

Telford, Robert S. (SC-05)

Robert S. Telford Personal Papers (SC-05)

1959-2008, undated

Title Statement

Telford, Robert S. (SC-05) Finding Aids to the Special Collections in the VMFA Archives | Robert S. Telford Personal Papers SC-05

Subtitle: Special Collection 05 (SC-05)

Author: Erica Borey, Records Manager, and Kevin Williams, Archival Intern; Finding aid encoded by Sylvio Lynch III, Archives Intern (2020)

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library@vmfa.museum

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC-05

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/268

Unit Date

1959-2008, undated

Mixed Materials

SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Language

English .

Abstract

The collection documents the life and career of Robert (Bob) S. Telford from 1959-2008. Telford, director of the Virginia Museum Theatre from 1955-1966, helped to strengthen the program and is known for casting African American actors in productions with white actors at a time when interracial casting was illegal in Virginia.

Creator

Telford, Robert S.

source

Telford, Robert S.

Extent

0.4 Linear Feet 1 box, 4 folders; 60 items

Repository

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The collection is subject to all copyright laws. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by copyright, beyond that allowed by fair use, requires the researcher to obtain permission of copyright holders.

Processing Information

In general, during processing, all publications are removed and added to the VMFA Library's holdings and original newspaper clippings are photocopied, with identifiers transferred, and then destroyed. Original folder titles are retained, when provided.

Preferred Citation

Robert S. Telford Personal Papers (SC-05). VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

Biographical Note

As the director of the Virginia Museum Theater from 1958-1966, Robert S. Telford dramatically grew subscriptions to the theater, stabilized management and formed a strong volunteer corps. He also introduced the VMT's first musical production, "Kiss Me Kate." He is probably best known for his casting of African-American actors at a time when it was illegal in Virginia to have black and white actors together on the same stage. In 1966, he cast two black actors in the theater's production of "You Can't Take It With You," marking a major milestone in Virginia theater history. After his departure, Telford went on to direct theaters in Texas and Oklahoma, finally landing in California, where he had a successful television acting career in the 1980s and published several books.

Source: of "The Dark Side of Ambition"

Scope and Contents

This collection's inclusive dates are 1959-2008. It is comprised of newspaper clippings, letters (mainly from Mallory Freeman, fellow Virginia Museum Theater actor), event invitations and programs, and an audiotape.

Keywords

Telford, Robert S.

Telford, Robert S.

Virginia Museum Theatre (Richmond, Va.)

Custodial History

The collection was donated by Robert S. Telford.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into one series, and items are generally organized chronologically within each folder.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Personal Papers

Unit ID SC-05-01

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48653

Unit Date 1959-2008, undated

Language English

Folder 1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48654

Language English

April, 1962 edition of Chapter One

Unit ID SC05.01.0.001

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48658

Unit Date 1962

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.001 (Item)

Language English

September 5, 1962 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: Miss VA contest

Unit ID SC05.01.0.002

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48659

Unit Date 1962

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.002 (Item)

Language English

October 18, 1962 article from The Richmond News Leader re: National Cultural Center in DC

Unit ID SC05.01.0.003

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48660

Unit Date 1962

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.003 (Item)

Language English

December 19, 1962 article from The Richmond News Leader re: Santa role

Unit ID SC05.01.0.004

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48661

Unit Date 1962

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.004 (Item)

Language English

February 24, 1963 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: VMT

Unit ID SC05.01.0.005

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48662

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.005 (Item)

Language English

February 25, 1963 article from Richmond News Leader re: VMT

Unit ID SC05.01.0.006

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48663

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.006 (Item)

Language English

March 31, 1963 article from The State and the Columbia Record re: Playwright Award Competition

Unit ID SC05.01.0.007

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48664

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.007 (Item)

Language English

April 5, 1963 article from The Nashville Tennessean re: SETA and controversial plays

Unit ID SC05.01.0.008

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48665

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.008 (Item)

Language English

April 5, 1963 article from the Nashville Banner re: SE Theater Convention

Unit ID SC05.01.0.009

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48666

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.009 (Item)

Language English

April 5, 1963 article from The Nashville Tennessean re: Theater Conference

Unit ID SC05.01.0.010

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48667

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.010 (Item)

Language English

April 7, 1963 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: Mellon Exhibition

Unit ID SC05.01.0.011

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48668

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.011 (Item)

Language English

April 7, 1963 article from the Richmond Times Dispatch re: "Olivet to Calvary"

Unit ID SC05.01.0.012

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48669

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.012 (Item)

Language English

April 17, 1963 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: Gainsborough exhibit

Unit ID SC05.01.0.013

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48670

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.013 (Item)

Language English

May 18, 1963 article from the Richmond News Leader re: speaking engagement at 1st Unitarian Church

Unit ID SC05.01.0.014

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48671

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.014 (Item)

Language English

June 8, 1963 front page of The Richmond News Leader

Unit ID SC05.01.0.015

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48672

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.015 (Item)

Language English

June 14, 1963 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: the Parody Ball

Unit ID SC05.01.0.016

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48673

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.016 (Item)

Language English

January 12, 1964 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: "The World of Shakespeare"

Unit ID SC05.01.0.017

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48674

Unit Date 1964

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.017 (Item)

Language English

October 18, 1964 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: Thalhimers Italian extravaganza

Unit ID SC05.01.0.018

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48675

Unit Date 1964

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.018 (Item)

Language English

November 1, 1964 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: 'Local Theatricals'

Unit ID SC05.01.0.019

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48676

Unit Date 1964

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.019 (Item)

Language English

January 7, 1965 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: state Artmobile

Unit ID SC05.01.0.020

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48677

Unit Date 1965

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.020 (Item)

Language English

May 11, 1965 edition of the Washington County News

Unit ID SC05.01.0.021

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48678

Unit Date 1965

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.021 (Item)

Language English

July 21, 1965 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: conversational French class

Unit ID SC05.01.0.022

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48679

Unit Date 1965

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.022 (Item)

Language English

September 12, 1965 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: Jim Walsh

Unit ID SC05.01.0.023

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48680

Unit Date 1965

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.023 (Item)

Language English

November 4, 1965 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: food at VA Museum

Unit ID SC05.01.0.024

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48681

Unit Date 1965

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.024 (Item)

Language English

February 13, 1966 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: museum architecture

Unit ID SC05.01.0.025

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48682

Unit Date 1966

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.025 (Item)

Language English

February 26, 1966 article from unknown pub. re: awards

Unit ID SC05.01.0.026

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48683

Unit Date 1966

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.026 (Item)

Language English

March 19, 1966 letters to the editor from unknown pub.

Unit ID SC05.01.0.027

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48684

Unit Date 1966

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.027 (Item)

Language English

May 29, 1966 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: quadrennial exhibition

Unit ID SC05.01.0.028

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48685

Unit Date 1966

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.028 (Item)

Language English

September 7, 1989 article from the Los Angeles Time re: Telford's video store

Unit ID SC05.01.0.029

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48686

Unit Date 1989

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.029 (Item)

Language English

November 12, 1989 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: Cheek Award

Unit ID SC05.01.0.030

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48687

Unit Date 1989

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.030 (Item)

Language English

Several smaller articles re: VMT from various pubs.

Unit ID SC05.01.0.031

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48688

Unit Date undated

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.031 (Item)

Language English

Several smaller articles re: VMT and death of John Koenig from various pubs.

Unit ID SC05.01.0.032

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48689

Unit Date undated

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.032 (Item)

Language English

Undated article from unknown pub. re: Janet Kennedy

Unit ID SC05.01.0.033

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48690

Unit Date undated

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.033 (Item)

Language English

Undated article from unknown pub. re: Telford as judge for Playwright's Award Contest in Columbia, S.C.

Unit ID SC05.01.0.034

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48691

Unit Date undated

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.034 (Item)

Language English

Undated article from unknown pub. Re: death of Nat King Cole

Unit ID SC05.01.0.035

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48692

Unit Date undated

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.035 (Item)

Language English

Undated article from unknown pub. Re: theater training

Unit ID SC05.01.0.036

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48693

Unit Date undated

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.036 (Item)

Language English

Undated article from unknown pub. Re VMFA

Unit ID SC05.01.0.037

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48694

Unit Date undated

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 1

Container SC05.01.0.037 (Item)

Language English

Folder 2

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48655

Language English

Postcard to Mr. and Mrs. Telford from friends in Egypt

Unit ID SC05.01.0.038

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48695

Unit Date 1962

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.038 (Item)

Language English

Rafting Trip Invitation

Unit ID SC05.01.0.039

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48696

Unit Date 1962

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.039 (Item)

Language English

Program for "An American Pageant of the Arts"

Unit ID SC05.01.0.040

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48697

Unit Date 1962

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.040 (Item)

Language English

Receipt for Scott Telford Talent Fee

Unit ID SC05.01.0.041

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48698

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.041 (Item)

Language English

Program for Richmond Symphony

Unit ID SC05.01.0.042

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48699

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.042 (Item)

Language English

Invitation to the White House for Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer

Unit ID SC05.01.0.043

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48700

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.043 (Item)

Language English

Program for The Stuart Avenue Theater production of "The Visitors"

Unit ID SC05.01.0.044

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48701

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.044 (Item)

Language English

Thank you letter for donation to John Koenig collections fund

Unit ID SC05.01.0.045

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48702

Unit Date 1963

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.045 (Item)

Language English

VMFA Fellows Dinner Program**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.046**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/48703**Unit Date** 1963**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)**Container** Folder 2**Container** SC05.01.0.046 (Item)**Language** English**Invitation to Virginia Civil War Commission Stonewall Jackson Dinner****Unit ID** SC05.01.0.047**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/48704**Unit Date** undated**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)**Container** Folder 2**Container** SC05.01.0.047 (Item)**Language** English**First Unitarian Church Program****Unit ID** SC05.01.0.048**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/48705**Unit Date** 1963**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)**Container** Folder 2**Container** SC05.01.0.048 (Item)**Language** English**Invitation to Collectors Circle events****Unit ID** SC05.01.0.049**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/48706**Unit Date** 1963-1966**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)**Container** Folder 2**Container** SC05.01.0.049 (Item)**Language** English**Program for VMT "School for Scandal"****Unit ID** SC05.01.0.050**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/48707**Unit Date** undated**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)**Container** Folder 2**Container** SC05.01.0.050 (Item)**Language** English

Programs from the VMT presentation of "Fast/Forward"

Unit ID SC05.01.0.051

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48708

Unit Date 1993

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.051 (Item)

Language English

Letters from G. Mallory Freeman, Feb. 1990 - Aug. 2001

Unit ID SC05.01.0.052

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48709

Unit Date 1990-2001

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.052 (Item)

Language English

2008 Letter from Robert Telford to Courtney Yevich, Asst. Fine Arts Librarian, VMFA

Unit ID SC05.01.0.053

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48710

Unit Date 2008

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.053 (Item)

Language English

List of Theatre Virginia Musicals, 1959-1989

Unit ID SC05.01.0.054

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48711

Unit Date 1959-1989

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.054 (Item)

Language English

Biography of Robert Telford by Theatre Virginia News

Unit ID SC05.01.0.055

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48712

Unit Date undated

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.055 (Item)

Language English

Draft of Biography of Robert Telford (2 pages)

Unit ID SC05.01.0.056

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48713

Unit Date undated

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.056 (Item)

Language English

Draft of Biography of Robert Telford (1 page)

Unit ID SC05.01.0.057

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48714

Unit Date undated

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.057 (Item)

Language English

Actor headshots of Robert Telford (3)

Unit ID SC05.01.0.058

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48715

Unit Date undated

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 2

Container SC05.01.0.058 (Item)

Language English

Folder 3

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48656

Language English

Correspondence with G. Mallory Freeman, 1990-1996

Unit ID SC05.01.0.059

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48716

Unit Date 1990-1996

mixed materials SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 3

Container SC05.01.0.059 (Item)

Language English

Folder 4

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48657

Language English

Audiotape of Telford speaking about VMT

Unit ID SC05.01.0.060

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/48717

Unit Date 1966

Audio SC-05 Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 4

Container SC05.01.0.060 (Item)

Language English