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## Guide to the University of San Diego Department of Theatre records

University of San Diego Department of Theatre

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# Guide to the University of San Diego Department of Theatre records

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## Overview of the Collection

- Title:** University of San Diego Department of Theatre records
- Dates:** 1970-1988
- Creator:** University of San Diego Department of Theatre
- Quantity:** 1 oversize box (1 linear foot)
- Summary:** This collection contains scrapbooks that document the activities of performing arts at the University of San Diego.
- Identification:** USDA\_2019\_022
- Language:** English
- Repository:** [University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections](#)  
Copley Library  
5998 Alcalá Park  
San Diego, CA 92110  
Telephone: 619-260-2730  
[spcoll@sandiego.edu](mailto:spcoll@sandiego.edu)
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## Historical Note

Theatre Arts, Drama, or Performing Arts has been part of coursework and student activities at the University of San Diego since the College for Women began courses in 1952. Theatre Arts was offered as a major in the College for Women within Humanities. Between 1963 and 1969, twelve College for Women students majored in Speech and Theatre Arts. Upon the merger of the College for Men and College for Women into the University of San Diego, Speech and Theatre Arts was dropped from a major to each becoming a minor. This was largely due to understaffing and lack of technical support for a quality major (Report of the San Diego

College for Women to the Accrediting Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the California State Board of Education, February 1969.)

The Alcalá Park Players, organized from 1956 to 1986, was a dramatic arts student organization. According to both College for Women and University of San Diego course catalogs, the Alcalá Park Players "offers opportunity for those interested in dramatic art to put into practice, both in acting and in staging, the theory learned in theatre courses." Pamela Smith Connolly began a 17 year career at the University of San Diego as a guest director with the Alcalá Park Players in the fall of 1973. Throughout her time at USD she taught theatre arts courses, directed, and designed stage productions. Most often, two productions occurred each academic year.

The Quem – Quaeritis Theatrical Honor Society was an honor awarded to those who gave outstanding support to the performing arts at the University of San Diego. USD student Anne Swanke was a founding member of the Society.

In 1987, The Old Globe and University of San Diego Master of Fine Arts in Acting program began. Theatre Arts remained as a minor within the College of Arts and Sciences until 2004, when a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre major began to be offered.

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## Scope and Content Note

This collection contains scrapbooks that document the activities of Theatre Arts at the University of San Diego. Scrapbooks contain photographs of performers, theatre programs, cast lists, stage design sketches, and newspaper articles. Also included is a member album for the Quem – Quaeritis Theatrical Honor Society.

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## Arrangement

These records are arranged into one series:

[Series I. Scrapbooks](#)

Scrapbook contents remain in their original order.

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## Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

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## **Related Material**

.MOV and DVD videos of the Thesis Pieces Master of Fine Arts theatre productions are also located in the University Archives and Special Collections.

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## **Index Terms**

Connolly, Pamela Smith, 1946-2015  
University of San Diego  
(San Diego, Calif.)  
creative and performing arts  
theatrical productions  
theater programs

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation**

[Folder Title], Box # Folder #, University of San Diego Department of Theatre records, Copley Library, University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections.

### **Processing Information**

This collection was processed by Ashley Toutain in 2019.

Due to the condition of three scrapbooks (Performing Arts vol. II, Performing Arts vol. III, and Theatre 1983-1987) rehousing was necessary. The entirety of the original scrapbooks were scanned in order to preserve the look of the original. After scanning, the materials were removed from their original pages to clear archival preservation sheets. Pages were retained as close as possible to how they appeared in the original scrapbook. These are now stored flat in archival folders. Album pages containing writing that could not be accurately duplicated were not removed.

The Drama Productions 1970-1971 scrapbook was scanned and pages were interleaved with archival paper. Rehousing was not conducted with this scrapbook.

.TIFF and .PDF copies of the scrapbooks have been made.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Scrapbooks, 1970-1971; 1979-1988

Box	Folder	
1 (Oversize)	1	Drama Production scrapbook, 1970-1971  [Scrapbook compiled by Joyce O'Halloren.]
	2	The Performing Arts at USD - volume II, 1979-1982 [This scrapbook may have been compiled by Pamela Smith Connolly who is named throughout.]
	3	The Performing Arts at USD - volume III, 1983-1984 [This scrapbook may have been compiled by Pamela Smith Connolly who is named throughout.]
	4	Theatre Scrapbook, 1983-1987 [This scrapbook may have been compiled by Pamela Smith Connolly who is named throughout.]
	5	Quem – Quaeritis Theatrical Honor Society, 1983-1988 [Membership book listing members with signatures and their performances.]