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

Series List
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- Series B: Playscripts by Mona Brand
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- Series F: Research Material
- Series G: Other Writing by Mona Brand

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)
- 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 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’, 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
• ‘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
• *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**

- Newspapers 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
- ‘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
- Poems
- ‘Sonnet for a Sunday’, Overland, special issue, Vietnam voices a retrospect, 1973
- ‘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

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