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Pocket Theatre Records

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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North Carolina Collection Archives

300 N. Roxboro Street

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URL: <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc>

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Summary Information

Repository:	North Carolina Collection Archives
Source - dnr:	Ariail, William Coke
Creator:	Pocket Theatre
Creator:	Ranson, Rebecca, 1943-2017
Creator:	Ariail, William Coke
Title:	Pocket Theatre records
ID:	NCC.0140
Date [inclusive]:	1969-1995
Date [bulk]:	1975-1979
Physical Description:	2 Linear Feet (4 document boxes, 1 oversize folder)
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

[Item, folder, and box information], Pocket Theatre records (NCC.0140), North Carolina Collection, Durham County Library, NC.

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Biographical / Historical

Pocket Theatre opened on August 21, 1975, founded by William Coke Ariail III and Rebecca Ranson. After studying visual and theater art, Ariail had previously served as director of Little Theater in Albany, Georgia, and worked with television studios before starting Pocket Theatre. In addition to her work with Pocket Theatre, Ranson, a playwright, had led drama workshops in penitentiaries in New York and North Carolina. Pocket Theatre aimed to present plays that were otherwise unlikely to have performances in the area, as well as to develop new playwrights and plays, provide a venue for local actors, writers and directors, and eventually to expand into a professional repertory theater. The founders wanted to prevent the loss of local talent to larger metropolitan areas and to serve low-income groups. The theater's first home was a space on Main Street in Durham; it later moved to St. Joseph's Performance Center--now Hayti Heritage Center--on Fayetteville Street in 1976. The Pocket Theatre probably performed its last

full season at St. Joseph's Performance Center in the spring of 1978, afterwards touring in various spaces until its final production, *The Stonecutter*, in spring of 1979.

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Scope and Contents

The bulk of the collection documents the plays performed by Pocket Theatre in the late 1970s. Other topics include correspondence, special events, and scripts that may not have been performed by Pocket Theatre, primarily written by Rebecca Ranson. Materials include newspaper clippings, posters and flyers, press releases, set sketches, handwritten notes, photographs, negatives, and slides. Materials are arranged in alphabetical order within each series.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series: Series 1: General Information. Series 2: Plays performed by Pocket Theatre. Series 3: Scripts. Series 4: Oversize materials.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

North Carolina Collection Archives

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URL: <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/ncc>

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of William Coke Ariail

Conditions Governing Use

There are no restrictions on the use of this material except where previously copyrighted material is concerned. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain all permissions.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

History of the Arts in Durham Records (NCC.0098)

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Controlled Access Headings

- Theaters -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Performing arts -- North Carolina -- Durham
- Performing arts -- Management
- Durham (N.C.) -- Social life and customs
- Ariail, William Coke
- Pocket Theatre
- Ranson, Rebecca, 1943-2017
- Ariail, William Coke

Collection Inventory

1. General Information, 1970-1995, undated

Physical Description: 1 Box (Box 1)

Title/Description	Instances
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Back Pocket, 1978	box 1
Coke Ariail clippings, 1970	box 1
Correspondence, undated	box 1
Newspaper clippings, 1975-1986	box 1
Photographs, undated	box 1
Pocket Theatre benefit event, 1978	box 1
Prison tour to Atlanta, 1979	box 1
Publicity, 1973-1976, undated	box 1
Rebecca Ranson materials, 1989-1995, undated	box 1

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2. Plays Performed by Pocket Theatre, 1975-1979

Physical Description: 3 Boxes (Boxes 1-3)

Title/Description	Instances
Angel Street, undated	box 1
Bubbles, 1977	box 1
Buddy Bolden's Blues, 1979	box 1
The Burnt Flower Bed, undated	box 1
Daughters of Hardship, 1978	box 1
Carnivores, undated	box 2
Convulsion, 1976	box 2
Desperadoes (2 folders), 1976-1977	box 2
Elmatha's Apology, 1977	box 2
An Evening with Aden Field, 1978	box 2
Flo is Crazy, 1977	box 2
If You Don't Like My Ocean Don't Fish in My Sea (2 folders), 1977	box 2
Iphigenia at Aulis, 1975	box 2
Irma la Douce, 1977	box 2
Lovecraft's Follies, 1976	box 3
The Maids, 1976	box 3
The Mercy Sea, 1977	box 3

The Murder of Lidice, 1977	box 3
Narrow Road to the Deep North, undated	box 3
Oh Mary Don't You Weep, 1978	box 3
The Stonecutter, 1979	box 3

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3. Scripts, 1969-1988, undated

Physical Description: 2 Boxes (Box 3-4)

Title/Description	Instances
Blood on Blood, 1986	box 3
Clay Hands, undated	box 3
Coffee, Beer, Never Feart, 1978	box 3
How Many Dark Ships in the Forest?, 1969	box 4
The Incarceration of Annie, 1978	box 4
One Potato, Two, undated	box 4
Secrets, 1988	box 4

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4. Oversize Materials

Title/Description	Instances
Posters, drawings, photographs	Oversize Folder 1

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