Mae West Play Scripts
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2010

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79078386

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014050

Prepared by David Mathisen

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014
Collection Summary
Title: Mae West Play Scripts
Span Dates: 1921-1964
ID No.: MSS78386
Creator: West, Mae
Extent: 14 items
Extent: 2 containers
Extent: .6 linear feet
Extent: 1 microfilm reel
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79078386
Summary: Actress and author. Typescripts of unpublished plays by West.

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
West, Mae.

Subjects
Drama--Stories, plots, etc.

Titles
Mae West papers

Occupations
Actresses.
Authors.

Provenance
The play scripts of Mae West, actress and author, were transferred to the Manuscript Division from the Library of Congress Copyright Office, 1974-1981.

Processing History
The play scripts of Mae West were processed in 1979 and 1984 and prepared for microfilming in 1988. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Mae West is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions.
Microfilm

A microfilm edition of this collection is available on one reel for use in the Manuscript Division subject to domestic copyright laws. The microfilm is not available for purchase and may not be borrowed on interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Mae West Play Scripts, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1893, Aug. 17</td>
<td>Born Mary Jane West, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Began performing professionally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Married Frank Wallace (divorced 1943)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appeared on Broadway in <em>A La Broadway</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Wrote, produced, and directed the Broadway show, <em>Sex</em>, which led to her arrest for obscenity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td><em>Diamond Lil</em> became a Broadway hit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Offered a motion picture contract by Paramount Pictures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Co-starred on screen with Cary Grant in <em>I'm No Angel</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Starred in <em>Klondike Annie</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Starred in <em>Every Day's a Holiday</em> with Randolph Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Starred opposite W. C. Fields on screen in <em>My Little Chickadee</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Starred in <em>The Heat's On</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Published <em>Goodness Had Nothing to Do with It; Autobiography</em>. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Appeared in screen version of <em>Myra Breckinridge</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Returned to the screen for a final time in <em>Sextette</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980, Nov. 22</td>
<td>Died, Los Angeles, Calif.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Content Note


Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged chronologically.
## Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,757

**Restricted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>“The Ruby Ring” (1921)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>“The Hussy” (1922)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>“Chick” (1924)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>**“Sex” (1926)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>**“The Drag” (1927)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>**“The Wicked Age” (1927)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>**“Diamond Lil” (early version, 1928)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>**“The Pleasure Man” (1928)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1 REEL 1</td>
<td>“Frisco Kate” (1930)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2 REEL 1</td>
<td>**“Catherine Was Great” (1944)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2 REEL 1</td>
<td>“Come on Over, or Embassy Row” (1946)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2 REEL 1</td>
<td>**“Sextette” (1st version, 1952)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2 REEL 1</td>
<td>**“Sextette” (2nd version, 1961)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2 REEL 1</td>
<td>**“Diamond Lil” (later version, 1964)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>