Summary

Production company: Builders Association (Theater company)

Title: Builders Association records

Date: 1983-2014

Size: 27.18 linear feet (65 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

Abstract: The Builders Association is a New York-based performance and media company that creates original productions based on stories drawn from contemporary life. The Builders Association records consist of production files from all Builders Association productions; administrative and financial files; and production materials from shows in which Marianne Weems was involved prior to the founding of Builders Association (including productions she worked on with Ron Vawter at the Wooster Group).

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in the NYPL's online catalog for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult: https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials

Conditions Governing Access:

Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.


Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Diana Bertolini in 2019.

Creator History

Founded in 1994 and directed by Marianne Weems, The Builders Association is a New York-based
performance and media company that creates original productions based on stories drawn from contemporary life. The company uses the richness of new and old tools to extend the boundaries of theater. Based on innovative collaborations, Builders' productions blend stage performance, text, video, sound, and architecture to tell stories about the human experience in the 21st century. The Builders Association's OBIE award-winning shows have travelled to major venues all over the world.


Marianne Weems is the artistic director and co-founder of the Builders Association and has directed all of their productions. Weems has also worked in various creative roles with the Wooster Group (where she was the dramaturg from 1988 to 1994), David Byrne, Taryn Simon, Susan Sontag, and many others. She serves on the Board of Directors of the arts foundation Art Matters. From 2008 to 2014 she was the head of Graduate Directing at Carnegie Mellon University and participated in founding a new program there in Integrative Design, Arts, and Technology. She is currently a professor in Theater Arts at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Custodial History


Scope and Content Note

The Builders Association records consist of production files from all Builders Association productions; administrative and financial files from the company; and production materials from shows in which Marianne Weems was involved prior to the founding of Builders Association (including productions she worked on with Ron Vawter at the Wooster Group). Though this is a collection of company records, its composition is influenced by the position of the collection donor, Marianne Weems, as the company's artistic director, and by her background in dramaturgy. The administrative and financial files document the process of running and financing a theatre company. Audio and video recordings were regularly used as part of Builders Association productions and these are a substantial component of the collection.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Administrative records
Business correspondence
Business records
Clippings (information artifacts)
Contracts
Correspondence
Cue sheets
Design drawings
Electronic records (digital records)
Filmed performances
Financial statements
Interviews
Legal documents
Negatives (photographs)
Notes (documents)
Photographs
Plays (performing arts compositions)
Printed materials (object genre)
Programs (documents)
Promotional materials
Research (documents)
Research notes
Reviews (documents)
Scripts
Sound recordings
Technical drawings
Theater programs
Video recordings (physical artifacts)

**Subjects**
Experimental theater
Experimental theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Homosexuality and theater
Off-Broadway theater
Off-Broadway theater -- History
Technology and the arts
Theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Theater -- Production and direction -- United States
Theater management -- United States -- Records and correspondence
Women in the theater -- United States

**Occupations**
Theatrical directors.
Theatrical managers.
Theatrical producers.

**Names**
Weems, Marianne
Builders Association (Theater company)
Container List

Series I: Builders Association Records 1983-2014 (54 boxes, 1 container 22.8 linear feet)

This Series consists of two Subseries: Productions (1990-2014) and Administrative and Financial Files (1993-2014).

Subseries I. A. Productions 1990-2014

This Subseries consists of Builders Association production materials. The most heavily represented files here are the marketing/press files, dramaturgical and research materials, scripts, technical files, and tour files. Weems' dramaturgical process of compiling extensive background research and revising scripts is well documented here, as is the logistical process of mounting and, in many cases, touring a multimedia production. Other aspects of managing a theatre company are also represented with publicity materials, photographs, programs, posters, correspondence, lighting cue sheets, lighting and set designs, marketing files, scripts, and contracts.

Arranged alphabetically by show title.

Alladeen 1995-2011
  b. 1 f. 1  Benefit at Brooklyn Academy of Music 2003
  b. 1 f. 2  Copyrights 2004
  b. 1 f. 1-8  Dramaturgy, Research, and Scripts 2001-2003
  b. 2 f. 1-3
  b. 2 f. 4  DVD Sales 2006
  b. 2 f. 5  Motiroti Materials 1995-2005
  b. 2 f. 6  Notes -- Marianne Weems 2002-2003
  b. 2 f. 7  Obie Award 2004
  b. 2 f. 8  Photographs 2005
  b. 2 f. 9  Press 2002-2006
  b. 3 f. 1-6
  b. 4 f. 1-4

Posters 2003-2004
  b. 64 f. 1  Manchester, UK 2003 October
  b. 65  Melbourne International Arts Festival (Melbourne, Australia) 2004 October
  b. 4 f. 5-8  Production Information and Logistics 2002-2011
  b. 5 f. 1-2

Programs 2002-2005
  b. 5 f. 3  The Kitchen (New York, NY) 2002 January
  b. 5 f. 4  Smack Mellon Preview 2003 January
  b. 5 f. 5  Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago, IL) 2003 April
  b. 5 f. 6  Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN) 2003 April
  b. 5 f. 7  Wexner Center for the Arts, Ohio State University (Columbus, OH) 2003 April
  b. 5 f. 8  Singapore Arts Festival (Singapore) 2003 June
  b. 6 f. 1  Barbican Centre Theatre (London, UK) 2003 July
  b. 6 f. 2  Guggenheim Museum (New York, NY) 2003 Fall
  b. 6 f. 3  La Ferme du Buisson (Marne-la-Vallée, France) 2003 October
  b. 6 f. 4  Warwick, UK 2003 October
Guide to the
Builders Association records

Series I: Builders Association Records (cont.)
Subseries I. A. Productions (cont.)
Alladeen (cont.)
Programs (cont.)

b. 6 f. 5 Manchester, UK 2003 October-November
b. 6 f. 6 Romaeuropa (Rome, Italy) 2003 October-November
b. 6 f. 7 Brooklyn Academy of Music (Brooklyn, NY) 2003 December
b. 7 f. 1 Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (New York, NY) 2004 January
b. 7 f. 2 REDCAT (The Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater, Los Angeles, CA) 2004 February-March
b. 7 f. 3 Behnke Center for Contemporary Performance (Seattle, WA) 2004 March
b. 7 f. 4 Bogotá, Colombia 2004 March
b. 7 f. 5 Dartmouth College -- Hopkins Center (Hanover, NH) 2004 April
b. 7 f. 6 Kennedy Center (Washington, DC) 2004 May
b. 7 f. 7 Bergen, Norway 2004 May
b. 7 f. 8 Bonn Biennale (Bonn, Germany) 2004 June
b. 7 f. 9 Melbourne International Arts Festival (Melbourne, Australia) 2004 October
b. 7 f. 10 Belfast Festival at Queen's (Belfast, Northern Ireland) 2004 October-November
b. 7 f. 11 USINE C (Montreal, Canada) 2005 April
b. 7 f. 12 Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2005 April

b. 8 f. 1 Subtitles 2003
For performances in non-English speaking counties.

b. 8 f. 2-3 Technical Plots, Designs, and Documentation 2003-2005
Tour Files 2003-2005

b. 8 f. 4 Singapore Arts Festival (Singapore) 2003 June
b. 8 f. 5 La Ferme du Buisson (Marne-la-Vallée, France) 2003 October
b. 8 f. 6 Romaeuropa (Rome, Italy) 2003 October
b. 8 f. 7 Warwick, UK 2003 October
b. 8 f. 8 Manchester, UK 2003 October-November

b. 9 f. 1-2 Glasgow, Scotland 2003 November
b. 9 f. 3 Brooklyn Academy of Music (New York) 2003 December
b. 9 f. 4 Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2003

b. 10 f. 1 Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.) 2003-2005
b. 10 f. 2 Bergen, Norway 2003-2004
b. 10 f. 3 Dartmouth College -- Hopkins Center (Hanover, NH) 2003-2004
b. 10 f. 4 The Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater (Los Angeles, CA) 2004 February-March
b. 10 f. 5 Behnke Center for Contemporary Performance (Seattle, WA) 2004 March
b. 10 f. 6 Bogotá, Colombia 2004 March
b. 10 f. 7 Bonn Biennale (Bonn, Germany) 2004 June
b. 11 f. 1 Melbourne International Arts Festival (Melbourne, Australia) 2004 October
b. 11 f. 2 Belfast Festival at Queen's (Belfast, Northern Ireland) 2004 October-November
b. 11 f. 3 Columbia 250 (Columbia University, New York) 2004 Fall
b. 9 f. 5 USINE C (Montreal, Canada) 2004-2005
Guide to the
Builders Association records

Series I: Builders Association Records (cont.)
Subseries I. A. Productions (cont.)
Alladeen (cont.)

b. 11 f. 4  Video Logs and Lists 2001-2002
Also includes audio.
b. 11 f. 5-6  Visas and Carnets 2002-2011
b. 12 f. 1-2

Avanti: A Postindustrial Ghost Story 2003-2004

b. 12 f. 3  Press and Invitations 2004
b. 12 f. 4-6  Production Information and Logistics 2003-2004
Includes scripts, correspondence, contact sheets, schedules, designs, budgets, research, and photographs.
b. 13 f. 1  Scripts 2004

Continuous City 2001-2010

b. 13 f. 2  Casting Files 2001-2008
b. 13 f. 3  Clippings 2006-2008
b. 13 f. 4-5  Contracts 2004-2009
b. 13 f. 6-7  Notes -- Marianne Weems 2008-2009
b. 64 f. 2  Poster 2007 October
University of California at Berkeley.

Production Information -- Notes and Production Books 2008-2010
Includes scripts, correspondence, contact sheets, schedules, and designs.
b. 13 f. 8  Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2008
b. 14 f. 8
b. 14 f. 3  London (Southbank Centre, Festival of Science and Arts) 2010
Programs 2007-2009
Includes some press coverage.
b. 14 f. 4  University of California at Berkeley 2007 September-2007 October
b. 14 f. 5  City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center (New York, NY) 2008 September
b. 14 f. 6  Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2008 September
b. 14 f. 7  Walker Art Center (Minneapolis, MN) 2008 October
b. 14 f. 8  Brooklyn Academy of Music (Brooklyn, NY) 2008 November
b. 14 f. 9  The Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) 2008 December
b. 14 f. 10  Festival de Liège (Liège, Belgium) 2009 January-February
b. 15 f. 1  Carolina Performing Arts, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 2009 February
b. 15 f. 2  La Jolla Playhouse (La Jolla, CA) 2009 March
b. 15 f. 3  Wexner Center for the Arts, Ohio State University (Columbus, OH) 2009 March-April
b. 15 f. 4  Festival Internacional de las Artes de Castilla y León (Salamanca, Spain) 2009 May-June
b. 15 f. 5  Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity (Toronto, Canada) 2009 June
b. 15 f. 6  Metropolis: Festival for Art and Performance in Urban Space (Copenhagen, Denmark) 2009 August
b. 15 f. 7-11  Scripts and Script Excerpts 2006-2008
Includes some production information.
Video Logs, Lists, and Waivers 2008

Double Vision: The Thomas Edison Project -- Production Information and Flyers 2004

Émilie -- Finland and Lincoln Center Festival 2012-2014

Here Lies Love 2004-2006

Budget and Legal Files 2005

Casting Files 2004-2005

Film and Video Lists and Logs 2005-2006

Production Information and Notes 2004-2006

Research 2005

Scenes and Songs 2005

Schedules 2005

Scripts 2006

House/Divided 2011-2012

Press Coverage 2011-2012

Wexner Center for the Arts, Ohio State University (Columbus, OH) 2011 October

Brooklyn Academy of Music (Brooklyn, NY) 2012 October

Programs 2011-2012

Wexner Center for the Arts, Ohio State University (Columbus, OH) 2011 October

University of Massachusetts at Amherst 2011 October

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 2012 September

Brooklyn Academy of Music (Brooklyn, NY) 2012 October

Arts Emerson (Boston, MA)

Script 2012 October

Imperial Motel (Faust) / Jump Cut (Faust) 1993-2002

Jump Cut (Faust) is a later version of Imperial Motel (Faust) which was created in 1996.

Costume Drawings and Research 1997

Dissertation by Lee Soyun 2002

In French.

Lighting Designs and Plots 1997-1998

Notes -- Marianne Weems

Photographs 1996-1997

Poster 1996 October

Zürich, Switzerland.

Press Coverage 1996-1999

Production Information and Binders 1996-1998

Programs 1997-1998

Research 1993-1996
Guide to the Builders Association records

Series I: Builders Association Records (cont.)
Subseries I. A. Productions (cont.)
Imperial Motel (Faust) / Jump Cut (Faust) (cont.)
b. 23 f. 2-5
b. 24 f. 1-7
b. 25 f. 1-5
b. 25 f. 6

Invisible Cities -- Production Information 2004-2006
Jet Lag 1996-2010

b. 25 f. 7-9
Photographs and Slides 1996-2010
b. 26 f. 1-3
Press Coverage 1998-2002
b. 26 f. 4-6
Production Information and Binders 1997-2000, 2010
b. 27 f. 1-5
b. 28 f. 1-3
b. 28 f. 4
Programs

Aarhus, Denmark 1998 October-November
Rotterdam, Netherlands 1998 November
Nantes, France 1998 December-1999 January
Maubeuge, France 1999 March
Créteil, France 1999 March-April
Kaaithaeter (Brussels, Belgium) 1999 March-April
Trafó House (Budapest, Hungary) 1999 April
Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (Mass MoCA) (North Adams, MA) 1999 May
Københavns Internationale Teater (Copenhagen, Denmark) 1999 June-August
Strasbourg, France 1999 October
Munich, Germany 1999 November
The Kitchen (New York, NY) -- Benefit 2000 January
Behnke Center for Contemporary Performance (Seattle, WA) 2000 May
Barbican Centre Theatre (London, UK) 2000 May
Montclair, NJ 2010 October-November
Research 1998-1999

b. 29 f. 9-10
Scripts 1997-2010
b. 30 f. 1-4
Includes some production information and notes.
b. 30 f. 5-6
Technical Plots, Riders, and Designs 1998-2007
b. 31 f. 1
Video Descriptions and Images 1998

Master Builder 1994-2009

b. 31 f. 2
Material for Book 1994-2009
b. 31 f. 3-4
Photographs 1994
b. 31 f. 5
Press Kits and Article
b. 31 f. 6-7
Production Information and Books 1994-1995
b. 32 f. 1-3
Research 1994-1994
b. 32 f. 4-5
Scenic Design -- Floor Plan
b. 33 f. 1-2
o. 1
Scripts 1994
b. 33 f. 3-4
Video and Audio Lists
Includes script, notes, research, programs, and press coverage.
b. 33 f. 6  
  *Mourning Becomes Electra -- Shreveport Residency* 1998
  
  *Opera* 1998-2000

b. 33 f. 7  
Program 2000

b. 33 f. 8  
Research 1998-2000

b. 34 f. 1  
*Road Trip -- Clippings and Program* 2010-2011
  Wexner Center (Columbus, OH).

b. 34 f. 2  
*Snow Day -- Clippings and Programs* 2002-2003
  Holiday show at Grand Central Station.

*Sontag: Reborn* 2011-2014

b. 64 f. 4  
Programs 2014 October

b. 34 f. 3-5  
Script, Clippings, and Programs 2011-2013

*Super Vision* 1999-2007

b. 34 f. 6  
Contracts and Visas 2004-2007

b. 35 f. 1-5  
Designs 2004-2005

b. 36 f. 1  
Presentation Notes -- Marianne Weems 2005

b. 37 f. 1  
Press 2004-2006

b. 37 f. 2-5  
Production Information and Binders 2005

b. 38 f. 1  
Program Proofs 1999 February 8

b. 38 f. 2-4  
Programs 2005-2007

b. 39 f. 1-2  
Research 2001-2004

b. 39 f. 3-5  
Scripts and Storyboards 2004-2005

b. 40 f. 1-3  
Technical Binders 2005-2006

*The White Album* 1995

b. 42 f. 1  
Photographs

b. 42 f. 6  
Photographs and Poster

b. 42 f. 2  
Production Information and Notes

b. 42 f. 3  
Programs

b. 42 f. 4  
Research

b. 42 f. 5-6  
Scripts

*Xtravaganza* 1999-2002

b. 42 f. 7-8  
Lighting Binders, Designs, and Plots 2000-2002

b. 43 f. 1  
Photographs 2000

b. 43 f. 2  
Press 2000-2002

b. 43 f. 3-4  
Production Information and Notes 2000-2001

b. 43 f. 5-11  
Programs 2000-2001

b. 44 f. 1-5  
Research 1999-2000

b. 45 f. 1-2  
Scripts and Storyboards 2000-2001

b. 45 f. 3-4  
Various Productions 1990-2008
Series I: Builders Association Records (cont.)
Subseries I. A. Productions (cont.)
Various Productions (cont.)

b. 45 f. 5-6  Classes and Workshops 2003-2005
  Photographs
b. 45 f. 7  Peggy Kaplan
b. 45 f. 8  Showcase 2004-2005
b. 45 f. 9  Plots and Technical Information on Theatres 1990-2003
b. 46 f. 1
b. 46 f. 2-3  Marketing -- Mailings and Press 1996-2008
b. 46 f. 4  Research on Other Theatre Companies and Productions 2003-2005
b. 46 f. 5-6  Weems, Marianne 1994-2005
  Includes notes to collaborators, a 2003 interview, and a 2005 conference program (Weems
  was a panelist).

b. 46 f. 7-9  Writings 1993-2004
  Includes works by Constance DeJong, Aaron Hoffman, and Shannon Jackson.

Subseries I. B. Administrative and Financial Files 1993-2014

Grant applications and information make up the bulk of this Subseries. Audit files, board
meeting minutes and information, insurance files, and lists of donors are also included.

Arranged by file type, and chronologically within each file type.

b. 47 f. 1-2  Audit Files 2004, 2006
  Included General Ledgers.

b. 47 f. 3  Board of Directors Formation 1994-2001
  Grant Applications 1993-2014
  Arranged by Date

b. 47 f. 4-6  1993-1997
b. 48 f. 1-5  1997-2000
b. 49 f. 1-6  1999-2004
b. 50 f. 1-6  2004-2006
b. 51 f. 1-6  2006-2011
  Includes various other dates.
  Arranged by Grant Name

b. 52 f. 1  Materials for the Arts 2002
b. 52 f. 2  Shubert Foundation 2002-2012
b. 52 f. 3  Sundance Story Lab 2009-2014
b. 52 f. 4-6  Individual Donations 2010-2012
b. 52 f. 7-8  Insurance 2008-2009

Series II: Other Marianne Weems Productions and Projects 1983-1995 (11 boxes
4.37 linear feet)

This Series consists mainly of production materials for productions Weems worked on before
founding the Builders Association, at such companies and performance venues as The Kitchen,
Manhattan Theater Club, The Merry Pit Bull Theater, and The Wooster Group. As with the
Builders Association production materials, these files extensively document dramaturgical
research and script development, and also include press materials, programs, photographs, and
designs. This series also contains correspondence, notes, class lists, and syllabi, and other files
relating to courses, lectures, and workshops in which Marianne Weems participated or
conducted.

Arranged alphabetically.
Series II: Other Marianne Weems Productions and Projects (cont.)

b. 53 f. 1 Bellagio Study and Conference Center 1995
   Rockefeller Foundation.

b. 53 f. 2 Brace Up! -- Program 1991
   The Wooster Group.

b. 53 f. 3 Columbia University Graduate Theatre Program -- Application 1990

b. 53 f. 4-5 Dark Victory: The Ascent -- Research Materials and Tour Information 1993

b. 53 f. 6 David, Evidently 1994
   Manhattan Theatre Club.

b. 53 f. 7 Les Détraqués -- Research and Drafts 1986-1990

b. 54 f. 1 Dixon Place in April 1989
   Hedda Gabler 1989-1990
   The Merry Pit Bull Theatre.

b. 54 f. 2 Finances

b. 54 f. 3 Photographs

b. 54 f. 4 Press Coverage, Flyers, and Programs

b. 54 f. 5 Rehearsal Notes

b. 54 f. 6 Scrips

b. 54 f. 7 Technical Designs and Information

b. 55 f. 1 Video Log and Information

b. 55 f. 2 Indigestion -- Scripts and Character Breakdowns 1994

b. 55 f. 3 Lotringer, S. -- Interview with Madame Victoire 1983

b. 55 f. 4 Nadja 1990-1992
   Philoketes 1990-1994

b. 55 f. 5 Correspondence

b. 55 f. 6 Grants

b. 55 f. 7 Logistics and Production Information

b. 55 f. 8 Score

b. 56 f. 1 Scripts

b. 56 f. 2 Pictures from Mars
   Queer and Queer Alone 1992-1993
   The Kitchen.

b. 56 f. 3 Finances

b. 56 f. 4 Production Logistics

b. 56 f. 5 Programs

b. 56 f. 6-7 Research and Scripts

Rebel without an Effect 1987-1988

b. 57 f. 1 Photographs

b. 57 f. 2 Press and Programs

b. 57 f. 3-4 Notes and Script Excerpts

b. 57 f. 5 Script

b. 57 f. 6 Video Log
Series II: Other Marianne Weems Productions and Projects (cont.)

Roy Cohn/Jack Smith 1992-1995
The Wooster Group.
b. 57 f. 7-8 Contracts
b. 58 f. 1-3 Film Version
b. 58 f. 4 Finances and Grants
b. 58 f. 5-6 Production Logistics
b. 59 f. 1-3
b. 59 f. 4-5 Photographs
b. 60 f. 1-4 Press
b. 60 f. 5 Programs and Flyers
b. 60 f. 6 Research and Sources
b. 61 f. 1 Scripts
b. 61 f. 2 Tour Files
b. 61 f. 3 Vawter, Ron -- Biographies, Interviews, and Memorial Programs
b. 61 f. 4 St. Anthony -- Script and Photographs 1990
The Wooster Group.
b. 61 f. 5 This Will Kill That -- Script 1989
The Wooster Group.
b. 61 f. 6-7 The V-Girls' Book -- Research and Manuscripts
The V-Girls was a performance and study group Weems created with Martha Baer, Erin Cramer, Jessica Chalmers, and Andrea Fraser as part of the Independent Study Program at the Whitney Museum of American Art.
The Wooster Group 1987-1995
b. 63 f. 1 Reading Group 1987-1990
b. 63 f. 2 Various Productions 1992
Includes The Tempest, Homosexual Panic, and other Donald Moss projects.

The Builders Association records contain a significant amount of audio and moving image material, mostly video recordings of rehearsals, interviews, and performances. There are also video recordings of interviews, films, documentaries, and television programs conducted or collected as background research for Builders productions and for productions Weems worked on at the Wooster Group and other theatre companies. Video and audio recordings which were used in productions and also included.

Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.


Audio recordings are unavailable pending digitization.


Video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.