

Garson Kanin Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2006

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

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Collection Summary

Title: Garson Kanin Papers

Span Dates: 1941-1965

ID No.: MSS29280

Creator: Kanin, Garson, 1912-1999

Extent: 2,500 items

Extent: 18 containers

Extent: 7.5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm73029280>

Summary: Actor, author, producer, and director. Correspondence and production material relating to Kanin's stage and film projects.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Clair, René, 1898-1981--Correspondence.

Guinness, Alec, 1914-2000--Correspondence.

Kanin, Garson, 1912-1999.

Kanin, Garson, 1912-1999. *Amazing Adele*. 1950.

Kanin, Garson, 1912-1999. *Born yesterday*. 1946.

Kanin, Garson, 1912-1999. *Boy*. 1956.

Kanin, Garson, 1912-1999. *Come on strong*. 1962.

Kanin, Garson, 1912-1999. *Diary of Anne Frank*. 1955.

Kanin, Garson, 1912-1999. *Do re mi*. 1955.

Kanin, Garson, 1912-1999. *Hole in the head*. 1956.

Massey, Dorothy Ludington, 1902-1982--Correspondence.

Sherwood, Robert E. (Robert Emmet), 1896-1955--Correspondence.

Subjects

Drama--Stories, plots, etc.

Motion pictures--Production and direction.

Theater--Production and direction.

Occupations

Actors.

Authors.

Motion picture directors.

Theatrical directors.

Provenance

The papers of Garson Kanin, actor, author, producer, and director, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Kanin in 1969.

Processing History

The Kanin Papers were arranged and described in 1972. In 2006 the papers were rehoused and the finding aid was updated.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Related Material

The Garson Kanin Papers complement the Ruth Gordon Papers and the [Ruth Gordon and Garson Kanin Papers](#) , which are also located in the Manuscript Division.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Garson Kanin is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Garson Kanin are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Garson Kanin Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1912, Nov. 24	Born, Rochester, N.Y.
1933	Graduated, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, N.Y. Acted for the first time on Broadway in <i>Little Ol' Boy</i>
1934	Appeared in <i>Spring Song</i> (play)
1935	Appeared in <i>Three Men on a Horse</i> (play)
1936	Directed <i>Hitch Your Wagon</i> (play)
1938	Directed <i>A Man to Remember</i> (film)
1939	Directed <i>The Great Man Votes</i> (film)
1940	Directed <i>My Favorite Wife</i> (film)
1941	Directed <i>Tom, Dick and Harry</i> (film)
1941-1945	Served with the United States army
1942	Married Ruth Gordon (died 1985)
1945	Codirected with Carol Reed, <i>The True Glory</i> , Dwight D. Eisenhower's film report on the Allied victory in Europe
1946	Wrote and directed <i>Born Yesterday</i> (play) for which he received the Donaldson Award and the Sidney Howard Memorial Award Directed <i>Years Ago</i> (play)
1948	Coauthored with Ruth Gordon <i>A Double Life</i> (screenplay)
1949	Coauthored with Ruth Gordon <i>Adam's Rib</i> (screenplay)
1950	Wrote the English libretto and directed <i>Die Fledermaus</i> for the Metropolitan Opera Co.
1952	Coauthored with Ruth Gordon <i>Pat and Mike</i> (screenplay)

1955	Wrote and directed <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> (play)
1959	Published <i>Blow Up a Storm</i> . New York: Random House
1960	Wrote and directed <i>Do Re Mi</i> (play)
1964	Directed <i>Funny Girl</i> (play)
1966	Published <i>Remembering Mr. Maugham</i> . New York: Atheneum
1969	Published <i>Cast of Characters</i> . New York: Atheneum
1971	Published <i>Tracy and Hepburn: An Intimate Memoir</i> . New York: Viking Press
1990	Married Marian Seldes
1999, Mar.13	Died, New York, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Garson Kanin (1912-1999) span the years 1941-1965 and consist of [General Correspondence](#) and a [Production File](#).

The [General Correspondence](#) features letters exchanged with the playwright, editor, and biographer Robert E. Sherwood beginning when Kanin was a private in military training in 1941 and ending with Sherwood's death in 1955. Other correspondents include René Clair, Alec Guinness, and Dorothy Massey.

The [Production File](#) is comprised of scripts of plays and screenplays that Kanin wrote or directed including *The Amazing Adele*, *Born Yesterday*, *The Boy*, *Come On Strong*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Do Re Mi*, and *A Hole in the Head*. The scripts are accompanied by related matter such as casting deliberations, performance evaluations, technical notes, financial records, foreign productions, stock and amateur rights, publicity, and printed matter.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in two series:

- [General Correspondence, 1941-1964](#)
- [Production File, 1945-1965](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1

Series

General Correspondence, 1941-1964

Letters sent and received by Kanin.

Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

BOX 1-18

Production File, 1945-1965

Article, book, film, and stage files.

Arranged by type of writing or production and therein alphabetically by title.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	General Correspondence, 1941-1964 Letters sent and received by Kanin. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 1	Clair, René <i>See Container 5, Foreign productions, France</i> Guinness, Alec, 1964 Massey, Dorothy, undated Sherwood, Madeline (Mrs. Robert E. Sherwood), 1949-1954 Sherwood, Robert E., 1941-1955 (4 folders)
BOX 1-18	Production File, 1945-1965 Article, book, film, and stage files. Arranged by type of writing or production and therein alphabetically by title.
BOX 1	Article, "On Playwriting," <i>Diners' Club Magazine</i> , 1962 Book, <i>Blow up a Storm</i> , reviews, 1959-1960 Films <i>Born Yesterday</i> Script, 1950 Correspondence Cohn, Harry, 1950-1951 Cukor, George, 1950 Frankfurter, Felix, undated "H-W" miscellaneous, 1948-1956 Legal papers, 1947-1953 Miscellany, 1950 Printed matter, 1950-1951 <i>The Old Boy</i> , screenplay, 1956 <i>The True Glory</i> , printed matter, 1945
BOX 2	Stage <i>The Amazing Adele</i> Script, undated (2 folders) Correspondence, 1950 Barillet, Pierre De Courville, Albert Shubert, Lee "A-W" miscellaneous Financial records, 1950 Ticket requests, 1950 (5 folders)

Production File, 1945-1965

Container	Contents
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BOX 3	Miscellany, 1950
	Printed matter, 1950
	<i>Born Yesterday</i>
	Script, 1945 (4 folders)
	Books
	Netherlands, undated
	United States, 1946
	Correspondence
	Arthur, Jean, 1945
	“A-B” miscellaneous, 1946-1951, 1963 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Chaney, Lon (1906-1973), 1948
	“C-F” miscellaneous, 1946-1955, 1962 (3 folders)
	Gordon, Max, 1945-1949
	“G-L” miscellaneous, 1946-1951 (5 folders)
	McKay, Scott, undated
	Mantle, Burns, 1946
	“M-O” miscellaneous, 1946-1949 (3 folders)
	Pardoll, David, 1948-1949
	Parker, Jean, 1948
	Porter, Cole, 1948
	“P” miscellaneous, 1946
	Robinson, Edward G., 1949
	Rogers, Ginger, 1949
	“R-V” miscellaneous, 1946-1950 (5 folders)
	William Morris Agency, 1946-1955
	Foreign productions
	Argentina, 1946-1953
	Australia, 1948-1953
	Austria, 1948-1950
	Belgium, 1952-1958
Brazil, 1952-1954	
China, 1948	
Czechoslovakia, 1946-1951	
Denmark, 1947-1960 (2 folders)	
BOX 5	England, 1946-1959
	France, 1946-1949
	Germany, 1947-1962
	Greece, 1947-1948, 1957
	Hungary, 1948
	Iceland, 1951-1956

Production File, 1945-1965

Container

Contents

	India, 1953-1959
	Ireland, 1948-1949
	Israel, 1948-1949
	Italy, 1947-1953
	Japan, 1949
	Mexico, 1952-1959
	Netherlands, 1947, 1958-1960
	Norway, 1947-1956
	Poland, 1946
	Portugal, 1958
	Spain, 1953-1959
BOX 6	Sweden, 1946-1959 (3 folders)
	Switzerland, 1947
	Turkey, 1959
	Yugoslavia, 1959
	Productions outside the continental United States
	Hawaii, 1948-1949
	Puerto Rico, 1962
	Stage manager's reports
	1946 (4 folders)
BOX 7	1947 (7 folders)
BOX 8	1948 (5 folders)
	1949 (2 folders)
BOX 9	(4 folders)
	Financial papers, 1946-1951 (4 folders)
BOX 10	(1 folder)
	Stock and amateur rights, 1946-1959
	Miscellany, 1949, undated
	Printed matter, 1946-1950, 1966, undated (2 folders)
	<i>The Boy</i> , script, 1956 <i>See also Containers 16-18, A Hole in the Head</i> (5 folders)
BOX 11	(2 folders)
	<i>Come on Strong</i>
	Script, French translation, 1964
	Correspondence
	Bacall, Lauren, 1961
	Baker, Carroll, 1961-1962
	Cassini, Oleg, 1962
	Davis, Sammy, 1962
	Hopper, Hedda, 1962

Production File, 1945-1965

Container

Contents

	Horne, Lena, 1962
	Johnson, Van, 1961-1962
	Merrick, David, 1962
	Pardoll, David, 1962-1964
	Stevens, Roger L., 1962
	“A-W” miscellaneous, 1962-1965 (2 folders)
	Casting, 1961-1962
	Contracts, 1962-1963
	Financial papers, 1962
	Music, 1962
	Production notes, 1961-1962, undated (1 folder)
BOX 12	(1 folder)
	Stage manager's reports, 1962
	Ticket requests for premiere, 1962
	Printed matter, 1961-1962
	<i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i> , scripts, undated (4 folders)
BOX 13	(4 folders)
	<i>Do Re Mi</i>
	Scripts, 1953-1961, undated (3 folders)
BOX 14	(7 folders)
BOX 15	(8 folders)
BOX 16	(1 folder)
	Playbill, 1960
	<i>A Hole in the Head</i> , Scripts, 1955-1957, undated <i>See also Containers 10-11, The Boy</i> (5 folders)
BOX 17	(8 folders)
BOX 18	(2 folders)
	<i>How I Wonder</i> , contracts, 1947
	<i>The Rugged Path</i> , printed matter, 1945