
D-035

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Joint Stock Theatre Group Archives,
Date (inclusive): 1973-1991
Collection number: D-035
Creator: Joint Stock Theatre Group
Extent: 26.6 linear feet
Repository: University of California, Davis, General Library. Dept. of Special Collections.
100 North West Quad
Davis, California, 95616-5292

Abstract: A British experimental theatre group founded in 1974 by Max Stafford-Clark, David Hare, and David Aukin, the Joint Stock Theatre Group was dedicated to developing new writing for the theatre. Workshops set up by William Gaskill and Max Stafford-Clark resulted in a unique working method which placed actors and director in collaboration with the playwright. The Archives contain business correspondence, financial records, legal documents, photographs, production files, promotional materials, and scripts (published and original prompt copies) of several plays.

Physical location: Researchers should contact Special Collections to request collections, as many are stored offsite.

Language: English.

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Joint Stock Theatre Group Archives, D-035, Department of Special Collections, University of California Library, Davis, California.

Acquisition Information
Acquired in 1992 from the company’s executor, Carl Proctor.
Processing Information

History
A British experimental theatre group founded in 1974 by Max Stafford-Clark, David Hare, and David Aukin, the Joint Stock Theatre Group was dedicated to developing new writing for the theatre. Workshops set up by William Gaskill and Max Stafford-Clark resulted in a unique working method which placed actors and director in collaboration with the playwright. In January of 1974, the Joint Stock Theatre Group presented its inaugural production, The Speakers, adapted by William Gaskill and Max Stafford-Clark from a book by Heathcote Williams. Major productions which followed included Cloud Nine, Epsom Downs, Fanshen, Fen, The Great Celestial Cow, The Ragged Trousered Philanthropist, and Sanctuary. The last of Joint Stock's productions, A Child in the Heart and Promised Land were offered during the 1988-1989 season.

A revenue client of the Arts Council of Great Britain since 1974, Joint Stock relied heavily on government subsidy to remain financially solvent. Its demise was imminent when, due to general economic woes and changing government policy towards the arts, the company was dropped from the client list. Because the "Joint Stock Method" required an inordinate amount of time to mount a production thus limiting the number of productions annually, and because the company presented mainly new, unproven plays, Joint Stock could not survive financially without Arts Council support. In June of 1991, the Joint Stock Theatre Group Board of Directors gave instructions that the Companies House be informed that the company had ceased to exist and should be struck from the Register of Companies.

Scope and Content of Collection

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Joint Stock Theatre Group
Gaskill, William
Hare, David, 1947-
Stafford-Clark, Max
Experimental theater--Great Britain
English drama--20th century

Physical Description: 9.8 linear feet

Note
Scope and Content Note
Banking records (bank statements, correspondence, canceled checks, check stubs, deposit account books, deposit slips); budgets; income records (account ledgers, balance sheets, box office returns, fundraising, grants income and expenditure accounts, income ledgers, quarterly returns); expenditure records (bills paid, invoices, paid invoices, receipts and bills, remittance advices, sales invoice books); tax records (income taxes, national insurance contributions and deductions, value added tax invoices); production accounts; reports (reports of the directors; reports to the directors); working notes. Items such as clippings, legal documents, programs, and weekly gig lists that were included with the financial records have been retained with them.
Arranged chronologically.
Series 2 Photographs, 1973-1988

Physical Description: 2.6 linear feet

Note

Scope and Content Note
Black and white prints, contact sheets, and negatives of portrait, group, rehearsal, and production photographs.
Arranged alphabetically by play title.

Box 17-24, 30 Series 3 Production Files, 1974-1989

Physical Description: 7.8 linear feet

Note

Scope and Content Note
Accommodations lists, actors biographies, cast lists, budgets and budget proposals, contact lists, correspondence (booking arrangements), costumes, drawings (theatre layouts, lighting plots), box office returns, ticket sales reports, grant applications, itineraries, legal records, promotional materials (flyers, press lists, programs), props lists, technical specifications, working notes.
Arranged alphabetically by play title.

Box 24 Series 4 Scripts, 1977-1986

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet

Note

Scope and Content Note
Published editions and "manuscript prompt" copies.
Arranged alphabetically by play title.

Box 25-26 Series 5 Clippings, 1974-1988

Physical Description: 1.3 linear feet

Note

Scope and Content Note
Primarily previews and reviews relating to Joint Stock Theatre Group productions, but also includes "general" clippings files relating to alternative (fringe) theatres and individuals associated with them.
Arranged chronologically.

Box 26, 28-29 Series 6 Promotional Materials, 1975-1988

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet

Note

Scope and Content Note
Correspondence, flyers, postcards, posters, programs, program copy, press releases, serials.
Arranged alphabetically by play title.


Physical Description: 1.5 linear feet

Note

Scope and Content Note
Audience surveys, company documentation, general correspondence, legal records, mailing lists, marketing, membership, memorandum and articles of association, minutes (policy committee, annual general meeting, meeting of the council of management, report of the council, board meeting, directors meeting, extraordinary meeting).
Arranged chronologically.
Series 8 Sound recordings, 1981-1985

Physical Description: 2.75 linear feet

Note

Scope and Content Note
Magnetic tape (cassette and reel-to-reel) of plays performed by the Joint Stock Theatre Group: music and sound effects, rehearsal, preshow, and performance. Audiocassette use copies of the sound recordings have been made and are located in Box 32. Arranged alphabetically by play title.