

# Posters from Newfoundland and Labrador's Performing Arts Community

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**Abstract:** The Performing Arts Collection (PAC) part of Archives and Special Collections, Queen Elizabeth II Library, Memorial University of Newfoundland, houses a fantastic array of performing arts posters. This collection (Coll-138) consists of more than 3000 posters acquired from a variety of sources featuring theatrical and musical productions, dance performances, benefit concerts, stand-up comedy acts, folk festivals and other performing arts events held in the province or featuring members of our community.

In 2010 the PAC began digitizing this dynamic collection and in 2012 the online collection was launched. Each poster has extensive, keyword searchable, metadata; a subtle watermark; and a link to the artists' website.

The PAC is a unique archival collection in that it serves the university community but its roots are firmly planted in the local arts community. It began in the early 1980's in response to concerns voiced by members of the local theatre community about the fate of the records relating to Newfoundland and Labrador's performing arts heritage, specifically those associated with the province's "cultural renaissance" of the 1960s-1970's. The PAC is a tangible reflection of Memorial's strategic plan, whose three pillars commit the University and its resources to teaching and learning, research and public engagement.

## **About the author:**

*Colleen Quigley* is the Manuscripts Librarian for the Performing Arts Collection at the Archives and Special Collections at MUN's Queen Elizabeth II Library. Colleen holds a Masters of Information from the University of Toronto; a BFA in Dance from York University and an English major from Memorial. She has worked as a performer, dance instructor and choreographer in St. John's, Toronto, and Maine (USA), as well as in Amsterdam and Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Prior to her return to Newfoundland in 2010 Colleen was the first institutional archivist at Canada's National Ballet School. Colleen has participated in Canadian think tanks, panels, and exhibitions on the preservation and promotion of dance and other aspects of the performing arts. She is an active member of the Canadian Society for Dance Studies; Association of Newfoundland & Labrador Archives; DanceNL; Kittiwake Dance Theatre, Newfoundland and Labrador Library

Association, Canadian Library Association, Performance Studies International, International Council of Traditional Music, as well as the Association of Canadian Archivists.