

Terrence McNally:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	McNally, Terrence, 1938-2020
Title:	Terrence McNally Papers
Dates:	1950s-2019
Extent:	60 boxes, 2 oversize boxes, 2 oversize folders (26.8 linear feet), and 2148 electronic files (30.5 GB)
Abstract:	The papers, which document McNally's career as a dramatist, include all of his major works for stage, screen, and television, as well as correspondence, electronic files, posters, production photographs, programs, and reviews. Articles by and about McNally, awards, and photographs are present in the papers. His public appearances, which include benefit performances, conferences, lectures, speeches, tributes, and memorials, are also represented.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-04844
Language:	English
Access:	Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival materials. To request access to electronic files, please email Reference .
Restrictions on Use:	Certain restrictions apply to the use of electronic files. Researchers must agree to the Materials Use Policy for Electronic Files before accessing them. Original computer disks and forensic disk images are restricted. Copying electronic files, including screenshots and printouts, is not permitted.

Administrative Information

Acquisition:	Gifts, 1999-2003 (Gift no. 11458, 11513, 11686, 11870, 12188)
Processed by:	Liz Murray, Emily Barker, Sean Castilla, 2003 Born digital materials processed, arranged, and described by Chance Adams and Brenna Edwards, 2015-2022.

Repository: [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection of Terrence McNally's papers includes all his major works for stage, screen, and television, as well as unproduced works, correspondence, and career-related material. McNally's achievements include numerous plays, operas, and musicals such as *Corpus Christi*; *Dead Man Walking*; *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*; *The Full Monty*; *Kiss of the Spider Woman*; *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*; *The Lisbon Traviata*; *Love! Valour! Compassion!*; *Master Class*; *A Perfect Ganesh*; *Ragtime*; *The Rink*; *The Ritz*; and *The Visit*. His collaborations with John Kander, Fred Ebb, and Jake Heggie, as well as his long-time association with the Manhattan Theatre Club, have been particularly productive and rewarding. Early in his career he was the recipient of two Guggenheim fellowships, followed by numerous awards, including four Tony Awards, an Emmy Award for "Andre's Mother," and Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel Awards, among others. McNally's generous gift of his papers to the Ransom Center incorporates material previously held at the Wisconsin Historical Society. In all, the collection dates from McNally's high school years through 2002.

The collection is organized in three series: I. Works; II. Career-Related and Personal; and III. Works of Others.

The works in Series I are arranged alphabetically by title. Unless described otherwise, the works are stage plays. Within titles, scripts are presented in order of creation, followed by correspondence, posters, production photographs, programs, and reviews. Translations and international productions are grouped separately, under each title.

The Career-Related and Personal material in Series II includes articles by and about McNally, awards, correspondence, interviews, papers and notes from high school and college years, and photographs, including an early series by Richard Avendon. Correspondence is arranged chronologically from 1955 to 2002. McNally's many public appearances, including benefit performances, conferences, lectures, speeches, tributes, and memorials, are also well-represented. His love of the opera is reflected in the opera-related projects and writings including his long-standing participation in the Metropolitan Opera Radio Network's "Opera News on the Air," as well as articles written on the subject.

Series III contains articles and programs collected by McNally but not directly related to his work, as well as writings by Tom Bywaters, Steven Lyons, and Royce Ryton.

Numerous books, serials, audio tapes, videos, compact discs, and memorabilia received with the papers were transferred to appropriate departments within the Ransom Center.

I. Works

A Man of No Importance, musical

Book introduction. 4 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2003

Disk-ID-No.
0911002G_040

Drafts. 62 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 1999-2001

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0911002G_124,
0911002G_125,
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0911002G_143,
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Published materials. 2 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2003

Disk-ID-No.
0911002G_066

All Together Now, script drafts with notes, n.d.

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All Together Now, drafts. 5 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1989-2001

Disk-ID-No.
0911002G_020,
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And Away We Go, play. 11 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2011-2015

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1712004G_003

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Common Ground (Mr. Roberts), teleplay

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	0911002G_029,
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	0911002G_042,
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Screenplay, first draft	Folder 2
Television script ideas	Folder 3
<i>Terrence McNally: Five Short Plays</i> , program and reviews, 1996	Folder 4
<i>This Side of the Door</i> , script, 1963	Folder 5
Three Driven Women, unpublished	
	Disk-ID-No.
Drafts. 8 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1998	0911002G_008, 0911002G_050, 0911002G_183, 20091102G_008
<i>Time Framed (2:00 PM)</i> , script for The First Annual Playwrights Support Fund Benefit, May 9, 1983	Box 49 Folder 6
<i>Tour in " Collision Course,"</i> scripts and reviews, 1968	Folder 7
<i>Trying Times II: L/S/M/F/T</i> , teleplay scripts, 1989	Folder 8
<i>XXIII Skidoo</i> , scripts, 1983	Folder 9-10
<i>Two-Thousand Sixty-Eight</i> , play for Circle Repertory Company's 20th anniversary benefit, 1988, script and program	Folder 11
"Untitled" corrected playscript; notes for plays	Folder 12
<i>Up in Saratoga</i>	
Scripts, 1988	Box 49 Folder 13-14
Scripts, cont'd, 1988-892	Box 50 Folder 1-2

Script drafts. 20 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1987-1988	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_022
Programs and reviews, Old Globe Theatre, San Diego, 1989	Box 50 Folder 3
<i>Urban Blight</i> , scripts, programs and reviews, 1988	Folder 4-5
<i>The Visit</i> , musical	
Scripts, 1999, with Frank Galati's notes and editing	Box 50 Folder 6-9
Scripts, cont'd, 2000	Box 51 Folder 1-3
Script drafts. 65 electronic files: Adobe PDF, Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, 1997-2003	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_116-0911002G_119, 0911002G_152-0911002G_159, 0911002G_182, 20091102G_007, 1712004G_001
Correspondence, Angela Lansbury and Frank Galati	Box 51 Folder 4
Programs and reviews	Folder 5
<i>Where Has Tommy Flowers Gone?</i>	
Scripts, 1969-70	Box 51 Folder 6-9
Scripts, cont'd	Box 52 Folder 1-3
Programs and reviews, 1971	Folder 4
Yale Repertory Theatre	Folder 5
New York, various venues	Folder 6
<i>Whiskey</i>	
Scripts	Box 52 Folder 7
Production photographs	Folder 8
Programs and reviews, 1973	Folder 9

<i>The Wibbly, Wobbly, Wiggly Dance that Cleopatra Did</i> , scripts and program, 1993	Folder 10
<i>Women's Rites</i> , script, 1967	Folder 11
<i>You and Hugh</i> ("Hugh and Son"), libretto and program, 1994	Folder 12
Collected plays, publicity and reviews	
<i>Collected Plays: Volume II</i> , 1996	Box 53 Folder 1
<i>15 Short Plays</i> , 1994	Folder 2
<i>Three Plays</i> , with setting copy, 1990	Folder 3-4
Reviews, various titles	Folder 5
Unpublished works	
90 Riverside ("890"). 2 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2003	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_083
American Tragedy, play. 2 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2005	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_039
At Rise	
Bay Street drafts. 4 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1997-1998	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_031, 0911002G_044
Drafts. 10 electronic files: Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, 1998-2003	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_082, 0911002G_087, 0911002G_091, 0911002G_181, 20091102G_005, 20091102G_006
Notes. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, 1997	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_091
Casa Verdi, notes. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, 2003	Disk-ID-No. 20091102G_002

Chatter, Yatter, Flotsom, & Dross or Ted & Tom & Terry & Terri. 2 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2003	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_069, 0911002G_079
Crucifixion, working draft. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, 2005	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_170
The Dartmouth Quartet. 8 electronic files: Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, 1992-2005	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_024, 0911002G_080, 0911002G_100, 0911002G_184, 20091102G_009
Dracula, New York City. 2 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2005	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_173, 20091102G_005
Gay Pride Week play. 1 electronic file: WordPerfect, 1994	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_038
Mrs. Reinhardt, HBO script. 1 electronic file: WordPerfect, 1991	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_021
NBC Pilot. 2 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1993	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_023
NCT project. 3 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2003	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_085
Speak Low. 4 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2003	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_058
Sundance project. 3 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2003	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_084
With This Ring. 7 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1998	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_183, 20091102G_004, 20091102G_008
Zoo. 3 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1998-1999	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_141

Disk-ID-No.

0911002G_061,
0911002G_068,
0911002G_102,
0911002G_103,
0911002G_115,
0911002G_166

Writings, miscellaneous. 10 electronic files: Microsoft Word, WordPerfect,
1995-2004

II. Career-Related and Personal

Articles about McNally	Box 53 Folder 6-8
Articles by McNally	Box 54 Folder 1
Articles by McNally. 39 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1989-1998	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_019, 0911002G_026, 0911002G_028, 0911002G_037
Awards	
By play title	
A-L	Box 54 Folder 2
M-V	Folder 3
By year, playwright	
1985-93	Box 54 Folder 4
1994-96	Folder 5
1998	Folder 6-7
1999-2001	Folder 8
Tony Awards	
1993, <i>Kiss of the Spider Woman</i>	Box 55 Folder 1
1995, <i>Love! Valour! Compassion!</i>	
1996, <i>Master Class</i>	Folder 2
1998, <i>Ragtime</i>	Folder 3
2001, <i>The Full Monty</i> (nominated)	Folder 4
Benefits, 1987-2002	Folder 5-6
Career-related writings, primarily for publications	Folder 7

"Letters from a Playwright," <i>New York Guide</i> , May-Aug. 1979	Folder 8-9
Conferences and festivals, 1988-98	Box 56 Folder 1
OPERA America's 24th annual conference, 1994, including McNally's keynote address	Folder 2
William Inge Festival, 1994	Folder 3
Correspondence	
1955-68	Box 56 Folder 4
1989-92	Folder 5
1993-97	Folder 6
1998	Folder 7
1999-2002	Folder 8
Undated	Folder 9
Correspondence. 29 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1991-1999	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_045, 0911002G_065
Daybooks, blank	Box 57 Folder 1
The Dramatists Guild, 1985	Folder 2
Gay Pride speech. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, 2003	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_069
Guggenheim Fellowships, 1966 and 1969	Box 57 Folder 3
High school and college papers and writings	Folder 4-7
College plays, programs, 1959-1960s	Box 58 Folder 1
Interviews	Folder 2-3
Lectures and speeches	Folder 4

Address to members of the League of American Theaters and Producers, Toronto, 1991	Folder 5
Juilliard commencement, May 22, 1998	Folder 6
"The Faces of Love: An Evening of Songs by Jake Heggie," narrated by McNally, Lincoln Center, May 2000	Folder 7
Opera-related projects and writings	Folder 8
Texaco-Metropolitan Opera Radio Network, "Opera News on the Air", 1981-92	Folder 9-12
1995-2000	Box 59 Folder 1
Articles on opera in <i>Horizon</i> , 1985	Folder 2
"Wozzeck," for the Metropolitan Opera Guild's Great Opera cassette series, 1989	Folder 3
Photographs, including Richard Avendon photos of McNally [oversize removed to Box 62]	Folder 4-5
McNally with President Bill Clinton at the White House, 1998	Folder 6
Alaska. 4 electronic files: JPG, 2003	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_171
Chapman University visit. 236 electronic files: JPG, 2019	Disk-ID-No. 1912010G_001
Chicago. 2 electronic files: JPG, 2003	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_171
Domestic Partnership Day. 3 electronic files: JPG, 2003	
East End Gay Organization at the Benson Gallery. 10 electronic files: JPG, 2003	
Fire Island. 3 electronic files: JPG, 2003	

Gay Pride. 32 electronic files: JPG, 2003

Gloucester, Mass. 9 electronic files: JPG, 2003

Kirdahy family photographs. 12 electronic files: JPG, 2004

Mexico. 35 electronic files: JPG, 2003

Tom and Terry. 1 electronic file: JPG, 2004

Tony Awards. 25 electronic files: JPG, 2003

Resolutions. 3 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1998

Disk-ID-No.
0911002G_026,
0911002G_037

SAGE Awards 2004, honoree presentation materials. 652 electronic files:
Adobe Photoshop, GIF, JPG, Microsoft PowerPoint, plain text, 2004-200

Disk-ID-No.
0911002G_001

Talks by McNally. 90 electronic files: Microsoft Word, WordPerfect,
1993-2003

Disk-ID-No.
0911002G_026,
0911002G_037,
0911002G_049,
0911002G_051,
0911002G_064,
0911002G_070,
0911002G_101,
0911002G_104,
0911002G_165

Tributes. 6 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2001-2004

Disk-ID-No.
0911002G_040,
0911002G_115,
0911002G_116

Tributes and memorials, including Jimmy Coco, Fred Ebb, Ruth Goodman Goetz, John
Kander, Jimmy Kirkwood, Angela Lansbury, Patricia Brooks Mann, Leonard Melfi,
and Chita Rivera

Box 59
Folder
7-9

III. Works of Others

Articles and clippings about others [oversize removed to Box 61]	Box 60 Folder 1
Bywaters, Tom. "Summer of 1991" and "Summer of 1993"	Folder 2-3
Chekhov, Anton, The Seagull, script. 2 electronic files: Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, 1998-1999	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_097
Lyons, Steven. "Cockroach Infestation"	Box 60 Folder 4
Programs, various non-McNally performances	Folder 5-6
Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare on Disk. 6 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1979-1980	Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_023
Ryton, Royce. "The Unvarnished Truth"	Box 60 Folder 7-9
Oversize	Box 61-62