



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Mary Sue Jones Papers 1931-1992 (Bulk dates: 1949-1992)

Collection SWWC-009a

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Jones, Mary Sue
Title:	Guide to the Mary Sue Jones Papers
Dates:	1931-1992 (Bulk dates: 1949-1992)
Abstract:	Mary Sue Jones' Papers span the years from 1931 to 1992 with most of the material dating from the 1960s through the 1980s. Contained here are class notes, scripts, set designs, costume designs, playbills, letters, photographs, records, audiotapes, reports, clippings, magazines, articles, awards, school records, yearbooks, scrapbooks, personal effects, and mementos.
Identification:	SWWC-009a
Extent:	14 Linear Feet, 28 boxes
Language:	English
Repository:	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

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Biographical Notes

Actress, director, and designer Mary Sue Birkhead Fridge Jones was born on August 24, 1930 in Carthage, Missouri. She entered Baylor University in 1948 as an art student but eventually found her way to the Theater Department under Paul Baker. She received a Master's in Drama in 1955 from Baylor. Jones began student teaching in 1954 and became an integral part of the Paul Baker teaching team. She taught acting and design at Baylor and later followed Baker in his move to Trinity University, where she was an assistant professor. Jones was present at the founding of the Dallas Theater Center in 1959 and was made assistant director of the facility. She starred in many Dallas Theater Center productions, winning Dallas's Billy Award in 1963 as best actress for her performance in *Sister*. Some of her other starring roles at the Dallas Theater Center were in *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Medea*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. She was costume and set designer for *Julius Caesar*, *Journey to Jefferson*, *Macbeth* and *Marat-Sade* to mention only a few. In the 1980s, Baker promoted Jones to associate artistic director and then co-artistic director. Baker, forced to resign from the Dallas Theater Center by the Board of Trustees in 1982, picked her as his successor. The Board appointed her interim artistic director until Adrian Hall was hired to fill the position in 1983. Jones then moved to Santa Fe as artist in residence at the College of Santa Fe, where she taught acting and directed at the Greer Garson Theater Center. In 1988, she was made a full time faculty member of the college. Mary Sue Jones' first marriage was to Roy Fridge, an artist who also created posters for the Dallas Theater Center. She married Preston Jones on September 7, 1964. Mary Sue Jones died in Santa Fe June 27, 1992.

Scope and Contents

Jones' papers are divided into two series: 1. Texas records; 2. New Mexico records. They span the years from 1931 to 1992 with most of the material dating from the 1960s through the 1980s. Contained here are class notes, scripts, set designs, costume designs, playbills, letters, photographs, records, audiotapes, reports, clippings, magazines, articles, awards, school records, yearbooks, scrapbooks, personal effects, and mementos. The Texas series contains three subseries: Education and Teaching; Acting, Design, and Directing; and Dallas Theater Center Administration. The first subseries of the Texas files presents information on Jones' education at Baylor University and her teaching of acting and design at both Baylor and Trinity Universities. The second offers a good deal of information on her career as actor, director, and designer at the Dallas Theater Center. The third subseries covers her work as assistant artistic director to Paul Baker and is especially informative on the state of affairs during the transfer of the directorship at the Dallas Theater Center from Paul Baker to Adrian Hall. The New Mexico series is arranged into four subseries: Teaching and Directing, Paul Baker Festival, Production and Script Files, and Personal. The first subseries provides information on Jones' work as artist-in-residence, and later as a faculty member at the College of Santa Fe. The second centers on the career of Paul Baker, especially at the Dallas Theater Center, and documents the 1990 festival organized by his former students to honor him. The third subseries is Jones' collection of scripts or production files including many of the plays performed at the Dallas Theater Center. The fourth contains material on Mary Sue's private life and non-theatrical interests, such as her baby book, gardening, and decoration ideas for her Santa Fe home.

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Source of Acquisition

Donated by Diane and Don Malouf and the Birkhead family.

Physical Location

Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use: .
<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

Preferred Citation

Mary Sue Jones Papers, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

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<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/visit/policies/publication.html>

Related Materials

Preston Jones Papers (Collection 9) and the Paul and Kitty Baker Papers (Collection 35).

Related Materials

Books from the library of Preston and Mary Sue Jones have been cataloged and the records are searchable through the Alkek Library online catalog, <http://catalog.library.txstate.edu>

Controlled Access Headings

- Actresses
- College theater -- Texas
- Drama
- Theater
- Women musical theater producers and directors

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Texas records, 1949-1983, undated

Education and Teaching, 1949-1983, undated

Box	Folder	
1	1	Baylor University yearbook, 1949
1	2	Baylor University yearbook, 1951
1	3	Baylor University yearbook, 1952
1	4	Class notes, undated
2	2	Baylor thesis, rough draft
2	3	Note cards relating to thesis
2	4-5	Copy of thesis
2	6	Baylor Othello Notes, Experimental Summer, two notebooks
2	7	"Façade," music by William Walton, words by Edith Sitwell
2	8	Class notes—Europe, map of Paris with handwritten notes
2	9	Slides of a trip to Europe, 1950-1959
2	10	Acting Notes, 1953, 1955, undated
3	1	Class notes, 1953, 1955, undated
3	2	Class notes, 1958, undated
3	3	Class notes, undated
3	4	Class notes, 1960
3	5	Class notes, undated
3	6	Class notes, 1962, undated
3	7	Articles on the creative process in The Journal of the American Association of University Women, Scientific American, and "The Creative Mind at Work," article by Paul Baker, 1954, 1958, undated
4	1	Acting class syllabi, 1962, 1963, 1976, undated
4	2	Acting class syllabi, undated
4	3	Design class notes, undated
4	4	Dallas Theater Center material and notes, 1962-1963, 1969, undated
4	5	Notes, "The Polite World of the Eighteenth Century" , undated
4	6	Notes, Henry V, undated
4	7	Notes and various Shakespeare scenes, undated
4	8	Acting class scenes, character analysis worksheet, 1979, undated
4	9	Class notes , undated
4	10	"Symbols" class material and articles, 1972-1973

4	11	"Symbols" class, assignments and notes, 1973
5	1	Scholarship materials, 1974-1976
5	2-3	Readings and notes, undated
5	4	Design class, syllabus, handouts, and notes, 1974-1975, 1977, undated
5	5	Design class, syllabus, handouts, and notes, undated
5	6	Directing class, student papers, 1981-1982
5	7	Directing class, student papers, 1983, undated
<u>Acting, Design, and Directing Career, 1955-1973, undated</u>		
5	8-9	Hamlet recording, Speak 4 Trio script and reel-to-reel tapes of Impressions of Christmas, 1957, 1959
6	1-2	Speak 4 Trio cassette and reel-to-reel tapes, undated
6	3	Slides, Roy and Mary Sue Fridge, Roy Fridge's art, undated
6	4	Roy Fridge's art, watercolors, undated
6	5	Roy Fridge's art, watercolor and sketches, undated
6	6-7	Photos, Mary Sue Jones, Baylor and DTC, 1955-1969
7	1	Photos, Mary Sue and Preston Jones, undated
7	2	Dallas Theater Center programs and informational pamphlets, 1960-1961
7	3	Posters, photos and slides, Mary Sue and Preston Jones in DTC productions, undated
7	4	Photos, Mary Sue Jones in DTC productions, undated
7	5-6	Sister, play by Glenn Allen Smith, script with handwritten notes, 1962-1963
7	7	Correspondence with Mr. Harry Buckwitz, Director Staedtische Buehnen, Frankfurt Am Main, Germany concerning Caucasian Chalk Circle, 1966-1967
7	8	Slides of set and costume designs, undated
7	9	Set and costume designs, undated
7	10	Souvenir collection of costume designs for The Tempest, 1965
8	1	Set designs, sketches and watercolors, undated
8	2	Photocopy of Hospitals of Paris, pages 69-91, undated
8	3	Notes on Seagull, 1970-1971
8	4	Scholarship Award for Creative Greatness, Mary Sue and Preston Jones , April 7, 1971
8	5	Summer and Smoke directing notes, framed program, 1972-1973

Dallas Theater Center Administration, 1963-1983, undated

8	6-9	Dallas Theater Center Board and Executive committee, budget committee reports, correspondence, memos, award and scholarship information, and board meeting reports , 1973-1976
9	1	Dallas Theater Center Company, correspondence and operations information , 1975-1976
9	2	Copy of "Executive Summary," November 1977, and DTC "Report on Examinations of Financial Statements and Supplemental Data for the years ended August 31, 1977 and 1976," includes other relevant documents, 1976-1977

9	3	Trinity University position, includes search committee report, resumes, and correspondence, 1977
9	4	DTC Feasibility Study Report, 1977
9	5	Pamphlets and letter from Audrey Wood to Hal Willis of Hal Willis Productions, 1977-1978, 1980
9	6	Various committee reports, 1978
9	7	Clippings and correspondence, 1980-1982
9	8	Clippings, 1982
9	9	Clippings and correspondence, 1980, 1983
10	1	News stories about Jones' friends and acquaintances, 1980
10	2	Actors and agents, list developed for production of War and Peace, undated
10	3	Directing class, syllabus and reading list, undated
10	4	Women in Theater, conference information, undated
10	5	Texas Foundation for Women's Resources, "Texas Women: A Celebration of History," Gala Opening, notes, programs, schedule of events, set designs, and script, May 9, 1981
10	6	Mary Sue Jones personal file, correspondence and addresses, 1981-1983
10	7	Al Milano projects, memos and clippings, 1982-1983
10	8	Dallas Theater Center business, 1982, undated
10	9	DTC crisis, clippings, articles, memos, and remarks by Paul Baker, Spring 1982
10	10-11	Budget Information, 1982-1983
11	1	Lawyers, thank-you letters, business cards, 1982
11	2	Congratulatory letters and cards, 1982-1983
11	3	Dallas and Theater Crafts magazines; Trinity University Graduate Bulletin, 1982-1983
11	4	Articles about Ed Herrmann, 1983
11	5	Articles about Adrian Hall's selection as Paul Baker's successor, 1983
11	6	Memos, photographs, and clippings relating to Adrian Hall,, 1983, undated
11	7	Mary Sue Jones in Ladybug, Ladybug Fly Away Home, performed at the American College Theatre Festival, programs, correspondence, and clippings, 1980
11	8	Correspondence, requests for letters of recommendation, 1982-1983
11	9-10	Playbills, 1963-1983
11	11	Articles, clippings, and information about other theaters, 1982-1983
12	1	Theater articles, clippings, information, research, 1982-1983
12	2	Clippings and articles about Jones, the DTC, and teaching methods , 1982-1983
12	3	Theater Communications Group national conference information folders, 1980, 1982
12	4-7	Dallas Theater Center season, correspondence, schedules of events, budget information, press releases, newspaper articles, class schedules, memos, grant applications, and meeting minutes, 1982-1983
13	1	DTC Employee Handbook, Copy of NEA Challenge Grant Proposal, memos, Executive Committee meeting minutes, 1983, undated
13	2	Correspondence, clippings, Finance Committee agenda, photos, 1983
13	3	Correspondence, Finance Committee documents, Jones' resume, budgets for shows,

		phone directory, 1982-1983
13	4	DTC correspondence, 1983
13	5	New Students Guide, DTC Handbook, DTC Budget , 1981-1982
13	6	Contracts, drafts, 1982-1983
13	7	Speeches and correspondence, 1981-1983
13	8-9	Green Room chats, correspondence, notes, and articles, 1983, undated
14	1	Press release contacts, 1982-1983
14	2-3	Interim Artistic Director, 1982-1983
14	4-6	Budget, 1982-1983

Series II: New Mexico records, 1931-1992, undated

Teaching and Directing, 1982-1992, undated

14	7	Clippings, playbills, photos, 1982-1986
14	8	Greer Garson Theater Center Department of Performing Arts student handbook, undated
15	1	Sanderson, Barb, "Professional Theatre Graduate Programs: The Students' Eye View," Masters Thesis, August 7, 1983
15	2	Hofland, John, "Relating Right Brain Research to the Design Process," Masters Thesis, August 7, 1983
15	3	Clippings, research, photos, 1984-1985, undated
15	4	Dallas Theater Center Endowment Fund, 1986-1987
15	5	Acting class notes, undated
15	6	Performing Class notes, Notebook I, Fall 1984
15	7	Performing Class Notes, Notebook II, Fall 1984
15	8	Acting IV, class notes, Fall 1986
16	1	Acting class notes, undated
16	2	Performance Studies/ Acting IV, class notes, 1987
16	3	Performance Studies/ Acting IV, class notes, 1988
16	4	Acting I and Audition notes, Spring 1988
16	5	Acting I and Playwriting, Spring 1989
16	6	Class notes, undated
17	1	Performance Studies/Acting IV, class notes, 1989
17	2-3	Class notes, undated
17	4	Speech/ Performance Studies, class notes, Notebook II, Fall 1984
17	5	Acting I and Playwriting, class notes, Spring 1987
17	6	Mary Sue Jones' notes and observations about Performance Studies Class, 1991
18	1	Auditions Training, Spring 1990
18	2	Performance Studies/ Acting IV, Fall 1990

18	3	Resume information, school memos, undated
18	4	Acting I and Playwriting, Spring 1991
18	5	Acting class notes, undated
18	6	Performance Studies, class notes, Fall 1991
18	7	Performance Studies, class notes, undated
19	1	Performance Studies, final scenes, video, Fall 1991
19	2	Performing Arts Faculty, 1992

Paul Baker Festival Files, 1983-1986, 1990-1991

19	3	Clippings, Dallas Theater Center, Paul Baker, and Adrian Hall, 1983-1986
19	4	Paul Baker Festival mailing list, February 27, 1990
19	5-6	Second Harvest, Paul Baker Festival, clippings, correspondence, maps, speeches, articles , August 1990
20	1	The Paul Baker Theater: A Photo History, 1991

Script and Production Files, 1977, 1980, 1987, undated

20	2	And a Nightingale Sang, by Cecil P. Taylor, script and prop list
20	3	As I Lay Dying, by William Faulkner, adapted for Baylor Theater production by Robert L. Flynn (Preston Jones' copy)
20	4	A Bug in Her Ear (La Puce A L'oreille), by Georges Feydeau, tr. G. B. Shaw (Preston Jones' copy)
20	5	Children of a Lesser God, by Mark Medoff, last revision, June 13, 1980
20	6-7	The Crucible, by Arthur Miller, script, background information, and notes
20	8	Curious in LA, by Glenn Allen Smith (Preston Jones' copy)
21	1	A Different Drummer, Gene McKinney (Preston Jones' copy)
21	2	The Dining Room, by A.R. Gurney, Jr.
21	3	Door Play, by Sallie Baker Laurie, 1977
21	4	Door Play, by Sallie Baker Laurie, script with handwritten notes
21	5-7	The Dresser, by Ronald Harwood, script and notes
22	1	Firekeeper, by Mark Medoff (Preston Jones' copy)
22	2	Fuse, by Sally Netzel
22	3	Hamlet, by William Shakespeare
22	4	Hamlet, by William Shakespeare, as arranged by Paul Baker and staff
22	5	Hay Fever, by Noel Coward
22	6	A Home Away From, by Glenn Allen Smith
22	7	The House of Bernarda Alba, by Federico Garcia Lorca, maps, notes, and research
22	8	The House of Bernarda Alba, by Federico Garcia Lorca, script
23	1	House of Blue Leaves, by John Guare, script and notes
23	2	House of Blue Leaves, by John Guare, script
23	3	Importance of Being Ernest, by Oscar Wilde, script and notes
23	4	Importance of Being Ernest, by Oscar Wilde, thank- you cards, notes, and research

23	5	Jack Ruby, All American, by Paul Baker & John Logan (Preston Jones' copy)
23	6-9	Journey to Jefferson, a staged dramatization of William Faulkner's As I Lay Dying adapted by Robert L. Flynn, scripts
24	1	LuAnn Hampton Lavery Oberlander, by Preston Jones, script and notes
24	2	Our Town, by Thornton Wilder, script and notes
24	3	Our Town, by Thornton Wilder, notes
24	4	A Man for All Seasons, by Robert Bolt, script, notes, and research
24	5	A Man for All Seasons, by Robert Bolt, script
24	6	Of Time and the River, by Tom Wolfe, adapted by Baylor Theater
24	7	Picnic, by William Inge, script, notes, and research
25	1	Puppet Makers, by Norman D. Schultz
25	2	Sam: A Play Based on the Life and Imagination of Mark Twain, by Sally Netzel
25	3-4	Sadie's Kitchen, by Bonnie Beardsley, script and correspondence with the author, 1987
25	5	Sister, by Glenn Allen Smith (Preston Jones' copy)
25	6	Sister, by Glenn Allen Smith
25	7	Summer and Smoke, by Tennessee Williams
26	1	Summer and Smoke, by Tennessee Williams, script, notes and research
26	2	Writes and Wrongs, John Francis, public television program , August 1987

Personal, 1931-1992, undated

26	3	Baby book and National Honor Society membership card, 1931-1941, undated
26	4	Divorce papers and correspondence with Roy Fridge, 1962-1964
26	5	Family photos, clippings, mementos, 1964-1966
26	6	Awards, photos, memorabilia, 1961-1992
26	7	Preston Jones New Play Symposium, correspondence, press releases, 1984-1985
26	8	Personal correspondence, programs, 1977-1983
26	9	Personal correspondence, copy of speech made at New Mexico Repertory opening, 1982-1984
26	10	Personal correspondence, clippings, 1984
27	1	Personal correspondence, 1985-1986
27	2	Address book, undated
27	3-5	Clippings file, Gardening, includes hand-drawn garden design by Mary Sue Jones
27	6	Clippings file, Investments
27	7	Clippings file, The Theater
27	8	Clippings file, DTC
27	9	Dallas Children's Theater, Board of Trustees meeting and budget information, 1985
27	10	Clippings file, Preston Jones' plays
27	11	Clippings file, Mary Sue Jones
27	12	Clippings file, Paul Baker and Adrian Hall
27	13	Clippings file, Fashion and Jewelry

27	14	Clippings file, Health
28	1	Clippings file, Automobiles
28	2	Clippings file, Antiques/Crafts/Miscellaneous
28	3	Clippings file, Travel
28	4	Food mail-order catalogs
28	5	Mail-order catalogs and clippings, lamps
28	6	Clippings and catalogs, fabric and textiles
28	7	Handwritten notes
28	8	Articles from The New Yorker
28	9	Clippings file, New Mexico
28	10	Clippings file, Travel, Furniture, Appliances, and Real Estate Investment
28	11	Clippings file, Pets, Career Information, research for Preston's plays
28	12	Obituaries for Mary Sue Jones, 1992