

L DTHT

Material relating to Hull Truck Theatre

1977-2023

Historical Background: The Hull Truck Theatre Company was founded in 1971 by actor musician Mike Bradwell. Initially touring out of its Coltman Street base in Hull, where company members lived and rehearsed, Hull Truck started to receive acclaim for its children's work.

In April 1983 the Hull Truck Company made the Spring Street Theatre its home. Originally converted from St Stephen's church hall, his tiny 150-seat theatre space was known as The Hull Arts Centre where Hull playwright Alan Plater co-founded the Humberside Theatre in 1970. The theatre had closed in 1981. From 1983 it was known as the Hull Truck Theatre.

John Godber became artistic director in 1984 although at first he was unaware of how much the Hull Truck Theatre was struggling financially. Despite making a good living as a teacher, the idea of being able to produce some of his own works led him to accept the post. Hul wrote Up 'n' Under a play about rugby league in Hull, which proved to be a success (programme at L DTHT/2/1). One of Hull Truck's most performed and famous plays is Godber's Bouncers. This celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2007 and was the final play to be performed before moving to a new venue.

In 2006 work had begun on a new 440-seat theatre in Ferensway, Hull, as part of the St Stephen's development. Specially built for the Hull Truck Company, funded by the Arts Council, Hull City Council and the European Regional Development Fund, the theatre was completed three years later at a cost of around £15 million. The first production was Godber's play Funny Turns which opened on 25 April 2009.

Custodial history: Deposited with Hull Local Studies Library prior to its relocation to the Hull History Centre in 2010.

Description: Programmes, season programmes, playbills/promotional leaflets, posters, financial information, and development plan.

Extent: 2 boxes, 1 bundle/ 0.24 linear meters

Related material: Programmes, play bills, posters for Spring Street Theatre can be found at L DTSS, including when it was known as the Hull Arts Centre and Humberside Theatre. See the Hull History Centre online catalogue at <https://catalogue.hullhistorycentre.org.uk/> for further details, including other material relating to Hull's theatres.

The records of Hull Truck Theatre have been deposited with the University of Hull archives, though at present these are uncatalogued. Please contact archives@hull.ac.uk for further information.

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

L DTHT/1

Season programmes

Sep 1984-2023

September 1984- March 2023. Note there are omissions from this series, particularly 2011 but also for other years. There are currently no season programmes prior to September 1984
5 bundles

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L DTHT/1/1	Season programmes September 1984- Spring/Summer 1998 1 bundle/30 items	Sep 1984-1998
L DTHT/1/2	Season programmes 1998-Autumn/Winter 2002-3 1 bundle/9 items	1998-2003
L DTHT/1/3	Season programmes Spring/Summer 2003-Autumn/Winter 2005-6 1 bundle/6 items	2003-2006
L DTHT/1/4	Season programmes Spring/Summer 2006-Spring/Summer 2010. Includes the final Season Programme (Autumn/Winter 2008-9 at Spring Street and the opening Season Programme at the Hull Truck Theatre, Ferensway April-August 2009. 1 bundle/9 items	2006-2010
L DTHT/1/5	Season programmes September-December 2012-January 2022-March 2023 1 bundle/9 items	2012-2023
L DTHT/2	Performance programmes, 1977-2023 Incomplete series of performance programmes, mainly covering the 1980s, and possibly the 1990s, while only two programme are held beyond for 2017 and 2023. Also included are programmes for 'Up n' Under' (1984), 'Up n' Under' (1988) and Bouncers Farwell Tour programme (n.d.). 2 bundles	1977-2023
L DTHT/2/1	Performance programmes, 1980-2023 See series level description 2 bundles/46 items	1977-2023
L DTHT/3	Playbills/Performance leaflets Not a complete run and as a result there are omissions 1 bundle	c.1984-c.2009
L DTHT/3/1	Play bills/promotional leaflets 1 bundle	c.1984-c.2009
L DTHT/4	Posters Note most posters do not have a year of performance therefore the series is dated as c.1990-c.2010 1 bundle	c.1990-c.2010

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L DTHT/4/1	Posters 1 bundle	c.1990-c.2010
L DTHT/5	Press material Press reviews 4 items	1986-1987
L DTHT/5/1	Press reviews of the performance 'Cramp' Various national press reviews of 'Cramp' 1 item	1986
L DTHT/5/2	Press release for 'Bouncers' Regarding a Los Angeles production of 'Bouncers' and Hull Truck's production of 'Bouncers'. 1 item	27 Feb 1987
L DTHT/5/3	Press-cuttings relating to Hull Truck Photocopies of press-cuttings, including The Financial Times, The Times, Daily Mail, The Guardian, Southern Evening Echo, The Birmingham Post, Yorkshire Post, Coventry Evening Telegraph and Time Out. 1 item	Sep-Nov 1978
L DTHT/5/4	Press-cuttings relating to Hull Truck Single A4 containing copies of press-cuttings, including The Daily Telegraph, The Arts, Evening Standard, Lemington Spa Courier and the Listener 1 item	1980
L DTHT/6	Correspondence relating to finance Correspondence between Hull Truck and Humberside Leisure Services, Hull Truck Theatre Company Limited draft budget 1988/89 (2 copies), draft budget 1990-1991 and Cash Flow Projection 1990/91 Formerly at reference L.792 11 items	1984
L DTHT/6/1	Financial information re: correspondence relating to financial assistance from Humberside County Council Leisure Services Committee Items relating to Hull Truck Theatre: Financial information re: correspondence relating to financial assistance from Humberside County Council Leisure Services Committee Between Barry Nettleton and John Godber and Mr. Boardman, Director of Leisure Services, Humberside County Council. 8 items	1984-1987

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L DTHT/6/2	Financial Information Draft budgets and cash flow projection 4 items	1988/89- 1990/91
L DTHT/6/2/1	Draft Budget 1988/89 Different draft budget to that of L DTHT/6/2/2 1 item	1988/89
L DTHT/6/2/2	Draft Budget 1988/89 Different draft budget to that of L DTHT/6/2/1. Also includes memo regarding support of the Bransholme project and countryside touring 1 item	1988/89
L DTHT/6/2/3	Draft Budget 1990/91 1 item	1990/91
L DTHT/6/2/4	Cash flow projection 1990/91 1 item	1990/91
L DTHT/7	Three-year development plan, 1989-1992 1 item	1989-1992