Guide to the Clifford Odets Theatrical Materials MS.P.006

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Guide to the Clifford Odets
Theatrical Materials MS.P.006

Title: Clifford Odets theatrical materials
Identifier/Call Number: MS.P.006
Contributing Institution: Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.6 Linear feet (1 box and 2 oversize folders)
Date (inclusive): 1928-1955 and undated
Abstract: This collection consists of draft scripts of The Country Girl, The Flowering Peach, and The Russian People; reviews of theatrical performances; correspondence; programs; and family photographs accumulated by renowned playwright Clifford Odets. The bulk of this collection comprises reviews of Odets' theatrical performances found in newspaper clippings and magazine articles. A scrapbook contains clippings documenting a variety of Odets' plays performed in 1935, in addition to an article written by Odets describing his internment in Havana during his investigation into the treatment of Cuban writers and artists.
Creator: Odets, Clifford, 1906-1963
Access
The collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.
Acquisition Information
Processing History
Preliminary processing by Special Collections and Archives staff, ca. 1996. Fully processed by Adrian Turner, 2001.
Biography
Clifford Odets was an American playwright prolific from the 1930s through the 1950s and renowned for his plays with Marxist leanings. He was born July 18, 1906 in Philadelphia to immigrant Rumanian and Russian parents. His family moved to New York in 1908. After studying drama in high school and pursuing various minor acting jobs in New York and Philadelphia, he joined the Group Theatre of New York and began to write plays for Broadway, including Awake and Sing! In 1935 he joined the Communist Party and traveled to Cuba as the head of a delegation to investigate atrocities against Cuban artists and writers. He moved to California the following year and married Luise Rainer in 1937. He divorced Rainer in 1939 and was remarried in 1943 to Bette Grayson.
In the late 1930s, he gained increasing financial stability through his critically acclaimed works. After his highly successful Golden Boy appeared in 1937, he went on to write numerous plays, including his adaptation of Konstantin Simonov's The Russian People (1942) and the popular The Country Girl (1950). His last play, The Flowering Peach (1954), was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, but the award was given to Tennessee Williams for his Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Odets lived in Hollywood until his death in 1963.
Collection Scope and Content Summary
This collection consists of draft scripts of The Country Girl, The Flowering Peach, and The Russian People; reviews of theatrical performances; correspondence; programs; and family photographs accumulated by renowned playwright Clifford Odets. The bulk of this collection comprises reviews of Odets' theatrical performances found in newspaper clippings and magazine articles. A scrapbook contains clippings documenting a variety of Odets' plays performed in 1935, in addition to an article written by Odets describing his internment in Havana during his investigation into the treatment of Cuban writers and artists.
The personal correspondence almost exclusively comprises letters between Odets and his father, Louis J. Odets, concerning particular plays, Clifford's marriages, and financial issues. Also included is a single letter from the artist Georgia O'Keefe, who, along with her husband Alfred Stieglitz, corresponded with Odets. A number of the newspaper clippings and magazine articles were mailed with these letters, along with draft scripts of The Country Girl, The Flowering Peach, and The Russian People.
Most of the photographs are portraits of Odets taken throughout various periods of his life, including early childhood images in New York. There are also several photographs depicting Odets’ former wives, Luise Rainer and Bette Grayson.

**Collection Arrangement**

The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject or format of materials.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Odets, Clifford, 1906-1963 -- Archives.
American drama -- 20th century.
Photographic prints
Plays.
Playwrights.
 Scrapbooks
Theater -- Archives

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**Camp Tioga performances**

Box-folder 1 : 14  
*Tioga News Minstrel Number 1928 August 25*  
Physical Description: Photocopy.

Box-folder 1 : 14  
*Tioga News Program Number 1928 August 4*  
Physical Description: Photocopy.

Box-folder 1 : 1  
Correspondence 1938-1954

Box-folder 1 : 2  
Dramatic contract for *I Got the Blues (Awake and Sing!)* 1933  
Note  
Signed by Odets and manager.

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**Photographs**

Box-folder 1 : 3  
Betty Grayson, portrait 1943

Box-folder 1 : 3  
Odets and family undated

Box-folder FB-18 : 2  
Odets' child undated

Box-folder 1 : 3  
Odets adult and teenage portraits undated  
Physical Description: 11 items.

Box-folder FB-18 : 2  
Oversize material undated  
Physical Description: 3 items.

Box-folder FB-18 : 2  
Odets with Ambassadors Standley and Litvinov, Washington D.C. 1942

Box-folder 1 : 3  
Odets with Luise Rainer ca. 1937  
Physical Description: 2 items

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**Scripts and reviews of theatrical performances**

Box-folder 1 : 4  
*Clash by Night*, clippings of reviews 1941

Box-folder 1 : 5  
*The County Girl*  
Clippings of reviews 1950  
Magazine article reviews

Box-folder 1 : 6  
*The Hollywood Reporter 1950*  
*Variety 1950*

Box-folder 1 : 7  
Script, 3rd draft 1949

Box-folder 1 : 8  
Script, 4th draft 1950

Box-folder 1 : 9-10  
*The Flowering Peach*  
Clippings of reviews 1954
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box-folder 1 : 11</th>
<th>Script, 5th draft 1954</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1 : 12</td>
<td>None But the Lonely Heart and The Big Knife, clippings of reviews 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1 : 13</td>
<td>The Russian People, script 1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder FB-18 : 1</td>
<td>Scrapbook, cover with portrait photograph of Odets 1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1 : 14</td>
<td>&quot;White hope,&quot; Time 1938</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scope and Content Note**

Contains newspaper clippings of reviews of various works. Awake and Sing! typescript of WEAF radio broadcast mounted on leaf 16.

Feature article on various works.