

## **MS-95: Ohio Theatre Alliance Records**

**Collection Number:** MS-95

**Title:** Ohio Theatre Alliance Records

**Dates:** 1972-1989 (Bulk 1972-1985)

**Creator:** Ohio Theatre Alliance

**Summary/Abstract:** The Ohio Theatre Alliance was founded in 1972 to bring together all levels of theatre - professional, community, college, and school - to promote communications and take action on matters of concern. The records in this collection include organizational papers, meeting minutes, membership records, committee reports, conference records, financial records, and correspondence.

**Quantity/Physical Description:** 4.0 linear feet

**Language(s):** English

**Repository:**

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092.

**Restrictions on Access:** There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

**Restrictions on Use:**

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**Preferred Citation:**

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-95, Ohio Theatre Alliance Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

**Acquisition:** The records of the Ohio Theater Alliance were accessioned into the Wright State University Department of Archives and Special Collections on July 5, 1979 as accession #79 - 24. Further additions to the collection were received in 1984 and 2011.

**Related Material:**

UA-6 Abe Bassett Wright State University Theatre Collection  
(<https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ua6.pdf>)

**Notes:** The organization has a website at <https://ohiotheatrealliance.org/>.

**Revisions:** Finding aid revised according to DACS, 2017

**Processed by:** William Henry Young, April 1980. Additions processed by Nancy Leggett, August 1987; Inge Wurstner, June 1994; Jeri Kniess, May 2012

**Arrangement:**

The collection is arranged in 12 series:

- Series I: Organizational Records
  - Subseries IA: Organizational documents
  - Subseries IB: Trustees and Board of Directors
  - Subseries IC: Officers' Reports and Correspondence
- Series II: Financial Records
- Series III: Membership
- Series IV: Educational Events
  - Subseries IV A: Conferences
  - Subseries IV B: Retreats
  - Subseries IV C: Workshops
- Series V: Action Groups
- Series VI: Auditions
- Series VII: Certification
- Series VIII: Publicity
- Series IX: "Theater Topics"
- Series X: High School Theater
- Series XI: Children's Theater
- Series XII: Correspondence

**Historical Note:**

The Ohio Theater Alliance Incorporated was established as a non-profit organization on May 16, 1973, and was recognized by the American Theater Association in that same year. It operates under a loosely constructed constitution and set of by-laws, and is involved in all aspects of theater in Ohio.

In 1972 ad hoc committee (consisting of Dr. Alvin Kaufman, Dr. Abe Bassett, Ms. Margaret Ezekiel, John C. Barner and Dr. John Walker) was created in order to investigate and make suggestions about the formation of a state - wide theater organization. Since the need for such an organization had already been established, Dr. John Walker, the organizations first president stated :

" In October of 1972, a group of some sixty people representing a broad spectrum of theater people met to consider a need for a state theater association in Ohio. It was readily apparent to the group that there were many concerns and problems common to various segments of theater, and that no existing state association was organized to embrace all areas. Therefore, a committee was formed to set up a structure and operational plan."

The state-wide organization which the committee recommended was established on May 19, 1973.

The major function of the organization was to bring together all levels of theater (professional, community, college/university, secondary school, and children's theater), to promote communication and understanding, and to take action on matters of mutual concern. The Ohio Theater Alliance affiliated with the American Theater Alliance in order to achieve an effective and strong association at all levels. The state, regional, and national associations presented a united front to the academic, professional, social and cultural entities of society which positively affected the dramatic arts.

Adequate monetary support for theater activities certainly was a consideration of common concern among the theater groups, but this consideration alone could not have bonded the groups together into a single unified whole. Topics discussed at the first meeting included :

- \* accreditation in theater
- \* scheduling
- \* regional and state high school festivals
- \* creative drama
- \* relationship between professional theater and educational theater
- \* future of American Theater Alliance in Ohio

Relationships, needs and concerns were aired at the meeting, and a broad perspective of theater in Ohio emerged. The Alliance became an umbrella organization which continues to shelter and nourish the dramatic arts in Ohio.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The records of the Ohio Theater Alliance are divided into 12 series.

**Series I, Organizational Records**, consists of three subseries : Subseries IA, Organizational documents which contains the OTA Constitution and later revisions, an organizational chart and other material related to the beginnings of the Ohio Theater Alliance ; Subseries IB, Trustees and Board of Directors, which contains lists of Board members, a Board manual and Board meeting minutes and Subseries IC, Officers' Reports and Correspondence, which contains material relating to the officers of OTA, including reports and correspondence.

**Series II, Financial Records**, contains budget proposals, grant applications and correspondence, treasurer's reports and other financial information.

**Series III, Membership**, includes directories, mailing lists, correspondence and other materials pertaining to membership in OTA.

**Series IV, Educational events**, consists of three subseries : Subseries IVA, conferences deals with the bi-annual Ohio Theater Alliance conferences ; Subseries IV B, retreats contains materials related to the Board of Directors planning sessions for the Alliances bi-annual conferences ; Subseries IV C, Workshops, pertains to training sessions for teachers and other professionals in the communications field.

**Series V, Action Groups**, consists of material on the "action groups" established by the Alliance. These include College theater, Graduate theater, Professional theater, Theater management,

Community theater, design and technology and Ohio playwrights as well as other action groups which were established as the need arose.

**Series VI, Auditions**, covers auditions from 1976-1985.

**Series VII, Certification**, documents the efforts of the Alliance to obtain better certification standards for drama teachers in Ohio schools.

**Series VIII, Publicity**, contains brochures, news releases, newsletters, survey correspondence and a copy of Theater in Ohio 1980.

**Series IX, "Theater Topics,"** contains information on a variety of subjects which are of interest to the Ohio Theater Alliance. This category was created by Abe Basset, a former president of the Alliance, when the collection was donated.

**Series X, High School Theater**, and **Series XI, Children's Theater**, contain information on the various high school and children's theater festivals presented under the auspices of the Ohio Theater Alliance.

**Series XII, Correspondence**, contains correspondence of the Alliance arranged in chronological order.

### **Subject Terms:**

#### **Organizations/Corporations**

Ohio Theatre Alliance -- Archives

#### **Subjects (General)**

Theater – Ohio -- History

Performing arts -- Ohio

**Collection Inventory**

<b>SERIES I: ORGANIZATIONAL RECORDS</b>			
<b><u>Subseries IA: Organizational Documents</u></b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Articles of Incorporation	Undated
1	2	Organizational documents	1972-1973
1	3	Certificate of Amendment to Articles of Incorporation	1977
1	4	Organizational Chart	1984
1	5	Constitutions, original and revisions	1973, 1980
1	6	Constitution revision committee materials	1978-1979
<b><u>Subseries IB: Trustees and Board of Directors</u></b>			
1	7	Board of Trustees Manual	Undated
1	8	Board member listings	1972-1981
1	9	Board of Directors: Minutes	1973-1974
1	10	Board of Directors: Minutes	1975-1977
1	11	Board of Directors: Minutes	1978-1979
1	12	Board of Directors: Minutes	1982-1984
1	13	Board of Directors: Meetings	Jan-Oct, 1985
1	14	Board of Directors: Meetings	Jan-Sep, 1986
1	15	Board Meeting Materials	1975-1981
2	1	Board Meeting Materials	1985-1986
2	2	OTA Five-Year Plan	1984/85-1988/89
2	3	U.S. Institute of Theater Technology (USITT)	Undated
2	4	Nominating Committee	1976-1984
<b><u>Subseries IC: Officers' Reports and Correspondence</u></b>			
2	5	Executive Director's Search	1978
2	6	Executive Director's Reports	1978-1980
2	7	Ad Hoc committee for the OTA Correspondence	1972
2	8	President's Correspondence	1973-1980
2	9	President's Reports	1973-1984
2	10	Vice-President's Reports	1977-1978
2	11	Executive Secretary's Reports	1976-1977
2	12	Secretary Reports	1977-1978
<b>SERIES II: FINANCIAL RECORDS</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	13	Budget Proposals	1976-1980
2	14	Grant Applications	1976-1980
2	15	Grants: Correspondence	1976-1977

2	16	Income and Expenditures	1981-1983
2	17	Treasurer's Correspondence	1974-1980
2	18	Treasurer's Notebook	1974-1978
2	19	Treasurer's Reports	1973-1979
2	20	Miscellaneous Minutes and Reports	Undated
<b>SERIES III: MEMBERSHIP</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	1	Directories	1973-1980
3	2	Directories	1981-1985
3	3	Letters and Miscellaneous materials	Undated
3	4	Mailing Lists	1974-1976
3	5	Mailing Lists	1976-1978
3	6	Mailing Lists	1986
3	7	Membership: Miscellaneous	1972-1977
3	8	Membership: Miscellaneous	1978-1980
<b>SERIES IV: CONFERENCES, RETREATS, AND WORKSHOPS</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b><u>Subseries IV A: Conferences</u></b>			
4	1	Fall	1973
4	2	Spring and Fall	1974
4	3	Spring	1975
4	4	Spring and Fall	1976
4	5	Fall, ATA Region III Correspondence	1976
4	6	Fall	1977
4	7	Spring	Apr 14-16, 1978
4	8	Fall	Oct 15, 1978
4	9	Spring	1979
4	10	Fall	1979
4	11	Spring	1980
4	12	Fall	1980
4	13	Spring	
4	14	Fall, with ATA Region III Correspondence (Held at Wright State University)	1981
4	15	Fall, Correspondence and Miscellaneous	1981
4	16	Session Reviews	1981
4	17	Conference Address Lists	1972-1973
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4A	1	OTA 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference	1983

4A	2	Fall	Oct 5-7, 1984
4A	3	Fall	Oct 25-27, 1985
4A	4	Fall	Oct 10-12, 1986
		<b>Subseries IV B: Retreats</b>	
4A	5	Retreats	1977-1979
4A	6	Planning Retreats	1984-1985
4A	7	Planning Retreats	1986
		<b>Subseries IV C: Workshops</b>	
4A	8	Playwrights Workshop	Undated
4A	9	Adjudication Workshop	Undated
4A	10	Public Relations Workshop	Undated
4A	11	Basic Skills Improvement Task Force	Undated
4A	12	K-12 Theater Education Workshops	Undated
4A	13	Miscellaneous Programs, etc. from Conferences, Retreats and Workshops	Undated
<b>SERIES V: ACTION GROUPS</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
5	1	Action groups: General	1975-1978
5	2	Awards Committee	1977-1978
5	3	Awards	1984
5	4	College Theater: Programs	1973-1980
5	5	College Theater	1976
5	6	<u>Playbills</u>	1976-1981
5	7	<u>Playbills</u>	1981-1985
5	8	<u>Playbills</u>	1985-1988
5	9	Community Theater	1976-1978
5	10	Design and Technology	1973-1978
5	11	Graduate Theater	1978
5	12	Minority Theater	1981
5	13	Playwrights	Undated
5	14	Professional Theater	1976-1978
5	15	Theater Management	1977-1978
5	16	Audience Development	Undated
5	17	Children's Drama	1976-1977
<b>SERIES VI: AUDITIONS</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	1	Auditions	1974-1978
6	2	Auditions	1979
6	3	Auditions: Applications, Celebration Theater	1980

6	4	Auditions: Applications, Festival Theater	1980
6	5	Auditions: Applications, Management Tech.	1980
6	6	Correspondence	1980
6	7	Auditions	1981-1982
6	8	Auditions	1983
6	9	Auditions	1984-1985
6	10	Auditions: Companies	1985

**SERIES VII: CERTIFICATION**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
7	1	Arts in Education	Undated
7	2	ATA Standards, Wisconsin Proposal and Document	Undated
7	3	Guidelines for Speech Communications and Theater Certification	Undated
7	4	Ad Hoc Committee on Certification, Misc.	Undated
7	5	OTA Certification Committee: Correspondence	1977-1979
7	6	OTA Certification Committee: Documents for Certification Standards	1977-1979
7	7	OTA Certification Committee: Recommendations and Harris Study	Undated
7	8	OTA Sterling Committee: Correspondence	1975-1977
7	9	OTA Sterling Committee: Meeting Minutes	1976-1977

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
7A	1	SCA/ATA Joint Task Force on Certification Standards	Undated
7A	2	SCA/ATA Joint Task Force Proposals on Teacher Certification	Undated
7A	3	Teacher Certification Study	Undated

**SERIES VIII: PUBLICITY**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
8	1	Newsletters	1973-1980
8	2	Newsletters	1981-1987
8	3	New Releases and Publicity	1975-1980
8	4	OTA Brochure	1983-1984
8	5	Survey Correspondence	1979-1980
8	6	<u>Theatre in Ohio</u>	1980
8	7	Advertising/Sales	Undated
8	8	Various Newsletters from other organizations	Undated
8	9	Newspaper and Articles, Misc.	Undated

**SERIES IX: "THEATER TOPICS"**



<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
9	1	Art Advocacy	1978
9	2	ATA-Region III	1976-1978
9	3	Audience	1973-1975
9	4	In-service Workshop	Undated
9	5	Ohio Alliance for the Arts in Education (OAAE)	Undated
9	6	Ohio Arts Council	1977-1978
9	7	Service Organization Workshop	1979
9	8	Sponsorship Development, Proposals	Undated
9	9	Theater Panel	Undated
9	10	Ohio Citizens committee for the Arts	1979-1981
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
10	1	Ohio Regional Association of Concert and Lecture Enterprises (ORACLE)	1979
10	2	Specialists in Drama	Undated
10	3	Summer Theater Survey	Undated
10	4	Technical Clearing House	Undated
10	5	Thespians	Undated
10	6	Touring Theater Residency	Undated
10	7	Dayton Community Theater for the Deaf & Fairmont Theatre of the Deaf	1979-1980
10	8	Illumination Theater	Undated
<b>SERIES X: HIGH SCHOOL THEATER</b>			
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
11	1	High School Play Festivals, General	Undated
11	2	High School Play Festivals	1973-1974
11	3	High School Play Festivals	1975
11	4	High School Play Festivals	1976
11	5	High School Play Festivals	1977
11	6	High School Play Festivals	1978
11	7	High School Play Festivals	1978-1979
11	8	High School Play Festivals	1979-1980
11	9	High School Play Festivals	1980
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
12	1	High School Play Festivals	1980
12	2	High School Play Festivals	1981
12	3	High School Play Festivals	1981
12	4	High School Play Festivals	1982
12	5	High School Play Festivals	1982

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
12A	1	High School Play Festivals	1983
12A	2	High School Play Festivals	1983-1984
12A	3	High School Play Festivals	1984-1985
12A	4	High School Play Festivals	1986
12A	5	Fairfield H.S.: Materials used for publicity	Undated
12A	6	Bassett: High School Theater Survey	Undated

**SERIES XI: CHILDREN'S THEATER**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
13	1	Children's Theater Festival	1978
13	2	Children's Theater Festival	1979
13	3	Children's Theater Festival	1979
13	4	Children's Theater Festival	1979
13	5	Children's Theater Festival	1980
13	6	Children's Theater Festival	1981
14	1	Children's Theater	1981-1983
14	2	Children's Theater Festival	1983
14	3	Children's Theater Festival	1984
14	4	Children's Theater Festival	1985
14	5	Children's Theater Festival, General	Undated
14	6	Commission on Children	Undated
14	7	Children's Theater Action Group	Undated
14	8	Children's Theater Address List	Undated

**SERIES XII: CORRESPONDENCE**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
15	1	General Correspondence	1973-1974
15	2	General Correspondence	1975
15	3	General Correspondence	1976
15	4	General Correspondence: Abe Bassett File	1976-1986
15	5	General Correspondence	1977
15	6	General Correspondence	1978
15	7	General Correspondence	1978
15	8	General Correspondence	1979
15	9	General Correspondence	1979
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
16	1	General Correspondence	1980
16	2	General Correspondence	1980
16	3	General Correspondence	1981
16	4	General Correspondence	1982

16	5	General Correspondence	1983
16	6	General Correspondence	1984
16	7	Miscellaneous Correspondence	Undated
16	8	Miscellaneous Address Lists	Undated