

An inventory to the  
Tamahnous Theatre fonds  
in  
Special Collections and Rare Books  
Simon Fraser University

MsC 59

## **FONDS DESCRIPTION**

### **Tamahnous Theatre, 1971-1995.**

Tamahnous Theatre fonds. - 1971-1994.

3.5m textual records and other material.

### **Administrative History**

The Tamahnous Theatre Workshop Society (later Tamahnous Theatre) was incorporated in Vancouver, BC in 1971. Original members included John Gray, Larry Lillo, Steven E. Miller, Sue Astley, Suzie Payne, Ed Astley, and Jeremy Long. Between 1971 and 1994 the company mounted over 100 productions including many original plays. The company became known in Vancouver in the 1970s for its emphasis on experimental theatre and collective creation and would go on to win numerous Jessie Richardson Theatre Awards in the 1980s. Tamahnous Theatre was the resident company of the Vancouver East Cultural Centre until ca. 1988, and the company toured BC and Canada with its productions and also performed in England and Russia. Tamahnous Theatre officially disbanded in 1995.

### **Scope and Content**

Fonds consists of records related to theatrical productions mounted by the Tamahnous Theatre Workshop Society and general and administrative records related to the company's operations. The fonds contains scripts, stage manager's notes and directorial notes, props lists, correspondence and memoranda, contracts, budgets, touring schedules, original artwork for posters, programs, and handbills, printed posters, programs, handbills, press releases, public service announcements, and other promotional material, clippings of reviews and paid advertisements, audience surveys, drawings and photographs, negatives, audio and video cassettes and reels, accounting records and financial statements, and other records. The fonds is arranged in five series: Scripts (1971-1994); Theatrical productions (1971-1994); General and administrative files (1971-1994); and Tamahnous Theatre Workshop Society photo history (1971-1994); and Audio visual records (1971-1994).

**Source of supplied title:** Title based on contents of fonds.

### **Physical description:**

Includes: ca. 500 photographs, 2 audio cassette tapes, 12 video cassette tapes, 21 video reels, ca. 350 slides and ca. 350 35 mm negatives.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** The Tamahnous Theatre fonds was acquired by Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books Division from Steven E. Miller in 2004.

**Arrangement:** Fonds arranged in five series based on the physical and intellectual arrangement of the records when they arrived at Simon Fraser University.

**Finding aids:** Series descriptions and file list are available.

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Scripts**

1971-1994.

90 cm textual records and other material.

Series consists of drafts and final versions of scripts for plays produced by Tamahnous Theatre, including plays written by members of the company and several unpublished scripts. The series also includes scripts for several plays not produced by the company. Where noted in the file list, stage manager's and/or directorial notes such as diagrams of stage blocking, props lists, and costume illustration are included. Files are arranged chronologically according to the sequence in which the productions were mounted. Scripts of plays that the company did not produce follow scripts of those that they did produce.

Title based on contents of series.

Related material is located in the Theatrical productions series.

### **Theatrical productions**

1971-1994.

1.2 m textual records and other material.

Series consists of records relating to productions mounted by Tamahnous Theatre including correspondence and memoranda, contracts, budgets, touring schedules, original artwork for posters, programs, and handbills, printed posters, programs, and handbills, press releases and public service announcements and other promotional material, clippings of reviews and paid advertisements, audience surveys, drawings, and other records. Files are arranged according to the sequence in which productions were mounted.

Title based on contents of series.

Scripts and production notes for many Tamahnous Theatre productions are located in the Scripts series.

### **General and administrative files**

1971-1994.

30 cm textual records.

Series consists of financial and accounting records, administrative and office records, records related to fundraising, and promotional materials including newsletters, calendars, and other records related to the daily operations of Tamahnous Theatre.

Title based on contents of series.

### **Tamahnous Theatre Workshop Society photo history**

1971-1994.

60 cm photographic records.

Series consists of photographs related to productions mounted by Tamahnous Theatre, and photographs of members of the theatre company.

Title based on contents of series.

### **Audio-visual records**

1971-1994.

1 m multi-media records.

Series consists of slides and negatives, audio cassettes, video cassettes and reels, and posters related to productions mounted by Tamahnous Theatre.

Title based on contents of series.

## FILE LIST

BOX/FOLDER			DATE(S)
<u>Series: Scripts</u>			
1	1	<i>Draculall</i>	1971
1	2	<i>The final performance of Vaslav Nijinsky</i>	1972
1	3	<i>Medea</i>	1973
1	4	<i>Salty tears on a hangnail face</i>	1974
1	5	<i>Fanshen</i>	1975
1	6	<i>Eighty-four acres: [2 drafts]</i>	1975
1	7	<i>Deep thought</i>	1976
1	8	<i>The writer's show</i>	1976
1	9	<i>Eunuchs of the forbidden city</i>	1977
1	10	<i>St. Joan of the stockyards</i>	1977
1	11	<i>Midas: [2 drafts]</i>	1977
2	1	<i>Midas</i>	1977
2	2	<i>Liquid gold</i>	1978
2	3	<i>Liquid gold</i>	1978
2	4	<i>Liquid gold</i>	1978
2	5	<i>Liquid gold</i>	1978
2	6	<i>Vertical dreams</i>	1978
2	7	<i>Metamorphosis</i>	1979
2	8	<i>Robin Hood and the golden arrow</i>	1980
2	9	<i>We won't pay! We won't pay!</i>	1980
3	1	<i>Sb/we A:/ra/ of saviour: [2 drafts]</i>	1980

3	2	<i>Bent</i>	1981
3	3	<i>Mister Puntilla and his chauffeur Matti</i>	1981
3	4	<i>Last call! A post-nuclear cabaret: [2 drafts]</i>	1982
3	5	<i>A state of grace</i>	1982
3	6	Fresh produce festival: <i>A woman alone; Chug;</i> <i>New blood; Still life</i>	1982
3	7	<i>The garage sale: [2 drafts]</i>	1983
3	8	<i>The garage sale</i>	1983
4	1	<i>Skull riders: [script and production notes]</i>	1984
4	2	<i>The real talking people show : [script and production notes]</i>	1984
4	3	<i>Cheap sentiment</i>	1985
4	4	<i>77ze /r/a/: [script and production notes]</i>	1985
4	5	<i>Neverland: The adventures of Peter Pan and Wendy</i>	1986
5	1	<i>Brides in space: [3 drafts]</i>	1987
5	2	<i>Cocaine: The board game!</i>	1987
5	3	<i>Simple folk</i>	1987
5	4	<i>If I should die: [2 drafts]</i>	1988
5	5	<i>Don't sit under the apple tree</i>	1989
5	6	<i>Powder blue Chevy</i>	1990
5	7	<i>5a//</i>	1990
5	8	<i>Confessions</i>	1991
5	9	<i>Confessions</i>	1991
6	1	<i>Light bulbs</i>	1991
6	2	<i>Fawrf</i>	1991

6	3	<i>Land(e)scapes</i>	1994
6	4	<i>The coyotes</i>	1978
6	5	<i>Yellow fever</i>	1982
6	6	<i>Mensch Meier: [2 drafts and notes]</i>	[1984?]
6	7	<i>No'xya'(Our footprints)</i>	1987
6	8	<i>Mahagonny</i>	[198-?]
6	9	<i>Proud beautyL'Appache/Skinner</i>	[198-?]
6	10	<i>The amazing Mr. Cat</i>	[198-?]
6	11	<i>A bigga bigga act</i>	[198-?]

Series: Theatrical productions

7	1	<i>Draculall</i>	1971-1974
7	2	<i>Thebacchae</i>	1971-1975
7	3	<i>The final performance of Vaslav Nijinsky and Inside the reflection</i>	1972-1980
7	4	<i>Bull Durham</i>	1972
7	5	<i>Alice in-wonderland</i>	1973
7	6	<i>The tempest</i>	1973-1974
7	7	<i>Sganarelle</i>	1973
7	8	<i>Metfea</i>	1973-1974
7	9	<i>Dracula II remount</i>	1974
7	10	<i>Salty tears on a hangnail face</i>	1974
7	11	<i>//once</i>	1974
7	12	<i>Cowboys #2</i>	1974-1975

7	13	<i>Preparing</i>	1975
7	14	<i>Forest with feet</i>	1975
7	15	<i>The shaman's cure</i>	1975
7	16	<i>Fanshen</i>	1975-1976
7	17	Festival Habitat Theatre Program	1976
7	18	<i>Teen-age heart throbs</i>	1976
7	19	<i>Eighty-four acres</i>	1976-1984
7	20	<i>The final performance of Vaslav Nijinsky remount</i>	1976
7	21	Tarragone Theatre, Toronto	1976-1978
7	22	<i>Deep thought</i>	1976-1977
7	23	<i>Eunuchs of the forbidden city</i>	1977
7	24	7S 07ree/s	1977
8	1	<i>St. Joan of the stockyards</i>	1977
8	2	7# fF/zeefc at City Stage, and tour	1977-1978
8	3	<i>Midas</i>	1977-1978
8	4	<i>Liquid gold</i>	
1978			
8	5	<i>The writer's show</i>	1977-1978
8	6	<i>Billy Bishop goes to war</i>	1978-1980
8	7	<i>Liquid gold tow</i>	
1978			
8	8	<i>Vertical dreams</i>	1978-1979
8	9	<i>The ruins of S-permar</i>	1978-1979
8	10	<i>Night train</i>	1978-1979
9	1	<i>Metamorphosis</i>	1979-1983





9	3	<i>Robin Hood and the golden arrow</i>	1979-1980
9	4	Vancouver international festival for young people	1979-1980
9	5	<i>We won't pay! We won't pay!</i>	1980-1981
9	6	<i>Some kind of saviour</i>	1980
9	7	<i>Happy days</i>	1980-1981
9	8	5enr	1981
10	1	<i>True west</i>	1981
10	2	<i>Mister Puntilla and his chauffeur Matti</i>	1981
10	3	<i>Last call! A post-nuclear cabaret (I)</i>	1981-1982
10	4	<i>Last call! A post-nuclear cabaret (II)</i>	1981-1982
10	5	ffiewoHYpoy/ffiewo/iY/wy/tour	1981-1982
11	1	<i>A state of grace</i>	1981-1982
11	2	<i>Bent remount</i>	1982
11	3	Fresh produce festival	1982
11	4	<i>The garage sale</i>	1983
11	5	<i>Last call! A post-nuclear cabaret tours</i>	1982-1983
11	6	<i>Skull riders</i>	1984
12	1	<i>Top girls</i>	1983
12	2	<i>Vaudeville east</i>	1984
12	3	<i>The benefit concert</i>	1984
12	4	<i>Those amazing Vancouver designers</i>	1982-1984
12	5	TTze best of Vaudeville east and Vaudeville east celebrates	1985
12	6	<i>The British music hall</i>	1985

12	7	<i>The real talking people show</i>	1984-1985
12	8	<i>Contagious</i>	1984-1985
12	9	<i>The real talking people show</i> at Festival of the Americas	1985
12	10	<i>Cheap sentiment</i>	1985
12	11	<i>The haunted house Hamlet</i>	1986
13	1	<i>Neverland: The adventures of Peter Pan and Wendy</i>	1986-1987
13	2	<i>Brides in space</i>	1987
13	3	<i>The haunted house Hamlet</i> at Festival of the Americas	1987
13	4	<i>Cocaine: The board game!</i>	1987
13	5	<i>Simple folk</i>	1987
13	6	<i>Simple folk</i> Odessa trip	1988
13	7	<i>Mr. and Mrs. MacBeth</i>	1988
13	8	<i>The haunted house Hamlet remount</i>	1988
13	9	<i>If I should die</i>	1989
14	1	<i>Moving pictures, stolen souls</i>	1989
14	2	<i>Do« V S7/ wrafer //ze op7/e tree</i>	1989
14	3	<i>Living art</i>	1990
14	4	<i>Powder blue Chevy</i>	1989-1990
14	5	<i>5 Blood Alley</i>	1990
14	6	<i>Jesus does laundry too</i>	1990
14	7	<i>5 minute feminist cabaret</i>	1991
14	8	<i>Confessions</i>	1991
14	9	<i>Light bulbs</i>	1991
14	10	<i>Faws/</i>	1991-1992

14	11	<i>Paradise and the wasteland</i>	1992-1993
14	12	<i>Raw materials</i>	1993-1994
14	13	<i>Land(e)scapes</i>	1994
14	14	<i>Low rez skyline</i>	1994

Series General and administrative files

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15	1	Press releases and publicity	1984-1990
15	2	Newsletters	1989-1994
15	3	Calendars	1990-1992
15	4	Miscellaneous promotional material	1981-1992
15	5	Fundraising garage sales	1984-1985
15	6	Corporate fundraising package material	[199-?]
15	7	Accomplices	1981-1992
15	8	Tamahnous philosophy, history, etc.	1971-1994
15	9	Canada Council artistic briefs	1981-1990
15	10	Biographies	1985-1990
15	11	Employee earnings	1976
15	12	Employee earnings	1977
15	13	Employee earnings	1978
15	14	[Accounting ledger]	1979-1980
15	15	[Accounting ledger]	1980-1981
15	16	[Accounting ledger]	1981-1982
16	1	Audited financial statements	1974-1984
16	2	[Administrative records (I)]	1971-1983

16	3	[Administrative records (II)]	1971-1983
16	4	Tamahnous 84/85 season : [scrapbook]	1984-1985
16	5	20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	1971-1991
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17	1	<i>Dracula II</i>	1971
17	2	<i>The bacchae</i>	1971
17	3	<i>The final performance of Vaslav Nijinski</i>	1972
17	4	<i>Bull Durham</i>	1972
17	5	<i>The tempest</i>	1973
17	6	<i>Alice in wonderland</i>	1973
17	7	<i>Sganarelle</i>	1973
17	8	<i>Medea</i>	1973
17	9	<i>Dracula II remount</i>	1974
17	10	<i>Salty tears on a hangnail face</i>	1974
17	11	<i>Hot ice</i>	1974
17	12	<i>Cowboys #2</i>	1974
17	13	<i>Preparing</i>	1974
17	14	<i>Forest with feet</i>	1975
17	15	<i>The shaman 's cure</i>	1975
17	16	<i>Fanshen</i>	1975
17	17	<i>Teen-age heart throbs</i>	1975
17	18	<i>Eighty-four acres</i>	1976
17	19	[Miscellaneous photographs]	1976-1977
17	20	<i>St. Joan of the stockyards</i>	1977

17	21	<i>Midas</i>	1978
18	1	<i>Liquid gold</i>	1978
18	2	<i>The writer's show</i>	1978
18	3	<i>Billy Bishop goes to war</i>	1978
18	4	<i>Vertical dreams</i>	1978
18	5	<i>The rewards of S-permar</i>	1979
18	6	<i>Night train</i>	1979
18	7	<i>Metamorphosis</i>	1979
18	8	<i>Foolproof</i>	1980
18	9	<i>Robin Hood and the golden arrow</i>	1980
18	10	<i>Five who say they won't pay!</i>	1980
18	11	<i>Some kind of saviour</i>	1981
18	12	<i>Happy days</i>	1981
18	13	<i>Five</i>	1981
18	14	<i>True west</i>	1981
18	15	<i>Mister Puntilla and his chauffeur Matti</i>	1982
18	16	<i>Last call! A post-nuclear cabaret</i>	1982
18	17	<i>A state of grace</i>	1982
18	18	Fresh produce festival	1983
18	19	<i>The garage sale</i>	1983
18	20	<i>Top girls</i>	1983
18	21	<i>Skull riders</i>	1984
18	22	Company photos	

1984-1985

18	23	<i>Vaudeville east</i>	1984
18	24	<i>The real talking people show</i>	1984
18	25	<i>Contagious</i>	1984
18	26	<i>Cheap sentiment</i>	1985
19	1	<i>The haunted house Hamlet</i>	1985
19	2	<i>Neverland: The adventures of Peter Pan and. Wendy</i>	1985
19	3	<i>Brides in space</i>	1986
19	4	[Miscellaneous photographs]	
1987-1988			
19	5	<i>If I should die</i>	1988
19	6	<i>Cocaine: The board game!</i>	1989
19	7	<i>Moving pictures, stolen souls</i>	1989
19	8	[Miscellaneous photographs]	
1989-1990			
19	9	<i>Living art</i>	1991
19	10	<i>Powder blue Chevy</i>	1990
19	11	<i>5 Blood Alley</i>	1990
19	12	<i>Five minute feminist cabaret</i>	1991
19	13	<i>Confessions</i>	1991
19	14	<i>Light bulbs</i>	1991
19	15	Fautf	1992
19	16	<i>Paradise and the wasteland</i>	1993
19	17	<i>Raw materials</i>	1993
19	18	<i>Land(e)scapes</i>	1994
20	1	[Unidentified photographs]	

20 2 [Unidentified photographs]



20	3	Contact sheets
20	4	Photos: not shows
20	5	Picture folio
20	6	Sue Astley
20	7	Morris Panych
25		[Oversized photographs]
26		[Oversized photographs]

Series: Audio visual records

21	1	[Miscellaneous 35 mm slides]
21	2	[Miscellaneous 35 mm negatives]
21	3	<i>Brides in space</i> : [negatives]
21	4	<i>Jesus does laundry too</i> : [negatives]
21	5	<i>The garage sale</i> : [negatives]
21	6	<i>We won'(pay! We won't pay!:</i> [negatives]
21	7	<i>Some kind of saviour</i> : [negatives]
21	8	<i>Robin hood:</i> [negatives]
21	9	<i>Contagious:</i> [negatives]
21	10	<i>Vaudeville east:</i> [negatives]
21	11	<i>If I should die</i> : [slides and negatives]
21	12	<i>Last call:</i> [negatives]
21	13	<i>18 wheels</i> : [negatives]
21	14	<i>Lighthouse</i> : [35mm video reel]
22	1	<i>Trial take 1</i> : [VHS video cassette]

- 22 2 *Trial take 2* : [VHS video cassette]
- 22 3 *Liquid gold*: [audio cassette]
- 22 4 *Cheap sentiment*: [audio cassette]
- 22 5 *Faust*: [8mm video cassette]
- 22 6-17 [unidentified video reels]
- 23 1 *Jesus does laundry too* : [VHS video cassette]
- 23 2 *Don't sit under the apple tree* : [VHS video cassette]
- 23 3 *Don't sit under the apple tree* : [VHS video cassette]
- 23 4-11 [unidentified video reels]
- 24 1 *Last call! A post-nuclear cabaret*: [beta video cassette]
- 24 2 *Paradise and the wasteland*: [SP 30 video cassette]
- 24 3 *Eunuchs of the forbidden city* : [KCS 20 video cassette]
- 24 4 *Forest without feet*: [beta video cassette]
- 24 5 *Paradise and the wasteland*: [SP 30 video cassette]
- 24 6 *Last call! A post-nuclear cabaret*: [KCA 20 video cassette]
- 24 7 Stephen E. Miller : [KCA 60 video cassette]
- 27 [Posters]