010

Collection number: USDSC_2019_004

Creator: Noel, Craig

Extent: 10 total boxes, 4 oversize plus one oversize folder, (11.5 linear feet)

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Abstract: This collection contains the photographs and awards of Craig Noel, founding director of the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego.

Languages: English

Biographical Note

Craig Noel was born in Deming, New Mexico in 1915. His family moved to San Diego in 1918. Noel's career with San Diego's Old Globe Theatre spans over 60 years, from 1937 to his death in 2010.

The Old Globe Theatre in Balboa Park was built in 1935 for the California-Pacific International Exposition. Theatre performances during the exposition were shortened versions of Shakespeare's plays. While the Old Globe was originally slated to be torn down after the exposition completed, the shortened Shakespeare performances were so successful that the San Diego Community Theatre formed to preserve the theatre. Craig Noel's career with The Old Globe began in 1937, the year it opened as a permanent theatre. Noel began with acting and first acted in John Van Druten's "The Distaff Side." He then moved into directing and in 1939, Noel became The Old Globe's general director. He then moved to titles of Resident Director, Artistic Director, and Founding Director.

Craig Noel launched the San Diego National Shakespeare Festival in 1949. In 1980 he helped launch Teatro Meta, the Globe's bilingual theatre company. In 1987, due to a lack of classically trained actors to support The Old Globe, he and then Vice-President and Provost of the University of San Diego Sally Furay, RSCJ, established The Old Globe and the University of San Diego Master of Fine Arts in Acting program. Over the course of his career, Noel directed and produced hundreds of plays, raised money for the reconstruction of the theatre, and received many awards for his work.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains the awards, documents, and photographs of Craig Noel. The bulk of the awards were presented to Noel in honor of his decades of contribution to San Diego's Old Globe Theatre. Awards also include Old Globe Atlas awards. Documents include tributes to Noel and to the Old Globe along with script books. Photographs include those taken during travel, actor photographs, photographs of Noel, and albums of the Shanghai Drama Institute, Shanghai People's Art Theatre, and Shanghai Youth Drama Troupe.

Series I. Awards

Series II. Documents

Series III. Photographs

Access

This collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

[Folder Title], Box # Folder #, Craig Noel collection, Copley Library, University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Ashley Toutain in 2019.

Related Material

See also the "Guide to the Old Globe Theatre Records" held at San Diego State University.

Bibliography

Welsh, Anne Marie. “Appreciation for Craig Noel, the spirit of The Old Globe.” San Diego Union-Tribune, April 11, 2010.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Noel, Craig, 1915-2010

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Shanghai Youth Drama Troupe
Shanghai People’s Art Theatre
Shanghai Drama Institute
Old Globe Theatre (San Diego, Calif.)

Subjects and Indexing Terms
San Diego (Calif.)
Shanghai (China)
Beijing (China)

Series I: Awards 1958-2010

Box 1
Old Globe Atlas awards 1958-1966

Box 2
Old Globe Atlas awards 1967-1973

Box 2
Craig Noel - Old Globe Theatre white hard hat undated

Box 2
Mayors Living Treasure Award 1984 May 19

Box 3
Southwestern College Theatre Department 50 year appreciation to Craig Noel plaque undated

Box 3
California Theatre Councils Theatre Survivor plaque 1980

Box 3
3's Company and Dancers to Craig Noel plaque 1985 August 10

Box 3
San Diego Press Club Headliner Craig Noel Legend, Theatre Arts plaque 1987

Box 3
San Diego Junior Theatre plaque 1994 July

Box 3
Elder Help of San Diego award 1995

Box 3
International Living Legacy Award plaque 2001

Box 3
San Diego Theatre Critics Circle plaque 2002

Box 3
Katherine McGrath Best Actress-Comedy Memoir trophy 2002

Box/Folder: 4 / 1
San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Award 1986-1987

Box/Folder: 4 / 2
“Year of Craig Noel” Proclamation 1987

Box/Folder: 4 / 3
Actors Alliance of San Diego Award 1997 June 13

Box/Folder: 4 / 4
Camp Orbit Theatre Camp recognition undated

Box 5
Wells Fargo stagecoach - signed by Oscar Cortes for Craig Noel 50th anniversary 1987

Box 5
Bravo Lifetime achievement award vase 2005

Box 6 (Oversize)
Puppet - Craig Noel as Hamlet 2005

Scope and Content Note
[With sign that includes the text: “Bravo San Diego 2005 honor Craig Noel “Mr. San Diego” Bravo Lifetime Achievement Award. Portrait Puppet courtesy of the San Diego Guild of Puppetry/Puppetry Center of San Diego. Artist, Dori Smith.]

Box 7
Puppet chair 2005

Box 8 (Oversize)
College Fellows American Theatre Metal undated

Box 8 (Oversize)
Teatro Máscara Mágica recognition 1990 June 21

Box 8 (Oversize)
Framed photo and plaque to Craig Noel Playwright Project’s Deborah Salzer Excellence in Arts Education Award 2010 November

Box 9 (Oversize)
Southwestern College Angel of the Year Craig Noel 1976-1977

Box 9 (Oversize)
League of Women Voters of San Diego to Craig Noel for Contributions to San Diego Arts and Entertainment 1996

Box 9 (Oversize)
Scull sculptures, white and pink glass undated

Series II: Documents 1938-2006
Series II: Documents 1938-2006

Box/Folder: 4 / 5  Catherine Isabella Noel Memorial Book 1966 August 31
Box/Folder: 4 / 6  Balboa Park Expositions A Book of Days 1982
Box/Folder: 4 / 7  San Diego Magazine with Tribute to 50 years of the Old Globe 1985 May
Box/Folder: 4 / 8  Scotland Road by Jeffrey Hatcher [script book] undated
Box/Folder: 4 / 9  Over the River and Through the Woods [Cast list and script] 2000 February
Box/Folder: 4 / 10  Backstage at the Globe 65th Anniversary Gala 2000 October 28
Box/Folder: 4 / 11  Notes of Gratitude Binder to Craig Noel circa 2006
Box 8 (Oversize)  A Sonnet Voyage – Conrad Susa, Commissioned by the San Diego Symphony dedicated to Craig Noel undated
Box 8 (Oversize)  To Craig Happy Birthday Love Mary Clark undated

Scope and Content Note
[Includes City of San Diego Mayor Roger Hedgecock’s Proclamation that October 21, 1984 would be Craig Noel Day. Also includes a December 1938 issue of The Community Player.]

Box 8 (Oversize)  Old Globe Theatre Lighting Design – John McLain 1979
Box 8 (Oversize)  Dangerous Liaisons music. E.C.S to Craig Noel 1994
Box/Folder: Map  Henry V - Old Globe Theatre [poster] 1978
Case Drawer 5 / 1  Old Globe Theatre 60th Anniversary Season [poster] 1995
Case Drawer 5 / 1


Box/Folder: 4 / 12  Group photo and photo of Noel as a child undated
Box/Folder: 4 / 13  Travel in China photographs and postcards undated
Box/Folder: 4 / 14  Assorted photographs primarily taken in China circa 1983
Box/Folder: 4 / 15  Photographs and Postcards - China, Balboa park and others circa 1983, 1996, undated
Box/Folder: 4 / 16  Photographs of travel through China undated
Box/Folder: 4 / 17  Photographs of furniture and accessories circa 1985
Box/Folder: 4 / 18  Photographs of furniture and accessories circa 1985
Box/Folder: 4 / 19  Photographs of furniture and accessories circa 1987
Box/Folder: 4 / 20  Assorted travel photographs circa 1987
Box/Folder: 4 / 21  Painting of clown titled “Forever Young,” undated
Box/Folder: 4 / 22  Unidentified actor photograph undated
Box/Folder: 4 / 23  John McLain photograph undated
Box/Folder: 4 / 24  Craig Noel and Women photograph undated
Box/Folder: 4 / 25  Conrad Susa photograph 1993
Box/Folder: 4 / 26  Postcards 1994, 2002
Box/Folder: 4 / 27  Craig Noel and Woman undated
Box/Folder: 4 / 28  Craig Noel and dog undated
Box/Folder: 4 / 30  National Medal of Arts Noel and President Bush 2007
Box 8 (Oversize)  Framed photograph of University of San Diego graduates undated
Box 9 (Oversize)  Shanghai Youth Drama Troupe album circa 1980

Scope and Content Note
[Includes images of actors during performances along with short descriptions and information about the play creators.]

Box 9 (Oversize)  Shanghai People’s Art Theatre album circa 1980

Scope and Content Note
[Includes images of actors during performances along with short descriptions and information about the play creators.]
| Box 9 (Oversize) | **Shanghai Drama Institute album 1983**  
Scope and Content Note  
[Includes images of actors during performances along with short descriptions and information about the play creators.] |
| Box 10 (Oversize) | **Travel through China photograph album circa 1980** |