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Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Michael Pye research files on the entertainment industry

1960-1980

*T-Mss 1998-027

Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

Summary

Creator: Pye, Michael, 1946-

Title: Michael Pye research files on the entertainment industry

Date: 1960-1980

Size: 1.3 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Donated by Michael Pye, 1998

Abstract: Michael Pye (born 1946) is a writer who reported on business for The Sunday Times of London and has authored many books. The Michael Pye research files contain documentation of the film and entertainment industries compiled by Pye while reporting for the Sunday Times, and during the writing of his two books on the entertainment industry.

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Processing note: Compiled by Matthew Snyder, 2014

Creator History

Michael Pye (born 1946) is a writer who reported on business for The Sunday Times of London in the 1960s and 1970s. He has also authored many books, two of which are about the entertainment industry: *The Movie Brats: How the Film Generation Took Over Hollywood* (with Lynda Myles, 1979), and *Moguls: Inside the Business of Show Business* (1980).

Scope and Content Note

The Michael Pye research files on the entertainment industry contain documentation of the film and

entertainment industries compiled by Pye while reporting for The Sunday Times of London, and during the writing of his two books on the entertainment business. Dating from 1960 to 1980, they include annual reports of several film studios; brochures; press releases; financial statements; clippings; film souvenir publications; correspondence between Pye and studio publicists; and Pye's notes.

The files cover major film studios such as Columbia Pictures, Gulf and Western Industries (former owners of Paramount Pictures), MGM Pictures, Twentieth Century Fox, United Artists/Transamerica Corporation, Universal Pictures/MCA, and Warner Brothers. They also document smaller American and British studios; the Star Wars Corporation (formed by George Lucas to produce the first Star Wars film); and other entertainment concerns such as the Royal Shakespeare Company and companies owned by Robert Stigwood. The Star Wars Corporation file includes production information, copies of production sketches, and edited essays by Richard Edlund and John Dykstra describing special effect techniques used in Star Wars. The file on Twentieth Century Fox holds a typed draft of an article by Pye on the company.

Also present is a file of legal papers regarding a lawsuit involving Coppola FM Company, a radio production venture owned by Francis Ford Coppola (Pye was not a party to the lawsuit); a file on Norman Lear containing a biographical press release and a 1978 address Lear delivered at the Edinburgh Festival; files of brochures and clippings regarding film financing and technology; and a file of industry box office figures dating from the mid to late-1970s.

Arrangement: The files are arranged by subject.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Annual reports
Press releases

Occupations

Journalists

Subjects

Motion picture industry

Titles

Star wars (Motion picture)

Names

Lear, Norman

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 American International Pictures 1970-1972
- b. 1 f. 2 Box Office Grosses 1974-1980
- b. 1 f. 3 British Film Industry 1971-1972
- b. 1 f. 4 Brut Productions / Avco Embassy Pictures 1972
- b. 1 f. 5-6 Columbia Pictures 1968-1977
- b. 1 f. 7-8 Coppola FM Company 1975-1976
 - b. 2 f. 1 Coppola FM Company 1975-1976
 - b. 2 f. 2 Film Financing 1973, undated
 - b. 2 f. 3 Film Technology 1971, undated
 - b. 2 f. 4 Gulf and Western Industries 1966-1975
 - b. 2 f. 5 Lear, Norman 1978
 - b. 2 f. 6 MGM Pictures 1972-1973
- b. 2 f. 7-8 Royal Shakespeare Company 1960-1977
 - b. 3 f. 1 Star Wars Corporation 1975-1977
 - b. 3 f. 2 Stigwood, Robert 1965-1979
 - b. 3 f. 3 Twentieth Century Fox 1968-1973
 - b. 3 f. 4 United Artists / Transamerica Corporation 1971-1973
 - b. 3 f. 5 Universal Pictures / MCA 1972-1973
 - b. 3 f. 6 Warner Brothers 1971-1972