THE LIVING THEATRE
The Living Theatre records, 1929-2013

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: The Living Theatre
Title: The Living Theatre records, 1929-2013
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1359
Extent: 71 linear feet (73 boxes), 7 oversize papers boxes and 6 oversized papers folder (OP), 7 extra oversize papers (XOP), and AV Masters: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)
Abstract: The materials consist of clippings, correspondence, photographs and printed material relating to the Living Theatre, its productions, business, and its members, including Judith Malina, Julian Beck and Hanon Reznikov, from 1929-2013.
Language: Materials in several languages, including English, Spanish, and Italian

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
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Related Materials in Other Repositories
The original diaries of Judith Malina exist in the Living Theatre Records, Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Source
Purchase, 2016

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], The Living Theatre records, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing
Arranged and described at the box level by Meaghan O'Riordan and Taylor Thomas, September 2016.

Collection Description

Historical Note
The Living Theatre was founded in 1947 by Judith Malina, a German-born student of Erwin Piscator, and Julian Beck, an abstract expressionist painter of the New York School, as an imaginative alternative to the commercial theater. The Living Theatre has staged nearly one hundred productions performed in eight languages in 28 countries on five continents.

During the 1950s and early 1960s in New York City, New York, The Living Theatre pioneered the unconventional staging of poetic drama, including the plays of American writers like Gertrude Stein, William Carlos Williams, Paul Goodman, Kenneth Rexroth and John Ashbery, as well as European writers, including Cocteau, Lorca, Brecht and Pirandello.

Many of the venues that the Living Theatre used to stage productions were closed by 1963, so in the mid-1960s, the company became a nomadic, touring ensemble. In Europe, they evolved into a collective, living and working together toward the creation of a new form of nonfictional acting based on the actor’s political and physical commitment to using the theater as a medium for furthering social change.

Following the death of Julian Beck in 1985, cofounder, Judith Malina, and the company’s new director, veteran Hanon Reznikov, opened a new performing space on Third Street in Manhattan’s Lower East Side, producing a steady stream of innovative works. After the closing of the Third Street space in 1993, the company went on to produce shows in other New York City venues. The theater found another permanent home on Clinton Street in 2008.

Shortly after opening on Clinton Street, Hanon Reznikov unexpectedly passed away in May 2008. After having written most of the company's new plays following Julian's death, Hanon left his final work unfinished; Eureka!, based on the poem by Poe (also Poe's last major work). Judith completed the script and opened the play later that year. When the Clinton Street space closed in the spring of 2013, the Living Theatre began a nomadic existence once more.

Biographical Source: This historical note was adapted and condensed from the history written on the Living Theatre's website: http://www.livingtheatre.org/history
Scope and Content Note
The materials consist of subject files, clippings and correspondence relating to the Living Theatre, its productions, business, and its members, including Judith Malina, Julian Beck and Hanon Reznikov. There is a comprehensive set of photocopies of Malina's original, holographic diaries from 1947-1998. The collection also includes original artwork by members of the Living Theatre, including original set designs, costume designs, paintings, posters, drawings, and collages by Julian Beck, Judith Malina, Hanon Reznikov, and Ilion Troya, as well as artwork given to the Living Theatre. Materials also include a comprehensive set of Living Theatre printed material, flyers, posters, programs, tickets, and press photographs, documenting the Living theatre's activities from 1959-2012. The collection also includes press, candid, rehearsal, performance, stage design and street performance photographs.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by record type.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Clippings, 1959-1965</td>
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<td>Clippings, 1961-1982</td>
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<td>Notebooks and photograph albums, undated</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
37 - Photocopies, diaries of Judith Malina, 1992
38 - Photocopies, diaries of Judith Malina, 1993-1995
39 - Photocopies, diaries of Judith Malina, 1995-1996
40 - Photographs, 1942-1989
41 - Photographs, 1952-2007
OP1 1 Photographs, 1955-1982 [14 folders]
43 - Photographs, 1955-1994
44 - Photographs, 1959-2008
45 - Photographs, 1964-1980
46 - Photographs, 1964-1998
OP2 1 Photographs, 1965-1975 [8 folders]
OP3 1 Photographs, 1967 [7 folders]
OP4 1 Photographs, 1967-1983 [3 folders]
47 - Photographs, 1968-1992
48 - Photographs, 1969-1998
XOP1 - Posters, hand drawn, "Charity Ball for Children Without Fathers," in English, Italian and Spanish, undated
XOP2 - Posters, hand drawn, "Strike," in English, Italian and Spanish, undated
OP5 - Posters, New York tour, 1961
XOP7 - Posters, production, circa 1976
XOP3 - Posters, promotional, 1960-1990
OP6 - Posters, promotional, 1963-2012
OP7 - Posters, promotional, 1975-1978
OP8 - Posters, promotional, 1976-1984
OP9 - Posters, promotional, 1978-2006
OP10 - Posters, promotional, undated
XOP4 - Posters, promotional, undated [1 of 2]
XOP5 - Posters, promotional, undated [2 of 2]
49 - Printed material, 1929-1990
OP11 1 Printed material, 1950-2009 [1 of 2] [4 folders]
OP12 1 Printed material, 1950-2009 [2 of 2] [4 folders]
OP13 1 Printed material, 1950-2012 [4 folders]
51 - Printed material, 1964-1961
52 - Printed material, 1966-1983
53 - Printed material, 1970-1995
54 - Printed material, 1973-2009
55 - Printed material, 1974-1977
56 - Printed material, 1978-1984
The Living Theatre records, 1929-2013
Manuscript Collection No. 1359

57 - Printed material, 1987-1999
58 - Printed material, 1999-2011
XOP6 - Props, wooden sign, "Three Friendly Warnings," undated
59 - Subject files, 1929-2013
60 - Subject files, 1939-2013 [1 of 2]
61 - Subject files, 1939-2013 [2 of 2]
62 - Subject files, 1946-1976
63 - Subject files, 1952-1988
64 - Subject files, 1960-2008
65 - Subject files, 1964-1988
66 - Subject files, 1977-1981
67 - Subject files, 1977-1990
68 - Subject files, 1981-1983
69 - Subject files, 1983-2013
70 - Subject files, 1991-2009
71 - Subject files, 1992
72 - Subject files, 1998-2005
73 - Subject files, 2009-2012
AV1 - Julian Beck/Judith Malina ~ Poems [original: audiocassette tape]
AV1 - Signals Through the Flames: The Story of The Living Theater by Julian Beck and Judith Malina [original: VHS tape]