

A Contemporary Theatre (ACT) records, 1909-1989

Overview of the Collection

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

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. 2118-016, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1981-1983
- 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. 2118-026, A Contemporary Theatre records, 1978-1987
- 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.

[View inventory/container list for this accession](#)

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, 11/27/1972.

Accession No. 2118-009: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1975-1980

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.

Accession No. 2118-010: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1975-1980 (bulk 1978-1979)

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.

[View inventory/container list for this accession](#)

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

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Acquisition Info: Donated by ACT, 1/1/1981.

Accession No. 2118-011: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1972-1980 (bulk 1974-1979)

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.

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

Accession No. 2118-012: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1965-1981 (bulk 1976-1981)

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.

Accession No. 2118-013: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1975-1983

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 occurred for the first time.

Play scripts included are: "The Pushcart War" - first working version for 1980; "The Odyssey" by Gregory A. Falls and Kurt Beattie, ca. 1978, presented in 1979; "Catholics" by Brian Moore; "Ballymurphy" by Michael Neville; "The Greeks Part 1 : the War" and "The Greeks Part 2 : the Gods".

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, 4/13/1983.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box	Accession	

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1	2118-013 Correspondence	1976-1980
2	2118-013 Financial records <u>Restrictions on Access:</u> Access restricted.	1980-1982
1	2118-013 Reports of play readers	1980-1983
1	2118-013 Gregory Falls' engagement calendar	1980-1981
Subject series		
Box	Accession	
1	2118-013 Building campaing	1980
1	2118-013 Backstage/Cabaret	1977-1981
1	2118-013 Prospective Directors	1977-1981
Box	Accession	
3	2118-013 Playscripts <u>Scope and Content:</u> 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	

Accession No. 2118-014: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1978-1981 (bulk 1981)

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.

A Contemporary Theatre (ACT) records, 1909-1989
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv00912>

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.

[View inventory/container list for this accession](#)

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.

Accession No. 2118-016: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1981-1983

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.

Books for the 1982 productions are "Da", "Five x Five", "Fridays", "The Gin Game", "The Greeks - the Gods", "The Greeks - the War", "Waiting for the Parade". Books for the 1983 productions are "Crimes of the Heart", "The Dining Room", "The Dresser."

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.

Accession No. 2118-018: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1968-1983

A Contemporary Theatre (ACT) records, 1909-1989
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv00912>

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.

[View inventory/container list for this accession](#)

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.

[View inventory/container list for this accession](#)

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

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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.

A Contemporary Theatre (ACT) records, 1909-1989
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv00912>

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.

[View inventory/container list for this accession](#)

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, 2/23/1987.

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.

[View inventory/container list for this accession](#)

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, 6/3/1987.

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.

Accession No. 2118-026: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1978-1987 (bulk 1983-1986)

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.

Acquisition Info: Donated by ACT, 4/26/1989.

Accession No. 2118-027: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1965-1988 (bulk 1976-1987)

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.

Accession No. 2118-028: A Contemporary Theatre records, 1981-1989

.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.

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Material authored by ACT may be quoted for publication.

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

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

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)
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada. Stage employees, Local 15 (Seattle, Wash.)
(creator)
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada. Theatrical wardrobe union, Local 887 (Seattle, Wash.)
(creator)
King County Arts Commission
(creator)
League of Resident Theaters (U.S.)
National Endowment for the Arts
(creator)
Seattle Arts Commission (1971-2002)
(creator)
United Arts Council Of Puget Sound
(creator)
Washington Association of Theatre Artists
(creator)
Washington State Arts Commission
(creator)
Western States Art Foundation Theatre Touring Program
(creator)

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