
Ethel Pitts Walker Collection MSS.2014.07.01

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Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: SJSU Special Collections & Archives

Title: Ethel Pitts Walker Collection

Creator: Ethel Pitts Walker

Identifier/Call Number: MSS.2014.07.01

Physical Description: 2.2 Linear Feet 4 boxes.

Date (inclusive): 1973-2012 [1976- 1988]

Date (bulk): 1976-1988

Abstract: The Ethel Pitts Walker collection consists of four boxes of material donated by Dr. Ethel Pitts Walker, a former Emeritus Professor of Theater at San Jose State University. This collection includes copies of her published works, directorial notes and scripts of plays she directed. The collection also includes newspaper articles, reviews of her plays, letters and digital copies of photographs of awards she received. Also included are copies of speeches she wrote and delivered at school events.

Physical Location: Vault 1, Range 28A, Bay 17

Biographical / Historical

Ethel Pitts Walker was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1943. She received a Bachelor of Science in education from Lincoln University in 1964, a M.A. in speech and drama from the University of Colorado in 1965 and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in theater in 1975. Dr. Walker has directed over 25 plays, written two books, owned a theater company with her husband which specializes in African American historical plays for thirty years and has taught for over twenty years at San Jose State University and other universities including the University of California, Berkeley, Laney College and the University of Illinois, Urbana- Campaign. She retired from her position as Emeritus Professor of Theater at San Jose State in December 2014.

Included in this collection are copies of books she wrote chapters for or edited. Also included are various scripts and production notes of plays she directed. Her speeches, awards, research notes from her dissertation and other projects and programs of her plays are also contained in this collection.

The collection is divided into three series: Series I: research and dissertation notes and recordings Series II: scripts, production notes, and programs, Series III: publications, reviews and awards.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series: Series I: Scholarly Research ; Series II: Artistic Production; Series III: Publications and Awards. The contents of the series are arranged chronologically by date.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Processing Information

Processed by: Monika Lehman Reviewed by: Danelle Moon Date completed: 2014

Scope and Contents

The Ethel Pitts Walker Collection documents the professional career of Dr. Ethel Pitts Walker, Emeritus Professor of Theater at San Jose State University. This collection includes copies of her published works, directorial notes and scripts of plays she directed. The collection also includes newspaper articles, reviews of her plays, letters and digital copies of photographs of awards she received. Also included are copies of speeches she wrote and delivered at various events.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

African Americans -- Race identity.

San José State University -- History

Theater Periodicals

Theater Programs

Series I: Scholarly Research 1975- 1988 [bulk 1985-1986] 1985-1986

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

1 box, 2 folders, 1 small box

Scope and Contents

This series consists of Ethel Pitt Walker's research and dissertation notes, as well as cassette recordings from interviews she conducted while writing her dissertation. These materials are undated . Also included is a folder of research on Krigwa players, a popular theater group which emerged during the Harlem Renaissance. The research is accompanied by letters from individuals who Walker reached out to for information. Walker conducted this research around 1985.

Dissertation Notes and Audio Tapes 1975-1985

Krigwa Research circa 1985

Lorraine Hansberry Picture and Clippings Undated

Series II: Artistic Productions 1973- 2009 [bulk 1991-2007] 1991-2007

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

1 box, 1 folder, 4 binders of notes

Scope and Contents

This series consists of Ethel Pitt Walker's scripts, production notes and programs from various plays that she directed. Included are director's binders from four different productions: Long Time Since Yesterday, To Be Young, Gifted and Black, The Amen Corner and The Colored Museum), which have all of Walker's notes, rehearsal schedules and blocking plans. Also included are programs saved from a variety of her productions which she either directed or adapted for the stage.

This series is arranged alphabetically by format and by date.

Binder, "To Be Young, Gifted and Black Notes," 1991

Binder, "Long Time Since Yesterday Notes," 2000

Binder, "The Amen Corner Notes," 2003

Binder, "The Colored Museum Notes," 2009

Programs and Notes 1973-2007

Series III: Publications and Awards 1973-2013 [bulk 1982-2009] 1982-2009

Scope and Contents

This series consists of five books on drama which Walker either edited or contributed a chapter. Also included are various speeches she wrote such as the unveiling of the Tommie Smith and John Carlos's sculpture dedication at SJSU in 2005. The series contains various articles written by Walker published in the newspaper and in the Black American Literature Forum.

This series also contains reviews of Walker's plays including A Raisin in the Sun. Also included are posters for plays she directed such as The Amen Corner. Included are issues of the Spartan Daily which depict events which Walker was involved in such as supporting student protestors.

Walker received many awards throughout her life. A USB drive contains pictures of her awards including her Outstanding Professor Award which she received in 2007. Also included is information from her retirement party in 2014, an invitation to the awards banquet for the National Council of Negro Women and an invitation to the College of Fellows of the American Theatre from George Bush.

This series is arranged by format and by date.

Awards 2002-2013
Invitations and Events 1999-2005
Oversized Photographs and Posters 2003-2009
Newspaper Clippings 1991-2009
Photographs 2001-2005
Publications 1982-2000
Speeches and Writings 1982-2007