

Lee Blessing:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator	Blessing, Lee, 1949-
Title	Lee Blessing Papers
Dates:	1960s-1999
Extent:	17 boxes, oversize flat file (7.14 linear feet) and 198 electronic files (719 MB)
Abstract:	The papers consist primarily of typescripts of plays, teleplays, and screenplays spanning the career of this American playwright.
Call Number:	Manscript Collection MS-04848
Language:	English.
Access	Open for research. 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	Gift, 1999 (Gift no. 11507)
Processed by	Liz Murray, 1999 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

The papers of American playwright Lee Blessing consist primarily of typescripts of plays, teleplays, and screenplays covering his entire career from his college years in the early 1970s to date. Blessing organized his materials by title, with corresponding publicity, reviews, and associated material, prior to delivery to the Ransom Center. The small amount of correspondence in the collection pertains mostly to collaboration and performance issues.

The collection is organized into two series: Works and Personal. Blessing's scripts, usually a series of dated drafts, are arranged alphabetically, followed by programs and reviews. His critically acclaimed play "A Walk in the Woods" is particularly well-represented. Numerous screenplays, often in collaboration with his wife Jeanne Blake and others, are also present as are teleplays and episodes for television series such as "Picket Fences," "Homicide," and "Nothing Sacred." Posters of performances of Blessing's plays, as well as other's works, are included in the collection, as are slides from performances of several of his plays.

Series II contains material from his high school and college years in the 1960s and 1970s, mostly programs of plays with which he was associated. Blessing's participation in National Playwrights Conferences for nearly twenty years, as well as articles and interviews by him are also present.

Awards, books, serials, and videotapes of performances received with the collection have been transferred to the appropriate custodial units within the Ransom Center.

Series I. Works

"Alive and Kicking," screenplay, with Phyllis Paullette and Jeanne Blake, draft; includes synopsis and revisions, 1 July 1993	box 1 folder 1
"Animals," play	
1978	box 1 folder 2-3
1980	folder 4-5
"At the Post Office," photocopy of script, nd	folder 6
"The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid," play	
1977	box 1 folder 7
Revisions, with research notes, 1981 and 1983	box 2 folder 1
Programs and reviews	folder 2-3
Baseball series proposal, 1993	folder 4
"Chesapeake," play	
1 July 1998	box 2 folder 5
2 Aug. 1998	folder 6
23 Aug. 1998	folder 7
Undated version	folder 8
Programs and reviews	box 3 folder 1
"Cobb," play	
1987	box 3 folder 2
8 Feb 1989	folder 3
July 1990	folder 4
Programs and reviews	folder 5-6

"Cooperstown," screenplay, typescript, undated	box 4 folder 1
Shooting script, March-May, 1992	folder 2
Programs and reviews	folder 3
"Creative Writing," screenplay with J. Blake, first draft, includes related piece "Magic Time" [incomplete drafts], 15 April 1996	folder 4
"Down the Road," play, revision, April 1991	folder 5
French version	folder 6
Programs and reviews	folder 7-8
"Eleemosynary," play, revision, May 1986	box 5 folder 1
Programs and reviews	folder 2-4
"Fortinbras," play, revision, July 1991	folder 5
Programs and reviews	folder 6
Programs and reviews (cont'd)	box 6 folder 1
"Going to St. Ives," play, draft, 30 July 1995	folder 2
Programs and reviews	folder 3
"Homicide: Life on the Street" television series, "Double Blind" episode, 1996	folder 4
"Independence," play	
One act, 1981	box 6 folder 5
Two acts, 1983 and 1985	folder 6
French text, "Independence, Iowa, "1985	folder 7
Programs and reviews	box 7 folder 1-2

Screenplay, with J. Blake, first draft, 7 Jan. 1996	folder 3
Interscope project, with J. Blake	folder 4
"Lake Street Extension," play, revision, Nov. 1992	folder 5
Programs and reviews	folder 6
"Live Soap--Minneapolis," with Sherry Kramer and John Richardson, play, programs and reviews, 1983	folder 7
"Majorie," play, programs and reviews, 1984	folder 8
"Milo's Arms," screenplay, with J. Blake, draft, Oct. 15	folder 9
Oct. 31st draft	box 8 folder 1
"A Nearly Perfect Weekend," play, 1986	folder 2
"Nice People Dancing to Good Country Music," play, with "Toys for Men," play, 1983	folder 3
Programs and reviews	folder 4
"Nothing Sacred" television series, "Signs and Words" episode, shooting script, Nov.-Dec., 1997	folder 5
"Oldtimers Game," play, nd	folder 6
Programs and reviews	folder 7-8
"Patient A," play, revision, Feb. 1993	box 9 folder 1
Programs and reviews	folder 2
"Picket Fences" television series, "Jupiter Himself" and "Upbringings" episodes, 1995	folder 3

"Push-ups," play, with Michael Robins and Alfred Harrison, script, programs and reviews, 1982	folder 4
"The Rights," play, programs and reviews, ca. 1994	folder 5
"Scottish Play," La Jolla Playhouse production, photographs. 143 electronic files: JPEG images, 2005	Disk-ID-No. 0810006G_001
"Steal Big, Steal Little," screenplay in collaboration with others	
20 Jan. 1994	box 9 folder 6
22 Feb. 1994	folder 7
12 May 1994	box 10 folder 1
1 Nov. 1994	folder 2
2 May 1995	folder 3
"Summer in Clinton," play, 1981	folder 4
"The Trial of Standing Bear," teleplay, revisions, 1984 and 1986	folder 5
"Two of Hearts," screenplay with J. Blake, draft, 6 Oct. 1993	folder 6
"Two Rooms," play, revision, Sept. 1989	folder 7
Programs and reviews	box 11 folder 1-2
Adaptation for television, first draft, Dec. 1990	folder 3
"A Walk in the Woods," play	
Script, ca. 1986	box 11 folder 4
June 1986 revision	folder 5
20 Dec. 1987	folder 6
Yale Repertory Theatre copy, 20 Dec. 1987	folder 7

28 Feb. 1988	box 12 folder 1
German version	folder 2
Russian/English version, 2 copies	folder 3-4
Programs and reviews	
Broadway, 1988	box 12 folder 5-6
Foreign, 1990-92	box 13 folder 1-2
La Jolla, 1987-89	folder 3
London, 1988-89	folder 4
PBS, 1989	folder 5
Regional, 1987-91	folder 6-7
Yale, 1987	box 14 folder 1
"War of the Roses," play, 1984 and 1985	folder 2
German version	folder 3
Programs and reviews	folder 4
"The Winning Streak," play	
1 Dec. 1998	box 14 folder 5
1999	folder 6
1 Feb. 1999	folder 7-8
1 Feb. 1999	box 15 folder 1
7 May 1999	folder 2
8 May 1999	folder 3-4
Apple Tree Theatre, press release. 1 electronic file: PDF, April 2006	Disk-ID-No. 0704001G_001
Apple Tree Theatre production, photographs. 18 electronic files: JPEG images, 2006	

Rewrites

box 15 folder 5

Programs and reviews

folder 6

Posters [removed to oversize flat file]

Slides of performances including "Independence," "Oldtimers Game," and "Two Rooms"

folder 7

Series II. Personal

Minnetonka High School and Reed College, 1960s-70s	box 16 folder 1-2
University of Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois, 1970s	folder 3-4
National Playwrights Conference, The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, 1983-1999	folder 5
Conference, cont'd	box 17 folder 1-2
Articles and interviews	folder 3-4
Bourke, Dana. "Lee Blessing: An Analysis of Three Plays," M. A. Thesis, 1995	folder 5