Guide to the Sarah Ruhl Papers

YCAL MSS 1139

by Susan Brady

May 2018

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
beinecke.library@yale.edu
http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 1139

CREATOR: Ruhl, Sarah, 1974-

TITLE: Sarah Ruhl papers

DATES: 1990–2017

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 8.84 linear feet (10 boxes)

LANGUAGE: In English; one script in Korean.

SUMMARY: The papers include writings, teaching files, and other materials documenting Ruhl’s career as a playwright and essayist and teacher of poetry, playwriting, and modern drama.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.ruhl

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.ruhl.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.  box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition


Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Box 9: (laptop): Restricted material. May not be seen without the permission of the appropriate curator.

Box 10: (hard disk and external hard drive): Restricted until January 1, 2068. For further information consult the appropriate curator.
Sarah Ruhl (1974- )
Sarah Ruhl, born in Wilmette, Illinois in 1974, is an American writer of plays, poetry, and essays. Her plays include The Clean Room (2004), Passion Play (2005), In the Next Room, or the Vibrator Play (2009), and Scenes from Court Life (2016). Her plays have been produced on and off Broadway in New York City, in regional theaters throughout the United States, and internationally. Her book, 100 Essays I Don't Have Time to Write was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in 2014. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree (1997) and a Master's degree in playwriting (2001) from Brown University. She has taught drama and playwriting at Brown University and Wheaton College.

Scope and Contents
The papers include writings, teaching files, and other materials documenting Ruhl's career as a playwright and essayist and teacher of poetry, playwriting, and modern drama.

Arrangement
Arranged by type of material.
## Collection Contents

### Writings

6 linear feet (6 boxes)

**Plays**

Each play is represented by printouts of draft scripts with and/or without autograph annotations. May be accompanied by production-related material including cast lists, rehearsal schedules, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| b. 1 | *The Clean House*  
7 folders | 2002–2017 |
| b. 1 | *Dead Man’s Cell Phone*  
8 folders | 2003–2007 |
| b. 1 | *Eurydice*  
7 folders  
Includes script with autograph annotations by “Les,” and a Korean translation of script by an unidentified translator | 2003, undated |
| b. 2 | *For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday*  
5 folders | |
| b. 2 | *How to Transcend a Happy Marriage*  
8 folders | 2015–2017 |
| b. 2 | *In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play*  
5 folders | 2007–2008 June |
| b. 3 | *In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play*  
3 folders | 2008 December, undated |
| b. 3 | *Late, a Cowboy Song*  
4 folders | 2002–2003, undated |
| b. 3 | *Melancholy Play*  
7 folders  
Includes printed piano and vocal score “cues” by Jeffrey Weeter | 2003–2005, undated |
| b. 3 | *The Oldest Boy*  
6 folders  
Includes cast and personnel list and other material from workshop production at Lincoln Center | 2014 |
| b. 4 | *Orlando*  
2 folders | undated |
| b. 4 | *Passion Play*  
11 folders | 1997–2008, undated |
| b. 4 | *Scenes from Court Life*  
5 folders | 2015–2016 |
| b. 5 | *Stage Kiss*  
6 folders | 2009–2013 |
Plays (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| b. 5      | *The Three Sisters*  
6 folders  
by Anton Chekhov; “English version by Sarah Ruhl” | 2009 |
| b. 5      | *A Face in the Crowd*  
6 folders  
Music and lyrics by Elvis Costello; book by Sarah Ruhl; based on the short story and play for the screen by Bud Schulberg | 2016–2017 |

Musical production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 5</td>
<td><em>1st Drafts--poems</em></td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| b. 5      | “Death in Another Country”  
Typescript printout of volume of poetry | undated |
| b. 5      | “Peggy Poems”  
Includes typescript printout short story, “Sorrow and Joy” by Peggy Munson | undated |

Poetry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| b. 5      | “The Yellow Room,” “Poor Deborah,” “The Swim Club,” and untitled  
Includes printouts, annotated | 2000, undated |

Short stories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| b. 6      | *100 Essays I Don’t Have Time to Write*  
9 folders  
Published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux in 2014  
Includes printouts of manuscript and proofs with autograph corrections and annotations in an unidentified hand; printout of introduction to a reading of selected essays from the book | 2014, undated |
**Teaching Files**

*1.42 linear feet (2 boxes)*

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**Brown University--Playwriting**

- **Course packet**
  - b. 7 **Introductory Playwriting**
    - 2 folders
    - Includes syllabi; reading lists; questions; and photocopies of essays on playwriting
  - b. 7 **Student work**
    - 2001
  - b. 7 **Student instructor evaluations**
    - 2 folders
    - 2000–2001
  - b. 7 **Clippings for playwriting**
    - undated

**Wheaton College--Modern Drama**

- **Teaching notes**
  - Bogart, Ann
  - Brecht, Bertolt
  - Beckett, Samuel
  - Chekhov, Anton
  - Fornes, Maria Irene
  - Grimke, Angelina
  - Ibsen, Henrik
  - Kennedy, Adrienne
  - Mamet, David
  - Miller, Arthur
  - O’Neill, Eugene
  - Odets, Clifford
  - Parks, Suzan-Lori
  - Stein, Gertrude
  - Strindberg, August
  - Synge, J. M.
  - Vogel, Paula
  - Wellman, Mac
  - Wilde, Oscar

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>Williams, Tennessee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>Yeats/Noh Drama</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>Photocopies of articles on playwriting and plays</td>
<td>2 folders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>[Anna Keepsakes?]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>Berlitz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>The Real/Mimesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>Other syllabi</td>
<td>1990, 2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>Timeline</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>Student list, questions/papers</td>
<td>2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>Paper topics/guidelines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>Student instructor evaluations</td>
<td>2000–2001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>Course packet--plays</td>
<td>5 folders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>Scene work--Piven materials</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 7</td>
<td>Student work</td>
<td>1998–2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8</td>
<td>Teaching poetry</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes photocopies of published articles and poetry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers and Writers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8</td>
<td>Printed volumes of student poetry</td>
<td>1998–2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes Blackstone Valley Industries Writer’s group and Sophia Academy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8</td>
<td>Poems by school children</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 folders</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 8</td>
<td>PS 111--Project Read typescript journal</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8</td>
<td>Arts-in-Ed--other organizations</td>
<td>1993–1998, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8</td>
<td>Sophia Academy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes teaching syllabus and Ruhl’s resume</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 8</td>
<td>Business card for spa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Restricted Fragile Material

1.0 linear feet (1 box)

Restricted material. May not be seen without the permission of the appropriate curator.

b. 9 Laptop
Restricted Material

0.42 linear feet (1 box)

External hard drive and hard disk from laptop are restricted until January 1, 2068. For further information consult the appropriate curator.
Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
American drama -- 20th Century
American drama -- 21st century
Authors, American -- 20th Century
Authors, American -- 21st century
Dramatists, American -- 20th Century
Dramatists, American -- 21st century
Theater -- United States

Occupations
Authors -- United States -- 20th Century
Authors -- United States -- 21st century
Dramatists -- United States -- 20th Century
Dramatists -- United States -- 21st century

Names
Ruhl, Sarah, 1974-