

**Straw Hat Players Collection**  
**(1953, 1958, 1965-66)**  
**Inventory**

2 boxes; 20 envelopes; .2 linear metres

This collection consists primarily of material documenting two years in the history of the Straw Hat Players. This summer theatre located in Port Carling, Ontario was founded by Donald and Murray Davis in 1948, first playing at the Gravenhurst Opera House with scheduled appearances in various locations in the Muskoka area. The material here was donated by Alan Hughes, producer of the Straw Hat Players during the summers of *Affairs of State* and *Angel Street*, and the 1958 production of *Born Yesterday*, these donated by Donald Davis. Programs and clippings covering other years of the Straw Hat Players are in the Performing Arts Centre.

**Box #1**

Env. #1: History

Reminiscences by Alan Hughes of 1956-1966 seasons. 14 pgs. typed.

Env. #2: Clippings, 1965-1966

See vertical file/fiche in Performing Arts Centre for material on other years. 13 pgs.

Env. #3: Contracts – 34 items

Fountainhead Productions and Alan Hughes (2)  
Promissary notes (Fountainhead Productions and Alan Hughes) (3)  
Actors Equity Contracts, 1965 (13)  
Non-union Contracts, 1965 (13)  
Port Carling lease, 1965 and 1966 (2)  
Truck rental, 1965 (1)

Env. #4: Correspondence, Business (1965-1967) – 75 items

Including letters to/from Fountainhead Productions re: lease of Straw Hat assets and goodwill, Murray Davis for use of name “Straw Hat Players”, Actors Equity, actors engaged for the season.

Env. #5: Correspondence, Actors seeking employment (1965) – 43 letters

Letters from actors to Fountainhead Productions, Marshall Bruce, Peter Wylde and Alan Hughes seeking positions with the Straw Hat Players, with answering letters from Alan Hughes. Some with photographs and resumes; including letter from Marilyn Lightstone.

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#### Env. #6: Correspondence, Promotional (1965) – 34 items

Letters to/from Herb Whittaker, Nathan Cohen, Star Helleur & various newspapers, tourist associations, CBC-radio, and typescript press releases.

#### Env.#7: Financial Record Book (1965-1966) – 1 item

Mss notebook kept by Alan Hughes. Lists names and addresses of cast, patrons, services, etc.; expenditures; book office records; etc.

#### Env. #8: Financial Records – 9 items

Box office statements (8) and production schedule for 1965.

#### Env. #9: Payroll Records (1965-1966) – 30 items

Pension and weekly report (8)

Weekly payroll report (10)

T4 slips (1965) (5)

Payroll statement (7)

#### Env. #10: Financial Records (1965)

An extensive assortment of receipts for expenses incurred in mounting the 1965 season, interesting if only as a record of the cost at this time of hardware, tools, sewing supplies for costume construction, dry cleaning, items purchased as props, theatrical lighting supplies, printing, etc.

#### Env. #11: Photographs, Cast Members (1965-1966) – 7 items

Bruce Armstrong (2); Alan Hughes (1); Terry Tweed (1); Joni Clavir (1); Julia Rekai (2 sheets)

#### Env. #12: Production Photographs (1965-1966) – 17 items

*Bell Book and Candle* (2) 1965

*The Sound of Murder* (2) 1966

*Rattle of a Simple Man* (1) 1966

*Visit to a Small Planet* (1) 1966

*A Taste of Honey* (5) 1966

Also, 6 slides of Straw Hat Company, *Straw Hat House*, etc.

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Env. #13: Programs, 1965 season – 8 items

Env. #14: Programs, 1966 season – 7 items

Env. #15: Posters and Flyers (1962-1966) – 16 items

**Box #2**

Env. #16: Script – 1 item\*

*Affairs of State* by Louis Verneuil. Samuel French edition, 164 pgs. (prompt copy)  
performed Aug. 10-15, 1953 at Gravenhurst; Aug. 17-22, 1953 at Port Carling.

Env. #17: Script – 1 item\*

*Angel Street* by Patrick Hamilton. Samuel French edition, 117 pgs. (prompt copy)  
performed July 13-18, 1953 at Gravenhurst; July 20-25, 1953 at Port Carling.

Env. #18: Script – 1 item

*The Ascension* by William L. Cameron. Typescript with notes, 11 pgs. + coversheet.  
Produced Aug. 30-Sep. 4, 1965.

Env. #19: Script – 1 item

*Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward. Samuel French edition, 95 pgs. (prompt copy). Produced  
Aug. 15-20, 1966.

Env. #20: Script – 1 item

*Born Yesterday* by Garson Kanin. Dramatists Play Service edition, 89 pgs. (prompt copy).  
Performed Jul. 21-26, 1958 at Port Carling.

\*=Gift of Donald Davis, c.1978

Gift of Alan Hughes, 1982  
Inventory: A. Goluska, 14 Dec. 1982