Overview of the Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creator</th>
<th>Contemporary Theatre (Seattle, Wash.)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>A Contemporary Theatre (ACT) records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1909-1989 (inclusive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>95.66 cubic feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collection Number</td>
<td>2118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Records regarding shows of a Seattle theater presenting contemporary plays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repository</td>
<td>University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special Collections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Washington Libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Box 352900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seattle, WA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>98195-2900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Telephone: 206-543-1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fax: 206-543-1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:speccoll@uw.edu">speccoll@uw.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Restrictions</td>
<td>Open to all users, but access to some records restricted. Contact Special Collections for more information.</td>
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<td>Some material stored offsite; advance notice required for use.</td>
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<td>Languages</td>
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Historical Note

A Contemporary Theatre (ACT) was founded in 1965 by Gregory A. Falls. The purpose of ACT was to present professional, contemporary theater—"to produce the important plays of our times, now while they have particular meaning and impact." The production policy was to present a variety of contemporary plays, using many different theater artists. ACT has an unusual record of educational-professional theater integration with over one hundred students and twenty-five educators involved in ACT productions from 1965-1972. In the second year, ACT included a children's theater. A Young Act Company (YAC), another part of ACT, began as a touring company, but evolved into a stationary repertory theater. The most active period in ACT's history began in 1973 with the appointment of Andrew Witt as General Manager. In the 1980s, ACT evolved from a summer season program to a year round theatre with its own buildings.

Songworks was a project to develop new music for the stage. The performances were used as a showcase for rising artists and songwriters.
Content Description

Correspondence, minutes, reports, long range planning, fundraising, subject series, playscripts, financial records, committee files, press releases.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

The creator's literary rights have been transferred to the University of Washington Libraries except for Accession No. 2118-021.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Organized into 21 accessions.

Accession No. 2118-001, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1965-1977
Accession No. 2118-009, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1975-1980
Accession No. 2118-010, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1975-1980
Accession No. 2118-011, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1972-1980
Accession No. 2118-012, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1965-1981
Accession No. 2118-013, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1975-1983
Accession No. 2118-014, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1978-1981
Accession No. 2118-015, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1965-1971
Accession No. 2118-017, A Contemporary Theatre production books and prompt scripts, 1982-1983
Accession No. 2118-018, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1968-1983
Accession No. 2118-019, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1965-1984
Accession No. 2118-020, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1968-1986
Accession No. 2118-021, A Contemporary Theatre play scripts from Young Act Company, 1909-1985
Accession No. 2118-022, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1979-1986
Accession No. 2118-023, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1971-1986
Accession No. 2118-024, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1979-1986
Accession No. 2118-025, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1974-1987
Accession No. 2118-027, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1965-1988
Accession No. 2118-028, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1981-1989

Separated Materials

Material Described Separately:
ACT Theater Photograph Collection (PH0221)
Detailed Description of the Collection

Accession No. 2118-001: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1965-1977
20.00 cubic feet
Scope and Content: Correspondence, general files, financial records, reports, notes, subscription records, programs, lists, related papers.
Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.
Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.
Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

7.00 cubic feet
Scope and Content: Correspondence, minutes, reports, financial records, general files, subject series.
Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.
Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.
Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.
Acquisition Info: Donated by ACT, 12/1/1980.

2.00 cubic feet
Scope and Content: Production books, budget files, engagement calendars.
The bulk is production books from the 1978 and 1979 seasons. The rest of the material is all from Gregory Falls.
Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.
Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.
Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.
Acquisition Info: Donated by ACT, 1/1/1981.

10.00 cubic feet (10 boxes)
Scope and Content: Correspondence, financial records, minutes, general files.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

Acquisition Info: Donated by ACT, 1/19/1982.


3.28 cubic feet
Scope and Content: Correspondence, annual reports, programs, photocopied reviews, general files.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

Acquisition Info: Donated by ACT, 4/7/1982.


approximately 1.08 cubic ft (3 boxes)
Scope and Content: Financial records, correspondence, scripts, reports of Play Readers.

Personal files of Gregory A. Falls, ACT Artistic Director. About half of the material concerns finance and budgeting, especially for ACT's financial crisis in 1982 when layoffs occured for the first time.


Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.


<table>
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<th>Container(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>1976-1980</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2118-013 Reports of play readers</td>
<td>1980-1983</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2118-013 Gregory Falls' engagement calendar</td>
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Subject series

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2118-013 Building campaing</td>
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<td>2118-013 Prospective Directors</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2118-013 Playscripts</td>
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</table>

Scope and Content: The Pushcart War; The Odyssey by Gregory A. Falls and Curt Beattie; Catholics by Brian Moore; Ballymurphy by Michael Neville; The Greeks Part 1: The War/Part 2: The Gods


1.14 cubic feet (2 boxes)
Scope and Content: Correspondence, minutes, brochures and mailings, press releases, auditions and casting.

Bulk of this accession is brochures, mailings, P.R. from 1981 season, and papers of Gregory Falls for 1981.

Subject Series in main body of accession include establishment of the Star Store in 1981.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

Acquisition Info: Donated by ACT, 6/16/1983.

Accession No. 2118-015: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1965-1971

2.00 cubic feet (2 boxes)
Scope and Content: Minutes, financial records and correspondence, committee files.
This accession is a mixture of the files of Walter Walkinshaw, the attorney for ACT, as well as Secretary of the Board of Directors, and of ACT material he has collected. It includes the original incorporating documents, when Gregory Falls owned ACT privately, and early Board minutes.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Walter Walkinshaw, 8/3/1983.


1.61 cubic feet
Scope and Content: Subject series, which include correspondence.

This accession includes the files of Gregory Falls, ACT Artistic Director, and his activities in League of Resident Theatres.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Greg Falls, 8/22/1983.

Accession No. 2118-017: A Contemporary Theatre production books and prompt scripts, 1982-1983

.95 cubic foot
Scope and Content: Production books including prompt scripts.


Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

Acquisition Info: Donated by ACT, 8/24/1983.


8.00 cubic feet (18 boxes)
Scope and Content: Minutes of Board of Directors, 1968-1974; financial records, production books, reviews, and other related files, 1972-1983. Production books have been listed singly on the Container List. Box 8 contains photographs (marked by flags) and tape recordings of performances of the Songworks subgroup.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.
Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries. Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

**Acquisition Info:** Donated by ACT, 1/20/1984.

**Accession No. 2118-019: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1965-1984**

4.00 cubic feet  
**Scope and Content:** Historical and organizational features, correspondence, statistics, publicity, production books; 1965-1984. Organizational features include a list of all plays produced by ACT during its first 15 years, 1965-1979, and a summary of performance and attendance statistics, 1965-1983.

**Restrictions on Access:** Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

**Restrictions on Use:** Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries. Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

**Acquisition Info:** Donated by ACT, 2/11/1985.

**Accession No. 2118-020: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1968-1986**

2.55 cubic feet (4 boxes)  
**Scope and Content:** Correspondence, minutes, financial records, budgets, reports, news releases, other record series. Accession includes Gregory Falls' correspondence 1984 A-Z.

**Restrictions on Access:** Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

**Restrictions on Use:** Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries. Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

**Acquisition Info:** Donated by ACT, 7/15/1986.

**Accession No. 2118-021: A Contemporary Theatre play scripts from Young Act Company, 1909-1985**

6.00 cubic feet  
**Scope and Content:** Play scripts. The entire accession is a Young Act Company subgroup. Some of the plays were written by local playwrights.

**Restrictions on Access:** Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

**Records stored offsite; advance notice required for use.**

**Restrictions on Use:** Creator's literary rights retained. Contact repository for details.

**Rights are retained by playwrights.**

**Acquisition Info:** Donated by ACT, 3/13/1987.

**Accession No. 2118-022: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1979-1986**

2.00 cubic feet (2 boxes)
Scope and Content: Correspondence, minutes, reports of house manager, reports of play readers, grants, subject series. Includes Gregory Falls' correspondence 1985 A-Z.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Material authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.


**Accession No. 2118-023: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1971-1986**

4.00 cubic feet

Scope and Content: Correspondence, fundraising, financial records, reports, project and planning files, grants and grant proposals, subject series.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Material authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.


**Accession No. 2118-024: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1979-1986**

4.00 cubic feet

Scope and Content: Correspondence, minutes, reports, long range planning, fundraising, subject series. Accession includes Gregory Falls' 1986 correspondence A-Z.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Material authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

Acquisition Info: Donated by ACT, 6/30/1988.

**Accession No. 2118-025: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1974-1987**

2.55 cubic feet

Scope and Content: Correspondence, minutes, financial records, reports, committee files, subject series. Accession includes Gregory Falls' 1987 correspondence A-Z. Box 3 contains a folder titled "Cumulative Lists of Plays Produced".

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

Acquisition Info: Donated by ACT.

1.15 cubic feet
Scope and Content: Organizational features, correspondence, scattered minutes, financial records, budgets, reports, clippings. The bulk of the accession is Young Act Company records; seems to be files of Susan Trapnell Moritz with some other files mixed in.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Materials authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.


2.55 cubic feet
Scope and Content: Correspondence, minutes, financial records, grants and grant applications, production files, newsletters, subject series.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Material authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

Acquisition Info: Donated by ACT, 2/16/1990.


.67 cubic foot
Scope and Content: Correspondence, grants and grant proposals, financial records, fundraising, photocopy originals (especially of mailings), brochures, lists, ephemera, subject series.

Subject series include some more material about ACT's 20th Anniversary celebration in 1984.

Restrictions on Access: Access restricted: For terms of access, contact Special Collections.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Material authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

Acquisition Info: Donated by ACT, 10/18/1991.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms:
Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)
Theatrical companies--Washington (State)--Seattle--Archives
Corporate Names:
Contemporary Theatre (Seattle, Wash.)--Archives
Young Act Association (Seattle, Wash.)

Other Creators:

Personal Names:
Anderson, Julie
(creator)
Birney, Edward J
(creator)
Corzatte, Clayton
(creator)
Cummings, Louise C
(creator)
Devore, Cameron
(creator)
Falls, Gregory A
(creator)
Hanna, Edna K
(creator)
Hughes, Glenn, 1894-1964
(creator)
Moritz, Susan Trapnell
(creator)
Murphy, Terence
(creator)
Murphy, Terry
(creator)
Polfus, William
(creator)
Rosinbum, Ralph Rambo
(creator)
Schermer, Phil
(creator)
Siks, Geraldine Brain
(creator)
Walkinshaw, Walter
(creator)
Witt, Andrew
(creator)

Corporate Names:
Actor's Equity Association
(creator)
Allied Arts of Seattle, Inc
(creator)
American Arts Alliance
American Federation of Musicians. Local 76-493 (Seattle, Wash.)
(creator)
Arts Alliance of Washington State
(creator)
Children's Theatre (Seattle, Wash.)
(creator)