

# UQFL 401

## Mona Brand papers

**Size** 3 boxes

**Contents** Correspondence of Mona Brand and incoming correspondence to Christine Tilley regarding her research on Mona Brand and New Theatre; playscripts, programs and handbills for plays by Mona Brand and other New Theatre playwrights; research material; poetry short stories and articles by Mona Brand.

**Biography** Mona Brand (1915-2007) was educated at Rockhampton Girls' Grammar School and North Sydney Girls' High School. She worked during the Second World War as an industrial social welfare worker and later as a research officer with the Department of Labour and National service. She travelled and worked in Europe and in Hanoi before returning to live in Sydney in 1958. Brand was married to fellow socialist Len Fox. Many of Brand's plays have been professionally produced overseas, including in Budapest and Moscow, and she worked intensively with the New Theatre, Sydney, writing numerous satirical sketches for social and political revues produced by them. Brand also wrote television scripts as well as poetry, novellas and educational books for schools and published a book of songs based on Gilbert and Sullivan light operas.

**Notes** Open access

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### Series List

- Series A: Correspondence
- Series B: Playscripts by Mona Brand
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- Series F: Research Material
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### Series A: Correspondence

This series includes both incoming and outgoing correspondence of Mona Brand and incoming correspondence to Christine Tilley regarding her research on Mona Brand and New Theatre. Correspondents include other playwrights, academics, publishers and producers.

**Folder 1****Letters to Mona Brand, 1940-1986, from :**

- Blair, Ron. Literary Advisor, Sydney Theatre Company. 20 Jul 1981, 1 leaf typescript
- Clarke, Terence, 14 June 1985, 1 leaf typescript (Accompanied by letter to John Sumner, Melbourne Theatre Company, 3 leaves typescript)
- Devaney, James. 24 Feb 1940. 2 leaves handwritten (photocopy); 9 Mar, 1940. 2 leaves handwritten (photocopy)
- Furlong, Hilary. Play reader for Artistic Directors, Nimrod. 11 Aug 1981, 1 leaf typescript
- Green, Dorothy. 25 Apr, 1981. 2 leaves typescript (photocopy)
- Kippax, M. A. Secretary, Dramsoc, University of New South Wales. June 1970 1 leaf typescript (photocopy)
- Marshman, Roger, for the Playwrights' Competition Committee, South Australian Independent Schools Board. 22 Jul 1983. 1 leaf typescript (photocopy)
- Pitsis, Alex and Kerry Dobson. 21 Nov 1986, 1 leaf handwritten (photocopy). Accompanies article 'Interview with Mona Brand', in *Newswit* 1986 Oct 2-22, no. 222 (2 p.)
- Sykes, Alrene. 29 Mar 1979, 4 leaves typescript (photocopy)

**Folder 2****Letters from Mona Brand, 1970-1985 :**

- [1985 June?] , to Terence Clarke, 1 leaf typescript
- [1985], 'Strangers in the land : a reply to Peter Fitzpatrick', 5 leaves typescript
- [1985], to Matthew Kenny, 1 leaf typescript
- [1985], to Harry Cripps, 1 leaf typescript
- [1983 Jul?], to Roger Marshman, 1 leaf typescript (photocopy)
- 1981 Apr 7, to Dorothy Green, 2 leaves typescript (photocopy)
- 1979 Mar 1, to Alrene Sykes, 3 leaves typescript (photocopy)
- 1970 June 22, to Marilyn Kippax, 1 leaf typescript (photocopy)

**Folder 3****Letters to Christine Tilley, 1964-1982, from :**

- Brand, Mona. 15 Jun 1982, 1 leaf handwritten (accompanied book *50 New Years 1932-1982: An Exhibition of the Plays, People and Events of Fifty Years of Sydney's Radical New Theatre*, catalogued in Fryer collection)
- Brand, Mona and Len Fox. 12 Christmas cards, cards from drawings by Len Fox
- Brown, Bill. 2 Jul 1970, 2 leaves typescript
- Crawford, Jim. 14 Jul 1970, 2 leaves typescript
- Fox, Len. 2 invitations to exhibitions.
- Hardy, Frank. 24 Mar 1970, 1 leaf handwritten
- Sutton, Bill, People's Bookshop, Brisbane. 5 letters , handwritten, 1964-1970

**Series B: Playscripts by Mona Brand****Folder 1**

- 'Flying Saucery: a play for children', 29 pp, 1970, 3 copies, 1971
- 'Flying Saucery: a play for children', 25 pp

**Folder 2**

- 'On stage Vietnam', 3 copies

**Folder 3**

- 'Come all ye valiant miners'

**Folder 4**

- 'The Three Secrets: a modern fantasy in 2 acts for children 6 – 11 years'

**Folder 5**

- 'Hotel', written to replace 'Motel' when 'America Hurrah' was banned, 4 pp

**Folder 6**

- 'And a Happy New Year', 56 pp, 1974

**Folder 7**

- 'Chelsea Pad', 67 pp, 1981?

**Folder 8**

- 'In search of Aphra', 61 pp, 1983

**Folder 9**

- 'Barbara', 40 pp, adapted for radio, National One 669, by Joy Hollyer

**Folder 10**

- 'Going, Going, Gone: a financial revue 1787 – 1968', 35 pp

**Folder 11**

- 'Inbye: a contemporary drama of the coalfields in 3 acts', 78 pp

**Folder 12**

- 'Pavement Oasis: a play in 3 acts', 70 pp

**Folder 13**

- 'The Ghost of John Daniel', 55 pp, commissioned by the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union, 1976

**Folder 14**

- 'Everyman in his Coma: a serio-comic fantasy in two acts', 49 pp
- 'One of our Patients: a one act play', 18 pp
- 'High Time: a sketch', 5 pp
- 'Hold the Line – or, The Land of Teletap', 41 pp

**Folder 15**

- 'For Richer, For Poorer: a one-act play', 2 versions, 18 pp and 20 pp, 1972
- 'School for Thought: a one-act play in two scenes', 7 pp, 1980
- 'The Pirates of Pinchgut: after Gilbert and Sullivan', perpetrated by Mona Brand, 34 pp
- 'Hammer and Stars', 55 pp, 1970

- 'Butcher's Hook: an operetta in one scene', 5 pp

### **Series C: Playscripts by other Playwrights**

This series includes typescripts or photocopies of plays by other playwrights associated with New Theatre

#### **Folder 1**

- 'The Color of his Money: a satire in three acts' by Jim Crawford, 45 pp

#### **Folder 2**

- 'Labor's Shield: a play in one act', by Joseph Lawrence, 10 pp
- 'Action Speaks Louder!: a one act play', by WJ Brown, 17 pp
- 'In the Shade of the Coolibah Tree: a musical play', by R Diamond, 47 pp
- 'The Wild Colonial Boy: a musical drama in 3 acts', by Joan Clarke and John Meredith, 41 pp, 1955/56
- 'Home Brew: a play in three acts', by Joan Clarke, 38 pp
- 'The Lonely Years', by Joan Clarke, 45 pp
- 'Coal', by Oriel Gray, 15 pp

#### **Folder 3**

- 'The Ringbolter', by Frank Hardy, 73 pp, 1968
- Article from *TV Times*, 4 Mar 1970, pp 3-6, on Frank Hardy

#### **Folder 4**

- Playscripts of the New Theatre, Sydney, many untitled and with no date

### **Series D: Programs and Handbills for Plays by Mona Brand**

This series includes programs and handbills for various productions of plays by Mona Brand. Some have associated material attached and some are signed.

#### **Folder 1**

- Amalgamated Metal Workers Union, *National Headquarters: Official Opening 25/6/1976* program, 12 pp, centrefold is *The Ghost of John Davies: a musical revue* by Mona Brand, signed, note on back cover about publicity poster, handbill
- *And a Happy New Year*, New Theatre, Sydney, program, 4 pp, 3 copies, 1 signed
- *The Clearing House: a domestic comedy*, Whitefriars College, Donvale, 25 May 1995, program, 6 pp
- *Here Under Heaven*, Mentone Girl's Grammar School, Jun 1990, program, 10 pp, copy of review and letter from Toni Vernon, producer/director
- *The Three Secrets*, Iron Cove Theatre, Rozelle, program, 4 pp, handbill
- *Down Under Chelsea*, Quake Productions at the Stables, Sydney, 2 Jul 1991, program, 4 pp, handbill and 2 newspaper clippings
- *Here Under Heaven*, Mitcham Repertory Group, Nunawading, 9 Sep 1993, program, 8 pp, signed, 2 page letter from Mona
- *Here Comes Kisch!*, handbill for Studio 210, ABC live radio show, note at back from Mona

- *Flying Saucery*, Independent Theatre, Sydney, 1999?, coloured handbill
- *Strangers in the Land*, St. Paul's College Mummers, 1985, program, note by Mona
- *For Richer, For Poorer*, Noosa Arts, 1985?, program, 4 pp, 2 copies, newspaper clipping and note from Mona
- *Here Comes Kisch!*, New Theatre, Sydney, 4 Aug 1984, program, 8 pp, 2 copies, handbill, 3 copies
- *Here Under Heaven*, New Theatre, Melbourne, handbill, 2 sides
- *Barbara*, New Theatre, Sydney, 20 Aug 1966, program, 4 pp, handbill, 2 copies
- ABC Radio Guide, Qld, *This Week's Plays: Barbara*, 2 Mar 1971, p 3
- *Strangers in the Land*, New Theatre, Melbourne, program for play showing until 5 Dec 1953, 4 pp
- *Here Under Heaven*, New Theatre, Sydney, handbill, 7 Oct 1961, 1 page, 2 copies
- *Here Under Heaven*, New Theatre, Sydney, program, 7 Oct 1961, 4 pp, signed, 3 copies, publicity photograph attached to 1 copy
- *Our Dear Relations*, New Theatre, Sydney, 25 May 1963, handbill, 1 pp, 2 copies, program, 6 pp
- *Better a Millstone*, New Theatre, Sydney, 27 Nov 1954, handbill, 1 pp, 2 copies, program, 4 pp
- *Flying Saucery & other plays for young people*, handbill for the publication by APCOL, 2 copies

## Folder 2

- *The Pirates of Pal Mal*, New theatre, program, 4 pp, handbill, 1 pp
- *New Theatre's Musical Political Satire: The Pirates of Pal Mal Song Book*, Mona Brand & John Upton, Dec 1977, inscribed copy with note by MB about John Upton, 16 pp
- *The Three Secrets: an environmental pantomime for kids*, New Theatre, Sydney, 7 Jan 1980, handbill, 2 pp, program, 4 pp
- *Flying Saucery: an Australian space fantasy for children*, 2 pp
- *Flying Saucery*, Canberra Children's Theatre, Forrest, program, 4 pp, supplementary program note
- *Flying Saucery*, Wesley House Players, 4 pp
- *And a Happy New Year*, New Theatre, Sydney, program, 3 pp, 2 copies
- *Going, going, gone: a financial revue*, New Theatre, Sydney, commencing 23 Nov 1968, program, 2 copies, 4 pp, handbill, 1p, 5 copies
- *No Strings Attached*, New Theatre, Sydney, 4 Oct 1958, program, 4 pp, 2 copies, handbill, 2 copies
- *It's Time to Boil Billy: revue '72*, New Theatre, Sydney, handbill, 1 p
- *The Ghost of Grey Gables*, The Australian Theatre, Sydney, handbill, 1 p, program, 4 pp and supplementary program note/amendment
- *The Ghost of Grey Gables*, Wesley Auditorium, Sydney, program, 4 pp
- Handbill, 1 double page, 2 copies
- *You've Never Had it so Good: a satirical topical musical revue*, New Theatre, Sydney, 11 Dec 1965, handbill, 1 p, 2 copies, program, 4 pp
- *Come, All Ye Valiant Miners: the story of mining in Australia*, New Theatre, Sydney, 5 Jul 1965, program, 8 pp
- *Out of Commission*, New Theatre, Sydney, program, 4 pp, folded, handbill

- *Hold the Line – or, The Land of Teletap*, New Theatre, Sydney, 25 Nov 1960, program, handbill, invitation, 2 theatre ticket stubs
- *Fission Chips: an hysterical revue of our time*, New Theatre, Melbourne, 1959, program, 4 pp, handbill, 2 copies, and newspaper clippings
- *You've Never Had it so Good: a satirical topical musical revue* by New Theatre, Sydney, at the Peninsula Playhouse, Sydney, program, 2 copies, handbill
- *What's New – New Theatre casts a backward glance at 41 years of comment*, 15 Sep 1973, program, 12 pp
- *On Stage Vietnam*, written by Mona Brand and Pat Barnett, choreographed by Vivian Walker (Oodgeroo's youngest son, now deceased) performed by Yeti, Rialto, West End, Brisbane, Jun/Jul 1971?, program, 8 pp, handbills, 4 different designs, theatre ticket
- *On Stage Vietnam*, written by Mona Brand and Pat Barnett, New Theatre, Sydney, Jun 1967, program, 2 copies, 2 different handbills, 2 copies

### **Series E: Programs and Handbills for Plays by other Playwrights**

This series includes programs and handbills for plays produced by New Theatre, Sydney and various theatre production companies.

#### **Folder 1 - Folder 3**

- Programs and handbills for New Theatre, Sydney

#### **Folder 4**

- Brisbane Repertory Theatre program, 1966
- Sunnybank Repertory Company program
- 4 Brisbane New Theatre Club handbills and Spotlight, 1961

### **Series F: Research Material**

This series includes reviews, newspaper cuttings, articles and other research material on Mona Brand and New Theatre

#### **Folder 1**

- 'Culture in Australia – the year's clip', *Cultural Affairs Bulletin*, 23(4), 15 Dec 1958
- Tildesley, Beatrice, 'Fifty Years of the Theatre in Australia, reprinted by permission of *The Australian Quarterly*, Sydney, 8 pp

#### **Folder 2**

- Reviews of works by Mona Brand

#### **Folder 3**

- Miscellaneous information about Mona Brand or her works

#### **Folder 4**

- Newspaper cuttings on Mona Brand and New Theatre, Sydney and photocopied articles



**Folder 5**

- Newspaper cuttings on Mona Brand's plays, many annotated, photocopied articles, etc. and one hand written letter by Mona Brand, 4 pp

**Series G: Other Writing by Mona Brand**

This series includes poetry, short stories and articles by Mona Brand

**Folder 1**

- 'Where are you going, East Sydney?', *Geo*, vol 3, no 3, 1981, pp 115-127
- 'Join the rebel chorus, a lyrical Labor history'
- 'Nanny crisp and the tamarind tree', 1968?
- 'WF Wannan – a great tutor', *The Australian Highway*, 1 Apr 1946, pp 18-19
- 'The absentee', *Daily Mirror*, 1967
- Poems
- 'Sonnet for a Sunday', *Overland*, special issue, Vietnam voices a retrospect, 1973
- 'Parrots', *School Magazine*, NSW Dept of Education, vol 56, no 9, 1971
- 'The idle roam', *Young Australia*, Oct 1937, pp 12
- 'Then ho, for the fray of Christmas', *Argus Weekend Magazine*, 1939
- 'The boots', submitted to the Short Story section of the literary competition for 1946 of the *Sydney Morning Herald*

**Folder 2**

- 'New Australian voices'
- 'I went to Samarkand', 1954
- 'Looking backwards and forwards', *Bulletin for the Association for the Study of Australian Literature*, 1982
- Storyline suggestion for 'Out of the Past' series on ABC
- 'Jump and spin', *The Australian's review of books*, 1999
- 'The toast of Toorak', *Overland*, 1984
- 'Those thine accusers', *Poetry, the Australian International Quarterly of Verse*, vol 1, no 1, 1941, pp 21-22
- 'Shutters', *Star*, 2 Feb 1935, pp 29
- 'The sometimes true story of ASIO, the Cold War and me', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 Dec 2002

**Box List**

Series	Folder	Box
A	1-2	1
B	1-12	1
B	13-15	2
C	1-4	2
D	1-2	2
E	1-4	3
F	1-5	3
G	1-2	3