1. Fonds-level description

Title

Company One Theatre Society fonds

Dates

1971-1975

Extent

3.86 m of textual and other material

Administrative history

The Company One Theatre, a full-fledged professional company, was established in early 1971 and formally incorporated as a society on 23 November 1971. Its Board of Directors met for the first time on 20 October of that year. The Society consisted of an executive (president, secretary and treasurer) and a five-member Board of Directors, consisting of four members of the Victoria community and the Artistic Director. Board members served a one-year term and were eligible for re-election at the Society's annual general meeting. Carl Hare served as Artistic Director from the company's inception, and Paddy Moore was its business manager. They rented hall space for rehearsals at St. George the Martyr Anglican Church in Cadboro Bay, and set up office space on Walter Avenue, later moving to Ashdale Place and then to Maynard Street.

The Society was formed with the support of the Federal Local Initiatives Programme (L.I.P.), which helped fund many of its events. After being informally established by Carl Hare and Jacqueline Sears, the company performed 80 times between May and October 1971. Its first production, Mary, told the story of Mary Magdalen based on the Gospel of John, using improvised scenes, dance, poetry, and imaginative use of flashlights. Mary was well received by audiences in Victoria and Vancouver as well as other cities in British Columbia which the company visited on tour. They continued to revise the event until there were several different versions, with different actresses playing Mary. In addition to Mary, they performed story theatre for school children and organized acting workshops. After Mary, they developed other major events, including Old Tomorrow: A Saga of the CPR, which they first performed in the Crystal Ballroom at the Empress Hotel in Victoria in the spring of 1972, Nightplay, and Prometheus Bound, among many others. Despite enthusiastic reviews and funding, however, the Company encountered financial difficulties and disbanded in 1975.

Company One had informal connections with the University of Victoria, largely due to its Artistic Director, Carl Hare, who taught at the U. Vic. Dept. of Theatre. Many of Hare's students and former students at U. Vic. also performed with Company One. The company sometimes worked with counselling students in U. Vic.'s Dept. of Psychology, taking part in role-playing exercises in order to study the counsellor-client relationship.
The cast usually numbered around 12-16 people, and many of them had considerable experience in various kinds of theatre. Many of them, such as Helen Shaver-Smith (Helen Shaver) have gone on to successful careers in stage, film and television. The actors kept up a rigorous training program in movement (taught by Jacqueline Sears, who had also taught at U. Vic.), voice and improvisation techniques; this training was valuable in keeping the actors physically and mentally primed for the demands of improvisation. They always encouraged their audiences to become actively involved in their events, inviting suggestions for scenarios for the company to act out.

From the beginning Company One's objective was to meet the specific needs of various institutions, such as schools, churches, libraries and hospitals, in helping to educate and entertain people associated with those institutions. They were one of the first theatre companies in Canada to take such an approach. Over time they achieved an international reputation for its events and ensemble work, and influenced the development of small companies across Canada.

**Scope and content**

Fonds consists of records documenting the administrative and operational activities of the society including general business files, correspondence, financial records, personnel files, publicity, outreach and reviews, scripts, graphic records, audio and video tapes, scrapbooks and posters, and logbooks and notebooks.

**Notes**

Acquired from unknown, June 1975; Carl Hare, May 2015.
2. Structure

   Accession 75-10, Boxes 1-14
Series consists of files relating to general business activities of the Company, including reports
of the Artistic Director to the Board of Directors; agendas and minutes of Board meetings;
membership lists; copies of the Company One constitution and proposed amendments; insurance
papers and other material relating to the Company's tour bus; files relating to donations;
employees' resumes and photographs; policy statements; material relating to the Societies Act
and tours.

   Accession 75-10, Box 15
Series consists of correspondence with institutions where Company One performed, stock
brokers regarding Company One shares, and charitable organizations. Correspondents include
the Canadian Centre for Films in Art, the Bastion Theatre School, the Children's Aid Society of
Vancouver, Andras, Hatch & Hetherington Ltd., Brokers, the Physicians' Services Incorporated
Foundation, the Atkinson Charitable Foundation, the Gairdner Foundation, the Richard Ivey
Foundation, the National Trust, the National Arts Centre and the Calgary Stampede.

   Accession 75-10, Boxes 16-17
Series consists of remittance forms for members' insurance in Actors' Equity; cash summaries;
bank statements; ticket sales; seating plans; payroll records; receipt books; accounts ledgers; time
books; and the 1974 tour and millage journal.

   Accession 75-10, Boxes 18-19
Series consists of resumes, photographs and correspondence of applicants to Company One for
acting, writing, technical and administrative positions.

   Accession 75-10, Boxes 20-21
Series consists of ca. 500 file cards listing contacts and theatres, schools and churches in Canada;
audience statistics; press releases and publicity kits; clippings of reviews, programmes, handbills,
programme notes for Old Tomorrow: A Saga of the CPR, The Greek World, Little Wise One,
Mary, Nightplay, Future Choice, Happiness Runs ..., The Face-Changer, The House of the Bears,
Atuki, The Ass and The Goose, Fiddler Jones and Prometheus Bound; reviews of national tours;
solicitations for donations; synopsis of Company One's history.

   Accession 75-10, Boxes 22-24
Series consists of variant drafts of scripts and music for events, including The Ass and the Goose, Atuki, Birdwoman, the Camosun Project, "CPR" [Old Tomorrow], The Face-Changer, Fiddler Jones, Future Choice, Lira, The Greek Vision, The House of the Bears, Images of the Land, King Lauren, Little Wise One, Mary, Prometheus Bound and The Story of Oedipus. Also includes song lyrics, technical notes on lighting, costumes and set pieces, and notes on Theatre Games and other workshops.

   Accession 75-10, Boxes 25-26
Series consists of b & w and colour photographs, negatives and slides of Company One rehearsals and performances, including Future Choice, Mary and Old Tomorrow; Artistic Director Carl Hare, choreographer/performer Jacqueline Sears, and other performers; photographs and negatives of the cast and crew on tour in British Columbia.

   Accession 75-10, Box 27
Audio tapes consist of interviews with Carl Hare and Jacqueline Sears, conducted by Imbert Orchard, CBC, and by John Rivet, Radio CKVA Edmonton; psychology classes at U. Vic. in which Company One actors take part in exercises depicting the counsellor-client relationship, with follow-up discussions; the first meeting of the Company One Theatre Society Board of Directors, October 1971; children's songs; jazz and mattix drum music. Video tapes consist of rehearsal for Prometheus Bound and mythology production for Drama One.

Series 9. Scrapbooks, posters. 50 cm of various records.
   Accession 75-10, Box 28
Series consists of scrapbooks and posters relating to Company One productions.

Series 10. Artifacts. ca. 1972. 12 cm of records.
   Accession 75-10, Box 29
Series consists of stamp, "Company One Society Seal".

Series 11. Logbooks and notebooks, ca. 1970. 10cm of records
   Accession 2015-019, Box 1
Series consists of disbound logbooks and notebooks relating to productions, rehearsals and preparatory exercises.
3. Inventory

Accession 1975-010

Box 1

Series 1. General business

1.1 Accommodation Information: brochures for motels in Vancouver, North Vancouver, Campbell River and Port Alberni. n.d.
1.3 Accounting - synoptic summary, 1 July - 31 December 1974.
1.6 Artistic Reports to the Board of Directors, 1972.

Box 2

2.1 B.C.D.A. (British Columbia Drama Association). Correspondence, Company One membership list, 1974.
2.2 B.C. Tour, May 1974. Correspondence, lists of cities visited.
2.4 Board of Directors. 2 of 2. Agendas, minutes, cash flow sheets, financial statements, 1972-1974.
2.5 Booking Strategy. Text of introduction to audience; blank questionnaire. n.d.
2.6 B.C. Winter Festival. Guidelines, submission form, publicity kits, agenda, 1974-1975.
2.7 Brochure Materials, 1974-1975.
2.11 Budget figures, 1974-1975.
2.14 Bus - Ontario purchase. Correspondence with Curtis Insurance Ltd., Toronto; receipts for work on bus; correspondence with the B.C. Motor Vehicle Branch, 1973-1974.

Box 3

3.3 Canada Council - Progress Report, second installment, 1974.
3.8 Canadian Theatre Centre. Correspondence, membership lists, financial statements, budget, proposed changes in theatre centre structure, 1972.
3.15 Company Manager. Lists of duties, n.d.

Box 4

4.1 "Confidential file" - notes on candidates for position of female performer, July 27 [no year but ca. 1971-72].
4.2 Constitution. Copy of Company One Constitution, Certificate of Incorporation, 23 November 1971, notice of address, list of original members.
4.8 Copyright. Correspondence, copyright registration certificate, Copyright Rules, Information Circular, blank application forms for published and unpublished works, 1971-1974.
4.9 Credit cards - Shell Canada Limited. Correspondence, agreement, 1974.

Box 5

5.1 Dept. of Culture, Edmonton, Alberta. Correspondence, 1973.
5.2 Donations (private). Correspondence, 1974.
5.4 du Maurier Council for the Performing Arts. Correspondence, artistic statement and synopsis of history of Company One, grant application, stage plans. 1972.
5.7 Employee Contracts - current. 1974. [Fulfilled contracts filed under individual].
5.8 Employee tax deduction receipts, 1972-1975.

Box 6

"Employees' Resumes - Current"
6.1 Hare, Carl, Artistic Director. Resume, correspondence, Actors' Equity Agreement, photograph, ca. 1970.
6.2 Carter, Kevin, Technical Director. Correspondence, 1974.
6.5 Foster, Dean. Resume, correspondence, 1974.
6.7 Goldhar, Lynna. Resume, n.d.
6.9 Humes, Timothy W. Correspondence, 1974.
6.20 Scorer, Andrew W. Correspondence, resume, copy of photo. 1974.

"Employees' Resumes - Past"
6.36 MacDonald, John A. Correspondence, employees supply list, 1972-1974.
6.38 Moore, Paddy, Manager. Photo, employees supply list, 1972.

"Employees' Resumes - Current"
6.46 Still, Dana. Correspondence, employees, supply list, 1972.

Box 7

7.3 Festival Concert Society (Vancouver). Correspondence, brochures, touring schedules, 1972-1975.
7.5 Financial statements, 1974-1975.
7.7 Form letters, 1974-1975.
7.9 Fraser, Dougal. Correspondence, 1974.

Box 8

8.2 Grants - Application Forms, 1972. Includes Theatre-Canada Brief to the Secretary of State Dept.; budgets; application instructions.
8.7 Income tax forms and tables, 1972-1973.

Box 9
9.2 Kresge Foundation. Correspondence, grant application. n.d.
9.3 Library Project. Project outline, n.d.
9.5 Mailing list, 1974-1975 Season - for brochures.

Box 10

10.2 Movement Exercises (Jacqueline Sears). Outlines and instructions for exercises, n.d.
10.3 Music Sheets. Photocopies, n.d.
10.6 National Touring Office (Canada Council). Correspondence, pamphlets, tour schedules, application form, 1974-1975.
10.15 Press Release mailing list, n.d.
10.16 Press releases and brochures from other theatre companies (amateur and professional), 1973-1974.
10.17 Production Materials. Correspondence, n.d.
10.21 Publicity. Correspondence, ticket sales, flyers, posters, 1974.

Box 11

11.8 Scott, Patrick. Correspondence, 1972; receipts, 1974.
11.10 Service Clubs. Lists of Victoria service clubs, clipping. n.d.
11.12 Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, B.C.). Correspondence, 1974.

Box 12

12.1 Church of St. George the Martyr, Cadboro Bay, Victoria. Correspondence, reports, minutes, programme. 1972-1974.
12.3 Support - letters from arts groups, 1972. Canada Council; Citadel Theatre; Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, Tehran, Iran; Theatre Canada.
12.4 Support - letters from churches, 1972. Thomas More Centre; Trinity United Church.
12.5 Support - letters from community groups, 1971-1973. B.C. Lions Society for Crippled Children; Children's Aid Society of Vancouver; Family and Children's Service; Greater Victoria Public Library; Richmond Heights Private Hospital; Royal Jubilee Hospital; Silver Threads; Strong Rehabilitation Centre; YWCA.
12.9 Support - letters and drawings from school children, 1974.
12.10 Support - letters and drawings from school children, 1974-1975 season.
Survey - Greater Victoria. Tally sheets, n.d.


Box 13


Technical Data. Diagram of stage platform, n.d.


Theatre Canada. Notice and minutes; 5-year plans; directories; financial statements; newsletters. 1973-1974.


Tours - Interior. Correspondence, notes, schedules. Fall 1974.


Tours - Okanagan. Correspondence, proposals, notes, 1974.


Tours - Vancouver. Correspondence, notes, diagrams of stage. 1974.

Tours - Vancouver Island. Correspondence, notes, map of Nanaimo and Ladysmith. 1974.

Tours - Victoria. Correspondence, booking agreements, 1974.


Tour Itineraries, time-table, n.d.

Tour Logistics. Correspondence, itineraries, list of wages on tour. 1974.

Tour Manager's Report, Fall Season 1974, by Kevin Carter.

Tour Timetable, Fall 1974.


Box 14


University of Victoria. Memo, draft of Around the Ring article. 1974.


Victoria Foundation. Correspondence, grant application information. 1972, 1974.


Western Association of Drama Educators of B.C., Vancouver. Mailing lists, minutes, correspondence, newsletters, student comments. 1971-1974.


Xerox of Canada Ltd. Brochure, n.d.


Box 15

Series 2. Correspondence

15.1 Correspondence, November 1972. Programmes of the Canadian Centre for Films in Art, and the Bastion Theatre School Senior Class.
15.2 Correspondence, December 1972. Children's Aid Society of Vancouver.
15.3 Correspondence, January 1973. Andras, Hatch & Hetherington Ltd., Brokers, Toronto; Physicians' Services Incorporated Foundation; Atkinson Charitable Foundation; Gairdner Foundation; Richard Ivey Foundation; National Trust; National Arts Centre; Calgary Stampede.
15.4 Correspondence, February 1973.
15.5 Correspondence, March 1973.
15.6 Correspondence, April 1973.
15.7 Correspondence, May 1973.
15.8 Correspondence, June 1973.
15.9 Correspondence, July 1973.
15.10 Correspondence, August 1973.
15.11 Correspondence, September 1973.
15.12 Correspondence, October 1973.
15.13 Correspondence, November 1973.
15.15 Correspondence, January 1974.
15.16 Correspondence, February 1974.
15.17 Correspondence, March 1974.
15.18 Correspondence, April 1974.  [May 1974 missing]
15.19 Correspondence, June 1974.
15.20 Correspondence, July 1974.
15.21 Correspondence, August 1974.  [September 1974 missing]
15.22 Correspondence, October 1974.  [November 1974 missing]
15.23 Correspondence, December 1974.

Box 16


16.4 Prometheus Bound. Ticket sales, seating plan, 5-17 September [no year].
16.5  Wages, payroll, 1974.
16.6  Paid (closed) accounts; unpaid (open) accounts. n.d.

Box 17
17.1  Accounts, 8 July 1972 - 6 April 1973.
17.5  Accounts ledger, 1974.
17.7  Completed purchase orders, 1974-1975.
17.12 Journal – 1974 Tours

Box 18

Series 4. Personnel files.
18.3  Allen, David R. - technical position. Correspondence, resume, 1974.
18.6  Austin, Dennis. Correspondence, 1974.
18.16 Carlson, Rhonda. Resume, clipping, n.d.
18.20 Christensen, Rod. Correspondence, photo, resume, 1972.
18.32 Fischer, Corey. Correspondence, resume, ca. 1971.
18.38 Gilmour, Christine - technical position. Correspondence, resume, 1974.
18.43 Guberman, Sandee. Correspondence, 1974.
18.53 Krane, Lawrence. Correspondence, photo, 1974.
18.54 Kupecek, Linda. Correspondence, photos, resume, 1972.
18.55 Laine-Green, Janet. Correspondence, 1974.
18.56 Latham, David. Correspondence, resume, 1974.
Box 19

19.4 McAlpine, Gerry (Ms.). Correspondence, resume, photos. 1973-1974.
19.5 Moffatt, Richard. Correspondence, clippings, photo, resume, 1972.
19.7 Munro, Ishbel. Correspondence, references, 1974.
19.9 Muszynski, Jan (Mr.). Correspondence, photos, resume, 1973.
19.10 Nalley, Danny R. Correspondence, resume, 1974.
Box 20

Series 5. Publicity, outreach, reviews

20.1 Contacts in theatres, schools and churches in Canada. Ca. 500 12 cm. x 20 cm. file cards.

Box 21

21.1 "About the Director"; "About the Performers". Tss., n.d.
21.9 Publicity, 1974-1975 season. Press release, clippings, Around the Ring issues.
21.10 Review sheet, rough draft and final, n.d.

Box 22


22.2 Atuki. 2 variant drafts, photocopied tss., 12 p. total.
22.3 Birdwoman/Lira. Properties lists, scripts, stage diagrams.
22.4 Camosun Project. Hypothetical Case Summary Report, pre-sentence report. Includes note to Company 1 from John Post, n.d.
22.5 Cast lists; scripts.
22.6 "CPR" - Version I. Outline, script. Tss., ca. 50 p.
22.7 "CPR" - Version II. Script; maps and overhead projector transparencies.
22.8 "CPR" - script, fair copy.
22.9 "CPR" - variant drafts; stage diagrams.
22.10 "CPR" - music. Photocopies of sheet music.
"CPR" - children's show, produced February 1972 for Holiday, grades 4-7 (Don Shipley). Photocopied ts. with hol. markings.

Box 23

23.4 The Greek Vision. Stage manager's copy - script, lists of props, stage diagrams.
23.5 The Greek Vision. Script - spare copy; score; blocking sheets.
23.8 King Lauren. Script - photocopied ts., 4 p.
23.9 Little Wise One. Script - variant drafts, photocopied ts., 8 p. total.
23.10 Mary. Script - outline; 2 variant drafts. Tss., holograph.

Box 24

24.2 Prometheus Bound. Spare copies, music scores, blocking sheets, technical notes. 1974.
24.3 Song lyrics - "Here Comes the Sun", "If We Only Have Love" and "Marathon". Tss., 3 p. total.
24.7 Workshops, July-August 1971. Leader's information sheet (blank), outlines, exercises, chart of vowel sounds.

Box 25

Series 7. Photographs.

25.2 B.C. tour - cast and crew with Company One van. 2 colour photos, 2 colour negatives; 1 b & w photo and 1 b & w negative. Taken by Carl Hare, 31 March 1974.
25.3 B.C. Tour - cast with van, May 1974. 1 b & w negative, 1 b & w contact print, 2 b & w photos.
25.4 Bus - 5 b & w photos taken of damaged bus at Revelstoke, ca. 1974; negatives.
25.5 Contact sheets - photos of cast.
25.6 Future Choice. Contacts and negatives - 17 colour, ca. 50 b & w.
25.7 Mary. 2 b & w photos.
25.8 Old Tomorrow: A Saga of the CPR. Photos, contact sheets, clippings.
25.9 Personnel Shots, b & w. 50 photos, 4 contact strips.
25.10 Photograph - Jacqueline Sears. 5" x 7", b & w, and copy negative.
25.11 Photos of performances (1).
25.12 Photos of performances (2).
25.13 3 b & w photos, unidentified.
25.15 Old Tomorrow: A Saga of the CPR. Negatives - 6 strips, 35 mm.
25.16 Negatives of cast rehearsing, n.d.
25.17 Negatives - unidentified production, n.d.
25.18 Negatives - unidentified, n.d. 3 strips, 35 mm.

Box 26

26.1 Old Tomorrow: A Saga of the CPR. Slides of CPR construction and related events. Ca. 100 b & w slides.
26.2 38 colour slides of cast members sewing props, rehearsing and touring. n.d.

Box 27


Audio reel tapes:
27.1 Carl Hare, interviewed by Imbert Orchard, ca. 1972. Scotch magnetic reel audio tape, 1/4 in. x 1200 ft (6.35 mm x 360 m), 7 1/2 ips. #1: Hare discusses the origin and purposes of the Company, his experiences observing European theatre, importance of movement sessions (given by Jacqueline Sears) and other training sessions, and the role of the audience in suggesting scenarios for improvisation.
27.2 Carl Hare #2. Hare explains the origin and meaning of the name, "Company One" (a professional theatre company that works as one); differences between European and North American theatre, and between theatre in French Canada and English Canada; stages of development of a theatre company.
27.3 Carl Hare #3. Hare discusses the theatrical event as a continuing experience; need for Company One to perform in small spaces to small audiences.
27.4 CBC radio profile of Company One, narrated by Imbert Orchard, ca. 1972. 3 3/4 ips. Approx. 45 min. Orchard sees performance of Mary in Kamloops, interviews Carl Hare (excerpt from interview in File 27.1) and Dawn Iderston, who played Mary Magdalen in Kamloops; also discusses Company One's similarities to the medieval vagabond players and the commedia dell'arte.
27.5 CBC radio program, Imbert Orchard, 10 min. 7 1/2 ips. Shorter version of program in 27.4.
27.6 CBC radio program, Imbert Orchard, 10 min. 7 1/2 ips. Copy of 27.5.
27.7 Psychology class, U. Vic., with Company One actors and Carl Hare, for school counsellors. 20 minutes (cut off at the end), 7 1/2 ips, n.d. Actors take part in role-playing for exercises in the counsellor-client relationship, with follow-up discussions with psychology students [also on video-tape]. Sound quality fair.
27.8 Company One, psychology class #2. 3 3/4 ips. 30 min. Continuation of exercises in 27.7. Sound quality fair to good.
27.9 Company One, psychology class #3. 3 3/4 ips. 40 min. Continuation of exercises. Sound quality fair.
27.10 a) Company One, psychology class #4. 3 3/4 ips, 20 min. Continuation of exercises; sound quality fair. b) rehearsal and relaxation exercises, held at St. George's church, Cadboro Bay, n.d. 3 3/4 ips, 15 min. Sound quality poor.

Audio Cassettes
27.11 First meeting of the Company One Theatre Society Board, October 1971. Sides 1-2. Scotch magnetic cassette C-90 audio tape. 45 min. each side. Consists of reading of agenda and voting on the Constitution and By-Laws; discussion of election of Board of Directors, date of Annual General Meeting each year, Executive members; Carl Hare presents Artistic Director's report, Paddy Moore, Business Manager, presents financial report. [N.B. The first part of Side 1 has been taped over intermittently with actors practising breathing exercises - about 10 min. total of Board meeting is therefore missing].
27.12 Side 1: Interview with Carl Hare and Jacqueline Sears, by John Rivet, Radio CKVA Edmonton, 11 May 1973. 45 min. Hare and Sears discuss their respective backgrounds and interest in improvisational theatre, the other members of the company, their current tour, their work on Mary and their plans to return to Victoria in late May to work on Old Tomorrow: A Saga of the CPR. Side 2: "Music for Children - Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman". 30 min. Recording of children's songs.
27.14 Side 1. Radio program with Imbert Orchard, 45 min., same as reel tape in 27.4. Side 2. Company One rehearsals, n.d. Includes scattered music taped off the radio, approx. 15 min. Scotch magnetic cassette C-90 audio tape.

Video Tapes
27.15 Prometheus rehearsals, August 1974, 13 minutes, 5 seconds. On Sony reel video tape, V-30H.
27.16 Drama 1 - Mythology production, 30 October 1974. On Scotch Brand reel video tape, 1/2 in. x 1200 ft (12.7 mm x 365 m).
Box 28

Scrapbooks, posters.

Box 29


**Accession 2015-019**

Logbooks and notebooks, ca. 1970

1.1 Stand Fast Craigellachie (Or the Story of the CPR)
1.2 The Ass and the Goose; Improvisation One
1.3 Hesiod, Theogony; Hesiod, the Works and Days
1.4 Glimpses of the Cosmos; Sappho; Oedipus
1.5 Fiddler Jones
1.6 The Greek Vision – Actions and Stage Manager’s Notes; The Origin of Man
1.7 CPR Act One; CPR Act Two; Danger on Tsorel; Lira; The Birdwoman; Night Plays
1.8 Notes: rehearsals and preparatory exercises