

Cricket Theatre Collection

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James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library

October 2012

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Summary Information

Repository	James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library
Creator	Cricket Theater (Minneapolis, Minn.).
Title	Cricket Theatre Collection
Date	1968-1989
Extent	0.83 Linear feet
Language	English

History

The Cricket Theatre started in 1968 in a building on Hennepin Ave and 28th street. With the success of, *House of Leather*, their first big hit, the theater decided to travel the show reaching local Twin Cities residents and moving on to New York where it flopped and the company promptly disbanded. After a brief break, the theater started up again in 1971, relocating to a movie theater in Northeast Minneapolis, now the Ritz Theatre. The Cricket got into dispute with their landlord who was overcharging them for rent and they won the case, receiving one year of free rent at that location.

The theater company moved into the Hennepin Center for the Arts in 1978 and between then and the late 1980s, the theater had three different artistic directors: William Semens, Lou Salerni, and William Partlan. The company closed yet again for a period in the 1980s due to lack of funding.

The Cricket Theatre, known for producing shows from emerging artists, closed in 1996 for financial reasons, which left the company \$120,000 in debt. Their last show, *Triple Espresso*, became the biggest hit in the theater's 26-year history and continued to be performed locally and internationally, following The Cricket's closure, for the next seventeen years.

Description of Collection

The Cricket Theater Collection consists of two boxes. The first box includes scrapbooks, clippings, newsletters and season brochures. Newspaper clippings continue in box 2 along with performance programs.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

James K. Hosmer Special Collections Library October 2012

Related Materials

Related Material

An oral history interview with William Semans, founder of the Cricket Theatre is available in the SCMC Oral History Collection and can be listened to online (31 min.). Semans discusses how the theater was founded and talks about the early shows at the theater, the differences between large theaters and small theaters, how he selected plays for the Cricket, and the struggles of working in the theater as one ages.

Controlled Access Headings

Subject(s)

- Theater -- Minnesota -- Minneapolis -- History.

Scrapbooks

Collection Inventory

Scrapbooks		
	Box	Volume
Cricket Theatre Season Plays 1980-1981 1980-1981	1	1
Cricket Theatre 1982 1982	1	2
Cricket Theatre 1983-1984 1983-1984	1	3
Cricket Theatre 1985 1985	1	4
Clippings		
	Box	Folder
Cricket Theatre Clippings 1968-1969	1	1
Cricket Theatre Clippings 1970-1975	1	2
Cricket Theatre Clippings 1976-1979	1	3
Cricket Theatre Clippings 1980-1989	1	4
Cricket Theatre Clippings 1968-1977	2	1

Newsletters

Cricket Theater Clippings 1978-1979	2	2
Cricket Theater Clippings 1980-1981	2	3
Cricket Theater Clippings 1982-1983	2	4
Cricket Theater Clippings 1984-1985	2	5
Cricket Theater Clippings 1986-1988	2	6
Cricket Theater Clippings 1989-1990	2	7
Cricket Theater Clippings 1991-May 1993	2	8
Cricket Theater Clippings June 1993-1996	2	9
Newsletters		
	Box	Folder
Newsletters 1978-1981	1	5
Promotional Material		
	Box	Folder
Season Brochures 1970-1995	1	6

Programs

Programs		
	Box	Folder
Programs 1978-1979	2	10
Programs 1980-1985	2	11
Programs 1989-1996, undated	2	12
Posters Undated, 1974-1991		Oversize Posters
Scope and Contents note		
19 posters		