Descriptive Summary

Collection Title: University Department Records

Series Title: Drama and Theater Department Records

Collection Number: 20

Series Number: 110

Extent: 1 manuscript box

Abstract: The Drama and Theater Department Records consists of items provided by the College of St. Francis’ Drama and Theater Department. The materials include program pamphlets, play tickets, pictures, and a scrapbook which has newspaper articles and pictures.

History:
The Drama and Theater Department at the University of St. Francis allowed students to showcase their talents in directing and acting by performing numerous productions. Under Assisi Junior College the program continued through the school renaming in 1930 to the College of St. Francis (CSF). Early plays performed include *Golden Hope*, *Seawana*, and *The Three Pegs*. Speech and drama classes provided opportunities for the students to explore areas of interest and share that interest with the College by presenting the importance of speech and drama through Speech Week/Better Speech Week. Speech week, which started in 1939, involved the campus and the local community through the plays, festivals and other activities. A few notable plays include: *Antigone* (1934; 1955), *Macbeth* (1950; 1962), *Blithe Spirit* (1963), *Animal Farm* (1965), *Ramona* (1941), and *Snow White* (1938).

Department Head Sister M. LaVerne and Dean of Students Sister M. Eulogia distinguished the department by promoting various activities in the community and reaching out to donors. The department provided opportunities for children in Joliet to showcase their talents through the Children’s Little Theater. Performance locations includes: Little Theater, Children’s Theater which was later renamed Piper’s Playhouse in 1970, Walden III Theater, and CSF’s auditorium/atrium.
Physical Location: LG-12-Section 10, Shelf 4

Language: English

Processor: Adjo Tameklo, Archives Student Worker

Administrative Information

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Restrictions on access: None

Provenance / Source of acquisition: Unknown

Scope and Content Note

Types of material:
The Drama and Theater Department Records contain various materials, including: budget and expense reports for the plays, receipts, production tickets, donor’s list, student contribution list, program pamphlets, charter membership information, letters between donors and Sister M. LaVerne, newspaper articles, and questionnaires. There is also a scrapbook which contains newspaper articles about many of the plays that were performed along with pictures of the performances.

Dates: 1928-2002

Bulk Dates: 1934

Container Listing

Box 1:
Folder 1 – Antigone – 1934
Folder 2 – Smilin Thru – 1942
Folder 3 – Pinafore – 1939
Folder 4 – Pirates of Penzance – 1937
Folder 5 – Rosamunde – 1935
Folder 6 – Ramona – 1941
Folder 7 – First Dance – 1940
Folder 8 – Mary of Scotland – 1937
Folder 9 – Snow White – 1938
Folder 10 – Cyrano de Bergerac – 1936
Folder 11 – Speech/Theater – 1928-1961
Folder 12 – Children’s Theater Department – 1941-1963
Folder 13 – Little Theater Department – 1938-1978
Folder 14 – Piper’s Playhouse – 1969-1982
Folder 15 – Drama Walden III – 1975-1978
Folder 16 – Chicago Educational T.V. Association – 1957
Folder 17 – Speech Department – 1941-1956
Folder 18 – Educational TV & MPATI – 1962-1967
Folder 19 – T.V. Educational Channel 11 – 1955
Folder 20 – Higher Ed. Media Study – 1966
Folder 21 – St. Francis Children’s Theater – 1942-1952
Folder 22 – Drama Department – 1955-1976
Folder 23 – St. Francis Auditorium – 1929-1940
Folder 24 – Lewis Theater – 1970
Folder 26 – Joliet Bicentennial Park Theater – nd
Folder 27 – St. Francis Theater – 1973-1982
Folder 28 – Speech Department – 1939-1973
Folder 29 – Speech and Drama Department – 1968-1973
Folder 30 – St. Francis Little Theatre – 1943-1955
Folder 31 – Moser Performing Arts Center – 2000-2002
Folder 32 – Miscellaneous Productions – nd
1 Scrapbook – 1953-1967

Keywords

Topics
Newsletters
Patrons/Donors
Speech Week

People
Mary Eulogia, Sister -Illinois-Joliet
Mary Jovita, Sister -Illinois-Joliet
Mary LaVerne, Sister -Illinois-Joliet
Mahoney, Joseph M.

Corporate Names
College Assisi Junior
College of St. Francis
University of St. Francis