Guide to the Robert Cohen Papers MS.P.069

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Contributing Institution: Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries

Title: Robert Cohen papers

Creator: Cohen, Robert

Identifier/Call Number: MS.P.069

Physical Description: 8.7 Linear Feet (20 boxes and one oversized folder) and 2.3 unprocessed linear feet

Date (inclusive): 1966-2014

Abstract: This collection comprises papers of Robert Cohen, a professor of drama and founding faculty member at the University of California, Irvine. Fifty-three production books, which include scripts, reviews, photographs and stage directions, document Cohen's work as director for theater productions at UCI and the Utah and Colorado Shakespeare Festivals. The collection also includes reviews, correspondence, and information about UCI Drama Department alumni, as well as textbooks and articles written by Cohen and issues of theater publications.

Language of Material: English.

Access

The collection is open for research. Access to original film is restricted; researchers may request viewing copies.

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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

Gifts of Robert Cohen, 2005 and 2013. Additions are expected.

Processing History


Biography

Robert Cohen is the founding chair of the University of California, Irvine Drama Department and a renowned professor, director, translator, playwright, essayist, and drama critic. In 2001 he was named Claire Trevor Professor of Drama at UCI. Cohen was born in Washington, D.C. in 1938. As an undergraduate he studied at Dartmouth College and UC Berkeley. After earning his Doctor of Fine Arts at Yale University in 1965, he joined the faculty at UCI. Over the course of his career, Cohen has directed over 70 stage productions at UCI. He is also the author of many books on theatre, including Acting One/Acting Two, Acting Professionally, Acting Power, Acting in Shakespeare, Theatre, More Power To You, Creative Play Direction, Giraudoux: Three Faces of Destiny, two dramatic anthologies, and many plays, translations, scholarly articles, and reviews. He has frequently directed productions for the Utah and Colorado Shakespeare Festivals. In 1993 he was awarded the UCI Medal, UCI's highest honor, and in 1999 he received the Career Achievement Award from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education.

1938 Born in Washington, D.C.
1965 Received Doctor of Fine Arts from Yale School of Drama.
1965 Appointed founding chair of UCI's Drama Department.
1967 Founded the Student Repertory Theatre at UCI.
1990 Stepped down as Chair of the Drama Department.
1993 Awarded the UCI Medal.
1999 Received the Career Achievement Award from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education.
2001 Named Claire Trevor Professor of Drama.
2005 Re-appointed Chair of the Drama Department.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

This collection comprises papers of Robert Cohen, a drama professor at the University of California, Irvine. The collection spans his career at UCI, beginning with the opening of the campus in 1965. Fifty-three production books, which include scripts, reviews, photographs and stage directions, document Cohen's work as director for theater productions at UCI and the Utah and Colorado Shakespeare Festivals. The collection also includes reviews, correspondence, information about UCI
Drama Department alumni, an unpublished manuscript titled *Edwin Booth in Performance*, various textbooks and articles written by Cohen, issues of theater publications, and a film reel of John M. Whiteley.

**Collection Arrangement**

This collection is arranged into 3 series:
- Series 2. Subject files, 1966-2010
- Series 3. Textbooks and journals, 1970-2011

This collection also contains 1 unprocessed addition:
- Accession 2018.021. Unprocessed addition 2018, 1984-2014. 2.3 linear feet

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

-Scripts (documents) -- 20th century.
-Costume design drawings -- 20th century.
-Drama -- Study and teaching (Higher) -- 20th century
-Theater programs -- 20th century.
-College theater -- California -- Irvine -- History -- Sources
-Photographic prints -- 20th century.
-Cohen, Robert -- Archives
-University of California, Irvine. Student's Repertory Theatre -- Archives
-University of California, Irvine -- Faculty -- Archives
-University of California, Irvine -- Archives
-University of California, Irvine. Department of Drama -- Archives

**Production books Series 1.30746 1966-2007**

**Physical Description:** 5.6 Linear Feet

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

This series contains production books, including both hardbound and unbound, for plays directed by Cohen. Most of the plays were staged at UCI, but a few were at other institutions and Shakespearean festivals, as indicated in the inventory. Each book includes some or all of the following: programs, production and publicity photographs, reviews, director’s notes, scripts, rehearsal schedules, costume lists, and other details of stage production.

**Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically by date of production.

- **box 1**
  - *The Night of the Iguana* 30791 1966
  - *Oedipus Tyrannos* 30790 1967 February

- **box 19, folder 2**
  - *Repertory Theatre at Irvine* 75906 1967
  - *The Apollo of Bellac, Play, and The Death of Morris Biedermann* 30789 1967 March

- **box 2**
  - *Six Characters in Search of an Author* 30788 1967 April
  - *The Hostage* 30787 1968 April
  - *The Good Woman of Setzuan* 30786 1968
  - *The Madwoman of Chaillot* 30785 1969 May

- **box 3**
  - *Waiting for Godot* 30784 1969

  **Scope and Contents note**
  
  Notebook contains production photographs only. A handwritten note by Cohen indicates that the original production book disappeared in 1970.

- **box 3**
  - *Cabaret* 30783 1971 January

- **box 3**
  - *Othello* 30782 1971 February

- **box 4**
  - *The Möbius Strip* 30781 1971 April

- **box 4**
  - *Ondine* 30780 1972 November

- **box 5**
  - *After the Fall* 30779 1973 December
Production books Series 1.307461966-2007

Scope and Contents note
Production staged at the Repertory Company of the Virginia Museum Theatre.

Scope and Contents note
Production staged at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival.

Scope and Contents note
Production staged at the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

Scope and Contents note
Production of The Plaie Called Corpus Christi, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Scope and Contents note
Production staged at the Beverly Hills Repertory at Theatre Forty.

Scope and Contents note
Production staged at the Utah Shakespeare Festival.
Production books Series 1.307461966-2007

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box 13  
**Suburbia** 30751 1996 May  
Scope and Contents note  
Production staged at the Graduating Acting Students at the Queensland University of Technology.

box 14  
**The Misanthrope** 30750 1997 January  
**Measure for Measure** 30749 1998 July  
Scope and Contents note  
Production staged at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival.

box 14  
**Carmen** 30748 1999 February  
**Oklahoma!** 30747 1999 April  
**Castle** 75919 2000 May  
**My Fair Lady** 75918 2002 October  
**Pedro Gynt** 75917 2004 February  
**Timon at Athens** 75914 2005 April  
**Kiss Me, Kate** 75915 2006 February  
**Blue Shade** 75916 2007 April  
**Rabbit Hole** 75913 2007 September

Subject files Series 2.30696 1966-2010

Physical Description: 1.5 Linear Feet  
Series Scope and Content Summary  
This series comprises subject files accumulated by Cohen throughout his career at UCI. Files include correspondence and clippings, articles, materials from the Student Repertory Theatre, and information on the careers of past students. Also included is an unpublished manuscript titled *Edwin Booth in Performance* and accompanying illustrations and research materials. Booth (1833-1893) was a celebrated American stage actor and brother of the assassin of Abraham Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth.

Arrangement  
Arranged alphabetically by subject or format.

box-folder 15 : 1  
**Advertisements and order forms for Cohen books and productions** 30745 1985-1993  
**Articles by Cohen** 30733  
"Acting at University of California, Irvine" 30744 undated  
"Acting power ou la puissance creatrice de l'acteur" 30743 1992  
"Coming of Age in Elsinore" 30742 1988  
"Dragging Carcasses to the Firepit: Acting Theory, Practice, and Pedagogy" 30741 undated  
"Golden Opinions, Sound and Fury" 75251 1983  
"Living Under Tibi's Law" 75252 2004  
"Quince's Moon--Disfiguring Reality in A Midsummer Night's Dream" 30740 1989  
"Repertory Theatre at Irvine" 30739 1967  
"Shakespeare's Sixteen-Year-Old Hamlet" 30738 1973  
"Some Political Implications of The Madwoman of Chaillot" 30737 1968  
"Spoken Dialog in Written Drama" 30736 1984  
"Tears (and Acting) in Shakespeare" 30735 1995  
Miscellaneous 30734 1976, 1987, undated  
Articles on distancing actors from their roles 30732 1999, undated  
Biographical information 30731 1986-1992, undated  
Clippings 30730 1967-2004  
Conferences and symposiums 30729 1983-1988, 1999
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<td>Correspondence 30728 1967-1999, undated</td>
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<td>box-folder 15 : 29-31</td>
<td>Dramaturg notebooks and scripts 75253 1993-2010</td>
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<td>box-folder 15 : 32</td>
<td>Edwin Booth in Performance 30722</td>
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<td>box-folder 15 : 35</td>
<td>Bibliography and chronology 30727 1967</td>
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<td>box-folder 15 : 36</td>
<td>Manuscript 30726 1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>box-folder 15 : 37</td>
<td>Offprint: &quot;Hamlet as Edwin Booth&quot; 30725 1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>box-folder 15 : 38</td>
<td>Plates 30724 1967</td>
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<td>box-folder 15 : 39</td>
<td>Plate captions 30723 1967</td>
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<td>Lectures and talks 30721 1987, undated</td>
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<td>McCulloch, Samuel: interview transcript 30720 1990</td>
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<td>Original CDs with digital files are restricted. Researchers should request that use copies be made.</td>
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<td>Poster: The Prince 30717 2001</td>
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<td>box-folder 16 : 7</td>
<td>Programs 30716 1962-2005 and undated</td>
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<td>Reviews and citations lists 30715 1986-1992</td>
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<td>Tour business materials 30702 1967</td>
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<td>box-folder 16 : 23</td>
<td>UCI Drama Alumni Newsletter 75254 1987-2004</td>
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<td>UCI graduates 30698</td>
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<td>box-folder 16 : 25</td>
<td>Filmographies, headshots, and other materials 30700 1997-2003, undated</td>
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<td>This series consists of drama and theatre textbooks authored by Cohen, as well as journals that contain articles written by Cohen. Some books are in languages other than English.</td>
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**Textbooks and journals**

- Physical Description: 1.5 Linear Feet
- Scope and Content Note: This series consists of drama and theatre textbooks authored by Cohen, as well as journals that contain articles written by Cohen. Some books are in languages other than English.
- Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by title of book or journal.
box 17  Acting in Shakespeare, second edition (A Smith and Kraus Book) 75224 2005
box 17  Acting One (Mayfield Publishing Company) 75225 1984
box 17  Acting One, fifth edition (McGraw-Hill) 75226 2008
box 17  Acting One/Acting Two, fifth edition (McGraw-Hill) 75227 2008
box 17  Acting Power (Mayfield Publishing Company) 75228 1978
box 17  Advanced Acting Style, Character, and Performance (McGraw-Hill Higher Education) 75229 2002
box 17  A Jatek Hatalma (ALFA Studio Budapest) 75230 1993
box 17  A Szinesz-mesterseg Alapjai (Jelenkor Kiado) 75231 1998
box 17  Educational Theatre Journal 75232 1973 May
box 18  Enjoy the Play (McGraw-Hill) 75249 2003
box 17  Essays in Theatre, volume 4 number 2 75233 1986 May
box 17  Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism, volume 10 number 1 (the University of Kansas) 75235 1995 Fall
box 17  More Power To You (Applause Theatre & Cinema Books) 75236 2002
box 18  Pamietnik Teatralny (Warszawa) 75239 2001
box 18  Puterea Interpretarii Scenice (Anca Maniutiu) 75240 2007
box 18  Slavic and East European Performance, volume 20 number 2 (Institute for Contemporary East European Drama and Theatre) 75241 2000 Summer
box 18  Stanislavski-Symposium I Stockholm 75242 1986
box 18  Theatre, fifth edition (Mayfield Publishing Company) 75244 1999
box 18  Theatre, ninth edition (McGraw-Hill) 75245 2011
box 18  Theatre Brief Version, ninth edition (McGraw-Hill) 75247 2010
box 18  Theatre Topics, volume 5 number 2 (The John Hopkins University Press) 75248 1995 September
box 18  Twelve Plays for Theatre (Mayfield Publishing Company) 75250 1994


Physical Description: 2.3 Linear Feet (2 record cartons, 1 film reel)
Access
Access to original film is restricted; researchers may request viewing copies.
Series Scope and Content Summary
This addition to the Robert Cohen papers contains issues of theater publications, mainly issues of "Plays International," slides of UCI theater performances, and a film reel of John M. Whiteley, a UCI professor.