

**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: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79078386>

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

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014  
Revised 2024 June

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Mae West Play Scripts

**Inclusive 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 Typescripts of unpublished plays by West.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.

## Acquisition Information

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Mae West is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

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

## Scope and Content Note

The play scripts of Mae West (1893-1980) span the years 1921-1964 and consist of typescripts of unpublished plays, including "The Ruby Ring" (1921), "The Hussy" (1922), "Chick" (1924), "Sex" (1926), "The Wicked Age" (1927), "The Drag" (1927), "The Pleasure Man" (1928), "Diamond Lil" (two versions, 1928 and 1964), "Frisco Kate" (1930), "Catherine Was Great" (1944), "Come on Over, or Embassy Row" (1946), "Sextette" (two versions, 1952 and 1961), and "Diamond Lil" (later version, 1964).

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged chronologically.

## Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,757

\*\*Restricted

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