

## Andrea Nouryeh Orson Welles Collection

MSS #169

.25 linear feet

### Biographical

Universally regarded as one of the finest screen and stage directors and producers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, George Orson Welles was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin in 1915. Welles made his stage debut in Ireland in 1931 and by 1933 he was touring off-Broadway. Soon thereafter Welles began also working as a radio actor along with many actors who would later be members of the Mercury Theater. Then in 1936, Welles directed a well received new version of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, called *Voodoo Macbeth* for the Federal Theater Project, featuring African-American actors. When the lead actor fell ill during a national tour, Welles stepped into the title role in blackface to great acclaim. The 20 year old director/actor was hailed as a prodigy. Over the next five decades, Welles went on to act in, produce and direct dozens of stage productions, radio broadcasts, and films, and made numerous television appearances. Among his most famous works are the radio adaptation of H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* (1938), *Citizen Kane* (1941), *Macbeth* (1948), and *Othello* (1952). In later years, Welles made numerous TV appearances and continued his work on stage and film. He died in 1985 two hours after being interviewed on *The Merv Griffin Show*.

Dr. Andrea Nouryeh was Associate Professor of Performance and Communication Arts at St. Lawrence University 1991-2011. She holds degrees from University of Wisconsin, Columbia University and New York University. Dr. Nouryeh's research interests include the history of the Stage Door Canteen, African American drama and performance, Anglophone African drama and performance, feminist theater and performance and doing dramaturgy for plays in production.

### Scope and Content

This collection consist of materials compiled by Andrea Nouryeh for her research on Orson Welles and the Mercury Theater for her dissertation and later research. Included are photographs, scripts, comparative notes, correspondence and other documents related to Welles' musical version of *Around the World in 80 Days* for the Mercury Summer Theater and his film adaptation of *Macbeth*, as well as photos related to stage productions of *Julius Cesar*, *Five Kings*, *Henry IV*, *Shoemaker's Holiday*, *Heartbreak House* and *The Cradle Will Rock*. The vast majority of the non-photographic material in the collection are photocopies.

### Organization of Collection

The collection is organized into four series:

- Series 1—Material related to *Around the World in 80 Days*
- Series 2—Material related to *Macbeth*
- Series 3—Photographs of other productions
- Series 4—Lecture notes and biographical material

### Series 1—Around the World in 80 Days

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## **Series 2—Macbeth**

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1 7	script from <i>Macbeth</i> with A.N's notes throughout; appears to be a comparison of play and movie versions (2 copies)
8	<i>Vogue</i> magazine review of "Voodoo Macbeth" Nov. 1936; Newspaper clippings of reviews of 1947 movie version of <i>Macbeth</i>
9	English translations of foreign press reviews of film
10	Correspondence from Stephan Schnabel, Jerry Wald & Herbert J. Yates
11	Articles from trade journals on <i>Macbeth</i>
12	Photographs

## **Series 3—Photographs from Mercury Theater stage productions**

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1 13	<i>Five Kings; Henry IV</i>
14	<i>Heartbreak House</i>
15	<i>The Cradle Will Rock</i>
16	<i>Julius Cesar</i>
17	<i>Shoemaker's Holiday</i>

## **Series 4—Orson Welles Lecture Notes; Biographical info**

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1 18	Lecture notes on the theater, acting, and related subjects; Articles on Orson Welles