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Inventory

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Marillyn Gray / Gateway Theatre Papers

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Papers, (1925-1997) of Scottish actor and theatre director Marillyn Gray (1930-2006) referred to as MG in the inventory. The collection chiefly relates to the Gateway Theatre, (1953-1965) in which Marillyn Gray was a regular performer. The Gateway papers came into her care at some point after the theatre closed possibly entrusted to her by, or after the death of, Sadie Aitken (1905-85) Gateway Theatre General Manager, some of whose papers are in the collection.

Marillyn Gray was born in Edinburgh, attending Trinity Academy. After serving her apprenticeship at Perth Repertory theatre she had her first major role in 1951 with the Glasgow Citizens' *Spindrift* written by Naomi Mitchison and Denis Macintosh, playing alongside Duncan Macrae and Fulton MacKay. Thereafter she became a stalwart at the Gateway Theatre in Edinburgh. She also worked for many years with Jimmy Logan's variety shows, and made numerous appearances on radio and television. She later taught at the Drama Department of Queen Margaret College in Edinburgh, directing a number of their productions.

The Gateway was gifted to the Church of Scotland by local businessman A.G. Anderson in 1944. Under the stewardship of director Rev George Candlish and manager Sadie Aitken it was officially opened as a theatre in October 1946 showing films and inviting companies such as Perth Theatre, Dundee Rep, Glasgow Citizens, and the Scottish National Players to visit. The reputation of the theatre grew with its championing of Scottish dramatists; Robert Kemp, James Bridie and others and a crop of fine actors: Duncan Macrae, Alistair Sim, Lennox Milne and others. In 1953 the fully professional Edinburgh Gateway Co. Ltd. was established. It ceased to exist in 1965.

Sadie Aitken was born in Dunbar. She was Gateway Theatre General Manager from 1946 (the first woman to hold a theatre licence in Scotland) until its close in 1965.

The collection has been arranged in this order for ease of use, though files gathered together by MG have generally been left as such. The collection has been sorted into Gateway Theatre papers and Marillyn Gray papers, though the two categories often overlap.

Presented March 2006

- 1-110 GATEWAY THEATRE PAPERS**
- 1-85 Scripts.** (Arranged by author)
 1-14 Robert Kemp
 15-24 Alexander Reid
 25-28 James Bridie
 29-85 Various authors
- 86-88 Gateway Theatre Programmes 1946-1965**
- 89-98 Gateway Administration Papers 1946-1969**
- 99-100 Transcripts of BBC Radio Reviews of Gateway Productions 1947-1962**
- 101-103 Newspaper Cuttings relating to Gateway 1945-1961**
- 104-106 Photographs**
- 107-110 Sadie Aitken papers** (Gateway Theatre General Manager)
- 111-124 MARILLYN GRAY PAPERS**
- 111-117 General**
- 118-122 Queen Margaret College/Leith Theatre Productions** directed by Marillyn Gray
- 123-124 Programmes**

111-110 GATEWAY THEATRE PAPERS

- 1-85 Scripts.** Marillyn Gray's collection of working scripts, chiefly relating to her Gateway Theatre career, but including Citizen's Theatre, Glasgow.
1. *The Asset* by Robert Kemp. camera script. Transmission date 31st Jan 1956.
 2. *The Conspirators* by Robert Kemp, n.d.
 3. *Festival Fever* by Robert Kemp, n.d.
 4. *Henrietta M.D.* by Robert Kemp, n.d.
 5. *The Laird o' Grippy* by Robert Kemp. n.d. An adaptation into Scots of *L'Avare* by Moliere. with 2 pages of notes by MG.
 6. *Let Wives Tak Tent* by Robert Kemp, a free translation into Scots of Moliere's *L'Ecole des Femmes*. n.d.
 7. *Let Wives Tak Tent* by Robert Kemp, a free translation into Scots of Moliere's *L'Ecole des Femmes*, performed by the Compagnie Jouvett of Paris at the Edinburgh International Festival, 1947
 8. *Master John Knox* by Robert Kemp. n.d.
 - 9-10 2 x *A Nest of Singing Birds* by Robert Kemp. n.d. one marked 1950 as "The Scientific Singers" Glasgow Citizens' Theatre.

11. *The Penny Wedding* by Robert Kemp, n.d. with MG's notes.
12. *The Perfect Gent* by Robert Kemp, n.d.
13. *Whuppitystoorie* by Robert Kemp, n.d.
14. *Young Mother Hubbard* by Robert Kemp, n.d.
15. *Diana* by Alexander Reid. n.d. Includes a card from Genevieve Reid (wife of the playwright) to MG. regarding the play.
- 16-19. 4 copies. *The Lass wi the Muckle Mou* by Alexander Reid. n.d.
20. *The Lass wi the Muckle Mou* by Alexander Reid, labelled "Script property of Marillyn Gray, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh."
21. *Voyage Ashore* by Alexander Reid. dated "Henry Sherek season Edinburgh and Glasgow 1956". with MG's notes.
- 22-23. 2 copies of *The World's Wonder* by Alexander Reid, dated 14th April, 1955, includes an extra booklet with the sheet music of "*The Dubbities Sang*" from the play. 2nd copy marked 1953 with MG's notes.
24. *When we are Married* by J. B. Priestley. Transposed into Scots by Alexander Reid. n.d. (prompt script) with MG's notes.
25. *The Anatomist* by James Bridie. Working script with many notes by MG. n.d.
26. *The Baikie Charivari, or The Seven Prophets – A Miracle Play* by James Bridie. dated Helensburgh February, 1950. with MG's notes.
27. *Gog and Magog* by James Bridie. Script and related material for Edinburgh festival production 1987. Directed by MG. with MG's notes.
28. *The Queen's Comedy* by James Bridie. n.d. with extra notes pinned to the script.
29. *A Masque of Summer* by Ian Dallas. n.d. Acts 2 and 3 in 2 volumes. Act 1 missing. with MG's notes.
30. *Brodie the Broadsword* by Alan Richardson. (reading copy) n.d.
31. *Come to the Fair* by R. J. B. Sellar. with MG's notes.
- 32-33. 2 copies *Gay Landscape* by George Munro. Premiered at the Glasgow Citizens' Theatre in 1958.
34. *Ghosts and Old Gold* by Reid Kennedy. n.d. with MG's notes.

35. *Guest of Honour* by Donald Sutherland, 1952
36. *Our Kindness to Five Persons* by Tom Gallacher, 1969, with MG's notes.
37. *You've Gotta be Somebody's Baby – No?* by Joan Ure, with MG's notes, 1977/1978?
38. *A Fistful of East Wind* by Howard Purdie. Including letter April 1976, from the author.
39. Folder labelled "Howard" containing the plays of Howard Purdie: *Go down, Mr Pugh; Kukee in Flames; Love's Last Reward; Wha Daur!* Also a CV, an article from the *Peeblesshire News* and 2 poems.
40. *The Chippit Chantie*, freely adapted from *Der Zerbrochene Krug* by Heinrich Von Kleist, by Victor Carin. Labelled "T.V. script."
41. *The Ill Guidmither* by David Purves. "1 version 1986".
42. *Jean Dundee* by Donald Campbell? n.d.
43. *Jezebel* by Nora Radcliffe, n.d.
44. *Mrs Shin* (part) n.d. with MG's notes.
45. *On Binnie Wud* by Howard Purdie, n.d. with letter from the author.
46. *The Servant o Twa Maisters* by Victor Carin, adapted from *Il Servitore Di Due Padroni* by Carlo Goldoni, n.d.
47. *Sons and Fathers* by Howard Purdie, n.d. with MG's notes.
48. *The Trials of Warren Hastings* by Howard Purdie, possibly 1988 (the anniversary of the trial.)
- 49-51. *Thunder Rock* (acts 2 and 3) by Robert Ardrey, dated 3rd Sept. 1945.
The Wal at the World's End by David Purves, n.d. *A Mummers Tale*.
Border Television Ltd. 16th Dec. 1962
52. *Doctor Finlay's Casebook – The Barrier* by Pat Dunlop. Running order and rehearsal script, n.d. with MG's notes.
53. *Para Handy, Master Mariner* by Bob Black, 1993, with pencil notes, Possibly MG's.
54. *Hobson's Choice* by Harold Brighouse. Translated into Scots by Jean Taylor Smith, n.d.

55. *Spindrift* by Naomi Mitchison and Dennis MacIntosh. 1951. with MG's notes. With published "acting edition" 1951.
56. *Toccata for Cats* by G. Bell Barker, n.d.
57. 2 copies *Wedding Fever* by Sam Cree, n.d. with MG's notes. Including a stage plans and loose sheet "Proposed cuts for Perth."
58. *Second Honeymoon* by Sam Cree, n.d. with MG's notes.
59. *Married Bliss* by Sam Cree, n.d. with MG's notes.
60. *Retreat from Moonshine* by Murray McClymont, n.d. with MG's notes. Labelled: "Mr Keir, Miss Gray, Mr Baxter. Property of the Citizen's Theatre."
61. *The Kidnappers* by C.E. Testar. Adapted from *The Kidnappers* by Neil Paterson. May 9th 1986, revised June 25th 1987.
62. *Man Woman Visitor*. signed and dated by Stewart Conn, 22.4. 64.
63. *Meg McKinstry Meditates* by William McArthur. Rehearsal date 10th July 1975. Radio Scotland.
64. *Tail of the Bank* by Iain S. Munro, with MG's notes. Radio 4 Scotland. Transmission date 30.9.69.
65. *The Happy Man* by Robert Hughes, Radio 4 Scotland, transmission date 8.9.72.
66. *The Hebrides* by John McGrath, n.d.
67. *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson adapted by Catherine Lucy Czerkawska, with MG's notes.
68. *Cupid Wore Skirts* by Sam Cree, n.d. with MG's notes.
69. *Normal Service* by John Byrne; a copy from *Plays and Players* May 1979, with MG's notes.
70. Folder labelled "*BBC Poetry Workshop*" including poems and plays read by MG of Valerie Ransford, Joan Ure, Elspeth Davie and Russell McMillan. It also includes a confirmation letter, 7th May 1968 from George Bruce, Documentary Talks Producer at the BBC. A poem "*In Memoriam*" signed Barbara Bingley; one loose sheet of script from one of the programmes.
71. 3 short plays – *A Nice Conversational Chat with Drinks - After the Grapefruit, what then? - The Journey, probably*, by Joan Ure, n.d.

72. *Throne of destiny* (screenplay adaptation of *Macbeth the King* by Nigel Tranter) by Steven Lewis Simpson. Including cover letter 27/11/97, from the author.
73. *The Heart is Highland* (copy) by Robert Kemp. With cover letter 18/10/85 from David Kemp.
74. *The Tay Bridge* by Norman McCandlish, 1969, with MG's notes.
75. *You're Fired!* by Hector Macmillan, 1968, with MG's notes.
76. *Such Sweet Sorrow* – Theresa Sorensen, 23 June 1944.
77. *The Comeback* by Tom Wright. Edinburgh Festival 1963.
78. Part of script *Dinner for Two*, n.d.
79. *The Death of Adam*, n.d. with MG's notes.
80. *It Looks Like a Change* by Donald McLaren, n.d. with MG's notes.
81. *Operation Stork* by Reid Kennedy. Aug-Sept 1975. with MG's notes. Inc. production related letter.
82. *The Sorcerer's Tale* by James Scotland, n.d.
83. Various sketches, short scripts and songs, for stage, radio and television featuring MG, Jimmy Logan, Stanley Baxter, Jack Milroy, Joan Sims and others.
84. 3 parts of rehearsal script *The Trouble with Alec*, by Sam Cree, 1965. Featuring Jimmy Logan, with MG's notes.
85. Script for a sketch "*Death of a Salesman*" from The Jimmy Logan Show. Plus 2 letters, February 1960, from the BBC Television centre, London.
- 86-88 Gateway Theatre Programmes 1946-1965**
86. Gateway programmes, 1946-52.
87. Gateway programmes, 1953-59.
88. Gateway programmes, 1960-65.
- 89-98 Gateway Administration Papers 1946-1969.**
- Mostly general correspondence of Rev. George Candlish - Theatre Director; and Sadie Aitken – Theatre Manager.
89. Correspondence and related papers, 1946-1955.

90. Correspondence and related papers, 1956-1957.
91. Correspondence and related papers, 1958-1961. Includes correspondence related to the *Lysistrata* controversy of 1960-1961, which arose when the Church of Scotland cancelled a performance of Aristophanes' play, which it deemed unsuitable for the Gateway. This resulted in a press furore and the resignation of Mr. John B Rankin, chairman of the Gateway's board of trustees. (See also folder 103.)
92. Correspondence and related papers, 1962-1963.
93. Correspondence and related papers, 1964-1965.
94. Correspondence and related papers, 1966-1969.
95. Gateway council papers, 1961-1967.
96. Lord Chamberlain's Licences, 1946-1966.
97. Kirk Drama Federation papers, 1951-1965.
98. Church of Scotland; Press Publicity and Information Office papers, 1964-1968.
- 99-100 Transcripts of BBC Radio Reviews of Gateway productions 1947-1962**
99. BBC Radio Review transcripts, 1947-1955.
100. BBC Radio Review transcripts, 1956-1962.
- 101-103 Newspaper Cuttings relating to Gateway 1945-1961** Inc. cuttings relating to the *Lysistrata* controversy 1958-61.
101. Press cuttings, 1945-1961.
102. Press cuttings, 1946-1955. In original folder.
103. Press cuttings, 1958-1961, relating to the *Lysistrata* controversy. (See also folder 91.)
- 104-106 Photographs**
104. Gateway Theatre negatives.
105. Photographic prints n.d. from various Gateway productions (but possibly also other Companies' productions) mostly featuring MG. Also including Stanley Baxter, Jimmy Logan, Joan Sims, Duncan Macrae and others.

106. Larger photographic prints, n.d. mostly from Gateway productions. Mostly featuring MG. 2 loose outsized prints.
- 107-110 Sadie Aitken papers** (Gateway Theatre General Manager)
107. Miscellaneous photographs, mostly relating to Gateway Theatre; including personal signed photographs of Marcel Marceau, Judi Dench and others.
108. Miscellaneous papers 1936-1985. of Sadie Aitken, mostly relating to her work at the Gateway. Including a letter from Thornton Wilder and postcard from George Bernard Shaw; programme of *A Remembrance of Shakespeare* signed by Princess Grace of Monaco, costume designs; also obituaries of SA collected by MG.
109. Miscellaneous including *Gateway Newsletter* mostly from 1940's.
110. Artwork: 3 costume designs and caricatures from Gateway productions.
- 111-124 MARILLYN GRAY PAPERS**
- 111-117 General**
111. Press cuttings relating to MG's theatrical work, particularly her first major part: *Spindrift* by Naomi Mitchison and Denis Macintosh, also featuring Duncan Macrae. Premiered at the Glasgow Citizen's Theatre April 1951.
112. Miscellaneous papers and newspaper clippings relating to Scottish theatre. 1946-1994.
113. Papers and newspaper clippings relating to the National Theatre debate. 1960-1994.
114. Poems by Howard Purdie, n.d.
115. Poems and sketches by Russell Macmillan, n.d.
116. Papers relating to a production of *The Gulf Stream* by Joan Ure. Includes correspondence from Joan Ure and Marjorie Clark from the same period. c.1976.
117. Papers relating to Scottish entertainer Harry Gordon 1893-1957. Includes a scrap book of his Daily Record articles of his Transatlantic visit in 1949. Manuscripts of sheet music and the comic play *Thunder over Inversnecky* broadcast April 1937. Audio cassette of MG's spoken notes, researching Gordon's career; recorded in Aberdeen Central Library.
- 118-122 Queen Margaret College/Leith Theatre Productions** directed by Marillyn Gray

118. Papers relating to the production of *The Good Person of Szechwan* by Bertolt Brecht; Includes programmes and reviews of other Brecht productions. Performed May 1986.
119. Papers relating to the production of *Fish in the Sea* by John McGrath, performed May 1988.
120. Papers relating to the production of *Let Wives Tak Tent* by Robert Kemp, performed October 1980.
121. Papers relating to the production of *The Baikie Charivari* by James Bridie, performed November 1979.
122. Papers relating to Queen Margaret College productions directed by MG.1979-88, including: *Ring Round the Moon* by Jean Anouilh, *Ubu Roi* by Alfred Jarry, *The Matchmaker* by Thornton Wilder, *The Jesuit* by Donald Campbell.

123-124 Programmes

123. Larger theatre programmes and posters 1954-95. All posters relate to productions in which MG performed; programmes relate to performances in which she either performed or attended; mostly of Scottish theatre but also including West End and Edinburgh International Festival.
124. 2 parts. Programmes 1925-1997. Relating to productions in which MG either performed or attended; mostly of Scottish theatre, but also including Edinburgh King's Theatre pantomimes from 1920's, a production of *Uncle Vanya* from 1964 featuring Laurence Olivier and Michael Redgrave; The National Theatre, Savoy Theatre production of *Othello* from 1930 featuring Paul Robeson and Peggy Ashcroft; and a Globe Theatre production of Peter Shaffer's *The Private Ear and the Public Eye* featuring Maggie Smith and Kenneth Williams from 1962.