

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the LGBTQ Film, Television, and Theater Collection

GEN MSS 1580



by Rosemary K. J. Davis

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P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 1580

TITLE: LGBTQ film, television, and theater collection

DATES: circa 1923-2008

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6.83 linear feet (7 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The LGBTQ Film, Television, and Theater Collection primarily consists of screenplays, scripts, and photographs from productions that include characters, storylines, or cultural references to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals, communities, or events.

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

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 <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.lgbtqfilm>.

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

Purchased from various sources, 2015-2019.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The LGBTQ Film, Television, and Theater Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

LGBTQ Film, Television, and Theater Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Scope and Contents

The LGBTQ Film, Television, and Theater Collection primarily consists of screenplays, scripts, and photographs from productions that include characters, storylines, or cultural references to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals, communities, or events.

Arrangement

Organized into four groupings: July 2015 Acquisition, July 2017 Acquisition, October 2019 Acquisition, and November 2019 Acquisition.

Collection Contents

July 2015 acquisition, 1923–2008

3.83 linear feet (4 boxes)

Contains scripts for television shows and films focused on LGBTQ-themes or LGBTQ characters. Also includes photographs of actors, directors, and productions.

Materials roughly maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b.1	"The Detective" script Contains a final draft script dated 8/17/1967 for the film starring Frank Sinatra and Lee Remick. Adapted from the novel by Roderick Thorp, this film represents an early attempt to portray issues of gay life. Sinatra is cast as a New York City homicide detective who investigates the deaths of some gay men. Despite stereotyped depictions of gay men, this was one of the first early Hollywood films to address, in any way, issues around gay oppression.	1967
b.1	Script of "Just Coffee" episode for "Ellen" sitcom Contains a table draft script dated 9/2/1997 for an episode of the TV sitcom "Ellen," titled "Just Coffee." This script belonged to production assistant Angela Giannoni and has numerous MS notes which primarily concern the blocking of scenes. In 1996, Ellen DeGeneres began negotiating with ABC for her character to come out as a lesbian. She was eventually successful, and the 1997-98 season would contain the famous "Puppy Episode," in which she made her lesbianism public. This script is from the subsequent and final season of the show.	1997
b.1	Script of "Public Display of Affection" episode for "Ellen" sitcom	1997
b.1	Script of "Public Display of Affection" episode for "Ellen" sitcom	1997
b.1	Script of "Rent to Own" episode for "Ellen" sitcom"	1997
b.1	Script of "Roommates" episode for "Ellen" sitcom"	1997
b.1	Script of "Womyn Fest" episode for "Ellen" sitcom	1997
b.1	Script of "Womyn Fest" episode for "Ellen" sitcom	1997
b.1	"The Fox" script Contains a production breakdown script dated 12/8/1966 for the screenplay by Lewis John Carlino. The screenplay, adapted from the novella by D.H. Lawrence, was made into the Mark Rydell-directed 1967 film starring Sandy Dennis, Anne Heywood, and Keir Dullea. The film is a tale of a lesbian couple struggling to successfully operate a chicken farm in rural Canada.	1966
b.1	"Norman...Is That You?" script Contains a script dated 4/16/1976 for the screenplay from writers Ron Clark, Sam Bobrick, and George Schlatter. The comedy tells of a young gay interracial couple dealing with the arrival of the black man's conservative family.	1976
b.2	"An Early Frost" script Contains a revised final draft script dated 2/21/1985 for the TV movie. This movie was an early film about the AIDS epidemic, portraying a young successful lawyer who must tell his family that he is gay and has contracted AIDS. The cast includes Gena Rowlands, Ben Gazzara, Sylvia Sidney, and Aidan Quinn.	1985

b. 2	"Partners" script Contains a third-draft script dated 2/19/1981 for the original screenplay by Francis Veber. The film, released in 1982, is a cop/buddy movie starring Ryan O'Neal and John Hurt, who must pose as a gay couple in order to go undercover in the gay community and track down a likely serial killer. Hurt plays a gay police clerk and O'Neal a heterosexual detective.	1981
b. 2	"The Lair 2" scripts Contains a spiral-bound collection of scripts dated 2/4/2008 for the entirety of the second season of the Lair. The television show is set at a private gay club operated by vampires, who use the club as a source for attractive young men to feed upon. This collection of scripts is signed by Fred Olen Ray, the show's supervising producer.	2008
b. 2	"The Sergeant" script Contains an estimating script dated 5/8/1967 for the film. The screenplay was written by Dennis Murphy, who originally authored the novel of the same name. "The Sergeant," set in post-war France, concerns an Army Sergeant who develops an obsessive homoerotic interest in a private under his charge.	1967
b. 2	"The Sergeant" novel with annotations by Dennis Murphy Contains a print copy of Dennis Murphy's novel "The Sergeant." This is Murphy's personal copy, which he used while subsequently adapting the work to the screen. Virtually every page contains Murphy's extensive annotations.	circa 1958
b. 6	Photographs--Jackie Curtis/Amerika Cleopatra	circa 1968
b. 6	Photographs--Kiss of the Spider Woman	1985
b. 6	Photographs--Pedro Almodovar/What have I done to deserve this?	1984
b. 6	Photographs--Patriot for me	1984
b. 6	Photographs--Nighthawks	1978
b. 6	Photographs--Craig Russell/Outrageous!	1977
b. 6	Photographs--F. W. Murnau	circa 1928-1931
b. 6	Photograph--Cal Culver	undated
b. 6	Photographs--Boys don't cry	circa 1999
b. 6	Photographs--Les biches	1968
b. 6	Photographs--Ramón Novarro	circa 1923-1932
b. 7	Photographs--Pink flamingos/Divine	1973
b. 7	Photographs--Cruising	1980
b. 7	Photographs--William Haines	1927-1934
b. 7	Photographs--Joe Orton/What the butler saw	1970
b. 7	Photographs--Andy Warhol/Imitation of Christ	1967
b. 7	Photograph--End as a man	1953

b.7	Photograph--Montgomery Clift/You touched me	1945
b.7	Photograph--Cary Grant and Randolph Scott Photograph is a publicity portrait entitled "Hollywood Bachelors".	1935
b.7	Photograph--Alla Nazimova	circa 1923
b.7	Photographs--Ed Wood/Glen or Glenda	1953
b.7	Photograph--All about Eve	1950

July 2017 acquisition, 1944–2012*2.75 linear feet (2 boxes)*

Contains scripts and artwork related to television shows and films focused on LGBTQ-themes or LGBTQ characters.

Materials roughly maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 3 (Oversize)	Sketch for Lily Tomlin's costume on "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In" Contains an original costume sketch for Lily Tomlin by costume designer Michael Travis. The piece is ink and watercolor on paper, and is for a bit on the NBC sketch-comedy show "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In," on which Tomlin was a regular performer.	circa 1970
b. 4	"Advise and Consent" script Contains a script by Wendell Mayes dated 7/5/1961 for the film. The story, adapted from the novel by Alan Drury, is the first Hollywood studio film to feature a main character who is bisexual. The story is loosely based on a real-life episode--in 1954, Wyoming Senator Lester Hunt died by suicide in the face of denouncement by Republican opponents (and McCarthy allies) regarding his gay son.	1961
b. 4	"Alexander: The Other Side of Dawn" script Contains a shooting script dated 2/24/1977 for the made-for-TV NBC movie, a sequel to "Dawn: Portrait of a Teenage Runaway." The story concerns a teenage boy from Oklahoma who arrives in Los Angeles hoping to become a movie star who instead ends up a sex worker. This was one of the first films dealing with homosexuality to be broadcast to a wide mainstream television audience.	1977
b. 4	"Behind the Candelabra" script Contains a script by Richard Lagravenese dated 3/27/2012 for the film. The biographical film, directed by Stephen Soderbergh, is an account of the performer Liberace and his relationship with Scott Thorson.	2012
b. 4	"The Devils" script Contains a final script dated 7/28/1970 for the film. This screenplay was written by Ken Russell, and was adapted from the novel "The Devils of Loudun" by Aldous Huxley and the play "The Devils" by John Whiting.	1970
b. 4	"Dress Gray" script Contains a first draft script dated 6/22/1979 by Gore Vidal. This screenplay was adapted from a novel by Lucian Truscott IV, and concerns the murder of a closeted gay cadet at a military academy.	1979
b. 4	"The Girl Rush" script and call sheet	1944
b. 4	"The Incredible Shrinking Woman" script Contains a first draft revision script dated 1/23/1978 for the film starring Lily Tomlin. This screenplay was written by Jane Wagner.	1978
b. 4	"The Incredible Shrinking Woman" script Contains a revised second draft script dated 7/23/1979 for the film starring Lily Tomlin. This revision of the screenplay was written by Jane Wagner and Joel Schumacher.	1979

b. 4	"Kalki" script Contains a second draft script dated 9/21/1989 by Gore Vidal. This screenplay is an unproduced adaptation of Vidal's apocalyptic novel.	1989
b. 4	"The Last Married Couple in America" script Contains a first draft script dated 12/4/1978 for the romantic comedy set in California. This original screenplay is by John Herman Shaner and concerns a couple whose desire to remain married is in conflict with the sexual revolution and the desires of a variety of other couples who are separating.	1978
b. 4	"The Music Lovers" script Contains a script, dated September 1970, for the film directed by Ken Russell.	1970
b. 4	"Pecker" script Contains a revised final shooting script dated 9/19/1997--11/04/1997 for the film about a young photographer who observes his family and neighbors in Baltimore through his camera. This screenplay was written and directed by John Waters.	1997
b. 4	"Philadelphia" script Contains a revised script dated 10/15/1992--12/01/1992 for the film starring Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington. The screenplay was written by Ron Nyswaner, and concerns an attorney who, after contracting HIV and getting fired by his law firm, hires a homophobic small-time lawyer to advance a wrongful dismissal suit.	1992
b. 4	"Victor/Victoria" script Contains a script (signed by Blake Edwards, revised 1/28/81 and housed in a cloth-bound box dated 1982) for the film starring Julie Andrews. Blake Edwards wrote and directed this comedy, which concerns a struggling soprano who finds her personal life complicated after finding working playing a female impersonator.	1982

November 2019 acquisition, 1931–1975*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

Contains scripts for films focused on LGBTQ-themes or LGBTQ characters.

Materials roughly maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 5	Annotated "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" script Script annotated by the play's lighting crew for use during the Broadway debut at the Belasco Theatre.	1975
b. 5	"Sunday Blood Sunday" script	1971
b. 5	"That Certain Summer" script Annotated script with some revisions.	1972
b. 5	"Women Love Once" script	1931

October 2019 acquisition, 1986 May 23

0.25 linear feet (1 box)

b. 5

"The Front Runner" script

1986 May 23

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

Gays and the performing arts
Gay theater -- United States
Lesbian and gay experience
LGBTQ resource
Motion pictures -- United States
Television scripts
Television -- United States
Theater

Genres / Formats

Screenplays -- United States -- 20th Century
Television scripts -- United States -- 20th
Century