

UQFL529

Roberta Bonnin Papers

Size	3 boxes, 2 folders
Contents	Playscripts, posters, articles, research notes, transcripts and publications
Date range	1974 to 1999
Biography	Roberta Bonnin studied at the University of Queensland and graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in 1975. She was involved with The Popular Theatre Troup and Circus Oz. The Popular Theatre Troupe originally formed in 1974 during the first Queensland Festival of the Arts. The troupe toured Australia with a total of 25 original shows between 1974 and 1983.
Notes	Open access Related material by Roberta Bonnin is held in the Fryer Library at H0157.

Box 1

Community Cultural Development Board, *Report Back*, June 1993 Issue 5

Unemployment News, No 2, April 1977

Students for Australian Independence, *Eureka! : Fight for Australian Independence*, vol 1 Mar 1976

NSW CAA, *Community Arts Manual*, 1990 (ISSN 1034-3595)

Ethnic Communities' Council of Queensland, *Cultural diversity in the arts for a multicultural Queensland*, brochure, n.d.

Queensland Community Arts Network Inc information pack, including issue of *Clapsticks*, n.d.

Folder 1 '(Qld) *Star Trick*'

Working playscript, [used in first performances of] Popular Theatre Troupe (also known as Fringe Theatre Group) play entitled *Star Trick – A Political Documentary*, typescript, 52 p, May 1974 [draft]

- Cover page – introductory (1 page unnumbered)
- Title page (1 page unnumbered)
- Contents page (1 page unnumbered)
- Introduction/background to play: pp. 1-6
- Playscript: pp. 7– 23
- Comments "Problems of the first script" pp.24-25
- STAR TRICK 2 (10 May) Diagram of "The set as used in all performances" p.26
- Playscript: pp. 27-38 [script ends]

- Appendix: pp.39-43
- Comments on preparation and methods used by Popular Theatre Troupe for development of group cohesion and for development of script for play: pp. 51-55
- “*STAR TRICK* PERFORMANCES and VENUES : MAY 1974”

(2 pages unnumbered) [including statistics for attendance at venues]

Folder 2 (Qld) Popular Theatre Troupe ‘*Star Trick*’

Typescript, 44 p [draft]

Publicity fliers for *Star Trick* (3), typescript, Cover page, Contents page, playscript: pp. 1– 23, ‘PROBLEMS OF THE FIRST SCRIPT’ pp. 24-35, Diagram of set 1 page p 26, playscript pp. 27 – 38, Appendix cover page p.39.

Playscript ‘The Millionaires’ Handicap’ [draft] 11p, typescript, [197?]

Folder 3 Qld Popular Theatre Troupe *Stampede*

Playscript entitled ‘Stampede’ 9 p of A3 format, each page featuring 2 pages of playscript, totaling 18 p, typescript [draft, 19??]

Folder 4

The Popular Theatre Troupe, in association with the Queensland Festival of the Arts, *The White Man’s Mission*, A Musical Entertainment Directed by Albert Hunt, Assisted by the Australia Council, playscript 29 p, typescript [draft]

Folder 5

2 duplicate playscripts of *The White Man’s Mission*, 32 p, typescript [2 pages contain reviews, after end of each copy of each playscript; 1 playscript enclosed in Mylar]

Folder 6

Original [final draft, self-published?] of *The White Man’s Mission*, 32 p, typescript

Manila folder with blank cover, annotations in ink [variously] “867”, “MICKO S”, “W.M.M. SCRIPT”, “BARBARA WALSH”, “Kathryn”

2nd page of playscript details names of original cast/creators of play

A.M.W.S.U. publication *Australia Uprooted*, 19 p, pamphlet

Folder 7 “Popular Theatre Troupe *The White Man’s Mission* in the UK” (1975? to 1977)

Letter from Nick Hughes, Administrator Australian Popular Theatre, to Albert [unknown] 1977, with accompanying copy of letter from Nick Hughes to Richard Jarman, dated 1977, copy of the Popular Theatre Troupe’s itinerary, their projected budget, list of payments [from the Bradford College to the Popular Theatre Troupe?], copies of review from *Time Out*, technical memo re stage equipment, the play and contact details; 2 advertising blurbs

List of letters sent

List of addresses to send correspondence to

Letters publicising the Popular Theatre Troupe, arranging accommodation to: Bill Parkinson, John Marshall, Graham Woodruff and Cathy Mackerras, Frank Murphy.

Letter from John Adler, Department of Drama at the University of Bristol to Albert Hunt, 31 Oct 1977

Letter from Jenny Thompson, Drama Assistant, Arts Council of Great Britain, to Albert Hunt, 11 Oct 1977

Memo from Rosemary Hart, Editor, KALEIDOSCOPE [television series] re transcript of an interview between Sheridan Morley and Jim Hiley reviewing *The White Man's Mission*, transcript attached (2 copies) [undated]

Resignation letter from Nick Hughes to the Australian Popular Theatre Group, 9 Nov 1977

Publicity blurbs and newspaper cuttings publicising and reviewing *The White Man's Mission*

2 photographs of cast of *The White Man's Mission*

Folder 8

6 photographs of performers in plays [various]

Letter from R. Bonnin to Paul [?] re attached NAIDOC Festival playscript

Letter to Roberta Bonnin from Errol O'Neill on behalf of The Popular Theatre Troupe

"Snakes and Ladders" 1 page, typescript

Publicity blurbs and newspaper cuttings [various] publicising and reviewing plays presented to the public, by The Popular Theatre Troupe, in various locations around Brisbane and Northern Queensland; the United Kingdom, Europe [and Ontario, Canada?] between 1974 to 1983: *The White Man's Mission*, *Millionaire's Handicap*, *Dutch Treat*, *The White House Goes to the Movies...* [montage of 2 plays within 1 – *Mr Johnson Goes to Town* and *We Was With You at Rigoletto's*], *Says Who*, *It's M.A.D.*, *Happy Birthday East Timor*, *Viva Indonesia*, *Red Cross*, *The Puny Little life show*, *Out of Work Out of Mind*, *Crook Shop*, *Aliens Invade Perth*, *Red Hills*

Playscript [draft] *The Millionaire's Handicap* 3p typescript

Report and Playscript [draft] (Perth Festival Street Project), *Aliens Invade Perth* 13p typescript [by Albert Hunt?]

Reports on *Aliens Invade Perth* (Perth Festival Street Project), *Red Hills* by Albert Hunt

Cutting from Journal article in the *NEW Society – Arts in Society* "On the street of Brisbane" by Albert Hunt pp 37,40, 65 with annotations

Folder 9

Project list for Jul 1975 to Jun 1976

Annual Reports for The Popular Theatre Troupe from 1976 – 1978;

1 Notice of Meeting Feb 26 1979;

Newsletter No 1 1979; Newsletters No 1, No 2 1980

Folder 10

Notebook with personal jottings 8.5 cm x 15 cm

Treasure Island [game map] "Map supplied by Popular Theatre Troupe: Mapmakers to seafarers since Saturday 30 September 78"

'THIS IS DESPERATE MEASURES' FIRST CONFUSION ELIMINATOR!' [newsletter] 29 May 1978 [originating from Ord street[?], Perth WA]

Box 2

Folder 11

The Bottom of a Birdcage, by Helen Haenke, draft of playscript (typescript) in 2 acts. [(play was originally *Emoh Ruu*), First performance in 1976 and was published in 1978]

Folder 12

Untitled playscript, no author, 30 pages typescript, heavily annotated in pencil [possibly 'Schools in Revolt'. Authors: Roberta Bonnin and Albert Hunt]

Folder 13 'Programs and Flyers collected by Duncan Campbell 1960s – 1970s'

Programs and fliers

Folder 14 'Circus Oz 1978'

Letter from R J Hawkes, Chairperson, Australian Performing Group (Pram Factory) Co-operative Limited to Peter Oyston, Dean, School of drama, Victorian college of the Arts.

[This letter is updating the situation where the Australian Performing Group is negotiating with the National Gallery of Victoria to stage "Circus under canvas.. [in the] Russell Grimwade garden, adjoining the National Gallery of Victoria"]

Proposal is attached to letter, outlines of schedule and times, logistics, stakeholder contributions; 6 pages, typescript.

Playscript draft and working copy of playscript performances by *Circus Oz*. Author not apparent [may be Roberta Bonnin and or Albert Hunt?]. Annotations on various pages

"Circus: Draft Episodes", 9 pages typescript

"Circus Oz: Episode One", 2 pages typescript

"Circus Oz: Episode 2", 2 pages typescript (2 copies)

"Circus Oz: Episode four", 1 page typescript "Insert 5", 1 page handwritten

"Episode Five", 1 page typescript

"Episode 6", 2 pages typescript

Circus Oz Episodes:

- “Part Two: Episode one”, 1 page typescript (2 copies)
- “Part Two: Episode two”, 1 page typescript (2 copies)
- “Part Two: Episode three”, 1 page typescript (2 copies)
- “Part Two: Episode five”, 1 page typescript (2 copies)
- “Chairs Scene”, 3 pages typescript
- “Episode 4 John Juggling”, 1 page typescript
- “Episode 5 Ramesh and Rinske”, 1 page(2 copies) typescript; with 1 page handwritten “insert” attached
- “Episode 6 Ramesh and Rinske”, 2 pages typescript (2 copies) second copy 3 pages handwritten inserts and additions

Newspaper excerpt featuring cartoon, and review article about *Circus Oz* entitled ‘A scream, under this big top’, from *Weekender* 24 Nov 1978

Folder 15 “*The Grand Grand Final Show* Victorian College of The Arts”

Letter from Roberta Bonnin, on behalf of the Victorian College of Arts, School of Drama to Mr John Sheehan, Sony Australia, white paper, typescript

Report, by Albert Hunt and Roberta Bonnin on the evolution of the writing of the script for, and making of, the play *The Grand Grand Final Show*, based on a VFL Grand Final game in Melbourne in 1979;. 21 pages, typescript. [The show was put together by a group of students and staff from the School of Drama at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne and written and directed by Ray Mooney].

Blurb showing “Teams” [of actors] for the show and layout of stage area, 2 pages, typescript

Cue cards, 2 copies, for televising play on Sony video screens [around stadium] (heavily taped and annotated) some typescript and copies

Playscripts for ‘*The Grand Grand Final Show*’ (heavily annotated), typescript

‘Opening’: 19 pages, typescript

‘2nd Quarter’: 5 pages, typescript

3rd Quarter and end: 4 pages typescript

Playscript, 1 copy “PHILSCRIPT”, “PHIL” and “UNIT 1” handwritten in pen on cover, each page marked with unit numbers up to number 10, 16 pages (heavily annotated), typescript

Playscript, 1 copy “Ross Williams” handwritten in pen on cover, 10 pages (heavily annotated), typescript

Playscript, 1 copy, “Roberta” handwritten in pen on cover, 20 pages (heavily annotated), typescript

14 photographs, colour, of actors during play, audience members and football games and grounds.

Mobil Football Photos Album containing introduction to Victorian AFL, photographs of players and information about the Victorian AFL Football League, 19 pages, [back cover of album has 4 autographs?].

Folder 16 “*Launching Off*” The Victorian College of the Arts

Invitation card from “Company 79 [who] request the pleasure of your participation in *Launching Off* at The Grant Street Theatre on August 29th, 2.00 p.m.; August 30th, 7.30 p.m.”

(card measuring 15cm x 10 cm, cardboard, gold pen)

9 photographs [of cast of *Launching Off*?]

Playscripts, in draft form, varying pagination from *Launching Off*. All are incomplete playscripts lacking various pages; include some “stray” pages, copies of page groupings from main playscript. Annotated in pen

“Company 79: Draft Script *Launching Off*” This playscript has been organised by Albert Hunt with comments on cover page about coordination of scripts, amendments and alterations and contributions from each group/writer(s) of the sub-playscripts and of the playscript entire. Annotated in pen; 25 pages, on yellow paper

Script of *Launching Off*, pages 2-35 (cover page, pages 33 and 34 missing), on yellow paper

“The Balance of Nature” typescript, 1 page scene (3 copies) on yellow paper

“Australia Farewell”, typescript, 1 page, yellow paper

Stray pages from *Launching Off*, typescript, page 31, 1 copy; pp31, 32, 35 (2 copies) on yellow paper

“World Script”, typescript, pages 1-6, on yellow paper

Page beginning “animals are frequently collected...”, typescript, 1 page [numbered] “2.”; white paper

“Safety Instruction Scene”, typescript, pages 1-2, on white paper

Typescript pages from main script, pp 26-30 on white paper

“Scenario: Title? (Destination Melbourne?)” [describes how scenes in play are laid out or are to be laid out and how scenes will progress], typescript, pages 1-2 and (again) page 1, on white paper.

‘Will the Real Me Stand Up?’ written by Albert Hunt; 1 page, on white paper, typescript [possibly part of ‘Passion Of Adolph Hitler, Or The Oberammergau Passion Play As Performed By Adolph Hitler’ written by Albert Hunt and in Hanger Collection in Fryer]

Folder 17 *Once Upon Inala* by ICT (Inala Community Theatre)”

Playscript, 6 scenes, typescript, pages 1 – 42, pages stained [note: play also attributed to Nick Hughes as author]

Folder 18

‘Weevils in The Flour a play based on Wendy Lowenstein’s Oral History of the 30’s Depression’, playscript, 55 pages on white paper, typescript, 1978

Folder 19 “*The French revolution Part I Peter Jordan*” (pink folder)

Letter, dated 9 Oct, 1975 to Mr P Wissler, 99 Hillside Terrace, St Lucia Qld 4067; from A. J. Creedy, Director of Cultural activities, Department of Education, Queensland. 1 page typescript
Playscript, untitled, [The French revolution Part I. Author: Peter Jordan?] Attached to letter, 27 pages, typescript (incomplete) without page numbers

Folder 20 “Roberta”

Playscript, untitled, 32 pages, typescript, [The French revolution Part I. Author: Peter Jordan?]

Folder 21

Looking for Mermaids. Author: Hilary Beaton, 32 pages, typescript, 1989

Folder 22 *Desert Rock*

Bound playscript, 73 pages, typescript, Authors: Kerry O'Rourke, Marj Henderson and The Desert Rock writing Group, front cover annotated: “Therese Collie (846 2452)”

Folder 23 *November Eleven a Filmed Political History*

Bound film script, 105 pages; typescript, with illustrations, Authors: John Hughes, Peter Kennedy

Box 3

Folder 24

Cliff Bowles interviewed by Roberta Bonnin for the Gladstone Oral History Project, typescript, 54 pages including cover page.

Folder 25

Bound foolscap folder, on spine “Gladstone-Calliope Community Arts Office ‘Fish Scale Flowers’” containing *Fish Scale flowers Stories and Memories from the Port Curtis District*, published by the Gladstone Area Writers Group; cover page introduction by Roberta Bonnin (Writer-in-Residence) and Veronica Miles, Trainee; 115 pages.

21 articles based on oral history interviews of local people from the Port Curtis area.

Folder 26

Bonnin; Roberta, *Jack Hibberd and his creation of an Australian Drama*, B.A Honours thesis in English, 57 pages typescript, 5 pages illustrations, 16 Nov 1975

Folder 27

2 x blank letterheads "Victorian College of the arts, 2 pages

program for show in pamphlet form

8 x blank publicity forms

4 publicity blurbs/invitations entitled: Invitation and Press Release *The Golden Years of Gough*; each 1 page, typescript

Newspaper advertisement in *The Labor Star*, July [1979?], p 11.

The Golden Years of Gough; publicity photo of Gough Whitlam, over-written in Capital letters, bold font with wording: "HE GOLDEN YEAR OF GOUGH: THE SUBLIME STORY OF A TRAGIC DISAPPOINTMENT: - A NEW MUSICAL".

List of cast members: "Casting: *The Golden Years of Gough*" , with note and names and contact telephone numbers for/of cast members

Set design diagram of *The Passion of Adolf Hitler*, 1 page

Letter from Roberta Bonnin, to "Austen", 2 Dec 1982

Letter from Albert Hunt to Gough Whitlam 23 Jun 1979

Letter from Albert Hunt to Clyde Cameron, 12 Jun 1979

Letter from Albert Hunt to "Chris" 15 Aug 1979

Letter, to Roberta, from [?] on notepaper headed "Parliament of Australia House of Representatives, Parliament House Canberra, A.C.T 260 ;Tel 72 1211

1 memo to Albert from Jim D'a'Place co '81 "Re: ongoing project w/in Gough Whitlam Show"

From Pas to Peter on notepaper headed "National Gallery Society of Victoria – 180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne 3004. Telephone 62 7411.

Report, by Albert Hunt and Roberta Bonnin on the evolution of the writing of the script for, and making of, the play *The Grand Grand Final Show*, based on a VFL Grand Final game in Melbourne in 1979; 21 pages, typescript.

Folder 28

"Roberta" version of script [cues?] pp 1 – 4; 66 - 68

"Astaire" scene - 2 copies pp2 – [?]

4x scripts – variations in numbering, all scripts incomplete pagination; annotated

Folder 29 Research notes and various used in preparation for writing and scripting play

"Whitlam Show some suggested books", typescript, 1 page; annotated in pen

notes entitled "May 18th H of R win, Senate Draw", 9 pages

part of handwritten scene for playscript, 1 page [scene unknown]

notes beginning " Cameron wanted to lift...", handwritten , numbered 1 – 10

'got cheque in handbag" various notes on 1 page, handwritten

Excerpt from *Meanjin Quarterly*, Sept 1973; pp 245 – 251 with handwritten notes on reverse of pages 250 and 251

2 pages from [unknown journal] begin “In the 1977 and 78 budgets...”, typescript

report by Albert Hunt entitled: “5 years ago this month: Albert Hunt”, 7 pages, typescript

7 [student reports?] about the play *The Golden Years of Gough*, typescript

3 copies of same report entitled: “THE WHITLAM STORY (based largely on Freudenberg’s A CERTAIN GRANDEUR)”, 3 pages per copy, typescript

The Golden Years of Gough, pp 22-24,25-29, 8 pages, typescript

“Report re: *The Golden Years of Gough* Boris Co. 81”

“The Whitlam Show: Documents”, 8 pages, typescript

2 copies of same report entitled: “Versions of The Whitlam Story, One: The Fan Club Version” [Copy 1 includes pages 1,2, 4, 5, typescript; Copy 2 includes pp1,2,2[3?],4,5, typescript]

“BRIEF NOTES ON MR E.G. WHITLAM – PREPARATION OF REVUE, VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS” signed by Bill Hartley, 5th July, 1979, 3 pages, typescript

The Golden Years of Gough, pp 22-39, typescript

Folder 30 Newspaper cuttings and photographs

Newspaper cuttings from *The Age* (1) and *The Herald* (3) reviewing *The Golden Years of Gough*

2 black and white photographs, (10 cm x 15 cm)

9 black and white photographs – numbering on reverse of each photograph: 1-3, 5-10 (23cm x 12.5 cm)

28 colour photographs of *The Golden Years of Gough*, (10 cm x 15 cm) with annotations on reverse of photographs, in pen

Folder 31

Annotated black and white photograph of the cast of “Star Trick”, c1976

‘Playing Games with Politics’, a talk given by Nick Hughes on the work of the Popular Theatre Troupe, 6 Nov, 2003, 17 pages, typescript

Item 1

Original manila folder “The Golden Years of Gough” with names and addresses, handwritten

Oversised Folder 1

2 maps

1. Map of Russell Island, black and white; scale 20 chains to an inch (approximately)
2. Map of Moreton Bay and Adjacent Areas; scale 2 miles to an inch, Nov 1970

Photograph of Whitlam, with handwritten label 'Gough Whitlam Original' [original photograph taken for poster to publicize *The Golden Years of Gough*]

19 posters

1. "St Kilda Festival" 22-23 March, 1980
2. "Land Rights, Our Land is Our Life, Our land is Our Future, White Australians Have a Black History, Why Should we Change our Ancestors' Way!, If we fight for our rights! our culture will stay!" **[2 copies]**
3. "Reconciliation" Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation
4. "Revealing Prints" Brisbane City Hall Art Gallery October 9 – November 12
5. "The Passion of Adolf Hitler", by Albert Hunt, The Victorian College of the Arts Grant Street Theatre, March 28 to Apr 2
6. "Australian Bicentenary 1788-1798"
7. *The Golden Years of Gough*, 1979 **[3 copies]**
8. "That One Week in September", Victorian Football League Grand Final Week 1982 **[3 copies]**
9. *Star Trick* or 'She knew she'd seen me on TV and she knew she liked me. But she couldn't remember what the show was.' **[2 copies]**
10. "A translation into Theatre of William Blake's *The French Revolution*" 8 pm Nov 7th to Nov 16th **[2 copies]**
11. "Tall ships, Tall Stories: Black Truths; White Lies" Aboriginal Land Rights support Group
22. National Aboriginal Week, Australian National Gallery, 4-10 Jul 1983

Oversised Folder 2

36 posters

12. "Valley lovers: Everyone Who Loves the Valley Should Help Shape its Future", Brisbane City Council
13. "We Knew Then, We Know Now...Dots are one of the best means of communication", ATSIC [The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) (1990-2005)] – painted by Warlayirti Artists Western Australia
14. "Be Careful Bad Attitude", Access Arts – Queensland State Services Union and The Australia Council and the ACTU [Australian Council of Trade Unions]
15. "Intellectual Disability is Only Part of the Picture", Department of Community Services and the ACTU
16. "Are You An Effective Communicator?: If not – deaf people will see you as just another pretty face", Department of Community Services and Health and the Australia Council
17. "It's Allright As long As It's All In The Same Place Tomorrow", Department of Community Services and Health **[2 copies]**
18. "I Am an Accountant...Oh, By the Way I have MS", Australia Council
19. "...Pity It's Not A Four Wheel Drive. Consider the Obstacles, Take Away The Barriers", Department of Community Services and Health; the Australia Council and the ACTU

20. "Each of Us Is an Individual ...", Department of Community Services and Health; the Australia Council and the ACTU
21. "Productivity", Department of Community Services and Health; the Australia Council and the ACTU
23. "Together We Can't Lose", Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation
24. "Learning Together" Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation
25. "We Share We Care We Support", Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation
26. "First Contact Proudly Presents the Sixth Annual Sports and Cultural Festival", 27 to 28 Nov 1999
27. "Kymel", Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation [Brisbane] **[2 copies]**
28. "Ze Ozo Circuzo Presents...", Australia Council
29. "Women Are A National Asset", Womens' Advisory Council to The Premier
30. "I'm Joe Average...", Office of The Status of Women – Department of Home and The Environment
31. "Reconciliation It's Up to Us", Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, 27 May to 3 Jun 1999
32. "Sex, Who Cares?", Family Planning Queensland
33. *The West Australian*, "Perth Invaded" **[2 copies]**
34. "Extra, Extra Shooting at Fort Scratchley Movie Re-enactment"
35. *A Place In the Sun*, Popular Theatre Troupe
36. "Women together"
37. "Men and ducks"
38. "Gurindji Mabo Wik - 3 Strikes for Justice", NAIDOC Week, 13 Jul 1997
39. "Mainland Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Communities...Your Voice in Health", Health Rights Commission
40. "Writers In the Library", Queensland Writer's Centre Project and Brisbane City Council
41. "Mandjad Balance 1990: Views, Visions, Influences", Australia Council and Aboriginal Arts Board
42. "Celebrating Our Diversity", International Women's Day, 1995, The Office of Women's Policy Women's InfoLink
43. IBIS Calendar, [Islanders Board of Industry and Service], 1996
44. Celebrating 70 Years of Achievement - 1999 – the 70th Anniversary of International Women's Day in Queensland", The Office of Women's Policy Women's InfoLink
45. "Circus Oz – At The Gallery", The National Gallery

