



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Footlight Players records, 1930-1982

SCHS# 1244.00

Containers 25/124-25/145

Creator: Footlight Players (Charleston, S.C.)

Description: ca. 12 linear ft. (21 boxes + oversized material)

Biographical/Historical Note: Little theater group.

Scope and Content: Correspondence, constitutions, bylaws, minutes, financial records, programs, photos, set designs of Emmett E. Robinson, posters, advertising and promotional copy, and other items, relating to the founding of the organization, its coalition with Carolina Art Association (ca. 1938-ca. 1941), leasing of Dock Street Theatre, productions, Junior Footlighters, and Little Theatre School. Includes two audition scenes for the motion picture *Gone With The Wind*. Correspondents include Selma Tharin Furtwangler, DuBose Heyward, Charles Russell Price, Daniel Ravenel, Jr., Emmett E. Robinson, John Arthur Siegling, and Eola Willis.

Preferred Citation: Footlight Players (Charleston, S.C.) Records, 1930-1982. (1244.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Provenance: Gift of the organization, 1982.

Described in: South Carolina Historical Magazine 85 (Apr. 1984): 175-176.

Search terms:

Furtwangler, Selma Tharin -- Correspondence.
Heyward, DuBose, 1885-1940 -- Correspondence.
Price, Charles Russell -- Correspondence.
Ravenel, Daniel -- Correspondence.
Robinson, Emmett Edward, 1914- -- Correspondence.
Siegling, John Arthur, 1907- -- Correspondence.
Willis, Eola, 1856-1952 -- Correspondence.
Carolina Art Association.
Dock Street Theatre (Charleston, S.C.)
Footlight Players (Charleston, S.C.)
Junior Footlighters (Charleston, S.C.)
Little Theatre School (Charleston, S.C.)
Gone with the wind (Motion picture)

Arts -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Societies, etc.
Little theater movement -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Motion pictures -- Casting.
Motion pictures -- United States.
Set designers -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Theater -- Production and direction.
Theater -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Theater -- Study and teaching -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Theater and youth -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Theaters -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Theaters -- Stage-setting and scenery.
Charleston (S.C.) -- Buildings, structures, etc.
Advertisements.
Bylaws.
Constitutions.
Posters.
Programs.

Container listing:

25/124 Footlight Players

General Correspondence, 1930-1939. Over 500 items.

Charleston Little Theater Group. Correspondence tracing founding of the Footlight Players, with initial productions staged by Lt. Charles Russell Price at Charleston Navy Base (1930-1932) and regarding administrative, membership and financial affairs, and the procuring, directing, and staging of plays. Correspondents include Emmett Robinson, F.P. director, DuBose Heyward (1935), Eola Willis, Daniel Ravenel Jr., Footlight Players President, Selma Tharin (later Furtwangler) and personnel of the Works Project Administration and Belznick International (1936-37), the latter regarding casting of the film "Gone with the Wind," with two test scenes. Other topics include purchase and refurbishing theater building at 20 Queen St., Charleston (1934-35), opening of Dock St. Theater (1937-38) and the affiliation begun 1938-39 between Footlight Players and the Carolina Art Association. Arranged chronologically by the theater season.

25/125-126 Footlight Players

General correspondence, 1939-1978. Approx 500 items.

Charleston Little Theater Group. Correspondence regarding administrative, membership, and financial affairs, the producing and staging of plays, the Footlight Players's withdrawal (1940-41) from an alliance with the Carolina Art Association and the group's eventually successful bid to lease the City of Charleston's Dock St. Theater. Correspondents include DuBose Heyward (1934), Emmett E. Robinson, Footlight Players Director, John Arthur Siegling, Footlight Players president and other Footlight Players and Carolina Art Association personnel. Majority of correspondence is 1940s; arranged chronologically by theater season.

25/127-128 Footlight Players

Minutes 1932-1979. Approx 1 ft.

Charleston Little Theater Group. Minutes of board, annual, finance, and various committee meetings. Including minutes (1939-1941) of Production Committee of the Coalition of the Footlight Players and the Carolina Art Association. Arranged chronologically by theater season.

25/129/1-4 Footlight Players

Miscellaneous papers. 1932-1979. Approx 200 items.

Charleston Little Theater Group. Miscellaneous papers including lists of plays, produced, constitutions, and by laws, advertisement copy and employment applications.

25/129/5 Junior Footlighters

Papers, 1941-1980. Approx 50 items

Children's Theater associated with Charleston Footlight Players. Programs, clippings, and correspondence regarding JF and its successor, The Little Theater School, founded ca. 1963

25/129/6 Dramatic Society of the College of Charleston

Programs, 1932-1937. 18 programs

Charleston Theatrical group. Programs of productions; but including programs of the Junior League, Peruchi's Theater, Art Group, Academy of Music, Victory Players, South Carolina Auxiliary of the Navy Relief Society, the Thespian Players and Charleston String Symphony as well.

25/129/7 Robinson, Emmett E., b. 1914

Papers, 1933-1982. 10 items.

Director of Footlight Players. Programs documenting various aspects of EER's theater career; with photograph and resolution.

25/130-131 Footlight Players

Financial Records, 1932-1948. Approx 1 ft.

Charleston Little Theater Group. Financial records including selected journals, ledger, cancelled checks, bills, etc. With many yearly financial reports, including correspondence regarding rental of Dock St. Theater and Footlight Players Workshop to various groups and correspondence (1964-1968) with Burlington Mills regarding consultation work regarding fabric design for "Charleston Museum Collection" fabrics. With rules for box office operation.

25/132-133 Footlight Players

Photographs. 1933-ca. 1980. Approx 350 photos

Charleston Little Theater Group. Photographs of cast members, sets, patrons, volunteers and staff and board members, scrapbooks, contact sheets, mounted and loose photographs. With some photographs of Junior Footlighters. Photographs and scrapbooks have been moved to 1244.00 VM.

25/134-139 Footlight Players

Programs, 1931-1980. Approx 2 ½ ft.

Charleston Little Theater Group. Nearly complete run of programs and newsletters regarding plays produced by F.P. with occasional programs of other events such as motion pictures

91940s) and operas also held in Dock St. Theater or Footlight Players Workshop. Arranged chronologically by theater season.

25/139/6 Footlight Players

Printed matter, 1934-1975. Approx 65 items.

Charleston Little Theater Group. Miscellaneous, printed items, including brochures, maps, histories, tickets, announcements, invitations, etc.

25/140-144 Footlight Players

Clippings, ca. 1935-1972. 2 ½ ft.

Charleston Little Theater Group. Scrapbooks and loose clippings regarding Footlight Players productions, staff and board members, actors, volunteers, and various personnel including many regarding Emmett E. Robinson and Patricia Colbert Robinson. But including clippings regarding Charleston Symphony, Charleston Community Concert Association, Society for the Preservation of Negro Spirituals, Poetry Society of SC and other musical, dance, operatic productions, as well. Arranged chronologically by theater season.

25/145 Footlight Players

Miscellaneous papers. 1968-ca. 1978. 22 items

Charleston Little Theater Group. Set designs by Emmett E Robinson for several productions as well as an adaptation (1968) by Robinson of the play "The Recruiting Officer."

Oversized materials:

Flat files: 1244.00 – two posters

Oversized visual materials: 1244 VM – posters and additional oversized materials.