

# Guide to the Susan Cole Papers

YCAL MSS 1615



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September 2023

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 1615

**CREATOR:** Cole, Susan Letzler, 1940- , author

**TITLE:** Susan Cole papers

**DATES:** 1976-2005

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 12.25 linear feet (28 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** This collection contains writings, typescripts, research files, notes, bibliography cards, photographs, publicity materials, printed material, and materials related to the life and work of Susan Cole, including papers related to Cole's publications: *The Absent One: Mourning Ritual, Tragedy, and the Performance of Ambivalence*, *Directors in Rehearsal: A Hidden World*, and *Playwrights in Rehearsal: the Seduction of Company*. Research files related to Joseph Chaiken are also included.

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

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## 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.scole>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.        box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Susan Cole, 2023.

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## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Susan Cole papers 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.

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## Preferred Citation

Susan Cole papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Susan Cole

Susan Letzler Cole (1940-) is an American educator and author. Born in Washington, District of Columbia, Cole graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke University in 1962. She then attended Harvard University, where she received her Master of Arts in 1963 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1968. Her notable works include *The Absent One*, *Directors in Rehearsal: A Hidden World*, and *Playwrights in Rehearsal: The Seduction of Company*. Cole is a professor of English at the Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains writings, typescripts, research files, notes, bibliography cards, photographs, publicity materials, printed material, and materials related to the life and work of Susan Cole, including papers related to Cole's publications: *The Absent One: Mourning Ritual, Tragedy, and the Performance of Ambivalence*, *Directors in Rehearsal: A Hidden World*, and *Playwrights in Rehearsal: the Seduction of Company*. Research files related to Joseph Chaiken are also included.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in four series: Series I. Absent one: mourning ritual, tragedy, and the performance of ambivalence, 1979 - 1993. II. Directors in rehearsal: a hidden world, 1976-1994, undated. III. Playwrights in rehearsal: the seduction of company, 1982 - 2000. IV. Research files related to Joseph Chaiken, 1997 - 2005.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Absent one: mourning ritual, tragedy, and the performance of ambivalence, 1979–1993

#### 2.08 linear feet (5 boxes)

This series contains writings, notes, drafts, typescripts, and other materials related to Cole's book *The Absent One: Mourning Ritual, Tragedy, and the Performance of Ambivalence*. Original annotated envelopes are retained in folders with material.

Materials maintain arrangement found at time of acquisition.

b. 1	Notes	1993
b. 1	Title page, table of contents, new bibliography, renumbered pages	undated
b. 1	Final bibliography, uncorrected, new chapter, uncorrected	undated
b. 1	Old preface, footnotes, bibliography	undated
b. 1	Original revised draft 2 Folders	undated
b. 1	Unidentified draft 2 Folders	1982 August 25
b. 2	Introduction and bibliography, final draft	1979-1980
b. 2	Eileen Blumenthal's comments and revisions of Chapter I	undated
b. 2	Chapter I & preface footnotes bibliography	undated
b. 2	First two chapters sent to Gerald Defaux	1980
b. 2	Chapter three original draft	undated
b. 2	Chapter three revised draft	1982 August
b. 2	Chapter four original draft	undated
b. 2	Chapter 4-Othello comments and corrections	1981
b. 2	Chapters five & six notes	undated
b. 2	Chapter 3-5 footnotes, bibliography	undated
b. 2	Chapter 5 and 6 and epilogue to Chapter 5	undated
b. 2	Chapter 7: Exit the king, original corrected draft	1982
b. 2	Chapter eight: Trespassing, original corrected draft	undated
b. 2	Chapter nine original	undated
b. 2	Master xerox	undated
b. 3	Typescript, unidentified draft 4 Folders	undated

b. 3	Retyped pages	undated
b. 3	Notes and unidentified pages	undated, 1981
b. 3	Unidentified pages <i>4 Folders</i>	
b. 3	New bibliography	undated
b. 4	Selective bibliography	undated
b. 4	Bibliography cards <i>9 Folders</i>	undated
b. 4	Correspondence <i>2 Folders</i>	1982-1989
b. 4	Printed material <i>2 Folders</i>	1982-1984
b. 4	Articles by Anna Caravel	undated
b. 5	Business papers re: Philip Winson Penn State Press	1984-1985
b. 5	Publicity, reviews, correspondence <i>2 Folders</i>	1984-1993
b. 5	Correspondence Joseph Chaikin	1982 July 27
b. 5	References	1992
b. 5	Comments	1980
b. 5	Rehearsal of mourning annotated	undated
b. 5	Rehearsal of mourning - Michael Kirby's copy	undated
b. 5	Vitae Preface Joseph Chaiken	undated

**Series II: Directors in rehearsal: a hidden world, 1976-1994, undated***6 linear feet (13 boxes)*

This series contains writings, notes, drafts, and other materials related to Cole's book *Directors in Rehearsal: A Hidden World*. Original annotated envelopes are retained in folders with material.

Materials maintain arrangement found at time of acquisition.

b. 6	Akalaitis, JoAnne <i>4 Folders</i> Contains notebook, notes, and printed material.	1987, 1991, undated
b. 6	Breuer, Lee <i>6 Folders</i> Contains notebook, notes, and printed material.	1986-1988, undated
b. 7	Breuer, Lee <i>10 Folders</i> Contains notebook, notes, and printed material, and material relating to "Warrior Ant".	1987-1990
b. 7	Ciulej, Livia <i>2 Folders</i> Contains notecards, notebook, notes, and printed material.	1986-1992
b. 8	Foreman, Richard <i>2 Folders</i> Contains notebook, notes, and printed material.	1985-1986
b. 8	Fornés, Maria-Irene <i>5 Folders</i> Contains notebooks, notes, and printed material.	1982-1988, undated
b. 8	LeCompte, Elizabeth <i>3 Folders</i> Contains notebooks, notes, and printed material.	1986-1989, undated
b. 9	LeCompte, Elizabeth Contains material related to Wooster Group.	1989
b. 9	Mann, Elizabeth <i>2 Folders</i> Contains notebooks, notes, and printed material.	1985-1986
b. 9	Marchitto, Martin <i>2 Folders</i> Contains notebooks, notes, and printed material.	1988, undated
b. 10	Marcus Contains material related to "Warrior Ant".	undated
b. 10	Renfield, Elinor <i>3 Folders</i> Contains notebooks, notes, and printed material.	1985, undated

b. 10	Wilson, Robert <i>6 Folders</i> Contains notebooks, notes, correspondence, and printed material.	1982-1994, undated
b. 11	Wilson, Robert <i>3 Folders</i> Contains notebooks, notes, and printed material.	1985-1986
b. 11	Sellars, Peter <i>5 Folders</i> Contains notebooks, notes, and printed material.	1985-1991
b. 11	Printed material <i>2 Folders</i>	1976-1985
b. 28	Printed material	1976-1982
b. 12	Notecards <i>3 Folders</i>	undated, 1987
b. 12	Introduction and firsts corrected	undated
b. 12	Introduction-final draft	1990
b. 12	Introduction, fragment, final	undated
b. 12	Intro Hidden world	1989 November 8
b. 12	Chapter 2 Renfield chapter first draft	undated
b. 12	Renfield chapter final revised draft chapter 2	1990 February
b. 12	Uncle Vanya Abingdon Square Chapter 3	undated
b. 12	Fornés chapter 3	undated
b. 12	Emily Mann Ch. 4	undated
b. 12	Chapter 5	1990 May
b. 13	Chapter 5	undated
b. 13	Richard Foreman (Chapter 7)	1990 June
b. 13	RW Chapter 8	1990 January 8
b. 13	RW chapter & LB chapter Chapter 11	1990 June 1
b. 13	Liviu Civei Hamlet. Chapter 9	1990 February 18
b. 13	Peter Sellars Chapter 10	undated
b. 13	Epilogue	1990 July 8
b. 13	Early draft pages	1990
b. 13	Long notes	1990 October 22



b. 13	Alice's copy	1991 January 24
b. 14	Alice's copy <i>3 Folders</i>	1991 January 24
b. 14	Pages sent to Ellie Fuchs	undated
b. 14	Ellie Fuchs notes	undated
b. 14	Complete printout first copy of book	undated
b. 14	Original draft <i>3 Folders</i>	undated
b. 15	Original draft fragment	undated
b. 15	Corrected draft <i>4 Folders</i>	undated
b. 15	Unidentified draft	undated
b. 15	Unidentified draft <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 15	Unidentified draft	undated
b. 16	Unidentified draft <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 16	Unidentified draft <i>5 Folders</i>	undated
b. 16	Extra pages	undated
b. 16	Loose pages, various drafts <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 17	Corrected page proof <i>4 Folders</i>	1992
b. 17	Corrected galley	1992 January 24-1992 January 25

## Series III: Playwrights in rehearsal: the seduction of company, 1982–2000

4.92 linear feet (10 boxes)

This series contains writings, notes, drafts, printed material, photographs and other materials related to Cole's book *Playwrights in Rehearsal: The Seduction of Company*. Original annotated envelopes are retained in folders with materials.

Materials maintain arrangement found at time of acquisition.

b. 18	Intro material <i>2 Folders</i>	1985, undated
b. 18	Special cards <i>7 Folders</i>	undated
b. 19	Special cards <i>13 Folders</i>	undated
	Photographs Original folders retained with material. Note that the description of materials in the finding aid accurately reflects the contents of folders even if the original folder labels do not.	
b. 20	Jerry Vezzuso	1985
b. 20	Teodoro, Dee Marie (Reynaldo S.)	1985
b. 20	Emily Mann	1990 August
b. 20	Unidentified <i>13 Folders</i>	1988, 1991, undated
	Photographs not used Original folders retained with material. Note that the description of materials in the finding aid accurately reflects the contents of folders even if the original folder labels do not.	
b. 20	Joanne Akalaitis	undated
b. 20	Lee Breuer	undated
b. 20	Unidentified <i>4 Folders</i>	1985, undated
b. 20	Materials related to identifying and obtaining photos for Directors in rehearsal	1988, 1991, undated
b. 20	Xeroxes of photos for book	undated
b. 20	Bibliography cards	undated
b. 20	Bibliography cards not used	undated
b. 20	Notes	1986, undated
b. 20	Fragments and notes	undated

b. 21	Transcripts <i>5 Folders</i>	1982
b. 21	Typescript, early draft <i>2 Folders</i>	
b. 22	Typescript, early draft <i>2 Folders</i>	undated
b. 21	Chapter 1 Sam Shepard: curse of the ruling class, original draft, revised	1990 October
b. 21	Chapter 2 David Rabe: a question of mercy, various drafts	1999
b. 21	Chapter 3 Elizabeth Egloff the devils revised draft	1999
b. 21	Chapter 4 Suzan-Lori Parks: in the blood & topdog and underdog previous draft	1999 November 9
b. 22	Chapter 5: Tony Kushner it's an undoing world & terminating previous drafts	1999 December
b. 22	Chapter 1-5 with DSC's notes <i>2 Folders</i>	1999 December
b. 23	Chapter 1-5 with DSC's notes <i>2 Folders</i>	1999 December
b. 23	Chapter 1 Sam Shepard curse of the starving class revised draft	1999 December 25
b. 23	Chapter 1 Sam Shepard revised draft	2000 April
b. 23	Chapter 2 David Rabe a question of mercy revised draft	1999 December 25
b. 23	Chapter 2 David Rabe revised draft	2000 April
b. 23	Chapter 3 Elizabeth Egloff the devils revised draft <i>2 Folders</i>	1999 December 25, 2000 April
b. 23	Chapter 4 Suzan-Lori Parks revised draft <i>2 Folders</i>	1995 December 25, 2000 April
b. 23	Chapter 5 Tony Kushner it's an undoing world & terminating revised draft	1999 December 25
b. 23	Chapter 5 Tony Kushner revised draft	2000 April
b. 23	Chapter 6 Miller original	undated
b. 23	Chapter 7 Fornes original	undated
b. 23	Epilogue (Ch. 8) Van Itallie original	2000, undated
b. 24	Preface-Introduction Chapter 6-8 David's copy	2000 May
b. 24	Introduction, revised draft and early notes on Chapter 8	2000 May 8
b. 24	Typescript, final corrected draft <i>5 Folders</i>	2000 August 27

b. 24	D. & S. copyedited ms. Pre-Routledge copyeditor's corrections & pre-finale author's corrections	undated
b. 25	D. & S. copyedited ms. Pre-Routledge copyeditor's corrections & pre-finale author's corrections <i>3 Folders</i>	undated
b. 24	Typescript pre-copy edited by Amy <i>6 Folders</i>	undated
b. 26	Proof, 1st pass <i>4 Folders</i>	2000
b. 26	Proofs, second pass <i>3 Folders</i>	2000
b. 26	Publicity, reviews <i>3 Folders</i>	1992
b. 26	Printed material	1988-1989
b. 28	Printed material	1999

**Series IV: Research files related to Joseph Chaiken, 1997–2005**

*.42 linear feet (1 box)*

This series contains notes and other materials related to Cole’s research on Joseph Chaiken.

Materials maintain arrangement found at time of acquisition.

b. 27	Series IV: Joseph Chaiken research materials <i>12 Folders</i> Folders contain notebook, notes, research notes, and printed material.	1997-2005
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## 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

Authors and theater  
Drama  
Drama -- 20th Century -- History and criticism  
Drama -- History and criticism  
Drama -- Study and teaching  
Playwriting -- 20th Century  
Playwriting -- Study and teaching  
Theater -- Education

### Occupations

Playwrights