INDIANA THEATRE ASSOCIATION
RECORDS, 1978–2010

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Lois Naughton Allis
August, 2014

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

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<tr>
<th><strong>VOLUME OF COLLECTION:</strong></th>
<th>17 manuscript boxes, 1 box color photographs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COLLECTION DATES:</strong></td>
<td>1978–2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROVENANCE:</strong></td>
<td>Indiana Theatre Association, Indianapolis, November 16, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RESTRICTIONS:</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>RELATED HOLDINGS:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ACCESSION NUMBER:</strong></td>
<td>2011.0218</td>
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<td><strong>NOTES:</strong></td>
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HISTORICAL SKETCH

According to the Constitution of the Indiana Theatre Association (ITA), it was founded in 1974 to:

- Stimulate the development of theatre at all levels
- Bring together theatre people from around the state for their mutual growth and benefit
- Promote recognition and funding of theatre by government, foundations and others. Act as a liaison for theatre people to national and state associations and commissions
- Promote basic standards for theatre education within our state
- Provide opportunities for culturally diverse theatre within Indiana
- Provide a central clearing agency for exchange of information and materials

Indiana Theatre Association had five membership divisions:

- Indiana Children’s Theatre
- Indiana Secondary School Theatre
- Indiana University/College theatre
- Indiana Community Theatre League
- Indiana Professional Theatre

Initially, the Indiana Community Theatre League (ICTL) was an entity unto itself and had its own constitution and by-laws until at least 1986. It held membership in the American Association of Community theatres (AACT) and complied with AACT regulations with respect to AACT sponsored events.

At some point, date unknown, ICTL revised its constitution to make it an affiliate of ITA. It continued to operate independently, having a separate board of directors and separate board meetings. Their finances initially remained separate. By November of 1994, ICTL had become concerned that ITA was borrowing funds from ICTL for other ITA programs rather than trying to obtain its own funding. Finally, in February, 1996, ITA agreed that the system did work correctly and they developed a different format.

During its early years, ITA sponsored four activities each year to address the needs of all membership divisions:

a. Indiana Theatre Works: An annual membership conference focused on the development of new plays by Indiana playwrights and to provide opportunities for all theatre artists through performances and workshops. Eventually (about 2001) the Works event was combined with item (c), below until the Auditions program was dropped around 2003.

b. High School Theatre Learning Festival: An annual event for High School students and faculty featuring High School play excerpts, workshops and a professional theatre production. This festival continued until at least 1997
Indiana Theatre Auditions and Interviews: This event brought together theatre artists and regional theatre producers for both summer and permanent employment purposes. Event began probably in 1981 and ended after 2003.

Indiana Theatre State Festival: Community theatre groups from around the state performed play excerpts for adjudication. Set and costume designs were also judged. Every two years the winner of the state festival went to a regional community theatre festival sponsored by the American Association of Community Theatre.


In 2002, ITA merged with the Algonquin Project to create ITAP. One project that they immediately began working toward was to bring a Fringe Festival to Indianapolis.

Over the years, the working location for ITA/ITAP changed several times. Several colleges provided office space at various times including Butler, DePauw, IUPUI and University of Indianapolis. In 2009, records were transferred to Bloomington, Indiana, and the records end in 2010.

Sources: Materials in the Collection
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of seventeen boxes of manuscript material (1978–2010) and 193 photographs which are undated and not identified. Though collection information indicates and ITA was founded in 1974, none of the material in this collection is actually dated that early. Some of the undated documents may come from this early period, but we cannot be sure. The collection is divided into four separate series as follows:

Series One: Organizational Materials, consists of six boxes which contain several versions on the organizational constitution and by-laws, board and committee member information, meeting minutes for both ITA, ICTL and ITAP, financial reports and audits, insurance information, long-range planning and fundraising ideas, and grant funding documents. Most of the constitution and by-laws material is not dated, so it is difficult to determine what changes were made at any specific time. The transfer of power when the contracted Executive Director left in 1999 did not run smoothly due to a monetary authority issue which put the organization in temporary financial difficulty.

Series Two: Membership and Resources, consists of three boxes of membership forms, reports and mailing lists. This series also includes resource information available to the Association such as individuals experienced in lighting, design, choreography and hearing impaired interpreters. Other resources available were similar theatre associations, community and regional theatre groups, and the American Association of Community Theatres (AACT).

Series Three: Events, consists of five boxes which cover several areas. Earlier events consist of ICTL Community Theatre Festival and awards, High School Theatre Festival, Children's and Professional Theatre Division programs. From the mid-1990s onward, the main focus was placed on ITA's Works and Audition Programs. Initially these were two separate events, eventually they were brought together into one event and then the Audition program was dropped about 2004. This series also contains the photographs which were apparently taken during the Works program, dates may range from 1996–2001, but there are no dates on most of the photos and no identification of individuals.

Series Four: Publications, consists of three boxes of material published by ITA and by news outlets. ITA publications include the Indiana Theatre Bulletin, ITA Newsletter, DramaTies, Indiana Theatre Journal, membership directories and a Directory of College and University Programs. This series also includes publicity mailings, news releases, advertising and newspaper articles.
## SERIES ONE: ORGANIZATIONAL MATERIALS

**CONTENTS**

- **Constitution and By-Laws (n.d.)** Contains several different versions of the organization's constitution and By-Laws  
  - Box 1, Folder 1

- **Organizational Information (n.d.)** Contains committee structures, fact sheet and activity information  
  - Box 1, Folder 2

- **Non-Profit and Tax Exempt status (1986–n.d.)**  
  - Box 1, Folder 3

- **Lists of Board and Committee Members, information on board member responsibilities (1989–n.d.)**  
  - Box 1, Folder 4

- **Ballots for Executive Committee (1997)** Membership votes for board members  
  - Box 1, Folder 5

- **Executive Director. Includes Job descriptions for the position, resumes/bios of applicants, employment contracts and advertisements for the position (1983–n.d.)**  
  - Box 1, Folder 6

  - Box 1, Folder 7

  - Box 1, Folder 8

- **ITA Meeting Minutes (1996–1997)**  
  - Box 1, Folder 9

- **ITA Meeting Minutes (1998–1999)**  
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- **ITA Meeting Minutes (2000–2001)**  
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- **ITA Meeting Minutes (2002)**  
  - Box 1, Folder 12

- **ITAP Meeting Minutes (2003)**  
  - Box 1, Folder 13

- **ITAP Meeting Minutes (2004)**  
  - Box 1, Folder 14

- **ITAP Meeting Minutes (2005)**  
  - Box 2, Folder 1

- **ITAP Meeting Minutes (2006–2008)**  
  - Box 2, Folder 2


CONTENTS


ITAP Open House (2002) Communications, advertising, and press releases concerning the Open House held to celebrate the merger of Indiana Theatre Association with The Algonquin Project to provide one entity (ITAP) for supporting playwrights, actors and directors in Indiana

ITAP Name Registration (2003) Registration of new name with Secretary of State

Indy Playmakers (2003) Collaboration between ITAP and Indy Playmakers

Transition to Bloomington Location (2009) Correspondence, paperwork and invoices related to the relocation of ITAP headquarters to Bloomington, Indiana

Financial Transfer Issue (1999) Correspondence relating to problem with transfer of funds to new account during Executive Director changeover.

Financial Reports (2001) Budget and financial reports for ITAP


Invoices/Receipts (2009)

Lease (2002–2009) Office Space at Wheeler Arts Center for ITAP
Discussion Papers (2002) Proposal and ideas for way in which ITAP can contribute to making Indianapolis a Theatre City by 2012.


CONTENTS

Correspondence Regarding Merger with Algonquin (2002) Email messages mainly between board members regarding the merger with Algonquin and planning for the Theatre City meeting.


Insurance (1993–1998), Insurance policies and advertising, 1 of 6 Folders

Insurance (1999–2000), 2 of 6 Folders

Insurance (2003–2004), 3 of 6 Folders

Insurance (2005–2006), 4 of 6 Folders

Insurance (2007–2009), 5 of 6 Folders

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Ameritrade (2005–2007) Investment advertising

Internet Services Invoices (2000–2010) Invoices for Internet Service

Conference Call Instructions (2007), Telephone system instructions

Surveys (1985-1993), Surveys of members and event participants to determine methods of improvement

Fundraising Ideas (1989–n.d.)

Present Status ((1979–1990), Studies of present status of organization in order to determine future plans

Visibility Project (ca. 1984), Project plans to increase the visibility of the organization
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Membership Total (1995–1996), Listing of total membership of all varying types Box 7, Folder 4

Membership Total (2001–2002), Listing of total membership of all varying types Box 7, Folder 5

Membership by Type (1998–1999), Listing of Association by type of membership Box 7, Folder 6

Membership, Colleges/Universities (1992–1997), List of members associated with Colleges and Universities Box 7, Folder 7

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Labels for High School/College Personnel (n.d.), mailing labels for members associated with either high schools or colleges Box 7, Folder 9

Mailing Lists (1994–n.d.) Box 8, Folder 1

ITAP Member Lists (n.d.), Member lists after changeover to ITAP in 2002. Box 8, Folder 2
ITAP Mailings (2002), Membership mailings

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Resources, Non-Profit Organizations (1995), Information on other non-profit organizations

Resources, Theatres/Cultural (n.d.), Information on other theatre groups and organizations

Resources, Theatre Personnel (n.d.), Information on individuals trained in theatre to assist in areas such as acting, directing, technical work, etc.


Resources, Lighting (1995–n.d.), Information on individuals/companies with experience in stage lighting

Theatre Support Businesses (1994–n.d.), Listings of costume, lighting, stage building, furniture rental companies, etc.


Intern (1992), Correspondence regarding possible internship position

Web Domain (1998–2006), Information on web domain for ITA

Logos/Letterheads/Printing Originals (n.d.), Original images for logos, letterheads, etc. used on promotional materials

Venues (1995–n.d.), Information on venues for workshops, etc.

Plays (n.d.), Portions of plays
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<td>Indianapolis Theatres (1972–n.d.), Information on performances scheduled by various Indianapolis area theatre groups</td>
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<td>Bloomington Playwright's Project (2004-2005), Information on Bloomington, Indiana organization designed to produce original plays</td>
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<td>High School Theatre Festival (1980–1996), Information regarding the festival hosted by ITA for high school students</td>
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<td>Children's Classes/Productions (1972–n.d.), Correspondence, advertising and publicity on the children's theatre programs</td>
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<td><em>ATHE Directory of Theatre Periodicals</em> (1992), published directory</td>
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<td>Guilds (1995), advertising and registration forms for ITA Guild Program</td>
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Works/Auditions (1994–2000), Plans and agenda for ITA's annual Theatre Works, and later, the combined Works/Auditions program

Works (1996–2000), Planning and evaluation materials for the Theatre Works program

Works (1996–n.d.), Program plans, agenda and evaluation information for the Works program

Works Correspondence (1995–1998), correspondence regarding the Works program

Works Registrations (1996–1998), Registration forms and listing


Works (1997–n.d.), Facilitator biographies


Works (n.d.), Blank forms for evaluations, feedback, script submissions, etc.

Works/Auditions (2001), Agenda and registrations

Works/Auditions (2002–2003), Agendas, registrations and correspondence relating to Works/Auditions program

Play Submissions/Feedback (2002–2004), Information on Plays submission for Works program

Works Planning (2004–2007), Planning information for Works Program

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Regional Audition Activities (1996–2001), Information about programs similar to ITAP Auditions within the Region
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<td>Auditions (2003), Actor and Technician Registrations, Folder 1 of 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditions (2003), Actor and technician registrations, Folder 2 of 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photographs (1996–n.d.), 192 color photographs and 1 B/W photo.</td>
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<td>No identifications are provided. Most appear to be from various ITAP Works programs–5 folders.</td>
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Membership and Advertising Materials (2004–n.d.), Published materials
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Indiana Theatre Journal (2002–2004), Published copies of new plays previewed at the Theatre Works program


Publication Information (1995–n.d.), Publication order forms, membership registrations and printing instructions

Printing Costs (1992–2004), Reports on printing costs and printing invoices

Biographies (1993–n.d.), Biographies and resumes of workshop facilitators and ITA personnel

News Releases/Mailing Lists (1991–n.d.), News releases sent to media and mailing lists for media outlets

Publicity (1996), Printed information on ITA as an organization and Works, one of its programs

Advertising (1987–n.d.), Letters and mailings printed to advertise the organization or encourage membership

News Articles (1993–n.d.), Copies of newspaper articles regarding ITA and its activities or general theatre information in the vicinity
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
   http://opac.indianahistory.org/

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1092).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.