
Inventory of the Circle in the Square Photographs,

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Creator: Circle in the Square (Theater)

Title: Circle in the Square Photographs

Date: 1952

Extent: 0.2 linear feet

Abstract: The Circle in the Square Theatre was founded in 1951 in New York City by Theodore Mann, José Quintero, Jason Wingreen, Eileen Cramer and Emily Stevens. The collection contains fifty-four photographs depicting the 1952 Circle in the Square production of Tennessee Williams' *Summer and Smoke*, directed by Jose Quintero.

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

Repository: University of California, Davis. General Library. Department of Special Collections.
Davis, California 95616-5292

Collection number: MC037

Language of Material: Collection materials in English.

Administrative History

The Circle in the Square Theatre was founded in 1951 in New York City by Theodore Mann, José Quintero, Jason Wingreen, Eileen Cramer and Emily Stevens. It opened on February 2, 1951 with a revival of Richardson and Berney's *Dark of the Moon*. Productions included revivals of Tennessee Williams' *Summer and Smoke* in 1952, Truman Capote's *The Grass Harp* in 1953, and Arthur Hayes's *The Girl on the Via Flaminia* in 1954.

In 1960 the demolition of the building forced the company to move to the former New Stages Theatre, at 159 Bleecker Street, where they opened on January 8 with *Our Town*. In 1972, the Circle in the Square moved to 1633 Broadway. The theatre closed as a producing entity in 1998, however, it continues to host productions.

Sources:

Hartnoll, Phyllis. *The Oxford Companion to the Theatre*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1983.

"History of Circle in the Square: The Theatre," [Circle in the Square Theatre School web site](#). Accessed August 25, 2008.

Scope and Content

The collection contains fifty four 8x10 black and white photographs of the 1952 Circle in the Square production of Tennessee Williams' *Summer and Smoke*, directed by Jose Quintero. For this production, Geraldine Page played Alma and Lee Richardson played John. Forty three photographs are of scenes and characters in the production and eleven photographs are of scenes in the dressing room, in front of the house before the opening, and during the opening night party. Also included are seven 8x10 contact sheets of those photographs. Each photograph has the handstamp of the photographer on the reverse: Hugh Bell or Barbara Kerr and Justin Kerr.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is arranged into two series: Playbill and Photographs.

Indexing Terms

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

Circle in the Square (Theater)

Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983. Summer and smoke

Stage photography

Theater--New York (State)--New York

Access

Collection is open for research.

Acquisition Information

Acquired from R. Stoddard in 1980.

Processing Information

Sara Gunasekara processed these papers and created and encoded this finding aid.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Circle in the Square Photographs, MC037, Department of Special Collections, General Library, University of California, Davis.

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Series 1. **Playbill 1952**

Physical Description: 1 playbill

Box MC037:1

Playbill for *Summer and Smoke* 1952

Series 2. **Photographs 1952**

Physical Description: 61 folders

Scope and Content Note

Contains fifty four 8x10 black and white photographs and seven 8x10 contact sheets of the 1952 production of *Summer and Smoke* performed at the Circle in the Square Theatre.

Box MC037:2-44

Scenes and characters in the production 1952

Physical Description: 43 photographs

Box MC037:45-55

Scenes in the dressing room, in front of the house before the opening, and during the opening night party 1952

Physical Description: 11 photographs

Box MC037:56-62

Contact sheets 1952

Physical Description: 7 contact sheets