

<b>COLLECTION TITLE</b>	Papers of Ron Blair
<b>COLLECTION IDENTIFIER</b>	MSS 128
<b>INCLUSIVE DATE(S)</b>	1961 to 1985
<b>EXTENT</b>	2 boxes + 2 oversize + 4 AV boxes
<b>CREATOR</b>	Ron Blair, 1942-
<b>RELATED ENTITIES</b>	Ron Blair, 1942- Nimrod Theatre
<b>RELATED COLLECTIONS</b>	Papers of Ron Blair
<b>ACCESS POINTS</b>	Australian drama -- 20th century Authors Dramatists Ron Blair, 1942- -- Archives

#### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Playwright, director and actor Ron Blair was born in Sydney in 1942 and educated at Christian Brother's College, Lewisham. After graduating Sydney University with a Bachelor of Arts, Blair worked for several years as an advertising copywriter before joining the ABC in 1967 as a play reader. Having become involved with theatre whilst at university, Blair was a key player in the early development of the Nimrod Theatre which staged a number of his early works. In 1975 he wrote *The Christian Brothers*, which toured Australia and New Zealand and played at London's Riverside Studios.

Blair's other career highlights include being awarded a one year fellowship by the Australian Council of the Arts in 1974, being appointed Assistant Artistic Director of the South Australian Theatre Company in 1977, and editing the Currency Press publication *Popular Short Plays for the Australian Stage* in 1985. He was an Executive Producer of ABC Radio Drama, and for seven years he was Head of the Scriptwriting Department at the Australian Film Television and Radio School.

#### References:

Austlit : Ron Blair <https://www.austlit.edu.au/austlit/page/A31100> retrieved 11 August 2020

HLA Management Australia : Ron Blair <https://www.hlamgt.com.au/client/ron-blair/> retrieved 11 August 2020

#### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers of Ron Blair contain an extensive sequence of audiovisual material, including audio recordings of plays and interviews, and two captioned photograph albums (1972-1984) containing images of performances, cast members, and sets of Blair's productions. Other material relates to plays such as *Flash Jim Vaux* (1971), *Kabul* (1973), *Christian Brothers* (1975), *Perfect Strangers* (1976), and *Last day in Woolloomooloo* (1979), and includes scripts, a musical arrangement, a scrapbook, programmes, cuttings, and reviews

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## SOURCE OF ACQUISITION

Check with Curator

## RELATED ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

### Related Material

The State Library of NSW holds a collection of letters received from Ron Blair from 1961-1977 at [MLMSS 3537](#)

## EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF ORIGINALS

Special Collections, UNSW Canberra

Collection Contents

### Papers of Ron Blair (MSS 128)

1961 to 1985 (Inclusive date(s))

The papers of Ron Blair contain an extensive sequence of audiovisual material, including audio recordings of plays and interviews, and two captioned photograph albums (1972-1984) containing images of performances, cast members, and sets of Blair's productions. Other material relates to plays such as *Flash Jim Vaux* (1971), *Kabul* (1973), *Christian Brothers* (1975), *Perfect Strangers* (1976), and *Last day in Woolloomooloo* (1979), and includes scripts, a musical arrangement, a scrapbook, programmes, cuttings, and reviews

### Photo Album 1 (MSS 128.A1)

Photographs :

John Bell as Byron, Adelaide Festival 1976, 'Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know'

Boddy, Bell and Blair, Nimrod, 1970, 'Biggles' set

Old Nimrod Street Theatre, 1970: Ron Blair, Ken Horden, Richard Wherrett

Old Nimrod Street Theatre, 1970

Old Nimrod Street Theatre, 1970: Jacqui Garner, Ken Horden, Ron Blair, Lillian Horden, and Richard Wherrett

Old Nimrod Street Theatre, 1970

John Allen as Mitch and Benita Harvey as Blanche du Bois in 'A Streetcar Named Desire', Sydney University Players, c.1964

Stefan Gryff and Benita Harvey in 'A Streetcar Named Desire', Sydney University Players, c.1964

John Allen as Mitch in 'A Streetcar Named Desire', Sydney University Players, Union Theatre, c.1964

Vivian (Vivienne) Lincoln and Stefan Gryff as Stella and Stanley in 'A Streetcar Named Desire', Sydney University Players, c.1964

Benita Harvey as Blanche in 'A Streetcar Named Desire', Sydney University Players, c.1964

Vivienne (Vivian) Lincoln (Stella) and Benita Harvey (Blanche) in 'A Streetcar Named Desire', Sydney University Players, c.1964

Ted Hodgeman in 'A Place in the Present' South Australia Theatre Company at the Playhouse, Adelaide, June/July 1977

Craig Ashley, Rebel Russell, Kit Taylor and Ted Hodgeman in 'A Place in the Present' South Australian Theatre Company at the Playhouse, Adelaide, June 1977

Rebel Russell, Craig Ashley, Ted Hodgeman and Patricia Kennedy in 'A Place in the Present', South Australia Theatre Company at the Playhouse, Adelaide, June 1977

Directing 'The Doll' December 1979, State Theatre Co. of S.A., Adelaide

'The Christian Brothers': Melbourne Theatre Co. Class of 1984 - Peter Cummins (Actor), Judith Cobb (Designer), Trevely Gilmour (Stage Manager), Ron Blair (Writer/Director)

Blair directs Peter Cummins in 'The Christian Brothers', MTC 1984

Peter Cummins in 'The Christian Brothers', Melbourne Theatre Co, December 1984

Peter Cummins in 'The Christian Brothers', Melbourne Theatre Co, December 1984

Peter Cummins in 'The Christian Brothers', Melbourne Theatre Co, December 1984

Peter Cummins in 'The Christian Brothers', Melbourne Theatre Co, December 1984

Ron as Dr. Owl, John Bell as Marmaduke the Possum, Pantomime, Conservatorium, Christmas 1961. Story -Pixie O'Harris.

Brian Donovan, John Menzel, and Ron Blair (an owl) in 'Marmaduke the Possum' by Pixie O'Harris, Conservatorium, Sydney, 1961

'Marmaduke the Possum' by Pixie O'Harris, Conservatorium, 1961. L to R: Danne Emerson (Woman), Brian Tappley (Mrs Goanna), unknown, Richard Walshe (Gnome), unknown, Brian Donovan, John Menzel and unknown

Peter Cummins in 'The Christian Brothers', Dec. 1984, Melbourne Theatre Co.

John Bell, 'Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know', Adelaide Festival Arts Theatre, 1976

Studio 210, 1973: producing 'Blue Hills'  
Bob Hornery and Sheila Kenneally in 'Flash Jim Vaux', written by Ron Blair, Music - Terry Clarke, Charles Colman, Nimrod  
'Flash Jim Vaux' - original production, Nimrod Street Theatre: John Wood, Bob Hornery, Jane Horden, John Gaden, Sheila  
Kenneally and Terence Clarke  
John Noble in 'The Christian Brothers'.  
'.... Freedom Breathed'  
'You Gloated!'  
6 coloured photographs: 'President Wilson', Sterley Players  
2 coloured photographs: 'President Wilson in Paris', Nexus Theatre, Camden, February 1985  
Ron Blair, Playwright, 'President Wilson in Paris'  
John Krummel as President Wilson in the original production  
Anna Volska as Edith Wilson in the original production  
Max Cullen as Colonel Hase in the original production  
Anna Volska as Edith Wilson, Nimrod Theatre 1973  
Peter Carroll in 'The Christian Brothers', Nimrod Theatre, 1975  
3 photos

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### Photo Album 2 (MSS 128.A2)

Photographs:  
Neil Fitzpatrick (Marx), 'Marx', June 1978, South Australia Theatre Company  
Ronald Falk (Wietling), Neil Fitzpatrick (Marx), 'Marx', June 1978  
Neil Fitzpatrick (Marx) and Ronald Falk (Uncle) in 'Marx', June 1978, Act 2  
Robin Bowering as Bodfish, 'Marx', South Australia Theatre Company, June 1978  
Peter Schwartz (Liebnecht), Michael Siberry (Schramm), Neil Fitzpatrick 'Marx', 1978  
Daphne Grey as Frau Marx in 'Marx', June 1978  
Set model for Act I of 'Marx' by Ron Blair, designed by Axel Bartz, directed by Colin George. Christine Mahoney as Lenchen,  
'Marx', 1978, Adelaide, Act II  
Ronald Falk (Uncle) and Robin Bowering (Bodfish) in 'Marx', June 1978, Act III  
Daphne Grey in 'Marx', June 1978, Adelaide, Act III  
'Marx' Act III set designed by Axel Bartz for the South Australia Theatre Company, Adelaide  
'Marx' Act II, South Australia Theatre Company, June 1978: L to R: Neil Fitzpatrick, Daphne Grey, Christine Mahoney  
Michael Siberry, Neil Fitzpatrick, Peter Schwartz 'Marx', Adelaide, 1978  
Christine Mahoney (Lienchen) in 'Marx', June 1978, Adelaide  
Ronald Falk (Uncle) 'Marx', 1978, Adelaide  
Ronald Falk as Wietling in 'Marx', South Australia Theatre Company, June 1978, Adelaide  
Daphne Grey (Frau Marx), 'Marx', South Australia Theatre Company, June 1978, Adelaide  
'Kabul' 1973 (Blair). Ray du Parc and Colin Croft, Old Tote Theatre, Anzac Parade, Kensington, June/July  
'Kabul': A scene from 'Kabul' by Ron Blair in the Old Tote Theatre Company's 10th Anniversary season, 1 June - 7 July (1973?)  
'Kabul' June/July 1973 - Old Tote Company  
Peter Cummins in 'The Christian Brothers', Melbourne Theatre Co, December 1984: "I've had you up to here. Now get outside."  
(Ron Blair)  
Le Reverend Frere des Ecoles Chretennes, Pont-Chateau Theatre, Montreal, Canada, 1980, Actor: Yvan Canuel  
"Mrs Enfants, N'Oubliez Jamais la Sainte Vierge ..." ('The Christian Brothers')  
Yvan Canuel in 'The Christian Brothers', Montreal, 1980  
Yvan Canuel in 'The Christian Brothers' (as Le Reverend Frere), Montreal, 1980  
Max Cullen - 'President Wilson in Paris', Nimrod Theatre, 1973  
Max Cullen and John Krummel (with glasses) 'President Wilson in Paris', Nimrod Theatre, 1973  
Max Cullen, Anna Volska and John Krummel 'President Wilson in Paris', 1977, Nimrod Theatre  
Max Cullen in 'President Wilson in Paris, Nimrod Theatre, 1973  
Anna Volska 'President Wilson in Paris', Nimrod Theatre, 1973  
'President Wilson in Paris' (coloured photo)  
'President Wilson in Paris' (coloured photo)  
'President Wilson in Paris' set (coloured photo)  
'President Wilson in Paris' (coloured photo)  
'President Wilson in Paris' (coloured photo).  
Ron Blair - leading Australian playwright. Photograph by Graham McCarter, 1972 (Proofs)  
Ron Blair - leading Australian playwright. Photograph by Graham McCarter, 1972  
6 coloured photographs of 'Flash Jim Vaux' by Ron Blair, Geelong Repertory Society, December 1984. Photographs by Dita  
Jevous (?)  
John Gaden, Jane Harders in 'Flash Jim Vaux', Nimrod Street Theatre, 1972

John Gaden, Jane Harders in 'Flash Jim Vaux', Nimrod Street Theatre, 1972  
Bob Hornery and Sheila Kenneally in 'Flash Jim Vaux', Nimrod Street Theatre, 1972  
'Flash Jim Vaux' (group)  
John Gayden (Gaden) and Sheila Kenneally in 'Flash Jim Vaux'  
John Gayden (Gaden) (and 2 others) in 'Flash Jim Vaux'  
Jane Harders and John Gaden (Gayden) in 'Flash Jim Vaux'  
John Gaden (Gayden) and Jane Harders in 'Flash Jim Vaux'  
Jane Harders (Francie) and John Gaden (Flash Jim) in 'Flash Jim Vaux' by Ron Blair, Directed by John Bell, Nimrod Theatre, 1971  
Jane Harders and John Gaden 'Flash Jim Vaux', Nimrod Street Theatre, 1972  
John Wood, John Gaden and Bob Hornery in 'Flash Jim Vaux'  
'Flash Jim Vaux' revival, Nimrod Theatre  
Babs McMillan in 'Flash Jim Vaux' (revival), Nimrod Street Theatre  
Jonathan Harvey and other in 'Flash Jim Vaux' revival  
Jonathan Harvey and Babs McMillan in 'Flash Jim Vaux' (revival) Nimrod Street Theatre  
Jonathan Harvey in 'Flash Jim Vaux' (revival), Nimrod Street Theatre  
'Oedipus the King', Adelaide Festival 1978 (coloured photo)  
Edwin Hodgeman in 'Last Day in Woolloomooloo' by Ron Blair, State Theatre Company (SA) 1979. Photograph by David Wilson  
Edwin Hodgeman and Robin Bowering in 'Last Day in Woolloomooloo' by Ron Blair. Photograph by David Wilson  
Edwin Hodgeman in 'Last Day in Woolloomooloo' by Ron Blair. Photograph by David Wilson. State Theatre Company (SA) 1979  
June Bronhill, Robert Grubb, Les Dayman and Edwin Hodgeman in 'Last Day in Woolloomooloo' by Ron Blair, State Theatre Company (SA) 1979. Photograph by David Wilson  
Les Dayman and Edwin Hodgeman in 'Last Day in Woolloomooloo' by Ron Blair, State Theatre Company (SA) 1979. Photograph by David Wilson  
Les Dayman and Robert Grubb in 'Last Day in Woolloomooloo' by Ron Blair, State Theatre Company (SA) 1979. Photograph by David Wilson  
June Bronhill and Edwin Hodgeman in 'Last Day in Woolloomooloo' by Ron Blair, State Theatre Company (SA) 1979. Photography by David Wilson  
Kevin Miles in 'Last Day in Woolloomooloo' by Ron Blair. Photography by David Wilson  
Kevin Miles and June Bronhill in 'Last Day in Woolloomooloo' by Ron Blair, State Theatre Company (SA) 1979  
Les Dayman and Edwin Hodgeman in 'Last Day in Woolloomooloo' by Ron Blair, State Theatre Company (SA) 1979. Photography by David Wilson  
Kevin Miles and Les Dayman in 'Last Day in Woolloomooloo' by Ron Blair, State Theatre Company (SA) 1979. Photography by David Wilson  
Nick Enright and Robin Bowering in 'Last Day in Woolloomooloo' by Ron Blair, State Theatre Company (SA) 1979. Photography by David Wilson

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### **AV Box 3 (MSS 128.AV3)**

11 audiocassette tapes:  
'The Christian Brothers';  
'Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know' Act 1;  
'Kabul' Act 2;  
'Kabul' Act 1;  
'Flash Jim Vaux' Tape 2;  
'Flash Jim Vaux' Nimrod 71';  
'President Wilson in Paris' Act 2;  
'Marx' No. 2;  
'Marx' No. 1;  
'Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know' Act 2;  
Reel to reel tapes:  
'President Wilson in Paris' Act 2;  
Tape 1 'Flash Jim Vaux' -Nimrod;  
Tape 2 'Flash Jim Vaux' - Nimrod;  
'Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know' Act 2;  
'Mad, Bad and Dangerous to Know' Act 1;  
'Kabul' Act 2;  
'Kabul' Act 1;  
'The Christian Brothers' Nimrod Theatre 29 August 1975  
(9 tapes)

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**AV Box 4 (MSS 128.AV4)**

Audiocassette tape - Julie Anne Ford talks to Peter Kenna and Ron Blair about 'Mates and Brothers'

Audiocassette tapes (3) - 'Last Day in Woolloomooloo'

Audiocassette tapes (2) - 'Flash Jack Vaux'

2 reel to reel tapes : 'Perfect Strangers'; Julie Anne Ford talks to Peter Kenna and Ron Blair about 'Mates and Brothers'

1 large reel to reel tape: 'Marx' 12 June 1978

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**Box 1 (MSS 128.B1)****Folder 1 (MSS 128.B1.1)**

Programmes and reviews

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**Folder 2 (MSS 128.B1.2)**

Script 'Kabul'

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**Folder 3-4 (MSS 128.B1.3-4)**

Programmes

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**Folder 5 (MSS 128.B1.5)**

Blair cuttings, programmes and photograph listing

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**Folder 6 (MSS 128.B1.6)**

Scripts 'Objects in a Mirror', 'Political Bordello'; reviews of 'Christian Brothers'  
Listing of photographs housed in Album 1  
'Bull Thrip'

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**Box 2 (MSS 128.B2)****Folder 7 (MSS 128.B2.7)**

'Le Reverend Frere Des Ecoles Chretiennes' and 'Getting Real'

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**Folder 8 (MSS 128.B2.8)**

'Last Day in Woolloomooloo' and 'Perfect Stranger'

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**Folder 9 (MSS 128.B2.9)**

Programmes and listing of photographs housed in Album 2

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**Folder 10 (MSS 128.B2.10)**

Scrapbook

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**Folder 11 (MSS 128.B2.11)**

'Flash Jim Vaux' - Stage Manager's script and arrangement (music) of songs, plus songbook, for the Melbourne Theatre Company Production 1971 (?)

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**Oversize Material (MSS 128.OS)**

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**Folio 1 (MSS 128.OS.1)**

Scrapbook

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**Folio 2 (MSS 128.OS.2)**

Posters

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