

Resources available elsewhere in the UK

“The research discovered that there is very little easily accessible documented evidence in mainstream arts institutions of either the presence of culturally diverse communities or their contribution to contemporary art history. Black arts archives do exist, but holdings are widely dispersed across the private, public and statutory sectors and, with few exceptions, these holdings remain at a rudimentary stage of cataloguing.”

Summary of Key Findings – *Archiving the Arts of England’s Culturally Diverse Communities*: a report by mpr ltd for the Arts Council of England, 1999

The extent of other holdings of material relating to black British theatre remains hugely under-explored. It is clear that there is relevant material in a number of accessible collections which are not necessarily aware of it e.g. have not identified as specifically black history-related and much work needs to be done to locate and identify this material.

The following lists point to some key resources both those holding actual archival materials as well as those web resources which aim to make materials and/or information digitally accessible online.

Archives and Museum of Black Heritage (formerly Black Cultural Archives)

Hold material including works of composer Samuel Coleridge Taylor, Jeffrey Green’s research materials for *Black Edwardians*. www.aambh.org.uk Tel: 020 7738 4591

Future Histories: ‘Re-membering Black Performance’

Future Histories is a non-profit organisation set up to maintain archives of African, Caribbean and Asian performing arts in the UK. Its current project ‘Re-membering Black Performance’ aims to organise, catalogue, preserve and encode the Black Theatre Forum archive and that of NITRO Theatre company (formerly Black Theatre Co-op). The project exists to promote access, education and research and raise awareness of the crucial need to preserve black British cultural heritage. It has as main objectives archiving, training in heritage and archiving skills, for African, Caribbean and Asian people in the UK; education to stimulate creativity and critical reading of Black history in young audiences and widening access to information on black performance heritage through digital and other innovative media.

Future Histories archives are currently housed at Middlesex University. The Black Theatre Forum archive in particular spans material on the six Black Theatre Seasons- a festival organised by the Forum in central London venues during the 1980s, as well as reports and other material on various additional activities undertaken by the organisation in developing black theatre in Britain including conferences, readings and workshops and editing the publication *Frontseat*.

Email: Dr Alda Terracciano, Founding Chair/Director: alda@futurehistories.org.uk or Aameena M. McConnell, Co-Founder/ Head of Marketing & Communications: aameena@futurehistories.org.uk. Tel: 020 7281 3709

Middlesex University Library Special Collections

The Carnival Archive at Middlesex University is a substantial collection of publications, documentation and ephemera of value in the study of Carnival. A significant range of books and video – and audio – recordings is held in the University’s permanent library collection on the Trent Park Campus. Ruth Tompsett’s personal collection is mainly held in her office at Trent Park, with key items on loan to the Library, for in-library use. The collection focuses predominantly on carnival in Trinidad and Notting Hill, London. Most material dates from the last 20 years, but significant items pre-date 1980. Contact: Ruth Tompsett, Tel: 020 8411 5664 Email: r.tompsett@mdx.ac.uk

University of Sussex Library MS Division

Falmer, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 9QL www.susx.ac.uk/library/manuscript/homemanu.html 01273 678157 Library@sussex.ac.uk

Holds typescripts of plays by black American writers: Langston Hughes, Owen Dodson and James Baldwin and correspondence

Yorkshire Dance Resource Centre

Holds videos for onsite viewing and hire including black dance and information and reports on Asian and Black dance. *Tel: 0113 2439867 Email: admin@yorkshiredance.org.uk*

Private Collections:

Stephen Bourne

African-American and African-Caribbean performing arts memorabilia from 19th century (photos, theatre programmes, stills, books, press cuttings etc.) especially British film, theatre, television and radio. Write: *Stephen Bourne, c/o Susan Croft, Theatre Museum, 1E Tavistock St, London, WC2E 7PR. Email: stephenbourne@amserve.com or stephen.bourne@southwark.gov.uk*

Leon Robinson: Positive Steps

Major collection of primary source material on black artists in England from the 19th century onwards, linked to the performing arts and multi-media production company Positive Steps, founded in 1990. A particular strength is the work of Ballets Negres. Historical material is used as 'hooks' and 'references' in making contemporary work.

Email: leon.robinson@virgin.net

Online Resources:

Backstage

Provides online Collections Level Descriptions (CLDs) of special and materials collections on the performing arts including details of Theatre Museum's special black theatre and Asian dance collections: www.backstage.ac.uk

CASBAH Project

Provides a pilot web site for research resources relating to Caribbean Studies and the history of Black and Asian peoples in the UK: www.casbah.ac.uk

SALIDAA: South Asian Diaspora Literature & Arts Archive

A digital archive of resources on South Asian literature and arts in England available on the web www.salidaa.org.uk. Includes material from UK-based South Asian writers, artists and organisations and has begun to set up an archive to record and preserve such items as well as digitise a selection of items to feature on the archive web site. Material ranges from excerpts of fiction, poetry and plays, authors' journals, images of artworks, photographs and programmes of performing arts, to leaflets and brochures advertising notable past events and conferences, annual reports and a selection of administrative documents. The archive will initially cover four main areas: literature (fiction, poetry), visual arts (painting, photography, sculpture), performing arts (theatre, dance) and music.

It concentrates on text and image-based material. *Contact Paola Marchionni, Project Director, SALIDAA, c/o Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 6NQ.*

Tel: 020-7603 0355, E-mail: paola@salidaa.org.uk

Black Arts Alliance

Black Arts Alliance is not actually an archive but a resource for black artists including bulletin board events, news and information. *Black Arts Alliance PO Box 86, Manchester, M21 7BA, United Kingdom Tel: 0161 832 7662 Fax: 0161 832 2276 or Email: baa@baas.demon.co.uk www.baas.demon.co.uk/news.html*

RESOURCES IN USA include: Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Morris Library, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois 62901-6632 www.lib.siu.edu

Material on Unity Theatre, Paul Robeson and Ira Aldridge is held in the manuscripts division of Southern Illinois

Northwestern University, Illinois, Charles Deering McCormick University Library, Library of Special Collections, Evanston, Illinois 60208-2300 Holds an important collection of materials on Ira Aldridge.