

Kam Theatre Laboratory fonds

1973-1988

181 cm of textual records and audio and video tapes

Scope and Content

The records of Kam Theatre Lab, which was formed in 1974 as a Northwestern Ontario based professional theatre company with the mission to tour communities NW Ontario that did not often experience live theatre.

Series E 42/1/1 - scripts - 101 cm - 1973-1988

106 scripts, most rejections, submitted to the company for consideration:

- 1) *Extraordinary People* by Peter Raffo (1986)
- 2) *Playing at Murder*. By Lisa Schmidt
- 3) *The Straw Man* by Mark Monfette (1987)
- 4) *Act of Creation* by Peter Raffo (1988)
- 5) *A Visit from the Indians* by Anne Legault
- 6) *School Daze* by Colleen Krucas (1988)
- 7) *Glaciers in the Sun* (originally '*Till every battle's won*' by George Ryga (1986)
- 8) '*Till Every Battle's Won*' by George Ryga (1986)
- 9) *A Place in the Family* by David Craig (1986)
- 10) *Piano Trio* by Janet Hinto (1987) several drafts
- 11) *Life and Times* by Harry Rintoul (1987) 2 drafts
- 12) *Take Me Where the Water's Warm* by James DeFelice (1978)
- 13) *Your Wildest Dreams* by Marianne Copithorne and Murray McCune (1987)
- 14) *Holiday Piece* by Doug Broman
- 15) *From the Wilderness* by D.J. Melville-Ness, 1986
- 16) *Grounded or A Whistling Girl and a Crowing Hen* by Estella Howard & Kim Erickson, 1984
- 17) *The Moose* by Henry Beissel, 1985
- 18) *Mum* by Nick Mitchell, 1987
- 19) *The Bully Who Couldn't Swim* by David Jorgensen, 1987
- 20) *Gimme That Prime Time Religion* by R. Winslow & B. Henderson, 1987
- 21) *One Thousand Cranes* by Colin Thomas, 1987
- 22) *Journey of the Longest Night* by Brad Carson, 1987
- 23) *Hedges* by Dave Carely, 1987
- 24) *One Plus* by Anonymous (unfinished)
- 25) *Stargazer* by David Jorgensen, 1987
- 26) *Indescribably Blue (Fun in Manitoba)* by Alan Williams, 1987
- 27) *Rough Idle* by Alan Hibbert, 1987
- 28) *Another Seasons Promise* by A. Chislett & K. Roulston, 1987
- 29) *Low Intensity Operations and Chickenfeed* by Shawn Selway, 1987
- 30) *Shared Accommodations* by G. McLaughlin
- 31) *The Quebec Collection* by Roy Ellis
- 32) *Crane Dance* by Lenni Albanese

- 33) *Jimmy McOuat, Castle Builder* by Elinor Barr, 1986
- 34) *Having the Power* by Lisa Schmidt
- 35) *Because of the Stones* by B. McDonald
- 36) *Cradle Pin* by Audrey Butler, 1986
- 37) *Voices* by Elizabeth Kouhi
- 38) *Miss Balmoral of the Bayview* by Colleen Curran, 1987
- 39) *How I Wonder What You Are* by Robert Morgan, 1987
- 40) *Miss Morely's Ghosts* by Cathy Stanton, 1987
- 41) *Downtime*, by David Etheridge, 1985
- 42) *Cue for Treason* by David Craig, 1987
- 43) *Dora: A Case of Hysteria* by Kim Dales, 1987
- 44) *Aftershock* by Steve Petch, 1987
- 45) *Warm Wind in China* by Kent Stetson, 1987
- 46) *From the Boyne to Batoche* by Steven Bush & Rick tickenna, 1974
- 47) *Wintersong* by Carol Libman, 1980
- 48) *Quiet in the Land* by Ann Chislett, 1981
- 49) *First Spring on the Grand Banks* by Arthur Milner, 1987
- 50) *Invisible Kids* by Dennis Foon, 1987
- 51) *Top 0 The Pole* by ?, 1987
- 52) *The Great Migration* by ?, 1987
- 53) *Nothing Personal*, by Robert More, 1986
- 54) *Some Starless Night* by David John Smith, 1987
- 55) *Found Out* by Wayson Choy, 1988
- 56) *Means of Persuasion* by Peter Ratto
- 57) *Brandon Willie & the Great Event* by George Ryga, 1986
- 58) *Girls Cant Pitch* by Laraine McMahan Nelson & Jim Betts
- 59) *The Timepiece* by William Horrocks, 1984
- 60) *All For Beaver Hats* by ?
- 61) *Pogie* by Chris Heide & Al MacDonald
- 62) *The Occupation of Heather Rose* by Wendy Lill, 1986
- 63) *Dancing With The Daughters of Radon* by W. Roberts & Rodney Brown
- 64) *New Canadian Kid* by Dennis Foon, 1983
- 65) *Square Wheels* by Betty Inksetter
- 66) *The Hill Project* by William Roberts & Ken Ham, 1982
- 67) *A Warmer Hearth* by ?
- 68) *The Best Present of All* by Dave MacKenzie, 1986
- 69) *Checkin' Out* by Kelly Rebar
- 70) *The Tomorrow Box* by Ann Chislett, 1980
- 71) *The Art of War* by George Walker
- 72) *Alone* by Patricia Ludwick, 1984
- 73) *A Letter to My Son* by George Rigya, 1981
- 74) *Odd Jobs* by Frank Moher
- 75) *Scoops* by Dave Carley, 1985
- 76) *Crowd Control* by Peter Raffo
- 77) *Refugees* by Henry Rintoul
- 78) *Family Portrait* by Anthony Hall, Jane Heather, Peggy Lees & Frank Turner, 1982

- 79) *Stars in the Sky Morning* by Rhonda Payne, 1978
- 80) *Batturi* by Janet Hinton, 1987
- 81) *Bagman* by Per Brask & George Szanto
- 82) *Land of Magic Spell* by Larry Zacharko, 1974
- 83) *The Railroad Story* by David Craig, 1986
- 84) *Memoir* by John Murrell
- 85) *Puffballs* by Jim Curry, 1987
- 86) *Hotdogs Don't Have Doubts* by Paul Milliken, 1987
- 87) *When Stirs A Sleeping Giant* by Larry Santa
- 88) *Still Here* by Paul Milliken, 1987
- 89) *Bingo Superstars* by Michael Taylor, 1983
- 90) *Postcards from Italy* by Paul Milliken, 1987
- 91) *Learning to Live With Personal Growth* by Arthur Milner, 1987
- 92) *The Shunning* by Patrick Friesen
- 93) *The Laffin Jack Rivers Show* by Michael Taylor, 1983
- 94) *The Boot Opera* by Lawrey Smasbnuk, 1987
- 95) *Bordertown Cafe* by Kelly Rebar
- 96) *Gone to Glory* by Suzanne Finlay, 1985
- 97) *Hero's Welcome* by David Jacklin & John Roby, 1982
- 98) *Loose Connections* by Steven Bush 1977
- 99) *The Last Bus* by Raymond Storey
- 100) *Krokodile* by Leon Rooke, 1973
- 101) *Revival* by Sandra Birdsell
- 102) *Light Bulbs* by Jukka Tuisku
- 103) *Masque* by Jukka Tuisku
- 104) *Peggys Miranda* by Kenneth Dyba
- 105) *Dieppe* by Patrick Walsh
- 106) *Doris & Laura* by Don Lemna, 1988
- 107) *The Foul Mill* by Shirley Claydon

Series E 42/2/1 - audio tapes - 37 cm - 1978-1986

Cassette and reel to reel tapes of Kam theatre divided into five main categories:

Performances:

- 1) "Checkin Out" performed March 1986 (2 tapes)
- 2) "Beaver Hats"
- 3) "Pantolone and Mumu"
- 4) "Tomorrow Box", Mar. 1983 (2 tapes)
- 5) "One More for the Road"
- 6) "The Fighting Days", 10 Apr. 1986 (2 tapes)
- 7) "Means of Persuasion", 13 Oct. 1985 (2 tapes)
- 8) "Act of War", 6 Oct. 1984
- 9) "Plowthrough" (2 tapes)
- 10) "A Letter to My Son", 10 Oct. 1981 (2 tapes)
- 11) "Booster McCrane P.M.", Nov. 1983 (3 tapes)
- 12) "Melville Boys" (2 tapes)
- 13) "Refugees"

- 14) "Ten Graces"
- 15) "Family Portrait", 27 Apr. 1985
- 16) "Alone", 28 Feb. 1985 (2 tapes)
- 17) "Stars in the Morning Sky" 7 Nov. 1985 at Ukrainian Labour Temple (Act II only)
- 18) "Stupormarket", (Act II only)
- 19) "Dancing with the Daughters of Radon", on tour 1978
- 20) "A Letter to my Son", 1984

Sound Effects and Mood Music:

- 21) "Off the Track Again" (2 tapes)
- 22) "Odd Jobs", 1986
- 23) miscellaneous sound effects
- 24) "Piano Trio"
- 25) "Gas Family"
- 26) harvest folk music
- 27) applause
- 28) "Fighting Days" (3 tapes)
- 29) crickets
- 30) "Odd Jobs" (Country music)

Rehearsals:

- 31) "Family Portrait"
- 32) "Christmas T.U.R.K.E.Y."
- 33) "Off the Track, Again" (2 tapes)
- 34) "Beaver Hats"

Interviews:

- 35) Radio interviews with playwright A. Vost about his play "Neiges" (23 Oct. 1981) and on theater in Thunder Bay (24 Oct. 1981); George Rayga for "A Letter to my Son" (6 Oct. 1981)
- 36) Radio Interviews with David Mann and Harry Rental

Miscellaneous:

- 37) Kam Theatre theme song and radio jingle sung by Rodney Brown.

Series E 42/3/1 - video tapes - 32 items - 1978-1987

32 videos of play performances, dramatic readings and commercials. These are in five different formats: VHS, Beta, 3/4"/2 cassettes, and 8mm)

- 1) Play reading series 1988 of "Playing at Murder", "The Deer and the Antelope", "The Passion of Narcissus" (3 tapes, VHS)
- 2) Play reading series of "Act of Creation" by Peter Raffo, "Crane Dance" by Lenni Albanese, "Death Before Dishonour" by Joyce Hamilton, Waverley Library 8 Jan. 1987 (2 tapes, VHS)
- 3) Play reading series of "Having the Power" by Lisa Schmidt, 7 Jan 1987 (VHS)
- 4) Play reading series of "Having the Power" by Lisa Schmidt and "Refugees" by Harry Rintoul, 9 Jan. 1987 (2 tapes, VHS)
- 5) Performance of "Because of the Stones" by Brydon McDonald, Waverley Library, 23 Jan. 1987 (VHS)
- 6) Performance of "Best Present of All" at Algonquin School and Whitefish School, Dec. 1987 and St. John's School, 18 Dec. 1986 (3 tapes, VHS)
- 7) Performance of "Scoops" in Atikokan, 26 Feb. 1987 (VHS)
- 8) Performance (workshop) of "Piano Trio" by Janet Hinton at Waverley Library, 16 Jan. 1987

- (2 tapes, VHS); and rehearsal of same at Kam Theatre hall, 15 Jan. 1987 (VHS)
- 9) Performance of "The Old Same Story" (3/4" tape, Act I only)
 - 10) Performance of "Kam Christmas Show", (3/4" tape)
 - 11) Performance of "Ploughmen of the Glacier" (two 3/4" tapes)
 - 12) Performance of "Harvest" (two 3/4" tapes)
 - 13) Performance of "Native Images in Transition" (3/4" tape), possibly an exhibition
 - 14) Performance of "Dancing with the Daughters of Radon" (two 3/4" tapes)
 - 15) Performance of "Ploughmen of the Glacier" (1/2" tape)
 - 16) Performance of "Refugees" (8mm tape)
 - 17) Two 30 sec. TV commercials for "Checkin Out" and "Fighting Days" (VHS)
 - 18) Promotional video by Laidlaw Foundation showing clips from 4 plays, talks with playwrights, and comments on plays (VHS)
 - 19) TV review? By Rick Smith of "Booster McCrane P.M." (Beta)
 - 20) Performance of "Heather Rose" Apr. 1987 (VHS)
 - 21) Drama class by Kam at Algonquin Street School, 1987 (Beta)
 - 22) Kam Theatre core members, 5 Apr. 1985 (Beta)
 - 23) Contents unknown (8 mm tape)

Series E 42/4/1-3 - correspondence and reviews - 3 cm - 1987-1988

Four files created by Peter Raffo, associate artistic director (1987) and local playwright:

- 1) 2 files of letter to playwrights who had submitted plays
- 2) critiques of submitted plays
- 3) Kam's play reading series

Series E 42/5/1-9 - clippings, correspondence, and media relations - 13 cm - 1979-1988

Three files of clipping from local newspapers including reviews and ads. Also some CBQ Radio transcripts of play reviews.

- 1) media releases, letters, commercials
- 2) programs, pamphlets
- 3) posters, tickets and advertisements
- 4) "Kam-Kamera Continuity" containing air times and contents of commercials shown on McLean Hunter TV
- 5) Copies of newspaper clippings
- 6) Posters
- 7) Programs
- 8) Telegrams
- 9) Play descriptions

Series E 42/6/1-4 - correspondence - 4 cm - 1980-1985

Records of Michael Sabota, co-director of Kam Theatre

- 1) "Bread and Circuses" project held in Thunder Bay 26-31 May 1981, includes speech by George Ryga, opening address
- 2) Participation of "Theatre Sans Fils" and "Le Theatre Parminou" in "Bread and Circuses"
- 3) Tour schedules for "Scoops", "Best Present of All", and "A Letter to my Son", plus prop list for "Piano Trio"
- 4) Letters from school children

Series E 42/7/1-3 - miscellaneous files - 5 cm - 1985-1988

Five files containing

- 1) forms, volunteer lists
- 2) fundraising projects entitled "Pounds for Kam" and "Metal Head"
- 3) financial reports, including audits for 1985-1987 and "Alternative Funding Project" 1988
- 4) Scanned photo
- 5) Letters

Organizational Sketch

Kam Theatre was formed in 1974 as a Northwestern Ontario based professional theatre company which intended to tour other communities in the region which did not often experience live theatre. The company performed Canadian plays, commissioned original scripts and built collective creations. They often wove together mime, music, dance, circus skills with more traditional plays. The company's primary concern was the development of local talent. It was an incorporated body and a registered charity with funding from the Canada Council, the Ontario Arts Council, the City of Thunder Bay, private donations, and performance revenues. Kam Theatre disbanded in 1989.

Additional Information

Related material - See also museum photo collection 994.15.1