

## Guide to the Joe Jefferson Players Scrapbooks

---

### **Descriptive Summary:**

Creator: Jeanette Maygarden

Title: Joe Jefferson Players Scrapbooks

Dates: 1947-2006

Quantity: 9.7 linear feet

Abstract: A collection of scrapbooks containing material related to the theatrical performances of the Joe Jefferson Players.

Accession: 00-08-365 ; 365-2000

---

### **Biographical Note:**

In 1947 a small group of Mobilians, intent on restoring the city's waning theatre activity after the depression and war years, initiated the Joe Jefferson Players. Successful in their efforts, the Players were in possession of their own permanent playhouse by 1949 and by 1961 membership totaled over 1000. By 1967 the membership limit was raised to 2000, and continued popularity demanded the expansion of an already once-rebuilt playhouse in the same year.

Despite the challenges of subsequent years: hurricanes, financial difficulties, and increasing competition from other sources of local live entertainment, the Joe Jefferson Players remain active to this day, having finished their fifty-ninth season at the time this guide was written. The Joe Jefferson Players took their name from prominent nineteenth-century actor Joseph Jefferson III (1829-1905), a man born into a family of notable actors and theatre workers.

Starting at the age of four, Joe devoted the next seventy-two years of his life to the theatre, traveling around the world from London to New Zealand and performing a variety of roles, the most notable of which is undoubtedly his portrayal of "Rip Van Winkle." In 1893 he succeeded Edwin Booth as president of the Players Club, a national organization, making him the acknowledged head of American actors. Joe Jefferson died in 1905 in Palm Beach, Florida, and was buried in Sandwich, Massachusetts.

---

**Scope and Contents:**

The collection contains programs, photographs, newsclippings, video tapes and other material related to the Joe Jefferson Players, most of which are organized into 23 scrapbooks. The scrapbooks span the entire life of the organization, from its birth in 1947 to the 2005-2006 season, excluding only the latter season's final performance, "Amadeus." Not all years are represented equally well, particularly the 1940s and 1950s. Also included are additional scrapbooks and file folders containing material on various topics including anniversary correspondence and information on Joseph Jefferson himself.

---

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been divided into five series: 1. Scrapbooks, arranged by season date, 1947-2006 (5 cubic feet); 2. Posters and oversized pictures related to JJP performances (1 cubic foot); 3. Individuals (.25 cubic feet); 4. ADDSCO, 1944, 1946-1948, 1951, 1958-1959, 1961, 1964-1966 (.25 cubic feet); 5. Film and video tapes, 1966-1967 (2), 1985-1986, 1997, and n.d (2). These tapes have been removed from the collection and stored separately.

---

**Access Restrictions:**

This material is open to research.

---

**Preferred Citation:**

Joe Jefferson Players Scrapbooks, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.

---

## **Content List:**

### **Boxes 1 - 5 – Scrapbooks**

#### **Box 1 - 1947 to 1959**

Scrapbook 1 - 1940s  
Scrapbooks 2-3 - 1950s  
Folder - Joe Jefferson Players Minutes, 1950s -1951

#### **Box 2 - 1960 to 1975 (See also Box 3 for 1970s)**

Scrapbooks 4-5 - 1960s  
Scrapbooks 6-9 1970s  
Scrapbook - Photographs of Joseph Jefferson (includes bio. information)  
Scrapbook - 40th Season (Photos)  
Folder - 1969 JJP SE Theatre Conference and Plays (ca. 1940s and 1950s)

#### **Box 3 - 1976 to 1989 (See also Box 2 for 1970's)**

Scrapbooks 10-12 - 1980s  
Scrapbook - JJP 40th Anniversary

#### **Box 4 - 1990s**

Scrapbook 13 - 1990 to 1995  
Scrapbook 14 - 1995 to 1997  
Scrapbook 15-16 - 1997 to 1998  
Scrapbook 17 - 1999 to 2000

#### **Box 5 - 2000 to 2006**

Scrapbook 18 - 1999 to 2000  
Scrapbook 19 - 2000 to 2001  
Scrapbook 20 - 2001 to 2002  
Scrapbook 21 - 2002 to 2003  
Scrapbook 22 - 2003 to 2004  
Scrapbook 23 - 2004 to 2005 and 2005 to 2006

#### **Box 6 – Posters**

JJP posters and oversized pictures of various performances

#### **Box 7 - Individuals and ADDSCO**

1. John W. Holland Jr.
2. Brown Wallace
- 3 - 4. Ed Baas / Baas Boys (playbills and photos)
5. ADDSCO *Fore & Aft*, 1944, 1946-1948, 1951 and annual reports, 1958-1959, 1961, 1964-1966

#### **Box 8 - Video Tapes**

Lil' Abner" Afterparty, 1966-1967

"Foxhole Follies," 1985-1986

"The Reading of the Will," 1977

JJP actors showing off their costumes (possible afterparty)

Addition to Front and Back of Playhouse, c. 1966 to 1967

Unlabeled, undated reel-to-reel tape.