

University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

Finding Aid - John Hirsch fonds (MSS 492)

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Language of description: English

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John Hirsch fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections
Title:	John Hirsch fonds
ID:	MSS 492
Date:	1949-1973 (date of creation)
Physical description:	0.13 m of textual records; 4 map folders.
Language:	English
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

John Hirsch was born in Hungary in 1930. He came to Canada in 1947 at age 17 through the War Orphans Project of the Canadian Jewish Congress. This project worked with children under 18 who had survived the Holocaust but no longer had an adult to act as guardian. He was taken in by Alex and Pauline Shack, and their daughter Sybil, in Winnipeg and continued a close relationship with the family throughout his life.

In 1952, Hirsch graduated with a BA in English literature from the University of Manitoba. He established a puppet theatre before co-founding Theatre 77 with Tom Hendry in 1957. In 1958, Hirsch and Hendry amalgamated Theatre 77 with Winnipeg Little Theatre into the Manitoba Theatre Centre (MTC). This theatre became the model for regional theatre through Canada and the United States. Hirsch was the first artistic director of MTC and stayed until 1966 when he then became co-artistic director at the Stratford Festival from 1967-1969. From 1974-1978, he was head of CBC's television drama. Hirsch was consulting artistic director at the Seattle Repertory Theatre from 1979-1981. He returned to the Stratford Festival as artistic director from 1981-1985.

Hirsch is recognized as one of Canada's most prominent theatre directors. He was awarded the Order of Canada in 1967. He also received Obie, Outer Circle Critics' and Los Angeles Drama Critics' Circle Awards for his productions in the United States. The John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Manitoba Writer was established by the Manitoba Foundation for the Arts in 1989 to honour him.

Hirsch died on August 1, 1989 in Toronto after being ill with AIDS.

Custodial history

The fonds was extracted from material donated by Sybil Shack in 2004.

Scope and content

The fonds consist of correspondence to Hirsch, artwork, tapes, and various textual material relating to his personal life and career.

Notes

Title notes

Restrictions on access

There are no restrictions on access.

Conditions governing use

There are no restrictions on use.

Finding aids

A finding aid can be downloaded from the fonds-level description by clicking on the "Download" link under "Finding Aid" on the right-hand side of the screen.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status**: published
 - **Level of detail**: Partial
 - **Status description**: Draft
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Access points

- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)

Series descriptions

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Correspondence to John Hirsch	(1940s)		A2004-209, Box 001 File 0001
	File - Correspondence to John Hirsch	(1950s)		A2004-209, Box 001 File 0002
	File - Correspondence to John Hirsch	(1960s)		A2004-209, Box 001 File 0003
	File - Correspondence to John Hirsch	(1970s)		A2004-209, Box 001 File 0004
	File - Correspondence to John Hirsch	(1970s)		A2004-209, Box 001 File 0005
	File - Correspondence to John Hirsch	(1970s)		A2004-209, Box 001 File 0006
	File - Correspondence to John Hirsch	n.d.		A2004-209, Box 001 File 0007
	File - Miscellaneous theatre information	1957-1970		A2004-209, Box 001 File 0008
	File - Copy of book The Redeemed Children, by Ben Lapin	1963		A2004-209, Box 001 File 0009
	File - Photocopies of poetry and drawings by John Hirsch	n.d.		A2004-209, Box 001 File 0010
	File - Notebook	n.d.		A2004-209, Box 001 File 0011
	File - Tapes	n.d.		A2004-209, Box 001 File 0012

Oversized Materials

Date: 1966-1973, n.d. (date of creation)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)

Publication status:

published				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Lithographic prints and drawings	[196-?] - 1973		A2004-209
	File - Photographs of performers rehearsing and costume fitting	n.d.		A2004-209
	File - MTC theatre posters: "Dark of the Moon" and "Arms and the Man"	n.d.		A2004-209
	File - Doctor of Letters diploma from the University of Manitoba; Order of Canada certificate	1966-1967		A2004-209