

**FRIEL, BRIAN.**  
**Brian Friel collection, 1966-1991**

Emory University  
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**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Friel, Brian.  
**Title:** Brian Friel collection, 1966-1991  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 732  
**Extent:** .5 linear feet (1 box) and 1 oversized papers box and 1 oversized papers folder (OP)  
**Abstract:** Collection of materials related to Irish writer and playwright Brian Friel, including newspaper clippings, theater programs, promotional posters, photographs, and a typescript.  
**Language:** Materials primarily in English, with a single item in Irish.

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**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

**Related Materials in This Repository**

Abbey Theatre collection, Peter Fallon/Gallery Press collection, Seamus Heaney papers.

**Source**

Gift, 2004

**Custodial History**

Originally received as part of the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Brian Friel collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

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**Processing**

Processed by Jennifer Brady, October 2006.

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**Collection Description****Biographical Note**

Brian Friel was born Bernard Patrick Friel on January 9 or 10, 1929, in Omagh, County Tyrone, in northern Ireland. His family moved to Derry in 1939, where Friel attended the Long Tower School and, later, St. Columb's College. He then went to the National Seminary at St. Patrick's College in Maynooth before leaving in 1949 to attend a post-graduate teaching course at St. Joseph's Teacher Training College in Belfast. Friel began teaching in Derry in 1950 and retired ten years later to begin writing full-time. While he began his writing career with composing short stories, Friel is best-known as a dramatist; he is often referred to as Ireland's greatest living playwright. Among his most well-known plays are *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* (1964), *Translations* (1980), and *Dancing at Lughnasa* (1991). Importantly, Friel also co-founded the Field Day Theatre Company with Stephen Rea in 1980.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Brian Friel collection documents Friel's work from 1966 to 1991. The collection includes a single typescript of *The Loves of Cass McGuire*, numerous articles about Friel and reviews of his plays, theater programs and promotional posters, an undated photograph of Friel, and an original cartoon of Friel by Martyn Turner for *The Irish Times*. In addition, the collection includes printed material relating to the Field Day Theatre Company and Publishing House.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by record type.

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## Container List

### Writings by Brian Friel

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	<i>The Loves of Cass McGuire</i> , August 1966, TS

### Printed Material by Brian Friel

1	2	"Field Day: An Introduction" in Field Day Theatre Company and Publishing House brochure [1987]
1	3	"The Future of Irish Drama: A Discussion Between Fergus Linehan, Hugh Leonard, John B. Keane, and Brian Friel" in <i>The Irish Times</i> , 12 February 1970

### Printed Material about Brian Friel -- Articles

1	4	"Brian Friel at Sixty" by Richard Pine in <i>The Sunday Independent</i> , 8 January 1989
1	5	"Enter (Left) the Bard..." [review of <i>Brian Friel</i> by George O'Brien] by Tim Harding in <i>The Sunday Press</i> , 15 April 1990
1	6	"Families and the Passage of Time" by Fintan O'Toole in <i>The Irish Times</i> , 10 February 1990
1	7	Field Day Theatre Company brochures, 1989, 1990
1	8	"Friel's Day" by Fintan O'Toole in <i>The Irish Times</i> , 7 January 1989
1	9	"Friel's Sense of Conflict" by Michael Sheridan in <i>The Irish Press</i> , 1 October 1986
1	10	"Friel's Stage and Brian's Well" [review of <i>Brian Friel</i> by George O'Brien] by Proinsias Ó Drisceoil in <i>The Irish Times</i> , 17 February 1990
1	11	"Intimate Attention" by Brian Brennan in <i>The Sunday Independent</i> , 8 January 1989 [includes "A Lighting Plot" by Seamus Heaney for Brian Friel]
1	12	"London Opening Night" [photographs from the opening of <i>Aristocrats</i> ] in <i>The Irish Post</i> , 11 June 1988
1	13	"Making History Himself" by Richard Pine in <i>Cara</i> , January/February 1989
1	14	"Making History with Field Day" by Jane Coyle in <i>The Irish Times</i> , 17 September 1988
1	15	"Neither Priest nor Politician, But Observer and Playwright" by Fintan O'Toole in <i>The Irish Times</i> , 23 April 1990 [see original cartoon under Art]
1	16	Photograph of Brian Friel in <i>The Irish Times</i> , 13 March 1990 [see original photograph under Photographs]
1	17	"Surprise Choices to Grace Seanad" by Tim Hastings in <i>The Irish Press</i> , 24 April 1987

### Printed Material about Brian Friel -- Promotional Posters and Theater Programs

OP1	1	Promotional poster for <i>Lovers</i> , Druid Theatre Company, 1989
OP2	-	Promotional poster for <i>Making History</i> , Field Day Theatre Company, 1988

- OP2 - Promotional poster for *Saint Oscar* by Terry Eagleton, Field Day Theatre Company
- 1 18 Theater Program: *Aristocrats*, Abbey Theatre, 1979
- 1 19 Theater Program: *The Communication Cord*, Field Day Theatre Company, n.d.
- 1 20 Theater Program: *Faith Healer*, Abbey Theatre, 1980
- 1 21 Theater Program: *Lovers*, Druid Theatre Company, 1989
- 1 22 Theater Program: *Making History*, Field Day Theatre Company, 1988 [includes related materials]
- 1 23 Theater Program: *Scéim Mundy* [The Mundy Scheme], Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe, 1973
- 1 24 Theater Program: *Translations*, Red Kettle Theatre Company, 1991

### Printed Material about Brian Friel -- Reviews

- 1 25 "Beyond Language" [review of *Dancing at Lughnasa*] by Fintan O'Toole in *The Irish Times*, 28 April 1990
- 1 26 "Dialectic of Myth and Truth" [review of *Making History*] by John Keyes in *Fortnight*, October 1988
- 1 27 "Dynastic Decline" [review of *Aristocrats*] by Joe Spence in the *Times Literary Supplement*, 17-23 June 1988
- 1 28 "Fall of the House of O'Donnell" [review of *Aristocrats*] by Tim Harding in *The Sunday Press*, 11 February 1990
- 1 29 "Finding a Language for Utopia" [review of *Aristocrats*] by John Peter in *The Sunday Times*, 5 June 1988
- 1 30 "The Five Eves of Lughnasa" [review of *Dancing at Lughnasa*] by Brian Brennan in *The Sunday Independent*, 29 April 1990
- 1 31 "A Hesitant Move into Unknown Territory" [review of *Making History*] by Fintan O'Toole in *The Irish Times*, 24 September 1988
- 1 32 "The History Man" [review of *Making History*] by Sabine Wichert in *Fortnight*, March 1990
- 1 33 "Linehan and Friel" [review of *Crystal and Fox*] by John C. Kelly in *Hibernia Fortnightly Review*, 14-27 February 1969
- 1 34 "Masterly McCann" [review of *Translations*] by Brian Brennan in *The Sunday Independent*, 24 April 1988
- 1 35 "A National Hero" [review of *Making History*] by Jasper Ridley in the *Times Literary Supplement*, 16-22 December 1988
- 1 36 "New Friel Play Is Rich, Lovable, and Enlivening" [review of *Dancing at Lughnasa*] by David Nowlan in *The Irish Times*, 26 April 1990
- 1 37 "Pathos Plays Bathos" [review of *Translations*] by Colman Cassidy in *The Sunday Post*, 24 April 1988
- 1 38 "Stars Light Up Friel's August at New Abbey" [review of *Dancing at Lughnasa*] in *The Sunday Press*, 22 April 1990

- 1 39 "A Telling Time and Motion Study for Today" [review of *Dancing at Lughnasa* by John Peter in *The Sunday Times Review*, 21 October 1990]
- 1 40 "Turgenev? Terrific? Friel? Fantastic!" [review of *Fathers and Sons*] by Fintan O'Toole in *The Sunday Tribune*, 5 June 1988

**Photographs**

OP1 2 Brian Friel, [1990]

**Art**

OP1 3 Turner, Martyn: Original cartoon of Brian Friel for The Irish Times, [1990]

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