

Guide to the Records of the Tech Show of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology AC.0299

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections
1980
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Summary Information

Repository	Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Tech Show
Title	Records of the Tech Show of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Date [inclusive]	1899-1969
Extent	13.5 cubic feet (10 record cartons, 6 legal manuscript boxes, 1 manuscript box, 1 half mss box, 2 flat boxes)
Location	Materials are stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use.
Language	English

Citation

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tech Show records, AC 299, box X. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Institute Archives and Special Collections, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Historical note

The Tech Show at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was a recurring student production, at first in the form of a vaudeville revue, later a musical comedy. The first performance was given May 12, 1899, under the auspices of the MIT Athletic Association to raise money to benefit Institute athletic teams. In 1901, the Tech Show presented the American premier of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Grand Duke." Most show productions were original works by MIT students. Music, dance, and lyrics were composed, staged, and performed by students attending MIT. For many years William C. Greene of the English department served as coach and advisor to Tech Show students. Later, A. R. Gurney was the faculty advisor to the Tech Show. The show was presented in a number of venues in the earliest years such as the Hollis Theater in Boston and the Academy of Music in Northampton. Later because of financial reasons performances were held on campus. For many years, the show had an all-male cast with female roles played by men.

No show was produced in 1932 due to financial difficulties. There were shows again in 1933, 1934, 1935, and 1936, but the show lost money each year, and the show's Advisory Council voted in May 1936 to suspend operations. The Tech Show was revived in 1947 and women, mostly from local Boston colleges, were cast as performers for the first time. The Tech Show was routinely produced until 1969, and then briefly revived in 1980 and 1981. The 1981 *I Scream Clone* was the final show. The Masque was an honorary society of Tech Show; membership was awarded for exceptional service to the show.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

This collection contains the records of a student group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) that produced musical or revue shows, known as the Tech Show, between the years 1899 and 1969. It includes a nearly complete set of show programs from 1899 to 1969. A program for the 1900 show titled "The Medicine Man" is missing. The collection includes published vocal scores for selected years and show scripts. There are manuscript orchestral scores from 1948 to 1957, and 1966 to 1968. Show posters are dated from the period 1958 forward. The show was entirely composed, written, created, and produced by students at MIT, so the materials are a rich record and evidence of student humor, creativity, and accomplishment.

Also included in the collection are administrative records of the Advisory Council on the Tech Show from the period 1926 to 1938. The program of the first show in 1899 includes an article titled "Athletics at the Institute" and photographs of various Institute athletics teams, since the show was produced under the auspices of the Technology Athletic Association to benefit Institute athletic teams.

Audio recordings of show productions are held by the MIT Lewis Music Library.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections 1980

Revision Description

2010

Access note

This collection is open for research.

Intellectual Property Rights

Access to collections in the Institute Archives is not authorization to publish. Separate application for permission to publish must be made to the Institute Archives and Special Collections, MIT Libraries. Copyright of some items in this collection may be held by respective creators, not by the creating office.

Related Materials

Related Materials

Lewis Music Library, MIT Libraries: Tech Show audio recordings

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Tech Show

Subject(s)

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology--History.
- Music--Scores.
- Musicals
- Student activities.
- Student Life

Bibliography

"Tech Show," *Technique* 1915, p. 26.

"Tech Show," *Technique* 1905, p. 119.

Show Materials

Collection Inventory

Series. 1. Show Materials

	Box
<i>Technology Minstrels</i> program 1899	1
<i>The Grand Duke</i> program 1901	1
<i>Applied Mechanics</i> program 1902	1
<i>A Scientific King</i> program 1903	1
<i>A Scientific King</i> published vocal score 1903	1
<i>A Scientific King</i> orchestral score 1903	8
<i>Simon Pure Brass</i> program 1904	1
<i>Simon Pure Brass</i> published vocal score 1904	1
<i>The Chemical Maid</i> program 1905	1
<i>The Chemical Maid</i> published vocal score 1905	1
<i>The Chemical Maid</i> script, act I 1905	1
<i>The Chemical Maid</i> script, act II 1905	1
<i>The Chemical Maid</i> vocal and orchestral score 1905	8
<i>The Freshman</i> program 1906	1
<i>The Freshman</i> published vocal score 1906	1
<i>William, Willie and Bill</i> program 1907	1
<i>William, Willie and Bill</i> published vocal score 1907	1
<i>Over the Garden Wall</i> program 1908	1

Show Materials

<i>Over the Garden Wall</i> published vocal score 1908	1
<i>That Pill Grimm</i> program 1909	2
<i>That Pill Grimm</i> published vocal score 1909	2
<i>That Pill Grimm</i> dinner menu 1909	2
<i>The Queen of the Cannibal Isles</i> program 1910	2
<i>The Queen of the Cannibal Isles</i> published vocal score 1909	2
<i>Frenzied French</i> program 1911	2
<i>Castles in Spain</i> program 1912	2
<i>Castles in Spain</i> published vocal score 1912	2
<i>Money in Sight</i> program 1913	2
<i>Money in Sight</i> published vocal score 1913	2
<i>A Royal Johnny</i> program 1914	2
<i>A Royal Johnny</i> published vocal score 1914	2
<i>Getting A-Cross</i> program 1915	2
<i>Getting A-Cross</i> published vocal score 1915	2
<i>M 34</i> program 1916	2
<i>M 34</i> published vocal score 1916	2
<i>Not a Chance</i> program 1917	3
<i>Not a Chance</i> published vocal score 1917	3
<i>Let 'Er Go</i> program 1918	3
<i>Let 'Er Go</i> published vocal score 1918	3
<i>A Doubtful Medium</i> program 1919	3

Show Materials

<i>A Doubtful Medium</i> poster 1919	10
<i>A Doubtful Medium</i> published vocal score 1919	3
<i>Patsy</i> program 1920	3
<i>Patsy</i> published vocal score 1920	3
<i>The Purple Dragon</i> program 1921	3
<i>The Purple Dragon</i> published vocal score 1921	3
<i>The Wrong Steer</i> program 1922	3
<i>The Wrong Steer</i> published vocal score 1922	3
<i>The Sun Temple</i> program 1923	3
<i>The Sun Temple</i> published vocal score 1923	3
<i>The Hidden Idol</i> program 1924	3
<i>The Hidden Idol</i> published vocal score 1924	3
<i>The Duchess of Broadway</i> program 1925	3
<i>The Duchess of Broadway</i> published vocal score 1925	3
<i>Too Many Brothers</i> program 1926	3
<i>Too Many Brothers</i> published vocal score 1926	3
<i>West is East</i> program 1927	3
<i>West is East</i> published vocal score 1927	3
<i>Half a Man</i> program 1928	4
<i>Half a Man</i> published vocal score 1928	4
<i>A Tech Riot</i> program 1929	4
<i>Snobberies of 1930</i> program 1930	4

Show Materials

<i>Technicalities</i> program 1931	4
<i>Fancy That!</i> program 1933	4
<i>What! Again?</i> program 1934	4
<i>Hit and Run</i> program 1935	4
<i>Hit and Run</i> script, 2 folders 1935	4
<i>Easy to Take</i> program 1936	4
<i>Easy to Take</i> program, Academy of Music, Northampton 1936	4
<i>A Liberal Life</i> drawings of sets 1947	4
<i>A Liberal Life</i> program 1947	4
<i>A Liberal Life</i> program song lyrics 1947	4
<i>A Liberal Life</i> unpublished vocal score 1947	4
<i>A Liberal Life</i> script 1947	4
<i>Frere Jacques!</i> program 1948	4
<i>Frere Jacques!</i> lyrics and music 1948	4
<i>Frere Jacques!</i> script 1948	4
<i>Frere Jacques!</i> production notes 1948	4
<i>Frere Jacques!</i> orchestral score 1948	11
<i>O Say Can You Si</i> program 1949	4
<i>O Say Can You Si</i> cast list 1949	4
<i>O Say Can You Si</i> cast and staff party invitation 1949	4
<i>O Say Can You Si</i> lyrics and music 1949	4
<i>O Say Can You Si</i> public relations 1949	4

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<i>O Say Can You Si</i> published vocal score 1949	4
<i>O Say Can You Si</i> rehearsal schedules 1949	4
<i>O Say Can You Si</i> script, version one 1949	4
<i>O Say Can You Si</i> script, version two 1949	4
<i>O Say Can You Si</i> script changes 1949	4
<i>O Say Can You Si</i> orchestral score 1949	12
<i>O Say Can You Si</i> sound recordings 1949	MIT Music Library
<i>Stranger in Town</i> program 1950	5
<i>Stranger in Town</i> lyrics and music 1950	5
<i>Stranger in Town</i> published vocal score 1950	5
<i>Stranger in Town</i> script, version one 1950	5
<i>Stranger in Town</i> script, version two 1950	5
<i>Stranger in Town</i> sound recordings 1950	MIT Music Library
<i>Call Me Mummy</i> program 1951	5
<i>Call Me Mummy</i> director's notes 1951	5
<i>Call Me Mummy</i> lyrics 1951	5
<i>Call Me Mummy</i> lyrics and music 1951	5
<i>Call Me Mummy</i> published lyrics and music 1951	5
<i>Call Me Mummy</i> script 1951	5
<i>Call Me Mummy</i> orchestral score 1951	13
<i>Call Me Mummy</i> sound recordings 1951	MIT Music Library

Show Materials

<i>Here's the Switch</i> program 1952	5
<i>Here's the Switch</i> published lyrics and music 1952	5
<i>Here's the Switch</i> script 1952	5
<i>Here's the Switch</i> orchestral score 1952	14
<i>Here's the Switch</i> sound recordings 1952	MIT Music Library
<i>Pass the Hat</i> program 1953	5
<i>Pass the Hat</i> script 1953	5
<i>Pass the Hat</i> published vocal score 1953	5
<i>Pass the Hat</i> script 1953	5
<i>Pass the Hat</i> script, annotated 1953	5
<i>Pass the Hat</i> orchestral and vocal scores 1953	15
<i>Pass the Hat</i> sound recordings 1953	MIT Music Library
<i>Suspended in Air</i> program 1954	5
<i>Suspended in Air</i> published vocal score 1954	5
<i>Suspended in Air</i> script 1954	5
<i>Suspended in Air</i> orchestral score 1954	16
<i>Suspended in Air</i> sound recordings 1954	MIT Music Library
<i>Tyde's Crossinge</i> program 1955	5
<i>Tyde's Crossinge</i> plot 1955	5
<i>Tyde's Crossinge</i> set design 1955	5
<i>Tyde's Crossinge</i> script 1955	5

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<i>Tyde's Crossinge</i> orchestral score 1955	17
<i>Tyde's Crossing</i> sound recordings 1955	MIT Music Library
<i>Djinn and Bitters</i> program 1956	6
<i>Djinn and Bitters</i> orchestra instructions 1956	6
<i>Djinn and Bitters</i> script 1956	6
<i>Djinn and Bitters</i> orchestral score 1956	18
<i>Djinn and Bitters</i> sound recordings 1956	MIT Music Library
<i>The Honor of a Bum</i> program 1957	6
<i>The Honor of a Bum</i> script 1957	6
<i>The Honor of a Bum</i> orchestral score 1957	19
<i>The Honor of a Bum</i> sound recordings 1957	MIT Music Library
<i>Out on a Limbo</i> program 1958	6
<i>Out on a Limbo</i> poster 1958	10
<i>Out on a Limbo</i> sound recordings 1958	MIT Music Library
<i>The Spy's the Limit</i> program 1959	6
<i>The Spy's the Limit</i> sound recordings 1959	MIT Music Library
<i>Leave it to Eve</i> program 1960	6
<i>Leave it to Eve</i> publicity materials, news clips 1960	6
<i>Leave it to Eve</i> script 1960	6
<i>Loch, Scotch, and Barrel</i> program 1961	6

Show Materials

<i>Loch, Scotch, and Barrel</i> poster 1961	10
<i>Loch, Scotch, and Barrel</i> sound recordings 1961	MIT Music Library
<i>Tempest in a Teaport</i> program 1962	6
<i>Tempest in a Teaport</i> poster 1962	10
<i>Tempest in a Teaport</i> poster for auditions 1962	10
<i>Sins and Needles</i> program 1963	6
<i>Sins and Needles</i> slide 1963	6
<i>Sins and Needles</i> poster 1963	10
<i>Sins and Needles</i> poster for auditions 1963	10
<i>Sins and Needles</i> sound recordings 1963	MIT Music Library
<i>How to Succeed in Espionage Without Really Trying</i> program 1964	6
<i>How to Succeed in Espionage Without Really Trying</i> poster 1964	10
<i>How to Succeed in Espionage Without Really Trying</i> sound recordings 1964	MIT Music Library
<i>You Gotta Have Art</i> program 1965	6
<i>Tackled Pink</i> program 1966	6
<i>Tackled Pink</i> director's notes 1966	6
<i>Tackled Pink</i> script 1966	6
<i>Tackled Pink</i> poster 1966	10
<i>Tackled Pink</i> illustrated poster 1966	10
<i>Tackled Pink</i> orchestral score 1966	20
<i>Tackled Pink</i> sound recordings 1966	MIT Music Library

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<i>Lucky William</i> program 1967	6
<i>Lucky William</i> rehearsal schedule 1967	6
<i>Lucky William</i> script, 2 folders 1967	6
<i>Lucky William</i> orchestral score	20
<i>I Wed Three Wives</i> program 1968	6
<i>I Wed Three Wives</i> script 1968	6
<i>I Wed Three Wives</i> poster for auditions 1968	10
<i>I Wed Three Wives</i> orchestral score 1968	20
<i>I Wed Three Wives</i> sound recordings 1968	MIT Music Library
<i>Euphoria</i> program 1969	6
<i>Euphoria</i> poster 1969	10
<i>Euphoria</i> poster for auditions 1969	10
<i>Euphoria</i> sound recordings 1969	MIT Music Library
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Report of Advisory Council on the Tech Show, 1927	9
Report of Advisory Council on the Tech Show, 1928	9
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Report of Advisory Council on the Tech Show, 1933	9
Report of Advisory Council on the Tech Show, 1934	9
Report of Advisory Council on the Tech Show, 1935	9
Correspondence and Report of Advisory Council on the Tech Show, 1936	9
Report of the Advisory Council on the Tech Show, 1937	9
Report of the Advisory Council on the Tech Show, 1938	9
Financial and auditor's reports 1928-1931	7
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Tech Show advertising, management, and recruiting 1935	7
Tech Show correspondence 1935	7
Tech Show submitted script "Bugs on the Bean" 1935	7
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Correspondence 1956-1958	7
Publicity 1929, 1934, 1956, 1962, 1963, 1966	7
Masque record book 1913-1921	7
Masque record book 1922-1932	7
Masque membership lists 1919-1930	7
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