

## Theatre Arts Poster and Program Collection (MS-3-Ref) Acquisitions Criteria

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Dalhousie University Archives (DUA) has developed significant archival collections comprising the records of Nova Scotia theatre companies, non-profit arts organizations, and the private papers of actors, directors, playwrights and designers.

Since its inception, DUA has accepted unsolicited posters, programs, print reviews and other non-archival theatre materials from one-time donors as well as from periodic and regular contributors. These played a significant role in the development of a theatre reference collection (MS-3-Ref) that represents a range of performance activity in the province over the past 130 years, including amateur companies, regional theatres, high-school and university dramatic societies.

The collection also contains miscellaneous programs and ephemera from productions in other areas of Canada and the world—the result of donors' travel and their enthusiasm—as well as posters and programs related to musical performances and other cultural events.

Materials of this nature can create a backlog of unprocessed posters, programs and other materials and highlight significant problems of duplication across archival collections as well as within the reference collection itself. Representation of theatre companies, productions and performance genres is haphazard and there are large chronological gaps in the material.

To provide both shape and substance to our theatre reference collection, acquisitions are now limited to posters/playbills and programs for Nova Scotian theatrical performances and events. While maintaining our legacy reference materials, we will mark the new focus of the reference collection with a new name: **Theatre Arts Poster and Program Collection**.

### Acquisitions Criteria

#### ***We will accept:***

- Posters/playbills and programs for theatre productions within Nova Scotia

#### ***We will no longer accept:***

- Press releases, reviews or articles (either print cuttings or items printed from the internet)
- Handbills or leaflets when the poster is identical in all but size
- Ticket stubs or similar ephemera
- Subscription or textual marketing materials
- Posters from theatres with whom we have an operational agreement under which we collect archival materials (e.g., Neptune Theatre, Dalhousie University Theatre Department)

***Unsolicited duplicate materials or those that fall outside of our acquisitions criteria will be discarded.***