



The New York Public Library Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Stephen Langley papers

1950-1992

*T-Mss 1997-045

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014

Summary

Creator: Langley, Stephen

Title: Stephen Langley papers

Date: 1950-1992

Size: 2.98 linear feet (8 boxes)

Source: Donated by Stephen Langley, unknown date.

Abstract: Dr. Stephen Langley (1938-1997) was an American theater manager, author, and educator. For over twenty years he was the manager of the Falmouth Playhouse, a prominent summer stock theater on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The collection dates from 1950 to 1992 and holds theater programs, photographs, scrapbooks, theses, and writings relating to the Falmouth Playhouse on Cape Cod, Massachusetts and to Langley's career as an author and educator.

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Processing note: Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014 Scrapbooks were disassembled and rehoused.

Creator History

Dr. Stephen Langley (1938-1997) was an American theater manager, author, and educator. He received two degrees from Emerson College before obtaining his Ph.D. in dramatic literature from the University of Illinois in 1966. For over twenty years he was the manager of the Falmouth Playhouse, a prominent summer stock theater on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. In 1967, Langley was given the task of reorganizing the performing arts department at Brooklyn College. He also established the Master of Fine Arts program in theater management at the same school and served as director of the Brooklyn College Center for the Performing Arts. He was the author of three books: *Producers on Producing* (1976), *Jobs in Arts and Media Management* (1986 with James Abruzzo), and *Theater Management*

and Production in America (1990).

Stephen Langley died in 1997 in Brooklyn, New York.

Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from 1950 to 1992 and holds theater programs, photographs, scrapbooks, theses, and writings relating to the Falmouth Playhouse on Cape Cod, Massachusetts and to Langley's career as an author and educator.

Two files assembled by Langley are present and contain documents relating to the Falmouth Playhouse. The files date from 1954 to 1978 and hold information for prospective employees, address lists, press releases, pamphlets, records of past seasons, and some of Langley's written accounts of activities.

Falmouth Playhouse programs in this collection are bound together by season and date from 1950 to 1978.

Photographs are present individually as well as in the scrapbooks. They depict actors, staff, and audience members associated with the Playhouse at parties and backstage, the interior and exterior of the theater, and actors signing autographs. Photographs used for the plates in Langley's book, *Producers on Producing*, are also present.

There are two scrapbooks present in this collection, one relates primarily to Langley's work at the Falmouth Playhouse, and the other concerns the publication of his books. The Falmouth Playhouse scrapbook documents the Playhouse's activities from the 1960s to the 1970s through photographs, newspaper clippings, letters to Langley, and programs. Letters in the scrapbook reveal the success of the playhouse and the support Langley received from actors and academic figures. Among the correspondents are Alan Alda, Alexander Cohen, Joan Fontaine, and Falmouth Playhouse founder Richard Aldrich. Two of Langley's books, *Theatre Management and Production in America* and *Producers on Producing*, are represented through another scrapbook. Publication planning, the positive reception of the books, and their integration into drama scholarship are documented through letters from publishers and scholars, academic book lists, press releases, and newspaper and journal articles. Additionally, a limited amount of articles and press releases relating to other highlights of Langley's career, such as his directorship of the Brooklyn College Center for Performing Arts, are present throughout both scrapbooks.

Langley's Master of Arts thesis, *A Study of Four Leftist Theaters in London* (1961), and his Ph.D. thesis, *Three Puritanical Stage Figures in the American Drama* (1966), are bound typescripts and are accompanied by his notes. His unpublished work, *Crisis in the Ladies Room: The Story of a Summer Theater*, is also present. The piece draws upon his memories as manager of the Falmouth Playhouse.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged alphabetically by document type: Falmouth Playhouse Files, Photographs, Programs, Scrapbooks, and Theses and Writings.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs
Scrapbooks
Theater programs

Subjects

Summer theater
Theater management

Names

Falmouth Playhouse (Falmouth, Mass.)
Falmouth Playhouse (Organization : Falmouth, Mass.)

Container List

b. 1 f. 1-2 Falmouth Playhouse Files 1954-1978

b. 8 f. 1 Photographs 1950

b. 1 f. 3-5 Photographs 1950-1978

Programs

b. 1 f. 6-8 1950-1953

b. 2 f. 1-5 1953-1961

b. 3 f. 1-5 1962-1969

b. 4 f. 1-5 1969-1974

b. 5 f. 1-4 1974-1978

Scrapbooks

b. 5 f. 4-6 1961-1977
Falmouth Playhouse scrapbook.

b. 6 f. 1-3 1961-1977
Falmouth Playhouse scrapbook.

b. 8 f. 2-3 1973-1992

Theses and Writings

b. 6 f. 4-5 1961, 1966

b. 7 f. 1 Circa 1976