**Theatre**

Theatre officially entered the Davidson College curriculum in 1963 with the

decision of the faculty to create a Department of Drama and Speech. Students

had formed amateur dramatic clubs as early as 1891, although in 1898 the faculty

declared that theatre productions were not in keeping with a church-related

college.

In 1920, Dr. Erwin newly appointed to the English faculty requested permission to

present plays and organized a drama club. That club became the Red and Black

Masquers in 1926. The English department helped renew interest in theatre

productions, establishing a new drama group, The Vagabonds, in 1960 and a

summer playhouse in 1962.

The first chair of the newly formed department of Theatre and Speech was Rupert

Barber. Drama and Speech became a major in 1979-1980. In 2004, a new Oral

Communications Department was created, which changed the Drama and Speech

major to Theatre. The department offers the Raleigh Turner Award for

outstanding performances in student productions and the Theatre Award to a

graduating senior and occasionally sponsors visiting artists.

**Retention Schedule**

**Administrative File.** Records concerning the administration of the department.

Files may include correspondence, reports, memorandums, directives, and other

records.

Disposition Instructions: Transfer to College Archives after 6 years for

appraisal and final disposition.

**Alumni.** Records of former students active in theatre productions. Files may

include biographical information, correspondence, clippings, and related

materials.

Disposition Instructions: Destroy in office when reference value ends.

**Course Information.** Records for courses offered by the department. Files may

include syllabi, class rosters, course offerings, and related materials.

Disposition Instructions: Destroy in office when reference value ends.

**Financial Records.** Reference copies of invoices, work orders, pay vouchers,

and ledgers detailing departmental activities.

Disposition Instructions: Destroy in office after 3 years or 1 year after

released from all audits, whichever is later.

**Production Files.** Records for each theatre department production. Files

contain playbills, photographs, publicity, correspondence, and related records.

Disposition Instructions: Transfer to College Archives when reference value

ends for appraisal and final disposition.

**Work Study.** Time sheets and employment records for work study students.

Disposition Instructions: Destroy in office after 2 years.