

J S Battye Library of West Australian History  
Private Archives – Collection Listing

MN 1920  
Acc. 5501A

## **PARK THEATRE**

This group was established by Dora May Upson in the 1950's as the **Cottesloe Literary and Dramatic Circle**. Early drama activities were limited mainly to play readings until May 1959, when it was then proposed that the name should be changed to **Cottesloe Civic Centre Drama Group**. In the ensuing years the group met and staged plays in halls and homes within the district and in neighbouring areas, setting for itself a high standard of acting and production, acknowledged by awards won in The Theatre Council of W.A.'s State Drama Festivals.

At their AGM in May 1970 Dora May Upson, Bill Maley, Harrold Walsh, Alan Lamton and Arthur Hardman decided to look for a permanent home. Bill Maley was Minister of St. Columba's Church in Peppermint Grove, and offered the church hall to the group, rent-free

Memorable working bees were held prior to the opening of the first production during which the hall was cleaned and painted, curtains made and sets built. **Little Theatre** was the name adopted for the hall, and Frank Baden-Powell officially opened it on 5 May 1970. The inaugural production was ***The Reluctant Debutante***, produced by Jean Rule.

**Little Theatre** continued to grow, due to the continuing energies of founding members, Dulcie Muhling and Dorothy Barber (who joined the group for its fourth production when the Theatre was eighteen months old). In 1978 - 1979 they moved yet again, this time into larger premises at Alexander Hall, which belonged to St. Luke's Anglican Church in Monument Street. The group was renamed **Park Theatre** towards the end of 1990.

**Park Theatre** continued to play an important role in the community it served for another year, until it became necessary to move again. July 1992 began a new association for **Park Theatre**, this time with the Uniting Church in Floreat.

## **The Papers**

These papers were donated to the Battye Library on 30 July 1993 by Mrs. Beryl A. Davis, 29 Salisbury Road, Midvale, Western Australia, 6056. (Acc: 5501A)

Holdings = 0.2m

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**Summary of classes**

MINUTES  
NEWSLETTERS  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
PROGRAMS  
SCRAP BOOKS  
VISITORS' BOOKS

- MINUTES  
5501A/1 29 August 1977 – October 1983  
10 October 1983 – 5 December 1989  
15 January 1990 – 28 April 1993
- NEWSLETTERS  
/2 September 1977 – May 1993
- PHOTOGRAPHS  
Albums with photographs of productions  
/3 1985  
Mr Three Angels; Barefoot in the Park; Plaza Suite;  
Suddenly, at Home; The Curious Savage; The  
Boyfriend; Wind in the Branches of the Sassafras;  
"Untitled" sequence  
1986  
Little Foxes; Arsenic and Old Lace; Night Must Fall  
1989  
The Ghost Train; Chapter Two; The Trip to  
Bountiful; Two Dozen Red Roses; And Then There  
Were None; Morning Sacrifice; Once in a Blue Moon  
/4 1989  
Private Lives; Worzel Gummidge  
1991  
Bed Before Yesterday; Venomous Lozenge; Fool for  
Love; My cousin Rachel; The Potting Shed; A Seat  
in the Park; The Anniversary  
/5 Unassigned  
/6 Unassigned  
/7 Unassigned

J S Battye Library of West Australian History  
Private Archives – Collection Listing

- PROGRAMS
- /8 12 August 1983 – 27 July 1991
- SCRAPBOOKS
- /9 1972 – 1992  
Posters for Park Theatre productions
- /10 1972 – 1992  
Publicity – newspaper clippings for Park Theatre  
productions
- VISITORS BOOKS
- /11 12 August 1983 – 17 September 1992

*17 January 2003*