

Arab American National Museum Archives  
13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI 48126



Title: Arabic Theater Project Collection  
Creator: Hill, Holly  
Inclusive dates: 1995-2009  
Bulk dates: 1995-2000  
Extent: .75 linear foot; 1.5 document boxes  
Accession number: 2014.08.00

**Abstract:**

The Arabic Theater Project (ATP) was founded by Dr. Holly Hill and the O'Neill Theater Center with the purpose of building cultural bridges between American and Arabic theater artists, critics, scholars and students. The organization lasted from 1997-2000 and found success in bringing playwrights, directors and scholars to the U.S. from the Arab World and vice-versa. The organization disbanded due to lack of money for continued projects. The collection contains documentation from ATP as well as Dr. Hill's later scholarly work on Arab-American theater.

Language: Material is in English and Arabic  
Acquisition: Donation from Dr. Holly Hill, April 2014  
Accruals: Additions to the collection are expected.  
Access: Collection is open to researchers  
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2  
A-V Material: None  
Digital Materials: None  
Copyright: Copyright has been transferred to the Arab American National Museum.  
Processed: August 2014 by Elyssa Bisoski  
Arrangement: Original order within folders, folders are chronological.  
Separated Materials: Copy of the book, *Salaam.Peace: An Anthology of Middle Eastern-American Drama* by Dr. Holly Hill and Dr. Dina Amin added to the library collection  
Preferred citation: [item], Folder [#], Box [#], Arabic Theater Project Collection, Arab American National Museum

**History**

The Arabic Theater Project (ATP) was founded by Dr. Holly Hill and the O'Neill Theater Center of Waterford, Connecticut in 1997. Its purpose was to build cultural bridges and foster amity between American and Arabic theater artists, critics, scholars and students. During its tenure from 1997-2000, the organization brought Egyptian playwrights and directors to the U.S. for multiple conferences, sent Dr. Hill to Egypt to serve on the jury for the 1997 Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theater, and helped earn internships and grants (including a Fulbright) for individuals from the U.S. and the Middle East interested in Arab and American theater.

ATP had many more goals that were ultimately never reached due to lack of capital. One of these unmet goals was to bring an Egyptian play to the U.S., to be performed at the National Playwrights Conference at the O'Neill in 1998. This lack of money eventually forced the organization to disband in 2000.

Dr. Hill is an Emerita Professor of Speech and Theater at John Jay College of The City University of New York. After the end of ATP, she continued to do scholarly work on Arab and American theater. In 2009, she co-edited *Salaam.Peace: An Anthology of Middle Eastern-American Drama* with Dr. Dina Amin. That same year, she also participated in the reOrient festival in San Francisco. reOrient was produced by Golden Thread Productions and featured short plays exploring the Middle East as well as a forum about Middle Eastern-American theater.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection includes items from the Arabic Theater Project as well as Dr. Holly Hill's later work on *Salaam.Peace* and the reOrient festival. ATP items constitute the majority of the collection and primarily include correspondence along with brochures, published articles about the organization, grant proposals and photographs. The correspondence is varied, featuring letters concerning grant proposals, details about ATP and fundraising attempts. Both outgoing and incoming letters are included. Folder titles were written by the donor and have only been changed when necessary to better reflect the contents.

A small amount of the collection is in Arabic, primarily articles written about ATP in Arabic-language newspapers.

**Subjects**

Arab American drama  
Arab American theater  
Arabic drama  
Egypt  
Interviews--Arab Americans  
Theater--History

**Genre terms**

Articles  
Correspondence  
Interviews

## Contents

### **Box 1**

Folder 1: Relationship with the O'Neill Theater Center, 1995-2000

Folder 2: Programs, publications and photographs of ATP, 1997-1999

Folder 3: Correspondence with the Egyptian Ministry of Cultural Drama House, 1997-2000

Folder 4: Cairo correspondence (other than the Ministry of Culture), Lebanon and Emirates, 1997-1999

Folder 5: New York City correspondence, 1997-2000

Folder 6: Washington, DC correspondence, 1997-1999

Folder 7: U.S. correspondence outside of NYC and DC, 1998

Folder 8: London correspondence, 1998

Folder 9: Correspondence with Dr. Bahaa Wesfy of Zagazig University, 1995-2000

Folder 10: 1997 Cairo International Festival for Experimental Theater (Dr. Holly Hill representing the U.S. on the jury), 1996-1997

Folder 11: Grant proposals, 1999-2000

### **Box 2**

Folder 1: ATP helping individuals apply for Fulbright, internships and other grants – successes, 1998-2000

Folder 2: ATP helping individuals apply for Fulbright, internships and other grants – failures, 1998-1999

Folder 3: Interviews and correspondence for *Salaam.Peace: An Anthology of Middle Eastern American Drama*, 2007-2008

- Sam Younis
- Laura Shamus
- Bill Rauch
- Shishir Kurup
- Jamil Khoury
- Torange Yeghiazarian
- Maha Chehlauoi
- Ami Dayan

Folder 4: reOrient Festival and Forum, 2009