Anna Manahan
(1924-2009)
Irish Theatre Archive at
Dublin City Archives

Ellen Murphy Senior Archivist
19/5/2010
Edited 07/06/2015
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Collection Level Description

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference Code: ITA/282/
Title: Anna Manahan (1924-2009) Papers
Dates: 1941-2008
Level of description: Collection Level
Extent: 2 boxes, 1 OS folder

CONTEXT

Name of Creator: Anna Manahan
Biographical History/Administrative History

Anna Manahan was born in Waterford on 18 October 1924. After early success with her native Waterford Dramatic Society, Anna Manahan enrolled in the Gaiety School of Acting, run by Ria Mooney in 1944. Her first professional job was with Shelagh Ward’s fit up company, and throughout the late 1940’s and 1950’s, she worked as a freelance actor in many of Dublin’s theatres.

In 1955, she married stage director and actor Colm O’Kelly. He died less than a year later whilst they were both on tour in Egypt with the Gate Theatre Company. Anna went on stage that same night dedicating her performance to her husband. She never remarried.

In 1957, she came to national prominence for her critically acclaimed role of Serafina in the first Irish production of Tennessee Williams’ *The Rose Tattoo* in 1957. The production achieved unexpected notoriety when the cast were falsely accused of using a condom, then illegal in Ireland, on stage.

Rarely at rest, during her 60- year career Anna play at theatres throughout Ireland, Europe, the USA and Australia. She received a Tony Award nomination in 1969 for her role in the Broadway production of Brian's Friel's *Lovers*. Returning to Broadway 30 years later, she won the 1998 Tony Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Drama for her portrayal of doomed mother "Mag" in Martin McDonagh’s *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*.

Playwright John B. Keane wrote the play *Big Maggie* specifically for her and in her last stage role in 2005, she starred in *Sisters*, written for her by Declan Hassett.

Her roles in television included *The Riordans*, as Mrs. Kenefick in *Me Mammy*, the lead in *Leave it to Mrs O'Brien* and as Mrs. Cadogan in *The Irish R.M.*, and Ursula on *Fair City*. She also appeared in such films as Ulysses, The Viking Queen and Clash of the Titans.

Among the honors Anna Manahan received during her lifetime was the Gold Medal of the Éire Society of Boston in 1984, the Freedom of Waterford City in 2002, and an honorary doctorate from the University of Limerick in 2003.
She became the first Patron of Active Retirement Ireland, in 2008, after she spoke out strongly against government proposals to remove universal entitlement to medical cards for the over-70s. She died on 8 March 2009.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Personal papers of Anna Manahan transferred from her home in Waterford City on temporary loan for exhibition purposes to the Irish Theatre Archive at Dublin City Library and Archive in September 2009, by kind permission of Anna’s brothers Joe and Val Manahan. Collection formally donated to the Irish Theatre Archive, June 2015.

**CONTENT AND STRUCTURE**

**Scope and Content:** Papers relating to acting career of Anna Manahan from 1941 until her death in 2009. Includes printed material such as theatre programs, posters, handbills; includes press pack relating to *Irish R.M*; includes sketches of Anna, and costume designs; includes memorabilia relating to Eire Society Boston Award (1984); Freedom of Waterford City (2002), and conferring of Doctorate in University of Limerick (2003). Includes correspondence which includes letter from John B. Keane regarding *Big Maggie* and letters from Micheál Mac Liammóir and Hilton Edwards; Includes large photographic collection consisting of over 200 items, dating from 1941-2008'; includes recording of talk Anna gave to students at AADA; includes poem from Micheál Mac Liammóir.

**Accruals:** Future accessions of scripts and personal papers relating to career of Anna Manahan due to be donated by her family by end 2015.

**System of Arrangement:** Items are arranged by document type and then chronologically. Photographs are further arranged under sub-headings of (a) production shots, (b) headshots, (c) tv/film appearances (d) awards and honours (e) street clothes.

**CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE**

**Access:** Available to view by public who apply for research card in Dublin City Library and Archive Reading Room, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

**Reproduction:** The terms of the Copyright and Related Acts (2000) allows DCLA to provide photocopies of material for research purposes only. Researchers wishing to publish will be obliged to write to copyright holders for permission to do so.

**Language:** English

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:** None

**Finding Aid:** Descriptive List

**ALLIED MATERIALS**

**Existence and location of copies:** ITA/282/11Photographs and other documents scanned in preparation for ITA/ Anna Manahan Remembered Exhibition in 2009 and saved to Super PC: D Drive<ITA<ITA 268 Folder

**Related Units of Description:**
IE DCLA/ITA/266 Scott Family Theatre Collection
IE DCLA/ITA/230 Finegan Photographic Collection
### ITA/282/1 Theatre Programs (1942-2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref No:</th>
<th>ITA/282/1/1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document type:</td>
<td>Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>December 1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production:</td>
<td><em>Hawk Island</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author:</td>
<td>Howard Irving Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company:</td>
<td>Waterford Dramatic Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer/Director:</td>
<td>Sean Neeson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotation:</td>
<td>Program signed by cast members congratulating Anna Manahan on her first show with the Waterford Dramatic Society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note:</td>
<td>Anna Manahan cast as Madeline Austen. See also ITA/282/8/1.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref No:</th>
<th>ITA/282/1/2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document type:</td>
<td>Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>February 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production:</td>
<td><em>The Whip Hand</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author:</td>
<td>B. G MacCarthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company:</td>
<td>Waterford Dramatic Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer/Director:</td>
<td>Belle Johnston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note:</td>
<td>Anna Manahan cast as Berney Regan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref No:</th>
<th>ITA/282/1/3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document type:</td>
<td>Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>[c. 1940’s]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production:</td>
<td><em>Drama at Inish</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author:</td>
<td>Lennox Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company:</td>
<td>Equity Productions, Dublin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer/Director:</td>
<td>Sheila Ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note:</td>
<td>Anna Manahan cast as Helena (a servant)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ref No: ITA/282/1/4
Document type: Programme
Date: 12-26 My 1957
Production: The Rose Tatoo
Author: Tennessee Williams
Producer/Director: Alan Simpson
Set Design: Reginal Grey
Theatre: Pike Theatre Dublin
Note: Anna Manahan cast as Serafina. Production part of Dublin International Theatre Festival. Fragile handle with care.

Ref No: ITA/282/1/5
Document type: Programme
Date: 30 September 1958
Production: Live Like Pigs
Author: John Arden
Company: English Stage Company
Producer/Director: George Devine and Anthony Page
Set Design: Alan Tagg
Theatre: Royal Court Theatre
Note: Anna Manahan cast as Big Rachel.

Ref No: ITA/282/1/6
Document type: Programme
Date: 16 June 1964
Production: Bloomsday
Author: Adaption of James Jocye’s novel Ulysses by Allan McClelland
Company: Envoy Productions
Producer/Director: Barry Cassin
Set Design: John Ryan
Costume: Vera Patterson
Theatre: Gate theatre
Note: Anna Manahan cast as Molly Bloom

Ref No: ITA/282/1/7
Document type: Programme
Date: 25 July 1968
Production: Lovers
Author: Brian Friel
Company: Edward-MacLiammóir Dublin Gate Theatre
Producer/Director: Hilton Edwards
Set Design: William Ritman
Costumes: Noel Taylor
Theatre: [The Music Box]
Note: Anna Manahan cast as Hanna. This production of Lovers opened at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre as part of the Lincon Theatre Festival 1968.

Ref No: ITA/282/1/8
Document type: Programme
Date: 23 February 1970
Production: Big Maggie
Author: John B. Keane
Company: Gemini Productions
Producer/Director: Barry Cassin
Set Design: Patrick Murray
Theatre: Olympia Theatre
Annotation: ‘To darling Anna, The Greatest Maggie of them all. Could go on forever’
Note: Anna Manahan cast as Maggie Polpin.

Ref No: ITA/282/1/9
Document type: Programme
Date: [June 1979]
Production: Seven Stages of Anna
Author: Various
Theatre: Oscar Theatre
Note: Accompanied by Joseph Manahan with the Troubadours.

Ref No: ITA/282/1/10
Document type: Programme
Date: 11Feb-7 March 1981.
Production: The Shadow of A Gunman
Author: Sean O’Casey
Producer/Director: T.P. McKenna
Set Design: Rodney Ford
Theatre: Crucible Theatre, Sheffield
Note: Anna Manahan cast as Mrs. Henderson.

Ref No: ITA/282/1/11
Document type: Programme
Date: [c.1997/8]
Production: Beauty Queen of Leenane
Author: Martin McDonagh
Company: Druid Theatre Company/Royal Court Theatre
Producer/Director: Garry Hynes
Set Design/Costumes: Francis O’Connor
Theatre: Atlantic Theatre Company
Note: Anna Manahan cast as Mag Folan.
Ref No: ITA/282/1/12
Document type: Programme
Date: July 1999
Production: *Happy Birthday Dear Alice*
Author: Bernard Farrell
Company: Red Kettle Theatre Company
Producer/Director: Paul Brennan
Set Design/Costumes: Ben Hennessy
Theatre: Tivoli Theatre
Note: Anna Manahan cast as Alice

Ref No: ITA/282/1/13
Document type: Programme
Date: [2002]
Production: *The Matchmaker*
Author: John B. Keane, adapted by Phyllis Ryan
Company: the Machine Theatre Company
Producer/Director: Michael Scott
Set Design: Michael McCaffery
Costumes: Synan O’Mahoney

Ref No: ITA/282/1/14
Document type: Programme
Date: [2002]
Production: *Sive*
Author: John B. Keane
Company: Druid Theatre Company
Producer/Director: Garry Hynes
Set Design: Francis O’Connor
Costume: Kathy Strachan
Theatre: Druid Theatre
Note: Anna Manahan cast as Nanna Galvin

Ref No: ITA/282/1/15
Document type: Programme
Date: 31 July 2003
Production: *Auntie and Me*
Author: Morris Panych
Producer/Director: Anna Mackmin
Set Design: Hayden Griffin
Theatre: Gaiety Theatre
Note: Anna Manahan cast as Grace.
Ref No: ITA/282/1/16
Document type: Programme
Date: 12 September –15 October [2005]
Production: Sisters
Author: Declan Hassett
Company: City Theatre Dublin
Producer/Director: Michael Scott
Set Design: Stuart Marshall
Note: Anna Manahan cast as Mary/Martha. Part of the Colorada Festival of World Theatre.

ITA/282/2 Posters (1940-1979)

Ref. No. ITA/282/2/1
Document type: Poster, printed
Date: [c. 1940’s]
Production: Equity Productions Dublin
Theatre: Theatre Royal, Waterford
Description: Large poster advertising 7 nights of performances. Company includes Anna Manahan (Waterford Dramatic Society). [This was Anna’s first professional performance in Waterford]. Oversize :

Ref. No. ITA/282/2/2
Document type: Poster, printed
Date: September [1979]
Production: Seven Stages of Anna
Theatre: The Embankment Theatre, Dublin
Description: Poster advertising 2 weeks of performances by Anna Manahan in Seven Stages of Anna, Black background with white text. 290 mm * 230 mm, 1 item.

Ref. No. ITA/282/2/3
Document type: Poster, printed
Date: Undated
Production: Crazyway
Author: John B. Keane
Director: Carmel Honan
Theatre: Flexible Arts Theatre
Description: Poster with cast list and description of setting and scenes. 330 mm * 230 mm, 1 item.
ITA/282/3 Handbills (1998-2005)

Ref. No. ITA/282/3/1
Document type: Handbill
Date: [1998]
Production: Beauty Queen of Leenane
Author: Martin McDonagh
Company: Druid Theatre Company/Royal Court Theatre
Producer/Director: Garry Hynes
Theatre: Atlantic Theatre Company
Description: Includes list of cast and quote from The New York Times review, with colour picture of Anna Manahan as Mag Folan.

Ref. No. ITA/282/3/2
Document type: Handbill
Date: [2002]
Production: The Matchmaker
Author: John B. Keane, adapted by Phyliss Ryan
Company: the Machine Theatre Company
Producer/Director: Michael Scott
Description: Photograph of Anna Manahan and Des Keogh, with quotes from reviews by Waterford News and Star, RTE Online, and Evening Herald. Includes handbill for the Gaiety Theatre and Opera House Cork.
2 items.

Ref. No. ITA/282/3/3
Document type: Handbill
Date: 5-29 August 2005
Production: Sisters
Author: Declan Hassett
Company: City Theatre Dublin
Producer/Director: Michael Scott
Description: Handbill for world premiere at Assembly Rooms, with photograph of Anna as Mary and Martha.


4/1 c. 1941-1957
Scrapbook consisting of newspaper articles and reviews relating to the acting career of Anna Manahan.

Includes press-cuttings from local Waterford press such as the News and Star, and Munster Express. Includes cuttings relating Anna’s marriage to Colm O’Kelly and his death on Gate Tour of Egypt, Candida production in Paris, and The Rose Tattoo. Oversize
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. No.</th>
<th>Document type:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Publication:</th>
<th>Headline:</th>
<th>Description:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITA/282/4/6</td>
<td>Press cutting</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Play that Goes to Paris</td>
<td>Review of Bernard Shaw’s <em>Candida</em> at Gate theatre. Cast includes Christopher Casson and Anna Manahan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITA/282/4/8</td>
<td>Magazine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>File of press-cuttings with reviews of Tennesse William’s, <em>The Rose Tattoo</em> at the Pike Theatre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>[1959-1960]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication:</td>
<td><em>Theatre World</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>Includes article by Ossia Trilling titled ‘From the Emerald Isle, The Second Dublin International Theatre Festival’ with photograph of Anna Manahan in <em>Inquisition</em> at the Pike Theatre (p23)</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

1 item.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document type:</td>
<td>Press cutting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>30 June 1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication:</td>
<td>Irish Press</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headline:</td>
<td>Brightness and Cloud in Guitry Play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>Review of Sach Guitry’s <em>Don’t Listen Ladies</em> presented by Orion productions at the Gas Company Theatre, Dun Laoghaire.</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document type:</td>
<td>Press cutting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>[May 1961]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headline:</td>
<td>Fine Acting in play at Eblana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>Review of Orion Production’s production of <em>Serious Charge</em> by Philip King, performed at Eblana Theatre.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

1 item.

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<tr>
<th>Ref. No.</th>
<th>ITA/282/4/11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document type:</td>
<td>Press cutting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>[August 1961]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headline:</td>
<td>High tension in thriller at Eblana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>Review of W.O Somin’s <em>Close Quarters</em>, presented by Orion at Eblana theatre.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 item.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. No.</th>
<th>ITA/282/4/12</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document type:</td>
<td>Press cutting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>[1961]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headline:</td>
<td>An unknown shows veteran’s touch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description:</td>
<td>Review of <em>North City Traffic Straight Ahead</em> by James Douglas performed at Gaiety, Dublin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 item.
Ref. No. ITA/282/4/13
Document type: Press cutting
Date: 29 May 1962
Publication: Irish Times
Headline: An evening with Tennessee Williams at Eblana
Description: Review of ‘An evening with Tennessee Williams’ presented by Orion productions at Eblana theatre.
1 item.

Ref. No. ITA/282/4/14
Document type: Magazine
Date: March 1963
Publication: The Dublin Opinion
Headline: Plays and Films
Description: Includes review of The Blind Mice at Eblana Theatre (p20)
1 item.

Ref. No. ITA/282/4/15
Document type: Press cutting
Date: 23 October 1966
Publication: Evening Herald
Headline: The day the world missed a heart-beat
Description: Review of Michael McDonnell, All Gods Die on Friday at Eblana theatre.
1 item

Ref. No. ITA/282/4/16
Document type: Press cutting
Date: 4 December 1970
Publication: The London News
Headline: Play about lovable old scoundrel
Description: Review of James Bridie’s, Meeting at Night at Wimbledon Theatre.
1 item

Ref. No. ITA/282/4/17
Document type: Magazine
Date: 16-23 June 1971
Publication: Weekend
Headline: Milo’s a Real Mammy’s Boy
Description: Article about Anna Manahan in which she talk’s about death of her sister Billie and husband Colm O’Kelly, and her friendship with Milo O’Shea, whom she stars with in Me Mammy.
1 item.
Ref. No.  ITA/282/4/18
Document type: Press cutting
Date:   [1971]
Publication:
Headline:  Almost like first night
Description:  Review of Play Circle reading of *Ride the Wild Horses* by John Cowell at the Royal Dublin Hotel O'Connell street.
1 item.

Ref. No.  ITA/282/4/19
Document type: Press cutting
Date:   [1972]
Publication:
Headline:  Eblana show is definitely not for children
Description:  Review of four American comedy playlets by Robert Anderson, presented by Gemini at the Eblana.
1 item.

Ref. No.  ITA/282/4/20
Document type: Press cutting
Date:   27 March 1976
Publication:  The Times
Headline:  The Court of King George
Description:  Article about the twentieth anniversary of the English Stage Company, with group photograph, which includes Anna Manahan.
1 item.

21   [February 1982]  File consisting of reviews of Joycean text spoken by Anna Manahan against music performed by the RTE Symphony Orchestra as part of the Joyce Centenary events.
2 items

Ref. No.  ITA/282/4/22
Document type: Press cutting
Date:   [1983]
Publication:
Headline:  ‘Our Jane’ is relevant to us
Description:  Review of *Our Jane* by Michael Skelly presented by A Dublin Western Union cast at Belltable arts centre.
1 item
Ref. No. ITA/282/4/23
Document type: Press cutting
Date: 21 May 1983
Publication:
Headline: Eblana comedy of two brothers
Description: Preview of Sam Shepard’s *True West* at the Eblana. 1 item

Ref. No. ITA/282/4/24
Document type: Press cutting
Date: [1985]
Publication:
Headline: Festival Produces Abundant Fall Crop of Plays
Description: Review of *Dublin Theatre Festival* 1 item


Ref. No. ITA/282/4/26
Document type: Press cutting
Date: [May 1995]
Publication:
Description: Advertisement for Bernard Farrell’s *I do not like thee Dr. Fell* Opening at Gaieth Theatre on 4 May 1995 1 item

Ref. No. ITA/282/4/27
Document type: Press cutting
Date: [1996]
Publication:
Headline: New Druid Playwright is a “Natural”
Description: Review of the druid production of Brian Friel’s, *The Lovers of Cass Maguire* at Town Hall Theatre in Galway. 1 item

Ref. No. ITA/282/4/28
Document type: Press cutting
Date: 29 June 1996
Publication: The Tribune Magazine
Headline: Family Ties: Freda Vaughan on her sister actress Anna Manahan
Description: Article in which Freda Vaughan shares her memories of her sister Anna.
1 item

Ref. No. ITA/282/4/29
Document type: Print-out from website
Date: 1999
Publication: New York State Writes Institute Website, www.albandy.edu/writers-inst/tumanahan.html
Headline: Irish Actress credits writers with her stage successes
Description: Article about career of Anna Manahan
3 pp.

Ref. No. ITA/282/4/30
Document type: press-cutting
Date: [2002]
Publication: The Scotsman
Description: Advertisements for the Edinburgh Festival including John B. Keane’s The Matchmaker
1 item.

Ref. No. ITA/282/4/31
Document type: Print-out from website
Date: 30 April 2005
Publication: www.sfx.ie
Headline: Sisters: The world premiere of a new Irish Play
Description: Article previewing sisters.
2pp.

Ref. No. ITA/282/4/32
Document type: press-cutting
Date: Undated
Publication: Irish Independent
Headline: “37” Club Cast Made Most of Coward Play
Description: Review of “37” Theatre Club Production of Blithe Spirit.
1 item
IT/28/5  Correspondence (1941-2008)

5/1  29 September 1941  Letter from Mrs. M. Devlin, Hon. Sec and Treasurer of Waterford Dramatic Society accepting Anna Manahan as a member of the society and enclosing a copy of the Society’s Constitution.

5/2  1 May 1956  Letter of sympathy from Hilton Edwards and Micheál Mac Liammóir from Osborne Hotel, Malta to Mr. and Mrs. O’Kelly on the death of Colm.

5/3  5 March 1959  Letter from Hilton Edwards thanking Anna for £5 ‘very welcome in these ‘ard times. If anything crops up that may be of interest, I’ll not hesitate to get in touch with you. But I hear great things of your work and you seem to be pretty firmly established now’.

5/4  [c. May 1960]  Note from Tom Whelan commenting that he hopes to Charge and drop backstage to see Anna. Includes comment “I’ve been in Manchester today following up on a hunch and I’ve succeeded in getting thrown out of a TV studio three times in one day”. Note is written on back of monochrome photograph of Anna Manahan in rehearsal for A Moon for the Misbegotten.
14 August 1972

Letter from Micheál Mac Liammóir apologising to Anna for any distress caused by remarks attributed to Micheál in a newspaper about Colm. Includes transcript of original phrase he used as follows “Remembering the anguish endured, and the heroism displayed by Anna Manahan—a fairly full account of this is an old book of mine called Each Actor on his Ass—the actress’s account, as related in this book, reads oddly, though she was probably right to avoid and display of emotion when recalling it as an incident during our Egyptian tour”. Includes comment “Dear Anna, I have always admired both you and your work, and believe me, I would never, no never willingly do, say, or write anything about you that was not entirely expressive of my regard for you”. Includes annotation on rere from ‘Brendan’

3 pp.

6 August 1978

Letter from [Cynia]

4 pp.

20 July 1979

Letter from Hilton Edwards discussing possible Dorian Grey production for The Gate. Includes comment on his health after a recent operation.

Typescript, 2 pp.

3 April 1984

Letter from John B. Keane regarding Anna Manahan: “Anna Manahan is the most gracious lady it has even been my good fortune to meet in my long association with the Irish Theatre. Gracious is an inadequate word for Ireland’s most distinguished actress and for once I am at a loss for other worthier words to sing Anna’s praises properly. I can only say that I was lucky to have met her. Perhaps something of her rare quality might be gleamed from the fact no one in Dublin theatrical scene has a
hard word to say about Anna and knowing Dublin, that is an achievement which simply cannot be measured”

5/9  c. June 1984  Letter from [Doran Godwin], Rashtrrapati Bhaven, New Delhi describing her excitement at filming Lord Mountbatten: The Last Viceroy in India and commenting ‘I do think of you all [cast of Irish R.M] a great deal- perhaps everything is jollier this third go round

5/10  18 Feb 1992  Letter from Lorna[?] regarding costume for Greta and asking whether she can look through Anna’s own wardrobe for suitable items.


5/12  19 March 2001  Letter from John B. Keane to Val Manahan regarding his friendship with Anna and Big Maggie. Includes’ Anna and I go back forty one years when she starred in my play “The Highest House on the Mountain” for the 1960 Dublin Theatre Festival. She received excellent reviews. Neither of us ever looked back. I wrote Big Maggie for her after a party at her house. I had four sisters but Anna was my fifth”

5/14  27 June 2003  Letter from Janet Powell, General Manager, The Production Partnership Limited regarding rehearsals for Auntie and Me.  1 p. typescript

5/15  20 November 2008  Postcard from Martin McDonagh regarding The Cripple of Inishmaan to the Atlantic’. Postcard is of Orsen Welles and includes comment by McDonagh ‘who I remember you telling me a story about all those years ago in Galway, helping him [Orson Welles] down a fire-escape or something’  1 p.

(See also ITA/282/8 Photographs)

6/1  1975  Framed tribute to Solo Artiste Gaiety Theatre from Irish Actors Equity in recognition of Anna Manahan’s outstanding contribution to the art of the theatre. Signed by president of Irish Actors Equity. [Conservation note: Framed item, may be damaged]  1 item.

6/2  13 April 1984  Official Citation from the Massachusetts Senate extending congratulations to Anna Manahan in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments as an actress and her numerous contributions to the arts. Citation is signed by William M. Bulger, (president of the senate) and Edward B. O’Neill (clerk of the senate). Includes photocopies of citation.  5 items. Oversize

6/3  13 April 1984  File relating to Eire Society of Boston award of 1984 Gold Medal to Anna Manahan. Includes letter of confirmation of nomination; banquet program; copy of proclamation from the Office of the Mayor; letters and congratulations to Anna including letter from Irish R.M cast and producers, Peter Hall (National Theatre, London) Seamus Heaney, Thomas P. O’Neill jr. (Speaker, U.S House of representatives). Letter from O’Neill includes “All though glowing superlatives may rightfully be attributed to your many performances, what stays in my mind most is this: You have provided inspiration for playwrights, directors and your fellow actresses and, at the same time, you have maintained the rare ability to touch and communicate with all your many audiences. You have achieved what so many aspire to, the respect of your colleagues and the love of so many men and women everywhere”(13 April 1984).  c. 25 pp.
6/4  1997-1998  Drama Desk Awards Nomination Certificate for Anna Manahan in the category of outstanding actress in a play for *The Beauty Queen of Leenane.* 1 item.

6/5  8 May 1998  Certificate from The Drama League recognising Anna Manahan for her outstanding performance during the 1997-1998 Theatre Season in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane.* 1 item.

6/6  7 June 1998  Printed black folder from the 52nd Annual Antoinette Perry Awards (Tony Award), Includes picture of Tony Award engraved on front and ‘Anna Manahan, Beauty Queen of Leenane’ printed on insert. 1 item.

6/7  11 April 2002  Fax from Eire Society of Boston President and Board of Directors congratulating Anna on being granted the Freedom of Waterford City. 1 p.

6/8  April 2002  Invitation to the ceremony of the conferring of the Freedom of Waterford City on Anna Manahan, invitation. 1 p.

6/9  12 April 2002  Program for the admission of Anna Mannahan to the Freedom of the City of Waterford. Includes copy of Freedom Roll; menu for dinner; and list of Honorary Freedom of Waterford 1 item.
Program has been annotated with congratulations and good wishes from ‘Eddie and Pauline’, ‘Deputy Mayor’ and others.

6 pp.

6/10 24 February 2003 Program from University of Limerick for the Honorary Doctoral Conferring Ceremony Program. Includes photograph of Anna and citation for conferring of Honorary Doctorate of Letters with biographical information about Anna Manahan.

17 pp.

ITA/282/7 Costume Designs (1967-2003)

7/1  1967 Ink colour drawing of costume design for Anna Manahan as The Reader in Lovers. Includes also pencil sketches of detail of neck and back of costume.

1 item.

7/2. June 2003 Pencil sketch of costume design for Anna Manahan’s character of ‘Grace’ in Auntie and Me. [sketch originally enclosed with letter from Janet Powell- see ITA/282/5/11]

1 item.

ITA/282/8 Scripts (1931-2008)

Ref. No. ITA/282/8/1 Document type Play script, published Date 1931 Production Hawk Island Author Howard Irving Young Language English Description Script published by Samuel French Ltd. Script annotated in blue pen ‘Anna Manahan’. See also ITA/282/1/1

80 pp.

Ref. No. ITA/282/8/2 Document type Script for ‘Solo’, RTE TV series, typescript. Date 5 April 1964 Production ‘Solo’ – Shakespeare’s 57th Sonnet Author William Shakespeare Language English
Description: Script for *Solo*, RTE series. Anna was first woman to appear in *Solo*. Includes camera directions. Page numbered 1.

1 p.

Ref. No. ITA/282/8/3
Document type Script for ‘Solo’, RTE TV series, typescript.
Date 5 April 1964
Production ‘Solo’ – Widow Quinn’s speech from *The Playboy of the Western World*
Author J.M Synge
Language English

Description: Script for *Solo*, RTE series. Anna was first woman to appear in *Solo* . Includes camera directions. Pages numbered 12-13

2 pp.

Ref. No. ITA/282/8/4
Document type Script for ‘Solo’, RTE TV series, typescript.
Date 5 April 1964
Production ‘Solo’ – The Bell-Man
Author Robert Herrick
Language English

Description: Script for *Solo*, RTE series. Anna was first woman to appear in *Solo* . Includes camera directions and credits. Page numbered 20.

1 p.

Ref. No. ITA/282/8/5
Document type Play script, published.
Date [1963]- 1974
Production *The Year of the Hiker*
Author John B. Keane
Language English


94 pp.

Ref. No. ITA/282/8/6
Document type Part of TV script
Date [c. 2008]
Production Fair City
Author [unknown]
Language English

Description: Two pages from *Fair City* script of scene between Fr. Thaddeus (Tony O’Callaghan) and Dolores (Anna Manahan) regarding suicide of Milo.

2 pp.

9/1  c. June 1984  Press-pack for Series III of Irish R.M which includes invite for Anna Manahan to press reception and preview of second series, biographical information on actors in series III, and episode synopsis of series III. (See also AM 11/31 for photographs)  

11 pp.

ITA/282/10 Sketches (1960-1999)

10/1  [undated], c.1960’s  Pencil sketch of Anna Manahan, unsigned. Sketch is full face portrait.  1 item

10/2  c.1964  Pen sketch of Anna Manahan showing her side profile and left shoulder. Signed Molly Bloom. [Anna played Molly Bloom in 1964 production of Bloomsday - see ITA/282/1/6]  

1 item

10/3  1997  Colour sketch of Anna titled ‘10 Books of Bingo’. It shows Anna with bingo book and pencil in hand, and additional books around waist, saying ‘check’. Includes inscription ‘For the guy on his bike’. [drawing was enclosed in envelope titled’ Mary [J]oannby, A Scull in Connemara, orig. drawing]  

2 items.


1 item.

ITA/282/11 Photographs (1947-2008)

(a) Production Photographs (1947-2002)

11/1 1947 Monochrome production shot of cast of J.M Synge’s *Playboy of the Western World*, at the Mercury Theatre. Includes Anna Manahan in her London debut. Photo: Lionel Fitzgerald
160 mm*200 mm 1 item.

11/2 [1950?] Monochrome production shot of Anna Manahan in *The House of Bernardo Alba*. Photographer unknown. **Oversize item.**
[Conservation note: item fragile, with tears]
1 item.

2 items

5 items.

Photo: Studio Lipnitzki
5 items.

11/6 1957 File of monochrome production shots of first Irish production of Tennessee
Williams’ *The Rose Tattoo*, performed in the Pike Theatre. Cast includes Anna Manahan as Serafina. Photographs by Michael Peto. Includes two OS images

17 items

11/7  1958: Monochrome production shot of Anna Manahan as Rosie Probert with Dermot Tuohy (as Captain Catt) in Dylan Thomas’s *Under Milk Wood*, Gate Theatre. Photographer unknown

110 * 90 mm  1 item


250 mm * 210 mm  1 item


5 items.


10 items

11/11  April 1961: File of monochrome production shots of Tennessee Williams’ *Suddenly Last Summer*, Gemini Productions, at Eblana Theatre, performed as a double bill with *Lady of Larkspur Lotion*. Cast includes Anna Manahan as Mrs. Venable and Norman Rodway (as Dr. Cukrowicz). Photographer unknown.

8 items.

11/12  April 1961 File of monochrome production shots of Tennessee Williams’ *The Lady of...*
Larkspur Lotion, Gemini Productions, at Eblana Theatre, performed as a double bill with Suddenly Last Summer. Cast includes Anna Manahan as Mrs. Hardwicke-Moore, Maureen Toal as Mrs. Wire, and Norman Rodway as “The Writer”. Photographs by Tony Whelan.

6 items

11/13 May 1961:
Monochrome production shot of Philip King’s Serious Charge, Eblana Theatre of Anna Manahan As Mrs. Philips with Jack Aranson (as Howard Philips). Photographer unknown

210*260 mm 2 copies

11/14 1965

2 items.

11/15 1969
File of monochrome production photographs of Lovers by Brian Friel. Cast includes Anna Manahan and Niall Tobin. Photography by Robert Dawson. 38 Annes Lane, Anne Street, Dublin 2.

16 items.

11/16 1969:
Monochrome production shot of Anna Manahan in the title role of Big Maggie, a play written for her by John B. Keane. Photographer unknown.

250 mm *140 mm, 1 item

11/17 Undated [1970?]

c.40 items

11/18 December 1972
File of monochrome production photos of Dick Whittington, Gaiety Theatre Pantomime. Cast included Anna
Manahan, Maureen Potter, and Vernon Hayden. Includes one colour image.
Photographer Jas. D. O’Callaghan

12 items

11/19  1972/3
Monochrome production shot Anna Manahan in *Sweet and Sour*
Photographer unknown.
260 mm*175 mm 1 item

11/20  1974
File of monochrome production photos of cast in Neil Simon’s *Gingerbread Lady*, Eblana Theatre. Includes Anna Manahan as Evy Meara with Clare Mullen (as Toby Landail) and Philip O’Brien (as James Perry). Photographer unknown.
5 items.

11/21  1977
Production shot of Anna Manahan as Bessie Burgess in Sean O’Casey’s *Plough and the Stars*, Olivier Theatre, London. 1977: Photographer unknown.
20 mm *26 mm 1 item.

11/22  [c.1996]
Monochrome production shot of Anna Manahan in *Lovers of Cass Maguire*. Oversize.

File of photographs relating to Druid production of Beauty Queen of Leenane by Martin McDonagh. Includes photograph of cast at Cape Clear, October 1996 (Photo: Hugo Glendinning); photo of full company curtain call for Martin McDonagh’s Leenane Trilogy, 1997 (Photo Ivan Kyncl); photo of Anna Manahan with Jane Brennan in rehearsal for *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. 1996; photo of New York Bus with *Beauty Queen* advertisement; OS photo of Walter Kerr Theatre on Broadway, New York. (Photo: Garey Gadson). See also awards photos.
7 items
11/24    2002    File consisting of monochrome postcards produced as publicity for the Matchmaker. Poscards consist of Anna Manahan (as Lena Magee) and Des Keogh (as Dickky Mick Dicky O'Connor) with locations such Pisa, Egypt, Edinburgh, the Moon, Mount Rushmore, Ireland, and Eiffel Tower, Paris in the background. Postcards designed by D. Coudray.  
7 items.

10 items.

(b) Headshots (1941-2008)

11/26    c.1941-2008 File consisting of headshots of Anna Manahan at various stages in her career.  
c.60 items

(c) TV/Film Appearances (1966-1998)

11/27    1966: File of monochrome production shot of Anna Manahan in the lead role in Real Charlotte, RTE series adapted from the Somerville and Ross novel. Photo: Radio Telefis Eireann Publicity Division  
2 items.

11/28    1967 Monochrome production shot of Anna Manahan As Bella Cohen with Milo O’Shea (as Leopold Bloom) in film version of Ulysses. Photographer unknown.  
260 mm *210 mm, 1 item.

3 items.
2 items

19 items

120 mm*170 mm, 1 item

11/33  1993  Colour production shot of Anna Manahan as Irish Lil, in *“Swings and Roundabouts,”* episode of *Lovejoy*, BBC. Photographer unknown.  
1 item.

11/34  December 1998  Production shot of a televised seminar by the American Theatre Wing discussing topic of foreign actors on Broadway. Discussion panel pictured includes Anna Manahan, Iain Glen, Nicole Kidman, and Lea Salonga. Photographer unknown.  
210 mm*205 mm, 1 item.

(d)  *Awards/Honours (1975-2003)*
11/35  1975: Colour photograph of Anna Manahan receiving solo artist tribute from the Irish Actors Equity Association. Pictured with other recipients, which include Micheál Mac Liammóir and Niall Tobin. Photographer unknown. 150 mm * 180 mm, 1 item

11/36  1984: Monochrome photograph of Anna Manahan receiving the Eire Society of Boston Gold Medal Award. Photographer unknown. 200 mm *250 mm (2 copies)

11/37  1998: Photograph of Anna Manahan pictured with the Tony Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Drama, which Anna won for her portrayal of Mag Folan in Druid production of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* by Martin McDonagh. Photo Anita and Steve Shevett 250 mm *200 mm, 1 item

11/38  12 April 2002: File of colour photographs of Anna Manahan receiving Freedom of Waterford City from Mayor of Waterford, Councillor Hilary Quinlan, 12 April 2002. Photographer unknown. 6 items


(e) Anna in Street Clothes (1955-2008)

11/40  c.1955: File of monochrome photographs of Anna Manahan on her wedding day to Colm O’Kelly. Includes Anna walking down the aisle with her father, Paddy Manahan and Anna and Colm in wedding car. 2 items.
11/41  c.1956:  Sepia photograph with her husband Colm O’Kelly, whilst on tour in Egypt. 
Photograph The Associated Press
Limited  150 mm * 200 mm 1 item

11/42.  1965  Monochrome photograph of Anna Manahan, with Richard Huggett (author) 
and Fidelma Murphy outside Theatre Royal, Windsor for *The Lupin Blue Dress*. Photographer unknown. 
90 mm * 130 mm 1 item

90 mm * 90 mm (2 copies)

160 mm * 120 mm. 1 item

240 mm * 180 mm 1 item

11/46  1976  File of two photographs of Anna Manahan as drama adjudicator at Munitir na Tire, Thurles, County Tipperary. Pictured with festival winners. Photo: Unknown  
2 items.

210 mm * 260 mm, 1 item

11/48 1992 Monochrome photograph of Anna Manahan with the cast of *The Streets of Dublin* produced by Edward Farrell and Phyllis Ryan. Phyllis Ryan (centre), Frank Kelly (right, standing), Tom Murphy, and Ron Moody included in picture. Photo: Unknown

210 mm * 260 mm, 1 item


200 mm * 260 mm, 1 item

11/50 1997 File of photographs of Anna taken in Galway. Photos inscribed ‘Anna good luck, love Lucia, Galway 1997’ and ‘Anna Best wishes, Love Lucia, Galway 1997’. Includes photograph of Anna with [Tom Murphy?]. *Mould damage to both photographs*

2 items.

11/51 April 1998 Colour photograph of Anna Manahan with Dr. Harvey Wolinsky, taken on the opening night in Broadway of *Beauty Queen of Leenane*. Dr. Wolinsky treated Anna in New York, in February 1998, saving her life and became a great friend. He flew to Waterford in her final illness to see she was being properly treated. Photo: Unknown

130 mm * 180 mm, 1 item

11/52 c. 1998 Colour photograph of Anna Manahan in her dressing room in Kerr Theatre,
Broadway with Ian Pritchard and Anthony Bolger. Insert picture is of Walter Kerr Theatre. Photo: Unknown
210 mm * 300 mm, 1 item

11/53 23 March 1999 File of photographs of Anna Manahan giving a seminar to the students at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York. Photograph by Mark Wyville.(see also 13/1) 5 items

11/54 1999 Colour photograph of Anna Manahan with Merlin Holland, grandson of Oscar Wile. Anna was performing solo show of her favourite Irish writers, which included pieces by Oscar Wilde. She was unaware that Merlin was in audience at [Albany] show until after performance. Photo: Unknown 130 mm * 180 mm, 1 item

11/55 November 2008 File of photographs of Anna Manahan at the Golden Years Festival in Waterford, which was instigated at Anna’s suggestion to celebrate the contribution of older people to society. 3 items.

11/56 Undated Colour photograph of body of Anna Manahan and Ron Moody with scribbled note from Ron “To Anna, What am I covering, Love Ron Moody” 130 mm * 180 mm, 1 item.

**ITA/282/12 Production Notes (1977-1997)**


12/2 [1997?] Stage and production schedule for performances of the Leenane
Trilogy by Druid at the Olympia Theatre. Includes entries such as ‘pack all props/furniture’ and ‘production meeting’, and list of crew member responsible for each item. 3 pp.

**ITA/282/13/1 Recordings (1999)**

13/1 23 March 1999  Audio recording of talk by Anna Manahan to students at American Academy of Dramatic Arts (see also ITA/282/11/53) [Conservation note: item to be digitised]

**ITA/282/14 Miscellaneous**


2 c.1981  Film memorabilia Lunch box from *Clash of The Titans* in which Anna Manahan played role of one of the Stygian Witches.  1 item

3 Undated  Large travel make-up bag which Anna Manahan used through out her career. **Closed: Accessible for exhibition purposes only.**  1 item