

**McLean County Historical Society**

**Illinois Shakespeare Festival Collection**

Compiled by Mary Alice Wills,  
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**Collection Information**

Volume:	One box.
Dates:	1916 - 2011
Provenance:	Gift
Restrictions:	None
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Alternative Formats:	None
Other Finding Aids:	None
Notes:	

## **Brief History**

The celebration of Shakespeare's work began in 1916 at Illinois State Normal University with a Pageant to commemorate the three-hundredth anniversary of Shakespeare's death. Its success included musical arrangements and pantomime dancing, as well as contributions from the entire school.

In 1978 the Illinois Shakespeare Festival was established. The Festival is held each summer on the grounds of Ewing Manor by the Illinois State University Foundation, ISU. College of Fine Arts and the Department of Theatre. Three plays are chosen each year. The Festival has grown from a University-based theater to a professional theater attracting not only Illinois talent, but nationally prominent artists as well. Preceding each performance there is a Green Show including the ISU Madrigal Singers. Playgoers are encouraged to bring picnics to enjoy on the lawn before the performances. Over the years the Manor grounds have expanded to include a Japanese garden, the new Shakespearean theater in 2000, and a recent renovation added brick walk ways meandering through elaborate flower gardens.

## **Scope Note**

This collection contains miscellaneous programs, fliers, advertisements, and theater ticket stubs.

## Folder Inventory

### Folder 1: 1916 Festival

- 1.1 "ISNU 1916 Festival, Shakespearean Pageant," 8 pp (2 copies)

### Folder 2: First and Second Festivals, 1978 & 1979

- 2.1 "The First Illinois Shakespeare Festival," July 6 through July 29, 28 pp
- 2.2 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival Outdoor Sculpture Program," July 6-24, 1978, 4 pp.
- 2.3 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival" (Second Annual), July 5 through August 4, 1979, 28 pp

### Folder 3: 1980s I

- 3.1 "Third Season Illinois Shakespeare Festival," July 3 through August 7, 1980, 24 pp (2 copies)
- 3.2 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival, 1982," 20 pp
- 3.3 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival, 1983," 20 pp
- 3.4 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival, 1985," 28 pp

### Folder 4: 1980s II

- 4.1 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival: Tenth Anniversary Season, 1987," 32 pp. (2 copies)
- 4.2 "The 1989 Illinois Shakespeare Festival," 28 pp. (2 copies)

### Folder 5: 1990s I

- 5.1 "15th Anniversary Illinois Shakespeare Festival," 1992, 29 pp.

### Folder 6: 1990s II

- 6.1 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival '97," (2 copies)
- 6.2 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival '98"
- 6.3 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival 1999"

### Folder 7: 2000s I

- 7.1 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival, 2000 ... a new beginning," 60 pp (2 copies)
- 7.2 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival Folio, 2001," 58 pp (2 copies)
- 7.3 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival Folio, 2002" 51 pp
- 7.4 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival Folio, 2003" 43 pp
- 7.4 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival Folio, 2004," 42 pp (2 copies)

### Folder 8: 2000s II

- 8.1 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival Folio," 28<sup>th</sup> season, the theatre at Ewing – 2005, 46 pp (2 copies)
- 8.2 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival Folio, 2006," 46 pp (2 copies)
- 8.3 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival Folio, 2007," 42 pp (2 copies)
- 8.4 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival Folio, 2008," 42 pp (2 copies)
- 8.5 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival, 2009," 26 pp

### Folder 9: 2010s

- 9.1 Illinois Shakespeare Festival, June 30-Aug 8, 2015, 27 pp.

- 9.2 Illinois Shakespeare Festival, July 5-Aug 13, 2016, 31 pp. (2 copies)
- 9.3 Illinois Shakespeare Festival, June 3--Aug 12, 2017, 35 pp. (2 copies)
- 9.4 Illinois Shakespeare Festival, 2018, 35 pp.

**Folder 10: Newspaper Articles/Supplements**

- 10.1 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival," supplement to *Daily Pantagraph*, June 28, 1981, 20 pp
- 10.2 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival, 1982," supplement to *Daily Pantagraph*, June 27, 1982, 16 pp. (2 copies)
- 10.3 "Peoples' Wolsey best reason to see this rarely performed 'Henry VIII,'" Arts & Entertainment section, (Chicago) *Tribune*, July 24, 2005

**Folder 11: Fliers**

- 11.1 "The Illinois Shakespeare Society and The Illinois Shakespeare Festival," Society membership info, no date
- 11.2 "William Shakespeare: Not Of An Age, But For All Time," guide to exhibition at U of I, no date
- 11.3 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival," 1995, brochure.
- 11.4 "Illinois Shakespeare Festival, 2000 Season," subscription flier
- 11.5 "Illinois State University Alumni Night at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, June 29 (2002)
- 11.6 "Moonie and Broon," advertisement for one night only at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, July 21 (no year given)
- 11.7 Barnes & Noble voucher benefiting the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, July 29-31, 2005
- 11.8 "Bringing You The Adventure of Theatre, Illinois Shakespeare Festival," 2010 Season subscription flier.
- 11.9 Invitation, "You're Invited to a Special Evening," Friday, July 29, 2011, Illinois State University, Alumni Relations.
- 11.10 Bumper sticker-size flier for 2014 season (3 copies)
- 11.11 Season ticket solicitation letter and brochure, 2017.
- 11.12 "Magical Plays Historic Homes" brochure featuring Festival, Ewing Manor, and Davis Mansion, 2017.
- 11.13 Season ticket solicitation flier, 2018 season. 2 copies.
- 11.14 "MoonIE the Magnif"Cent," program for fundraiser, June 30, 2018.
- 11.15 "Bard Bash & Cabarat," August 11, 2018. Season finale cast party.

**Folder 12: Tickets**

- 12.1 Four reserved \$8.50 tickets – two each for "The Merchant of Venice," July 19, 1984 and "Pericles," July 12, 1984
- 12.2 Subscription tickets envelope contains Biaggi's picnic dining options and a flier of general Festival policies