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)
Repository: Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin
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

  Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_075,
  0911002G_095,
  0911002G_124,
  0911002G_125,
  0911002G_127,
  0911002G_128,
  0911002G_142,
  0911002G_143,
  0911002G_144,
  0911002G_148-0911002G_150


  Published materials. 2 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2003

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

  Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_066

  Box 1
  Folder 1

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

  Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_020,
  0911002G_037

And Away We Go, play. 11 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2011-2015

  Disk-ID-No. 1712004G_003

And Things That Go Bump in the Night

Early versions, variant titles

  "Mmm!"

  "There Is Something Out There"

Scripts

  Broadway production script, annotated

  Minneapolis production, 1964, reviews and associated material

  Box 2
  Folder 1
Broadway, Royale Theatre production, 1965, opening night telegrams and correspondence

Folder 2

Articles about

Folder 3

Andre's Mother, teleplay, American Playhouse, 1989

Script, first draft, Jan. 22, 1989

Box 2 Folder 4

Correspondence and reviews

Folder 5

Apple Pie (three one-act plays for television: "Tour,""Next," and "Botticelli"), 1968, correspondence, production photographs, and reviews

Folder 6

Bad Habits

Scripts, "Dunelawn" and "Ravenswood"

Box 2 Folder 7-10

Rewrite during Manhattan Theatre Club rehearsals, March 1990

Folder 11

Production photographs, Booth Theater, 1974

Folder 12

Programs, reviews, and related material

Box 3 Folder 1

Television treatments

Folder 2

"Ravenswood," teleplay, first draft, 1979

Folder 3

Banana Peels, screenplay, drafts, 1990

Folder 4-5

Banana Peels, screenplay, drafts. 3 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1991

Disk-ID-No. 0911002G_025

Better and Worse, television pilot

Box 3 Folder 6

Bingo!, musical

Scene outline, lyrics, "Blanco!" script, holograph notes

Box 3 Folder 7
Scripts, 1987  
Scripts, cont'd  

Botticelli, teleplay script and play reviews, 1969

Broadway, Broadway (originally Bye Bye Broadway)

By the Sea, By the Sea, By the Beautiful Sea (Dusk)

Catch Me If You Can, musical

Central Park (The Food of Love), opera with Robert Beaser
Chita Rivera: The Dancer’s Life


Common Ground (Mr. Roberts), teleplay

Scripts

First draft, Jan. 1999

Edited pages, April 1999

Third draft, May 1999

Advertising with cast list, SHOWTIME premiere, Jan. 2000

Corpus Christi

Scripts

First draft, Labor Day, 1997


First revision

Undated, uncorrected draft

North Carolina School of the Arts (NCSA), draft, Dec. 1997

Rehearsal script, mid-way, McNally's copy
Manhattan Theatre Club, spring 1998 draft

Grove Press proofs, 1998

German published edition, 1999


Correspondence, 1998


Manhattan Theatre Club workshop. 2 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1998

North Carolina revision. 9 electronic files: Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, 1997

Notes. 2 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1998

Reviews and general articles, various performances [oversize removed to Box 61]

Bailiwick Arts Center, Chicago, 2001

Manhattan Theatre Club, 1998

Production photographs

Programs
Reviews

New Conservatory Theatre Center, San Francisco, 2000

International productions

*Cuba Si*

Script

Reviews, 1968

Screenplay

Dead Man Walking, opera

New York City Opera

Project files. 2 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1997

San Francisco Opera

Vocal/piano score, n.d.

Vocal/piano score, Nov. 1999


Script, revised 3/13/00

Photographs, McNally at reception; with Jake Hegge and Sister Helen Prejean

Programs and reviews

Reviews and articles

Programs and reviews, various performances

New York City Opera, 2002

International productions

Dedication or The Stuff of Dreams, play, drafts. 9 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2002-2004

*The Education of Young Harry Bellair, Esq.* or *The Way of the World*, pilot script, 1983-84 [also includes "Teacher's Break," pilot script, copy, revised 8/2/84]

*Faith, Hope & Charity*, "Hope" scripts, programs, and reviews, 1988

Fire and Air, play. 4 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2002-2003

*The Five Forty Eight*, teleplay based on the story by John Cheever, script, revised July 1979

*Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*

  First drafts, Nov.-Dec. 1986

  Second drafts, Feb.-May 1987

  Production drafts, 1987


Translations

  Danish, 1988

  French, 1991

  Italian

  Japanese
Romanian, 1997
Spanish
Correspondence
Posters [removed to oversize folder]
Programs and reviews, various performances
Belasco Theater, New York, 2002
Boston Post Road Stage Company, 1990
Manhattan Theater Club/Westside Arts Theater (Bates/Welsh), 1987-89
Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles, 1988
Syracuse Stage, 1988
Westside Arts Theater, New York (Weitz/Kane), 1988
International productions
Comedy Theatre, London, 1989
Ittre, Belgium, 1990
Screenplay
Rough treatment, May 1989
First draft, March 1990
Revision, June-July 1990
Revised first drafts, Sept. 1990-Feb. 1991
Pacino rewrites, Oct. 1990
Shooting script, Jan. 1991
Rewrites, Feb.-March 1991
Casting
Shooting schedule
Draft press kit
Publicity, correspondence, and reviews

The Full Monty, musical

Scripts

First drafts, with correspondence

New York City Workshop draft and final, Feb. 2000

San Diego rehearsal script, April 2000

Revisions, post opening night, June 2000

Rewrites


Articles and reviews, 2001-02

Programs, various performances
International programs and reviews

Workshop. 6 electronic files: Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, 2000

Golden Age, play


Goin' to the Chapel, screenplay, 1986

Great Scott, libretto


Final version. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, 2017


Here's Where I Belong, musical based on Steinbeck's East of Eden

Script

Programs, reviews, and sheet music, 1968

Honkytonk, musical film, story outline and songs

House, written with Jon Robin Baitz, play reviews

Iris and Luigi Meet the Wolfman, screenplay, revised first draft, 1980

It's Only a Play (originally Broadway, Broadway)

Script

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Programs and reviews

Manhattan Theatre Club, 1986

UCLA Doolittle Theatre, 1992

"Ken," short story

Kiss of the Spider Woman, musical

First draft and revisions, 1988-89

Rehearsal version, SUNY Purchase, 1990

Scripts and rewrites, 1990-1993

Proofs, Samuel French edition, 1996

Correspondence, 1990-95

Poster, Broadhurst Theatre, signed by cast [removed to oversize folder]

Programs and reviews, various performances

Broadhurst Theatre, New York, 1992

SUNY Purchase, 1990

International productions

London, 1992

Toronto, 1992

The Lady of the Camellias, adapted from the novel by Alexandre Dumas, program and reviews

Last Gasps, teleplay, script, 1969

The Last Mile, teleplay, scripts, notes, working papers, and reviews, 1992
Script. 2 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1980

*Let it Bleed*, scripts and program

*Lips Together, Teeth Apart*

Scripts, various drafts, 1991


Published version, setting copy, NAL/Dutton, 1992

Translations

French

German, 1992

Italian, 1993

Correspondence, 1991-93

Posters [removed to oversize folder]

Programs and reviews, various performances [oversize removed to Box 61]

Alley Theatre, 1993

Manhattan Theatre Club, 1991

Market Theatre, Albany, New York, 1992

Theatre in the Square, Marietta, Georgia, 1993

International productions

*The Lisbon Traviata*
Notes and script fragments

Scripts

Undated early version

Original typescript

Revision, May-June 1985

Revision, May-June 1985, cont'd

Manhattan Theatre Club

Rehearsal draft, spring 1989

Revisions: 4/24, 5/17 and 6/2/89

Revisions, cont'd: 6/15 and 6/30/89

Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles, 9/4-11/8/90

Published "final" version

Translations

French

German

Italian

Swedish

Programs and reviews, various performances

Bailiwick Repertory, Chicago, 1991

Manhattan Theatre Club, 1989

Manhattan Theatre Club, cont'd
Marines Memorial Theater, San Francisco, 1990

Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles, 1990

Theatre Off Park, New York, 1985

International productions

*Love! Valour! Compassion!*

Research and notes

Preliminary draft

Scripts

First draft, Dec. 1993

Revisions, March-Aug. 1994

Revisions, Sept.-Oct. 1994

Pre-Broadway production

Translations, French and Spanish

First night correspondence, Manhattan Theatre Club

Reviews and programs, various performances

Walter Kerr Theatre, New York, 1995

International productions

Film version, reviews

Naked Angels script. 3 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1993

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Folder 4

Folder 5-8

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Folder 10

Box 28 Folder 11

Box 29 Folder 1-6

Box 30 Folder 1-2

Folder 3

Folder 4

Folder 5

Box 31 Folder 1-2

Folder 3

Box 32 Folder 1-2

Folder 3-5

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*Mama Malone*, scripts for television pilot, 1982

The Magic Hour, screenplay (unpublished)

*Drafts. 3 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1993*

*A Man of No Importance*, musical

Scripts, June 2000-Aug. 2002

Programs, Lincoln Center Theater at the Newhouse, 2002

*Man to Man*, preliminary script, 1984

*Master Class*

Scripts, 1995

Script drafts. 5 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1995

Translations, 1996

French

Italian

Japanese

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Folder 1-3

Box 33 Folder 4-8

Box 34 Folder 1

Box 34 Folder 2-4

Box 34 Folder 5-7

Folder 8

Folder 9
Correspondence, 1995-96

Posters [removed to oversize folder]

Production photographs, various performances

Programs and reviews [oversize removed to Box 61]

Golden Theatre, New York, 1995

Mark Taper Forum, Los Angeles, 1995

Plays and Players Theatre, Philadelphia, 1996

Stage Theatre, Denver, 1999

International productions, various

International productions, cont'd

Australia

Canada

France

Germany

Italy

Book version, publicity

Screenplay by Leonard Foglia, fourth draft, 1998

*McNally's Talley's*, script for Circle Repertory Company benefit

Mothers and Sons, play. 22 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2013-2014

Musicals, untitled, with Skip Kennon [?], drafts of scripts

*McNally, Terrence, 1938-2020* Manuscript Collection MS-04844
Native Tomatoes/Local Peaches, television comedy pilot, 1988

Next

Scripts


Programs and reviews, various performances

Berkshire Theatre Festival, with production photographs, 1968

Television pilot, final draft, 1976

Noon

Scripts

Programs and reviews for "Morning, Noon, and Night," 1968-69

Screenplay, first draft 1970, including early treatment "Juicy," n.d.

Pal Joey, musical concert adaptation, programs and reviews, 1995-98


Frontespiece. 2 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1998


Songs. 5 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1997


Paying Up, script collaboration, 1993

A Perfect Ganesh

Scripts, 1992-93


Fragments

Spanish translation
Correspondence, 1993-98

Programs and reviews

International productions

Screenplay, first draft, 1996

*Plaisir d'Amour*, scripts and program for benefit

*The Play of Malcome*, script based on James Purdy's novel, 1964

*Positively 10th Street*, television pilot drafts, 1978-79

Prelude and Liebestod, notes, programs, reviews, 1987-89

Prelude, Fugues, & Rifts, script, programs, and reviews, 1991

*Puccini*, screenplay drafts, 1986-97

*Ragtime*, musical

Scripts

- 1994
- 1995
- 1996
- 1997-98


Correspondence, 1996-98

Production photographs

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0911002G_002-0911002G_006,
0911002G_035,
0911002G_053,
0911002G_054,
0911002G_146, 0911002G_151
Programs and reviews, various performances [oversize removed to Box 61]

Folder 6

Ford Center for the Performing Arts, New York, 1996-98
Folder 7-8

Shubert Theatre, Los Angeles, 1997
Box 44 Folder 1-2

Livent promotional materials
Folder 3

*The Rink*, musical

Box 44 Folder 4-8

Scripts and rewrites, 1983-95

Disk-ID-No.


Correspondence, 1983-84
Box 44 Folder 9

Programs and reviews, various performances, 1988-96
Box 45 Folder 1

Martin Beck Theatre, New York, 1984
Folder 2

International productions
Folder 3

Folder 4

*The Ritz* (originally *The Tubs*)

Box 45 Folder 5-7

Scripts for *The Tubs*, n.d.

Box 46 Folder 1-6

Scripts, cont'd, 1974

Box 47 Folder 1-2

Scripts, cont'd

Folder 3

Programs, reviews, and production photographs for *The Tubs*, Yale Repertory Theatre, 1974

Folder 4-7

Scripts and revisions for *The Ritz*, 1974-75
Programs and reviews, various performances, 1974-97

Screenplay, second draft, 1976

Film reviews

*The Roller Coaster*, script, 1960

*Sam Found Out or the Queen of Mabababwe*, teleplay written with Wendy Wasserstein, scripts and reviews, 1988

*Sand between the Sheets*, teleplay, first draft, 1991

*Sex and Love*, programs and reviews, Caracas, 2000; poster removed to oversize file folder

The Stendhal Syndrome, play

- Dedication. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, 2004
- Drafts. 20 electronic files: Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, 2001-2004

*Some Christmas Letters*, text and programs, 1999 benefit concert

- Drafts. 4 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 1999-2003

*Some Easter*, play for Circle Repertory 1987 gala, script and programs

Some Men, play, drafts. 21 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2005

*Sweet Eros and Witness*
Scripts

Production photographs

Reviews, 1968-69

Screenplay, first draft

Television script ideas

*Terrence McNally: Five Short Plays*, program and reviews, 1996

*This Side of the Door*, script, 1963

Three Driven Women, unpublished

Drafts. 8 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1998

*Time Framed (2:00 PM)*, script for The First Annual Playwrights Support Fund Benefit, May 9, 1983

*Tour in "Collision Course,"* scripts and reviews, 1968

*Trying Times II: L/S/M/F/T*, teleplay scripts, 1989

*XXIII Skidoo*, scripts, 1983

*Two-Thousand Sixty-Eight*, play for Circle Repertory Company's 20th anniversary benefit, 1988, script and program

"Untitled" corrected playscript; notes for plays

*Up in Saratoga*

Scripts, 1988

Scripts, cont'd, 1988-892

Programs and reviews, Old Globe Theatre, San Diego, 1989

_Urban Blight_, scripts, programs and reviews, 1988

_The Visit_, musical

Scripts, 1999, with Frank Galati's notes and editing

Scripts, cont'd, 2000


Correspondence, Angela Lansbury and Frank Galati

Programs and reviews

_Where Has Tommy Flowers Gone?_

Scripts, 1969-70

Scripts, cont'd

Programs and reviews, 1971

_Yale Repertory Theatre_

_New York, various venues_

_Whiskey_

Scripts

Production photographs

Programs and reviews, 1973
The Wibbly, Wobbly, Wiggly Dance that Cleopatra Did, scripts and program, 1993  

Women's Rites, script, 1967  

You and Hugh ("Hugh and Son"), libretto and program, 1994  

Collected plays, publicity and reviews  

Collected Plays: Volume II, 1996  

15 Short Plays, 1994  

Three Plays, with setting copy, 1990  

Reviews, various titles  

Unpublished works  

90 Riverside ("890"). 2 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2003  

American Tragedy, play. 2 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2005  

At Rise  

Bay Street drafts. 4 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1997-1998  


Notes. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, 1997  

Casa Verdi, notes. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, 2003
Chatter, Yatter, Flotsom, & Dross or Ted & Tom & Terry & Terri. 2 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2003

Crucifixion, working draft. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, 2005

The Dartmouth Quartet. 8 electronic files: Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, 1992-2005

Dracula, New York City. 2 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2005


NBC Pilot. 2 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1993

NCT project. 3 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2003

Speak Low. 4 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2003

Sundance project. 3 electronic files: Microsoft Word, 2003

With This Ring. 7 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1998

Zoo. 3 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1998-1999
Writings, miscellaneous. 10 electronic files: Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, 1995-2004

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0911002G_061,
0911002G_068,
0911002G_102,
0911002G_103,
0911002G_115,
0911002G_166
II. Career-Related and Personal

Articles about McNally

Articles by McNally


Awards

By play title

A-L

M-V

By year, playwright

1985-93

1994-96

1998

1999-2001

Tony Awards

1993, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*

1995, *Love! Valour! Compassion!*

1996, *Master Class*

1998, *Ragtime*

2001, *The Full Monty* (nominated)

Benefits, 1987-2002

Career-related writings, primarily for publications

Conferences and festivals, 1988-98

OPERA America's 24th annual conference, 1994, including McNally's keynote address

William Inge Festival, 1994

Correspondence

1955-68

1989-92

1993-97

1998

1999-2002

Undated

Correspondence. 29 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1991-1999

Daybooks, blank

The Dramatists Guild, 1985

Gay Pride speech. 1 electronic file: Microsoft Word, 2003

Guggenheim Fellowships, 1966 and 1969

High school and college papers and writings

College plays, programs, 1959-1960s

Interviews

Lectures and speeches
Address to members of the League of American Theaters and Producers, Toronto, 1991

Juilliard commencement, May 22, 1998

"The Faces of Love: An Evening of Songs by Jake Heggie," narrated by McNally, Lincoln Center, May 2000

Opera-related projects and writings


1995-2000

Articles on opera in Horizon, 1985

"Wozzeck," for the Metropolitan Opera Guild's Great Opera cassette series, 1989

Photographs, including Richard Avendon photos of McNally [oversize removed to Box 62]

McNally with President Bill Clinton at the White House, 1998

Alaska. 4 electronic files: JPG, 2003

Chapman University visit. 236 electronic files: JPG, 2019

Chicago. 2 electronic files: JPG, 2003

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


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

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]


Lyons, Steven. "Cockroach Infestation"

Programs, various non-McNally performances

Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare on Disk. 6 electronic files: WordPerfect, 1979-1980

Ryton, Royce. "The Unvarnished Truth"

Oversize