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Inventory

Acc.13182

Edith Macarthur

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Papers, circa 1942-2006, of Edith Macarthur, actor (b.1926). The collection includes scripts, photographs, press cuttings and other items of theatre and television memorabilia.

Edith Macarthur's stage career has taken her to most major producing theatres in Scotland, and to many in England. The variety of her range is demonstrated in the collection, from her early days with respected amateur company, the Ardrossan and Saltcoats Players, to acclaim with prestigious companies such as the Royal Lyceum, Citizens', Gateway, Bristol Old Vic, Pitlochry Festival, Traverse and Royal Shakespeare. Leading roles in the canon of major plays by Arthur Miller, James Bridie, Anton Chekhov, Eugene O'Neill, Noel Coward and their like, and various acclaimed productions of 'The Thrie Estaites', established her stage reputation. Alongside runs a vein of comedy and variety, from the 'Five Past Eight Shows' of the 1950s at the Citizens', to regularly playing Cinderella's Fairy Godmother in pantomime during the 1980s and 1990s.

There is also a considerable body of television work, from early series such as 'The Borderers' and 'Sutherland's Law', and the renowned 1970s adaptation of 'Sunset Song', to the long-running Scottish Television soap, 'High Road'. A milestone was the 1993 film 'The Long Roads' by John McGrath. At about this time Miss Macarthur was coming to the attention of less mainstream theatre-producers in Scotland. This resulted in a widening of her established range with challenging roles – for both actor and audience – for example in C P Taylor's 'Good' at The Tron in 1992, and Iain Heggie's 'Wiping My Mother's Arse' with the Traverse in 2002.

Miss Macarthur's regular and lauded performances as a reader of poetry and prose form another consistent strand. Much of this work was done in collaboration with her friend and colleague, the actor and director Tom Fleming (1927-2010). Their rendering of a selection of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle correspondence in 'Carlyle and Jane' proved consistently popular and was frequently revived.

The papers remain largely as arranged by Miss Macarthur, though some larger groupings have been split to facilitate the chronological arrangement of the theatre files. Duplicate items have been weeded out, and programmes of shows in which Miss Macarthur did not perform have been incorporated into the Library's general theatre programmes collection.

Presented, 2010.

The collection is arranged in the following order.

1-66.	Theatre.
67-77.	Television.
78.	Radio.
79-80.	Press cuttings.
81-84.	Programmes.
85-88.	Miscellaneous.

1-66 Theatre

The productions covered in this section should not be taken as a comprehensive listing of every play in which Miss Macarthur performed – this is far from being the case. Productions which are represented only by a programme can be found in the Library's [Scottish Theatre Programmes](#) database, and these programmes are gathered as Acc.13182/84 (see below).

1. Ardrossan & Saltcoats Players.
Programmes, press cuttings, photographs, 1945-1952; with two later press cuttings, 1959 and 1992.
2. Perth Theatre, 1956.
'Separate Tables' by Terence Rattigan. One photograph.
'Midsummer Night's Dream'. One photograph.
3. Citizens' Theatre, 1957-1959.
'Dr Angelus' by James Bridie (1957). One photograph.
'Summer of the Seventeenth Doll' by Ray Lawler (1958). 3 photographs.
'She Stoops to Conquer' by Oliver Goldsmith (1958). 2 photographs.
'The Great Sebastians' by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse (1959). 7 photographs.
4. 'Gazebo' by Alec Coppel (Savoy, London, also Bristol Hippodrome, 1960).
Press cuttings, photographs.
5. Royal Shakespeare Company, 1960-1962.
'As You Like It' (Stratford, 1960). One photograph.
'Romeo and Juliet' (Stratford, 1961). Two photographs, one press cutting.
'Caucasian Chalk Circle' (Aldwych Theatre, 1962). Programme, one press cutting.
'The Dance of Death' (Aldwych Theatre, 1962). One press cutting.
6. Bristol Old Vic Company, 1964-1965.
Press cuttings and photographs relating to various productions:
'Busman's Honeymoon' by Dorothy Sayers (1964).
'Arms and the Man' by George Bernard Shaw (1964).
'See How They Run' by Philip King (1964).

'A Little Winter Love' by Alun Owen.
 'The Nights and Days of Beebee Fenstermaker' by William Snyder (1964).
 'They Called the Bastard Stephen' by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall (1964).
 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by William Shakespeare (1964).
 'Little by Little' revue (1964).
 'Dandy Dick' by Arthur Wing Pinero (1964).
 'Cuckoo in the Nest' by Ben Travers (1965).
 'The Birthday Party' by Harold Pinter (1965).
 'The Beggars' Opera' by John Gay (1965).

7. 'Sir Thomas More' by Henry Chettle, Thomas Dekker, Thomas Heywood, Anthony Munday and William Shakespeare (Nottingham Playhouse, 1964). Programme, press cuttings, one photograph.
8. 'Long Day's Journey Into Night' by Eugene O'Neill (Welsh National Theatre, 1971). Programme, press cuttings.
9. 'The Douglas Cause' by William Douglas Home (Duke of York's, London, and touring, 1971). Programmes, press cuttings.
10. 'Cherry Orchard' by Anton Chekhov (York Theatre Royal, 1972). Programme, press cuttings, photographs.
11. 'Lord Byron Lives' devised by Richard Digby Day (York Theatre Royal, 1973). Press cutting, photographs.
12. 'Mahler' by Maurice Rowdon (Arts Theatre, London, 1973). Programme, press cuttings.
13. 'The Thrie Estaites' by Sir David Lindsay (Royal Lyceum Theatre Company for Edinburgh International Festival, 1973). Programmes, press cuttings, photographs.
14. 'Border and Ballad' devised by Tom Fleming (Edinburgh International Festival, 1973). Programme, press cuttings.
15. 'The Stronger' by August Strindberg (Gateway Theatre, 1973). Programme, press cuttings, flyer.
16. Ochertyre Festival 1974, Ochertyre Theatre. Programmes, posters, press cuttings, photographs relating to various productions including:
 - 'Relatively Speaking' by Alan Ayckbourn
 - 'Ghosts' by Henrik Ibsen
 - 'The Lion in Winter' by James Goldman

'Border and Ballad' devised by Tom Fleming
'Carlyle and Jane, a recital in two acts from the letters and papers of
Thomas Carlyle and Jane Welsh' by Henry Donald.

17. 'Ghosts' by Henrik Ibsen (Royal Lyceum Theatre, 1974).
Press cuttings.
18. 'Carlyle and Jane, a recital in two acts from the letters and papers of
Thomas Carlyle and Jane Welsh' by Henry Donald. (Various venues, 1974-
1975). Programmes, press cuttings.
19. 'Dear Octopus' by Dodie Smith (York Theatre Royal, 1975).
Programme, press cuttings, photographs.
20. 'The Lion in Winter' by James Goldman (York Theatre Royal 1975).
Programme, press cuttings.
21. 'Diaghilev' devised by Richard Digby Day (York Theatre Royal, 1976).
Programme, press cuttings, one rehearsal photograph.
22. 'The Anatomist' by James Bridie (Royal Lyceum Theatre, 1976).
Programme, press cuttings, photographs.
23. 'Five Finger Exercise' by Peter Shaffer (The Everyman Theatre,
Cheltenham, 1977).
Programme, press cuttings.
24. 'Hay Fever' by Noel Coward (Birmingham Repertory Theatre, 1978).
Programme, press cuttings, photographs.
- 25-26. 'Marie of Scotland' by W Gordon Smith (Perth Festival, 1978; Edinburgh
Festival and touring, 1979; Edinburgh Festival, 1980).
 25. Rehearsal script with stage directions, notes and amendments.
 26. Programme, press cuttings, photographs, letters and related
papers.
27. 'Charley's Aunt' by Brandon Thomas (Royal Lyceum Theatre, 1978-1979).
Programme, photographs.
28. 'Jamie the Saxt' by Robert MacLellan (Scottish Theatre Company, 1982,
1983).
Flyers, poster, press cuttings, photographs, with a few reviews of 'Macbeth'
(Scottish Theatre Company, 1983).
29. 'The Wallace' by Sydney Goodsir Smith (Scottish Theatre Company, 1984,
1985).
Photographs.

30. 'Ane Satyre of the Thrie Estaites' by Sir David Lyndsay (Scottish Theatre Company, 1984, 1985, 1986).
Programme, press cuttings, photographs.
31. 'Torwatletie' by Robert McLellan (Perth Theatre, 1985).
Programme, press cuttings, photographs.
32. 'Love: Poetry and Song', programme arranged by Paul H Scott and produced by George Bruce. 1985-1986.
Photocopied script with Edith Macarthur's manuscript notes, programmes for various venues; carbon copy of letter (1986) of Edith Macarthur relating to performance at Perth Festival of the Arts, 1986.
33. 'Cinderella', (Perth Theatre, 1985-1986).
Programme, flyer, press cuttings, photographs.
34. 'Cinderella' (King's Theatre, Edinburgh, 1986-1987).
Programmes, press cuttings.
35. 'A Scottish Postbag. An anthology of letters by Scots over eight centuries' edited by George Bruce and Paul Scott. 1986-1988.
Rehearsal script, programmes for various venues; BBC radio script, 1986.
- 36-37. 'Hay Fever' by Noel Coward (Royal Lyceum Theatre, 1987).
 36. Rehearsal script.
 37. Programme, press cuttings, photographs.
38. 'Charley's Aunt' by Brandon Thomas (Royal Lyceum Theatre, 1987).
Press cuttings, photographs.
39. 'Death of a Salesman' by Arthur Miller (Royal Lyceum Theatre, 1988).
Programme, press cuttings, photographs.
40. Pitlochry 1988.
1988 Season programme.
'Pygmalion' by George Bernard Shaw. Press cuttings.
'Pride and Prejudice' adapted by David Pownall. Press cuttings.
'Daphne Laureola' by James Bridie. Press cuttings.
41. 'Daphne Laureola' by James Bridie (Pitlochry Festival Theatre, 1988).
Rehearsal script, programme, photographs.
42. 'The Cherry Orchard' by Anton Chekhov (Royal Lyceum Theatre, 1989).
Programme, press cuttings, photographs.
43. 'Carlyle and Jane' (Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, 1989).
Programme and 2 letters from staff at Edinburgh University.

44. 'Cinderella', King's Theatre, Edinburgh, 1990-1991 and King's Theatre, Glasgow, 1991-1992.
Programmes, press cuttings, photographs.
45. 'Carlyle and Jane' (Lamp of Lothian, Haddington, 1991).
Programmes, one photocopied press cutting.
46. Pitlochry 1990.
1990 Season programme.
'Arsenic and Old Lace' by Joseph Kesselring. Press cuttings, photographs.
'The Circle' by W Somerset Maugham. Press cuttings.
'Separate Tables' by Terence Rattigan.
'The Cherry Orchard' by Anton Chekhov. Press cuttings.
47. 'Ane Satyre of the Thrie Estaites' by Sir David Lyndsay (Assembly Hall, Edinburgh International Festival, 1991).
Programme, press cuttings, photographs.
48. 'Auld Reekie: Edinburgh in words and music' arranged by Paul H Scott. (Saltire Society, Edinburgh International Festival, 1991).
Programme, 2 press cuttings.
- 49-50. 'Driving Miss Daisy' by Alfred Uhry (Perth Theatre, 1991).
49. Rehearsal script.
50. Programme, flyer, press cuttings, 3 publicity photographs.
- 51-52. 'Good' by C P Taylor (Tron Theatre, Glasgow, Mayfest 1992).
51. Rehearsal script.
52. Programme, press cuttings, photographs.
53. 'Long Day's Journey Into Night' by Eugene O'Neill (Dundee Repertory Theatre, 1994).
Programmes, press cuttings, some correspondence and a copy of the Martini/TMA Regional Theatre Awards programme, 1994 (Edith Macarthur was nominated for Best Actress).
54. 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie' by Jay Presson Allen, from the novel by Muriel Spark (Strand Theatre, London and touring, 1994-1995).
Press cuttings, programmes and flyers from various theatres; tour schedule, good luck cards and letters.
55. Pitlochry 1996.
1996 Season programme.
'Flouers o' Edinburgh' by Robert McLellan. Press cuttings, photographs.
'On Golden Pond' by Ernest Thompson. Press cuttings, photographs.

56. 'The Flowers o' Edinburgh' by Robert McLellan (Pitlochry Festival Theatre, 1996).
Rehearsal script.
- 57-58. 'Long Day's Journey Into Night' by Eugene O'Neill (Pitlochry Festival Theatre, 1996)
57. Rehearsal script.
58. Programmes, flyer, press cuttings, photographs, cards from well-wishers.
59. 'Widows' by Ariel Dorfman (Traverse and touring, 1997).
Press cuttings, handbill, photographs.
- 60-61. Pitlochry 1999.
60. 1999 Season programme.
'The Summertime is Come' by Tom Gallacher. Press cuttings, photographs.
'Great Expectations' adapted by John Clifford. Press cuttings, photographs.
61. 'The Summertime is Come' by Tom Gallagher (Pitlochry 1999).
Rehearsal script.
- 62-63. 'Three Tall Women' by Edward Albee (Perth Theatre/Royal Theatre, Northampton, 2000).
62. Rehearsal script.
63. Programme, photographs, press cuttings.
64. 'Wiping My Mother's Arse' by Iain Heggie (Traverse Theatre, 2001).
Tenth draft/rehearsal script, notes regarding costume changes loosely inserted.
65. Pitlochry 2002.
2002 Season programme.
'Arsenic and Old Lace' by Joseph Kesselring.
'The Queen of Spades' adapted by John Clifford from Pushkin's novella. Press cuttings, photographs.
Commemorative programme for 50th anniversary of Pitlochry Festival Theatre, with a carbon copy of Edith Macarthur's written piece for the programme, and a manuscript list of Pitlochry productions in which she performed, 1988-1999.
66. 'Uncle Varick' by John Byrne, adapted from Chekhov's 'Uncle Vanya' (Royal Lyceum Theatre, 2004).
Publicity, press cuttings, photographs.

67-77. Television

67. 'TV'.
Mainly press cuttings relating to Edith Macarthur's television career, 1957-1989, with a production schedule for episode 1 of 'The Borderers', 1967. Miss Macarthur had major roles in many series, including 'The Honours of Drumlie', 'The Borderers', 'Sunset Song', 'Sutherland's Law', 'Rob Roy' 'Doom Castle' and 'Weir of Hermiston'; she also appeared in a great number of television plays over her long career.
- 68-70. 'Take the High Road', Scottish Television.
68 Photographs, press cuttings, publicity material, circa 1979-1987; filming schedule, 1983.
69. Scripts of episodes 399 and 415, film schedule for episodes 414 and 415, October-November 1986.
70. Edith Macarthur's 'Take the High Road' clipboard.
- 71-74. 'The Long Roads' by John McGrath. Screen 2 Film, 1993.
71. Script, filming schedule, notes and related papers.
72. Photographs and make-up shots.
73. Press cuttings and papers relating to 1993 BAFTA Scotland award nominations.
74. Letters from friends and viewers in response to *The Long Roads*.
75. 'Doctor Finlay' script.
'Stolen Lives' by Simon Donald. Series II, episode 1, 1993.
76. 'Hamish Macbeth' script.
'Meanwhile ... Back at Lochdubh' by Daniel Boyle. Series II, episode 5, shooting draft, 18 September 1995.
77. Press cuttings and one photograph relating to 'Golden Wedding' (BBC television drama, 1998) and *Radio Times* cuttings relating to 'Life Support' (BBC television series, 1999).
- 78. Radio**
78. 'Radio'.
Letters, 1955, relating to a BBC radio play. Press cuttings and photocopied press cuttings, 1957-1987, mainly relating to radio performances.
- 79-80. Press cuttings**
79. Album of press cuttings, 1945-1958. Some cuttings, programmes and photographs are loosely inserted. A few later papers including a draft list of productions in which Edith Macarthur performed during her time with the Wilson Barrett Company are inserted at the end of the file.
80. Miscellaneous general press cuttings, 1959-2005.

81-84. Programmes

81. Programmes, souvenir programmes and press cuttings, relating to the Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow. 1957-1968.
Includes material relating to 'Clishmaclaver', Christmas 1958; 'The Great Sebastians', 1959; 'Five-Past Eight of 1959' show. Also included are two programmes from a ?series titled 'A Tribute to Duncan Macrae', for a variety show titled 'Great Scot!', 1967 and for Tyrone Guthrie's acclaimed production of 'The Anatomist' by James Bridie, 1968.
82. Programmes, press cuttings, some photographs and correspondence, relating to Royal Gala concerts and other fund-raising events, 1966-2006.
83. Royal Lyceum Theatre refurbishment, 1991. Letter, draft article by Edith Macarthur, Celebrity Masked Ball programme and publicity material.
84. Programmes, 1950-2006.
These are mostly, but not exclusively, programmes of productions in which Edith Macarthur performed. All Scottish programmes have been catalogued individually in the Library's [Scottish Theatre Programmes](#) database (enter the name Edith Macarthur as the keyword search term).

85-88. Miscellaneous

85. Education certificates, 1942-1947, and a reference from Admiralty's Chart and Chronometer Depot, Saltcoats, where Edith Macarthur was briefly employed in the mid-1940s while studying at The Royal College of Music in Glasgow.
86. Letters of engagement and 3 contracts, 1949-1962. Companies include Wilson Barrett, Gateway, BBC, Citizens' Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Theatre.
87. Letters, 1953-1959, 1976 and undated. Includes some in response to a live television advertising show, 'Your Home and Mine', which Edith Macarthur presented in the late 1950s from the Theatre Royal, Glasgow (which served as STV's studios during the company's first year); letter, 1976, from Leslie Mitchell, broadcaster.
88. Miscellaneous, c.1944-1953. Includes caricatures and cards made by Edith Macarthur's colleagues at the Chart and Chronometer Depot in the 1940s; dance card for the Victoria League in Scotland's Coronation Ball at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, 25 June 1953.