

Liverpool Theatre and Writing

Collections Resource Guide

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We preserve and provide access to a diverse range of archival material and Special Collections publications. This guide showcases some of our collections and items related to Liverpool Theatre and Writing to help you start your research, but isn't an exhaustive list and won't cover all of the material that we hold.

You can also browse a frequently updated list of items tagged as relating to [Liverpool Theatre and Writing](#) via our catalogue.

Email archives@ljmu.ac.uk for further information, and all enquiries and appointments. To browse all of our collections A-Z, please [visit our catalogue](#).

AR – Andy Roberts' Papers

The personal and professional papers of Liverpool-based musician and composer Andy Roberts c.1963-2019 consists of: personal and professional correspondence; personal and professional documentation; handwritten musical notes, scores, and lyrics; printed sheet music and music notes; draft scripts from theatre, film, and television which Roberts was involved in with annotations; promotional ephemera such as advertising posters, leaflets, programmes, and tickets for gigs and theatre performances; a personal gift from Sir Ian McKellen to mark the first night performance of Bent at the Royal Court Theatre in 1979; photographs; original drawings; zines; audio demo recordings; and an oral history interview with Andy Roberts.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

EVT – Everyman Theatre

The Everyman Theatre papers is an active collection consisting of the posters, programmes, scripts, photographs, performance reports, press cuttings, letters, and other records associated with the Liverpool theatre from its establishment in 1964 until present day. Because we regularly take new deposits from the Liverpool Everyman Theatre, this collection is continually growing.

In 2024, the Liverpool Everyman Theatre celebrated its 60th birthday with us through a series of events and exhibitions entitled *Ever Forward*. You can visit the permanent digital exhibition on our [digital exhibitions site](#).

The papers of the Liverpool Playhouse Theatre, which joined up with the Everyman Theatre in 2000, are held at the [Liverpool Record Office](#).

[Read more about this collection here](#).

FT – Fuse: New Theatre for Young People

The papers of Fuse: New Theatre for Young People, formerly known as Merseyside Young People's Theatre, contains the posters, flyers, scripts, annual reports, minutes, and material related to educational outreach work with schools.

Fuse was established in 1978 as the Merseyside Young People's Theatre. The theatre produced plays specifically to take out to perform at school, and in some theatres aimed at school groups, as well as for other community groups. They are best known for producing the original incarnation of Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers*, first performed at Fazakerley Comprehensive School, Liverpool, in November 1981. This was commissioned and toured in local schools in the early 1980s as a stage play and was later rewritten as a musical. They rebranded as Fuse in 2006.

[Read more about this collection here](#).

RCT – Liverpool Royal Court Theatre

The papers of the Liverpool Royal Court Theatre is an active collection consisting of the posters, programmes, postcards, press cuttings, photographs, promotional material, and other records from the theatre's history from 1881 until present day.

This collection is actively growing, and we regularly update it with new deposits of material.

[Read more about this collection here](#).

UT – Unity Theatre

The papers of the Unity Theatre, formerly the Merseyside Left Theatre founded in 1937, includes: the press cuttings, advertisements, programmes, photographs, and other records for the theatre and its productions; information about the building itself which was previously a synagogue; the Productionline partnership between the Liverpool

Lunchtime Theatre, Unity Theatre and the Liverpool Everyman Theatre; and the papers of the Merseyside Amateur Dramatics Society.

This collection is actively growing, and we regularly update it with new deposits of material.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

WJH – Watching: The Jim Hitchmough Collection

This collection pertains to the records of the British play and later television series *Watching* written by Jim Hitchmough, containing rehearsal and camera scripts, storylines, and other associated materials, alongside other works by Jim Hitchmough. The collection also includes a large number of theatre material from other productions, including in and around Merseyside, collected by Jim Hitchmough and used within his research and development.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

WR – Willy Russell's Papers

The papers of Willy Russell contain the archival material that was produced throughout the course of his career as a playwright and musician. This includes: manuscripts; CDs; record and tapes; programmes; publicity and media material including advertisements, newspaper cuttings, critical reviews, and press releases; correspondence; legal, financial, and administrative documents; material relating to the casting and audition process; and ephemera produced for promotional purposes, among other records related to Willy Russell's life and career.

[Read more about this collection here.](#)

Liverpool Performance Arts

We also hold papers related to Liverpool-based visual arts festivals, cultural organisations, and creative projects, many of which include records of performance art pieces. These collections include:

- [VF](#) for the papers VisionFest, an annual arts festival held between 1992-1996, the precursor to Liverpool Biennial.
- [LB](#) for the papers of Liverpool Biennial festival, founded in 1998. This collection is active and receives regular new deposits.

- [ALL](#) for the papers of the cross-organisation Art in Liverpool project. This collection includes material from galleries and arts and culture organisations based in Liverpool such as FACT Gallery, the Bluecoat, Liverpool Capital of Culture 2008, and more.
- [KH](#) for the papers of Keith Hackett which documents his career in cultural and creative industries between 1992-2005.

Future Collections

Many of the collections listed here are active, meaning we regularly accept new deposits as records are being made by the respective theatres. Keep an eye on our social media for future updates, and email any enquiries to archives@ljmu.ac.uk.

LJMU Special Collections & Archives also welcomes donations of material we do not yet have copies of related to any of the above collections, and to discuss papers related to this theme in other ways. See our [Donations page](#) for more information.