



## Dalhousie University Archives

### **Finding Aid - Personal archives of David Renton (MS-3-23.2014-003)**

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# Personal archives of David Renton

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Dalhousie University Archives
<b>Title:</b>	Personal archives of David Renton
<b>Reference code:</b>	MS-3-23.2014-003
<b>Date:</b>	1988- (date of creation)
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Physical description:</b>	13 cm of textual records and graphic material
<b>Note [generalNote]:</b>	Preferred citation: [Identification of item], David Renton fonds, MS-3-23, 2014-003, Box [box number], Folder [folder number], Dalhousie University Archives, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Writer, director, actor, and producer David Renton was born in Geelong, Australia in 1934. His career began in 1951 as an actor with St. Martins Theatre in Melbourne. He immigrated to Canada in 1954, eventually becoming a Canadian citizen in 1966. In Canada, Renton continued to work in the performing arts industry. In the 1950s, he worked for the CBC doing special effects lighting and lighting design for television shows such as *Howdy Doody* and *Front Page Challenge*. He also appeared on radio and television, began acting in stage productions across Canada in 1958, and joined John Hirsch's acting company at the Manitoba Theatre Centre in 1960. Three years later, Renton moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia to become a member of the first company of Neptune Theatre, where he would perform in more than one hundred plays. Over the next four decades, he made a name for himself in Canada in both the performing arts and amateur athletics communities.

From 1965 to 1966, Renton traveled around the world to study theatre. He visited fifteen countries, thirty companies, and saw more than sixty productions. Renton's career further diversified during the 1970s and 1980s. He directed a youth theatre group called "Project 30" in Halifax in 1973, served as the acting artistic director of Neptune from 1977 to 1978, was the drama advisor for the Nova Scotia Department of Education, founded Portus Theatre Productions where he served as artistic director from 1976 to 1983, served as Artistic Director of the Stephenville Festival in Newfoundland in 1981, coordinated the Provincial High School Drama Festival in Halifax in 1986, and acted at the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario in 1980 and the Stratford Festival from 1984-1986. In the early 1990s, Renton was involved with Upstart Theatre serving as director, sitting on the board, and acting in productions.

Renton also performed in film and television, appearing in *The Neptune Factor* (1973), *Bluenose Ghosts* (1974), *Emily of New Moon* (1999), and *Russian Roulette* (2001). In addition, he served as the stand-in for Gordon Pinsent in *The Shipping News* (2001). As a resource person, Renton worked extensively within the Canadian theatre community and in schools on many facets of theatrical production. He was

an active member of the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA) and the Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA).

David Renton also received acknowledgement for his work within the performing arts community. In 1955, he received an award for bravery in filming Hurricane Hazel in 1954. In 2003, he was awarded the Robert Merritt Achievement Award for his contributions to theatre in Nova Scotia. More recently, in 2004, the Maritime Chapter of ACTRA presented him with the ACTRA Award of Excellence, which was then renamed the David Renton Award of Excellence, in recognition of his contributions to the organization.

Renton also made valuable contributions to Canadian amateur athletics. He was the chairman of the Team Liaison for Skate Canada, which was held in Halifax in 1983, and later the production coordinator of the 1987 Canada Winter Games held in Sydney, Nova Scotia. In 1990, he was chairman of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies Committee for the World Figure Skating Championships held in Halifax.

David Renton and wife Karine had two daughters, Rachel and Bea. He passed away on May 2, 2006.

## **Custodial history**

Records were donated by Karine Renton in February 2014.

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## **Scope and content**

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This accession consists of miscellaneous records relating to David Renton's acting and directing career, including publicity and performance photographs, correspondence, contracts, and appointment calendars and diaries. There are also publicity photographs of Karine Renton's father announcing the CHNS radio program Now it Can Be Told.

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## **Notes**

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### **Title notes**

### **Conditions governing use**

Materials do not circulate and must be used in the Archives and Special Collections Reading Room. Materials may be under copyright. Contact departmental staff for guidance on reproduction.

### **Related material**

Related materials can be found in the Neptune Theatre (MS-3-1), Theatre Arts Guild (MS-3-4), and Upstart Theatre (MS-3-34) fonds.

### **Accruals**

No further accruals expected.

## Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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## Access points

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- Textual record (documentary form)
  - Actors and actresses (subject)
  - Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.) (subject)
  - Contracts (subject)
  - Directors, Theatrical (subject)
  - Personal archives (subject)
  - Photographs (subject)
  - Theater programs--Canada (subject)
  - Theaters--Nova Scotia--Halifax (subject)
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## Collection holdings

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### **Series: Publicity and performance photographs of David Renton**

Title: Publicity and performance photographs of David Renton

Date: [197?] - 1997 (date of creation)

Physical description: 30 photographs

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### **File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 1 - Photographs of Eastern Front Theatre's production of Crow**

Title: Photographs of Eastern Front Theatre's production of Crow

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 1

Date: 1997 (date of creation)

Physical description: 12 photographs [col. ; 102 × 152 mm]

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### **File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 2 - Photograph of John Wood Neptune production with Flo Patterson and David Hemblin**

Title: Photograph of John Wood Neptune production with Flo Patterson and David Hemblin

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 2

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Date: [197-] (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 photograph [col.; 210 x 297 mm]

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 2 - Photograph of David Renton and Josh MacDonald in North Street Church production of The Importance of Being Earnest**

Title: Photograph of David Renton and Josh MacDonald in North Street Church production of The Importance of Being Earnest

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 2

Date: [198-] (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 photograph [col.; 102 x 152 mm]

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 5 - Portrait photographs of David Renton**

Title: Portrait photographs of David Renton

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 5

Date: [198?] (date of creation)

Physical description: 6 photographs [b&w ; 127 x 178 mm]

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 6 - Portrait photographs of David Renton**

Title: Portrait photographs of David Renton

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 6

Date: [198?] (date of creation)

Physical description: 3 photographs [203 x 254 mm]

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 7 - Photographs of David Renton as mill operator in television series Yesterday's People**

Title: Photographs of David Renton as mill operator in television series Yesterday's People

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 7

Date: 1984 (date of creation)

Physical description: 2 photographs [b&w ; 203 x 254 mm]

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 7 - Photographs of David Renton and Sheila Moore and David Renton and Melody Ryan in Private Lives, directed by Tim Bond, at the Belfry Theatre, Victoria, BC**

Title: Photographs of David Renton and Sheila Moore and David Renton and Melody Ryan in Private Lives, directed by Tim Bond, at the Belfry Theatre, Victoria, BC

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 7

Date: [1979] (date of creation)

Physical description: 2 photographs [b&w ; 203 × 254 mm]

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 7 - Photograph of David Renton in unidentified production**

Title: Photograph of David Renton in unidentified production

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 7

Date: [19??] (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 photograph [b&w ; 203 × 254 mm]

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 7 - Contact sheet of publicity photographs of David Renton**

Title: Contact sheet of publicity photographs of David Renton

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 7

Date: [19??] (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 photograph

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 7 - Photograph of David Renton and other cast and crew members in unidentified production**

Title: Photograph of David Renton and other cast and crew members in unidentified production

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 7

Date: [198?] (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 photograph [b&w ; 127 × 178 mm]

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 2 - Photograph of Gary Vermier, Deb Allen, and David Renton during Actra Fraternal**

Title: Photograph of Gary Vermier, Deb Allen, and David Renton during Actra Fraternal

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 2

Date: [198-] (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 photograph [col.; 102 × 152 mm]

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 8 - Photographs of unidentified radio announcer broadcasting Now it Can Be Told on CHNS**

Title: Photographs of unidentified radio announcer broadcasting Now it Can Be Told on CHNS

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 8

Date: [194?] (date of creation)

Physical description: 7 photographs [b&w ; 203 × 254 mm]

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**Series: Textual records**

Title: Textual records

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 3 - Media reviews and program for Neptune Theatre's Warm Wind in China**

Title: Media reviews and program for Neptune Theatre's Warm Wind in China

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 3

Date: 1988 (date of creation)

Physical description: 0.25 cm of textual records

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 4 - Monthly memo calendars**

Title: Monthly memo calendars

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 4

Date: 1980-1983 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 9 - Address book**

Title: Address book

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 9

Date: [199?] (date of creation)

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 10 - Annotated script of Ray Whitley and Mark deWolf's The Snow Queen, with production schedule and cast list**

Title: Annotated script of Ray Whitley and Mark deWolf's The Snow Queen, with production schedule and cast list

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 10

Date: 1977 (date of creation)

Physical description: 2 cm of textual records

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 11 - Weekly diary**

Title: Weekly diary

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 11

Date: 1990 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 12 - Budget for Neptune Theatre's Nova Scotia High School Tour**

Title: Budget for Neptune Theatre's Nova Scotia High School Tour

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 12

Date: 1978 (date of creation)

Physical description: 2 pages

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 13 - Order form and brochure for L & H Hats**

Title: Order form and brochure for L & H Hats

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 13

Date: 1987 (date of creation)

Physical description: 4 pages

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 14 - Correspondence between Davod Renton and Paul Buston re. consultancy work for Upper Clements Family Theme Park**

Title: Correspondence between Davod Renton and Paul Buston re. consultancy work for Upper Clements Family Theme Park

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 14

Date: 1988-1989 (date of creation)

Physical description: 3 pages

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 16 - Correspondence and certificates of appreciation for David Renton's direction of opening and closing ceremonies of 1987 Canada Games**

Title: Correspondence and certificates of appreciation for David Renton's direction of opening and closing ceremonies of 1987 Canada Games

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 16

Date: 1987 (date of creation)

Physical description: 4 pages

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 15 - Thank you letter to David Renton from John Hirsch for his contributions to the Stratford Festival and a certification of appreciation from Mayor Blowes**

Title: Thank you letter to David Renton from John Hirsch for his contributions to the Stratford Festival and a certification of appreciation from Mayor Blowes

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 15

Date: 1986 (date of creation)

Physical description: 2 pages

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 17 - Canadian Actors' Equity Association contracts between David Renton and the Stratford Festival**

Title: Canadian Actors' Equity Association contracts between David Renton and the Stratford Festival

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 17

Date: 1980-1985 (date of creation)

Physical description: 6 pages

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 18 - Contract between CBC and David Renton on behalf of his daughter, Bea Renton, hired as principal performer in Children's Poetry, a Gazette insert**

Title: Contract between CBC and David Renton on behalf of his daughter, Bea Renton, hired as principal performer in Children's Poetry, a Gazette insert

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 18

Date: 1972 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 page

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 19 - Newspaper clippings related to David Renton's work with Upper Clements Park, Canada Games, and Neptune Theatre's Barometer Rising**

Title: Newspaper clippings related to David Renton's work with Upper Clements Park, Canada Games, and Neptune Theatre's Barometer Rising

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 19

Date: 1987-1989 (date of creation)

Physical description: 3 pages

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 20 - Neptune Student Theatre Company (Young Company) and Halifax Board of School Commissioners program information, application, and board meeting notes**

Title: Neptune Student Theatre Company (Young Company) and Halifax Board of School Commissioners program information, application, and board meeting notes

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 20

Date: 1974-1975 (date of creation)

Physical description: 15 pages

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**File: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 21 - Attendance figures and end-of-season statement from David Renton, Artistic Director of Neptune Theatre**

Title: Attendance figures and end-of-season statement from David Renton, Artistic Director of Neptune Theatre

Reference code: MS-3-23.2014-003, Box 1, Folder 21

Date: 1978 (date of creation)

Physical description: 2 pages

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