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Department of Communication Studies and Theater Records

Finding Aid

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections
Briggs Library (SBL) Room 241 Box 2114
1300 North Campus Drive
Brookings, SD 57007
Phone: 605-688-5094
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Collection Summary

Identifier

UA 6.1

Title

College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Communication Studies and
Theater Records

Creator

Department of Communication Studies and Theatre, College of Arts and
Sciences, South Dakota State University

Dates

1931-2012

Extent

1.26 linear feet -- 3 document cases, moving image materials

Language

English

Repository

South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M.
Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

Access note

This collection is open to researchers without restrictions. The materials in
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Preferred Citation

Name of item. College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Communication Studies and Theater Records. UA 6.1. South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Hilton M. Briggs Library, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

The Department of Communication Studies and Theatre offers majors in Theatre or Speech Communication with an optional emphasis in Speech. This collection is composed of materials produced by the Communication Studies and Theatre Department. Included is material related to the Prairie Repertory Theatre and State University Theatre.

Historical Note

Speech courses have always been a part of the South Dakota State University curriculum. In the earliest years, the preparatory department offered courses in public speaking to high school students, and the English Department offered courses in public speaking and rhetoric, including elocution and oral reading. Through the years, various other departments took responsibility for the public speaking courses, including the Elocution and Physical Culture Department, the Public Speaking Department, and the English Department. A Speech Department first appeared in the 1924 catalog, offering courses in debate, speaking, and play production. Required courses in rhetoric were taught by the English Department until 1938 when they were placed into the speech department.

By the 1950's, the Speech Department was well established on campus. The Board of Regents approved the speech major in 1958, and a master's degree was also available. Courses were taught in forensics, drama and radio. Film and television instruction began soon after. In the 1970's the communication disorders program, which prepared students to teach or provide therapy in speech, hearing and speech language was established as part of the department.

In addition to formal course work in speech, extracurricular activities involving the department have flourished on campus. In the early years, speech and literary societies sponsored most plays and debates, which were a major source of entertainment on campus. After such societies disappeared, students continued to participate in debate and theatre, taking part in competitions and many theatrical productions. Students also worked for the State College broadcasting system and work for the campus radio station KAGY.

Since the early 1990's, the department has been known as the Communication Studies and Theatre Department. Programs in speech communication, speech education and theatre are offered, as is the radio, television and film program, which focus on production. Many opportunities for extracurricular activities are also offered through the department.

Contents Note

This collection consists of items materials produced by the various programs offered by the Communication Studies and Theatre Department. Folders include pamphlets, programs, and newsletters. The bulk of the material is related to the Prairie Repertory Theatre and State University Theatre. This material includes playbills, posters, ticket information, calendars, programs, and correspondence. Some items of note consist of bound books of theatre seasons for the Prairie Repertory Theatre. These books cover the 1971-2002 summer theatre seasons and include copies of programs, clippings, and photographs from plays.

Related Resources

History of State University theatre 1972 through 1992 - Louis W. Karlen

Publication Date: 1993

Call Number: LB2385.K1465

Key Words

KSDJ. (Radio station : Brookings, S.D.)

South Dakota State University. Department of Communication Studies and Theatre.

South Dakota State University. Prairie Repertory Theatre.

South Dakota State University. State University Theater.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Arranged and Described by

Crystal J. Gamradt, 1998 May 11, additions made 2013 August 26.

Container List

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
1	1	Course offerings	1999
1	2	Department of Communication Studies and Theatre Recruitment Video	1997
1	3	Film and Cafe Society - Reel Images (pamphlet)	1999
1	4	Footlight Club play programs	1931-1932
1	5	Prairie Repertory Theatre Book I	1971-1974
1	6	Prairie Repertory Theatre Book II	1975-1979
1	7	Prairie Repertory Theatre Book III	1980-1984
1	8	Prairie Repertory Theatre Book IV	1985-1989
2	1	Prairie Repertory Theatre Book V	1990-1994
2	2	Prairie Repertory Theatre Book VI	1995-1999
2	3	Prairie Repertory Theatre Book VII	2000-2002
3	1	Prairie Repertory Theatre - Correspondence	2003-2008
3	2	Prairie Repertory Theatre - Playbills	1999-2008, undated
3	3	Prairie Repertory Theatre - Programs	1981-2006, 2008
3	4	Prairie Repertory Theatre - Summer Calendar	1984-2008
3	5	Prairie Repertory Theatre - A Summer Outreach Program (info sheet)	undated

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)
3	6	Radio - KSDJ (posters, pamphlets, etc.)	1999-2005, undated
3	7	SDSU Experimental Theatre (poster)	undated
3	8	SDSU's Yellow and Blue Revue (booklet)	1988 June-1989
3	9	South Dakota Theater Fest (pamphlet, posters)	2004-2006
3	10	Speech (pamphlet)	undated
3	11	Spotlight on State University Theatre (newsletter)	1979-1986
3	12	Spotlight on State University Theatre (newsletter)	1987-1988
3	13	State College Theatre - Program	1954
3	14	State University Theatre - Correspondence	1991, 2001, 2007
3	15	State University Theatre - Playbills	1967-1968, 1987-2006
3	16	State University Theatre - Postcards	2004-2008
3	17	State University Theatre - Posters	2003, 2008
3	18	State University Theatre - Programs	1964-1991
3	19	State University Theatre - Season calendars	1966-1967, 1987-2005, 2008, undated
3	20	State University Theatre - Season tickets	1965-1991, 1998-2007