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Mapping the archives: 6

Curated by Anthony Jackson

This is the sixth instalment of RiDE's occasional series of short informational pieces on archives in the field of drama and theatre education and applied theatre and performance. Each instalment includes summaries of one or more collections of significant material in the field. This cumulative directory of archival resources, updated as and when necessary, will provide an ongoing resource for researchers, teachers, students and practitioners. The aim is to include not only the established, fully catalogued and well-known collections, but also the lesser-known, possibly quite small and 'emergent' collections (e.g. those which exist in one location but have yet to be systematically catalogued), and significant collections contained within larger archives.

This instalment contains information on the emergent Contact Theatre archive at Manchester, and a cumulative summary of all the archives that have been mapped so far, cross-referenced to the RiDE issues in which their details appeared.

We invite contributions to this series from the world-wide RiDE readership. We are especially keen to highlight information on smaller collections, no matter how incomplete. For further details and guidelines on submitting contributions, please see previous editions (17.1, 17.3) or the RiDE website (http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/crde20/current). Please send information, suggestions, feedback or queries in the first instance to Anthony Jackson, at a.r.jackson@manchester.ac.uk

The Contact archive

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At The University of Manchester
Uwe Gröschel, Post-doctoral Research Fellow

The character of the archive

Contact is a young people's theatre company in Manchester, UK, with close links to the University of Manchester. Between 1972 and 1998 'Contact Theatre' provided professional theatre for young people aged 15–25 and an education programme focussed on developing young theatre audiences. In the 1980s the company gained a reputation as a 'new writing' venue, with writers such as Alan Bleasedale and Willy Russell. From 1999, and under its new name 'Contact', it developed extensive participatory, culturally diverse and experimental theatre practices. It encourages members of all communities to participate at all levels of the organisation and offers many entry-level workshops and training opportunities which feed directly into

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Contact's programme, for example the Contact Young Actors Company; it also hosts the international 'Contacting the World' theatre festival which brings young people together from around the world to make theatre and share performances. Contact's archive documents the transformation of a professional, building-based theatre company *for* young people into one of the UK's leading companies using theatre as a means to engage young people and especially those from Black and Minority Ethnic communities.

Scope of the collection

The Contact archive contains an abundance of information and source material on the history and practice of a building-based young people's theatre company in Manchester. Organised chronologically, it is currently housed in two buildings. The 1972–1980 part of the archive (mainly production and promotion materials) is located in the Research Centre of the Drama Division, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, University of Manchester. The whereabouts of the material for the period 1980–1998 is currently uncertain and under investigation. The 1999–2014 part of the archive includes a very substantial video collection and is stored in the basement of Contact. It is especially rich in detail and large in quantity and also documents more than 10 years of 'Contacting the World'.

Research potential

The archive will potentially offer unique opportunities to advance and disseminate knowledge about past and present developments in professional young people's theatre, in particular the interface between Contact and a host of theatre movements such as Theatre for Young Audiences, Theatre in Education and International Theatre for Young People. Moreover, Contact's special focus on participation and the variety of theatre/performance practices created by young people for young people, together with its explicit aim of engaging culturally diverse participants and audiences, will make the archive of importance to anyone investigating new writing, new theatre audiences and diversity and participation in young people's theatre. The archive is also significant in making available numerous unpublished scripts, deserving of further productions or detailed textual studies.

Access arrangements

The two parts of Contact's archive (covering 1972–1980 and 1999–2014) have yet to be catalogued; consequently, neither part is yet accessible to researchers. However, plans are currently underway to relocate both parts of the archive to the John Rylands Library (Special Collections), University of Manchester, possibly during 2015, at which point it is hoped there will begin to be access for *bona fide* researchers. Recent administrative papers will not however be available.

For further information about the archive, please contact Uwe Gröschel at ugroeschel@gmx.de, or for advice about plans for access, Professor Maggie Gale at maggie.gale@manchester.ac.uk.

Cumulative summary chart follows: Mapping the archives: a cumulative summary of archives listed in RiDE volumes 17.1–19.4 (instalments 1–6).

				Details in
itle of collection	Location	Main contents	Keywords	RiDE volume
elgrade TIE Co. Archives	The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry	Scripts, production records, correspondence & admin records	Theatre in Education, Young People's Theatre	17.1
ecily OʻNeill papers (Child Drama Collection)	Arizona State University (Tempe)	DIE and process drama workshop materials, Inner London Drama work, evaluations of theatre education programmes, lectures	Drama in education, Process drama, TYA	17.3
nild Drama Collection	Arizona State University (Tempe)	Swortzell Theatre Arts Collection; Creative Arts Team records; Cecily O'Neill papers; Jonathan Levy papers; British & US TIE collections, including Graffiti Theatre (Cork)	Child drama, DIE, TIE, TYA, Theatre for Youth, Integrated arts	17.3
ive Barker Archive (Applied Theatre Archives)	Rose Bruford College (Sidcup)	Books, journals, documentation on internatational theatre projects & festivals; workshop materials	Alternative Theatre, Applied Theatre, Actor training	18.3
ontact Theatre	University of Manchester	Scripts, production records, correspondence & admin records	Young People's Theatre, Youth Theatre	19.4
eative Arts Team records (Child Drama Collection)	Arizona State University (Tempe)	Scripts, production records, curriculum support materials, correspondence & admin records	TIE, YPT, Theatre for Youth, Applied Theatre, Teaching Artist	17.3
prothy Heathcote archive	Manchester Metropolitan University	DH's personal library, student theses, project records, video material	DIE, Applied Theatre	17.1
nathan Levy papers (Child Drama Collection)	Arizona State University (Tempe)	Research materials on TYA pre-1930, ann. bibliographies of plays 1780–1919, curriculum development	TYA, Theatre education, Arts education	17.3
es Epskamp archive	University of Winchester	Records & reports from the Centre for the Study of Education in Developing Countries (CESO); books, articles and personal papers	Theatre for development, Applied Theatre	19.2
T Archive	Goldsmiths, University of London	Festival admin and production records, education & outreach materials	Applied Theatre, Experimental Theatre, Community & Outreach Theatre	18.3
ndon Drama	Goldsmiths, University of London	Records of London Drama teachers' association, including project records, publications; and TIE/TYA materials	DIE, TIE, Youth Theatre	18.3

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(Continued)

Title of collection	Location	Main contents	Keywords	Details in RiDE volume
Lowell & Nancy Swortzell Theatre Arts Collection	Arizona State University (Tempe)	History of NYU Educational Theatre Program; history & praxis of DIE and TIE and international TYA; TYA play development	DIE, TIE, TYA	17.3
Noel Greig Archive	Rose Bruford College (Sidcup)	Published & unpublished scripts, correspondence, working notes, DVDs	TYA, YPT, Alternative Theatre	18.3
Pam Schweitzer/ Reminiscence Theatre	University of Greenwich	Records of Age Exchange Theatre Trust, production records, oral history transcripts	Reminiscence Theatre, TIE, Community Theatre	18.1
Pam Schweitzer TIE papers	Rose Bruford College	Pam Schweitzer's TIE materials – scripts, production records, teachers' notes	TIE, Schweitzer	18.1
Peter Slade Collection	University of Manchester: John Rylands Library	Personal papers, publications, A/V material	Child drama, DIE	17.1
Pit Prop Theatre	University of Manchester: John Rylands Library	Production records, correspondence, funding matters	TIE, Community Theatre	19.2
Sue Frumin Archive	Rose Bruford College (Sidcup)	Scripts for stage & TV, related material	TYA, YPT, Alternative Theatre	18.3
Tiebreak Theatre	University of Manchester: John Rylands Library	Production records, correspondence, funding matters	TIE, TYA, Theatre for young people	19.2
TYA and Applied Theatre Archives	Rose Bruford College (Sidcup)	Pam Schweitzer's TIE materials; archives of Noel Greig, Clive Barker and Sue Frumin; records of TYA-UK (ASSITEJ)	Applied Theatre, TIE, TYA, Actor training	18.1 and 18.3
TYA-UK and ASSITEJ Archive	Rose Bruford College (Sidcup)	Documentation on festivals of YPT in UK and abroad; TYA scripts from UK, USA and mainland Europe; reports & publications relating to TYA-UK and ASSITEJ	TYA, TIE, Children's Theatre	18.1 and 18.3
Unfinished Histories	London (V&A Theatre Collection), Rose Bruford College, University of Sheffield & Bristol	Alternative theatre in Britain, 1968–1988: oral history, digital & paper archives	Alternative theatre, YPT, TIE, Community Theatre, Black, Asian, Women's, Lesbian & Gay Theatre	18.1

DIE, drama in education; TIE, theatre in education; TYA, theatre for young audiences; YPT, young people's theatre (including youth theatre).