



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Federal Theater Project (Connecticut) records of Gertrude DonDero, 1936-1937, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

The digitization of this collection received Federal support from the
Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund

2025/02/06

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Federal Theater Project (Connecticut) records of Gertrude DonDero
Date:	1936-1937
Identifier:	AAA.fedethea
Creator:	Federal Theater Project (Conn.)
Extent:	1 Microfilm reel
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Federal Theater Project (Connecticut) records of Gertrude DonDero date from 1936 to 1937. The bulk of the records consist of programs of performances by the Federal Theater Project (FTP) throughout the state of Connecticut. Also found is a list of theaters involved and a summary of the project, clippings about the project and about Gertrude DonDero, and scattered photographs of the FTP office.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming 1964 by Gertrude DonDero.

Location of Originals

Originals returned to Gertrude DonDero after microfilming.

Related Materials

Syracuse University holds the records of the Federal Theater Project papers.

Available Formats

The collection has been microfilmed onto Reel NDA1. The microfilm has been digitized and is available on the Archives of American Art website.

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed on Reel NDA01 and was returned to Gertrude DonDero after filming. The microfilm was described in a finding aid by Jayna Josefson in 2025 and the microfilm was digitized in 2024 with funding provided by the Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund.

Preferred Citation

Federal Theater Project (Connecticut) records of Gertrude DonDero, 1936-1937. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

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Biographical / Historical

The Federal Theater Project (FTP) was a program established under the Federal Project No. One of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935. It sought to create employment for actors and others involved in the performing arts during the Depression. Gertrude DonDero was the state director of the Connecticut Federal Theater Project.

Scope and Contents

The Federal Theater Project (Connecticut) records of Gertrude DonDero date from 1936 to 1937. The bulk of the records consist of programs of performances by the Federal Theater Project (FTP) throughout the state of Connecticut. Also found is a list of theaters involved and a summary of the project, clippings about the project and about Gertrude DonDero, and scattered photographs of the FTP office.

Arrangement

Due to the pre-existing microfilm arrangement, the collection is arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Names:

DonDero, Gertrude
United States. Works Progress Administration

Container Listing

Series 1: Federal Theater Project (Connecticut) Records, 1936-1937

Scope and Contents: Found are extensive programs of theater productions produced by the Federal Theater Project (FTP) in Connecticut in 1936 and 1937. Also found are scattered clippings about and photographs of Gertrude DonDero and the FTP. A list of participating theaters and a project report entitled "One Year of Federal Theater Project, Connecticut" are also found.

Reel NDA01.federal,
Frame 279-473

[Programs, 1936-1937](#)

Reel NDA01.federal,
Frame 474-477

[List of Theaters, 1937](#)

Reel NDA01.federal,
Frame 478-496

[Clippings, 1936-1937](#)

Reel NDA01.federal,
Frame 497-498

[Photographs, 1936-1937](#)

Reel NDA01.federal,
Frame 499-503

[Report, "One Year of the Federal Theater Project, Connecticut", 1937](#)

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