

Wayside Theatre on Tour photographs

Wayside Theatre on Tour photographs

1972



Title Statement

Wayside Theatre on Tour photographsGuide to Wayside Theatre on Tour photographs C0428

Subtitle: Wayside Theatre on Tour photographs

Author: Meghan Glasbrenner

Publication Statement

Publisher: George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Fenwick Library, MS2FL

4400 University Dr.

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Business Number: 703-993-2220

Fax Number: 703-993-8911

speccoll@gmu.edu

URL: <https://scrc.gmu.edu>



May 2, 2024

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2024-05-03 07:00:09 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

C0428

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/709

Unit Date

1972

box

1 (folder)

Language

English .

Abstract

Two black and white photographs of Wayside Theatre on Tour (WTOT) taken during the post-performance talk of Anton Chekhov's *The Marriage Proposal*.

Creator

Wayside Theatre

Extent

.01 Linear Feet 1 folder

Physical Location

R 71, C 1, S 6

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

Acquisition Information

Donated by Dr. James H. Laster in February 2019.

Processing Information

Processing completed by Meghan Glasbrenner in April 2024. Finding aid completed by Meghan Glasbrenner from April-May 2024.

Preferred Citation

Wayside Theatre on Tour photographs, C0428, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries

Historical Information

Wayside Theatre was founded in the early 1960s by Leo M. Bernstein following his purchase of a former movie theatre located on Main Street in Middletown, Virginia. The company staged their first performance in 1963. In 1968, Gerald (Gerry) Slavet took over as Artistic Director, bringing with him an interest in working with local teachers to bring theatre into the classroom, which led to the formation of Wayside Theatre on Tour (WTOT). One of the most successful outreach programs in Wayside Theatre's history, WTOT brought professional theatrical performances, completely separate from the mainstage productions, into the local community, particularly to elementary schools. To emphasize the educational aspect of the program, teachers were provided with study guides to be used in their classrooms to prepare students for the performances and post-performance question and answer sessions. These study guides were initially developed and produced largely by the newly hired Director of Public Relations and Publicity Barbara Swink. All WTOT productions were cast with professional actors, many who had appeared on Broadway or with other professional theatre groups throughout the country, including actress Kathy Bates (credited as Bobo Bates) who performed with WTOT during the 1973 season.

Slavet formally announced his intention to step down from his role as Artistic Director in early 1974, but agreed to stay on and assist with planning the upcoming season before handing over the role to his successor Lou Furman in 1975. Both WTOT and Wayside Theatre continued to operate for the next 40 years, with WTOT shifting focus from touring venues in the community to inviting school groups to attend performances at the physical theatre itself sometime in the early 2000s. In total, Wayside Theatre operated for 50 years, becoming the oldest professional theatre in Virginia, before financial troubles led to its sudden closing in 2013.

Scope and Content

Two black and white photographs of Wayside Theatre on Tour (WTOT) taken during the post-performance talk of Anton Chekhov's *The Marriage Proposal*. One photograph is of Artistic Director Gerry Slavet speaking

to an audience of children and one is of the play's three actors, Gary Filsinger, Penny Lynn White, and Bill Wiley, in costume on the stage with a child from the audience.

Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center holds other performing arts collections, including the Garrick Players photograph collection and the Reston Players collection.

Keywords

Theater -- United States
Middletown (Va.)
Performing arts
Theater
Photographs
Slavet, Gerald
Wayside Theatre on Tour

Bibliography

"1968-1974: Slavet." n.d. All About Wayside Theatre. Accessed May 1, 2024.
<https://www.allaboutwayside.com/19681974-slavet>.

"Wayside Theatre." 2023. In Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Wayside_Theatre&oldid=1192795844#External_links.

"Wayside Theatre on Tour." n.d. All About Wayside Theatre. Accessed May 1, 2024.
<https://www.allaboutwayside.com/wayside-theatre-on-tour>.

Arrangement

This is a single folder collection.