Terrence McNally:
A Preliminary Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator: McNally, Terrence, 1939-2020
Title: Terrence McNally Papers 1950s-2002
Dates: 1950s-2002
Extent: 60 boxes, 2 oversize boxes, 2 oversize folders (26.8 linear feet)
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, 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.
Access: Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition: Gifts, 1999-2003 (G11458, G11513, G11686, G11870, G12188)
Processed by: Liz Murray, Emily Barker, Sean Castilla, 2003
Repository: Harry Ransom Center, 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 the present.

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 1955-2002. 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 have been transferred to appropriate departments within the Ransom Center.
I. Works

_All Together Now_, script drafts with notes, n.d.  
Box 1  
Folder 1

_And Things That Go Bump in the Night_

Early versions, variant titles

"Mmm!"
Box 1  
Folder 2

"There Is Something Out There"
Folder 3

Scripts

Broadway production script, annotated
Folder 4-7

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

Television treatments

"Ravenswood," teleplay, first draft, 1979

*Banana Peels*, screenplay, drafts, 1990

*Better and Worse*, television pilot

*Bingo!*, musical

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

Scripts, 1987

Scripts, cont'd

*Boo!*, film outline

*Botticelli*, teleplay script and play reviews, 1969

*Broadway, Broadway* (originally *Bye Bye Broadway*)

Scripts

Scripts, cont'd

Programs and reviews, 1978

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

Scripts, 1995-96

Reviews and programs, Bay Street Theatre and Manhattan Theatre Club, 1995-96

*Central Park (The Food of Love)*, opera with Robert Beaser

Script and score, 1999

Programs and reviews
Unused libretto for composer Aaron Jay Kernis, 1998

*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

Reviews and general articles, various performances [oversize removed to Box 61]
McNally, Terrence, 1939-2020

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

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
McNally, Terrence, 1939-2020


*Faith, Hope & Charity*, "Hope" scripts, programs, and reviews, 1988 Folder 6-7

*The Five Forty Eight*, teleplay based on the story by John Cheever, script, revised July 1979 Folder 8

*Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*

First drafts, Nov.-Dec. 1986 Box 11 Folder 1-3

Second drafts, Feb.-May 1987 Folder 4-7

Production drafts, 1987 Folder 8-9

Translations

Danish, 1988 Box 11 Folder 10

French, 1991 Box 12 Folder 1

Italian Folder 2

Japanese Folder 3

Romanian, 1997 Folder 4

Spanish Folder 5

Correspondence Folder 6

Posters [removed to oversize folder]

Programs and reviews, various performances Box 12 Folder 7-8

Belasco Theater, New York, 2002 Box 13 Folder 1

Boston Post Road Stage Company, 1990 Folder 2
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  

*Goin' to the Chapel*, screenplay, 1986  

*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  

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

*Let it Bleed*, scripts and program

*Lips Together, Teeth Apart*
McNally, Terrence, 1939-2020

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!
McNally, Terrence, 1939-2020

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

Mama Malone, scripts for television pilot, 1982

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
Translations, 1996
French

Italian

Japanese

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 Tallys*, script for Circle Repertory Company benefit
Musicals, untitled, with Skip Kennon [?], drafts of scripts

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

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

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

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

Shubert Theatre, Los Angeles, 1997

Livent promotional materials

*The Rink*, musical
Scripts and rewrites, 1983-95

Correspondence, 1983-84

Programs and reviews, various performances, 1988-96

Martin Beck Theatre, New York, 1984

International productions


*The Ritz* (originally *The Tubs*)

Scripts for *The Tubs*, n.d.

Scripts, cont'd, 1974

Scripts, cont'd

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

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 Mababawe*, teleplay written with Wendy Wasserstein, scripts and reviews, 1988

*Sand between the Sheets*, teleplay, first draft, 1991
Terrence McNally, 1939-2020

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

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

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

*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

*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

McNally, Terrence, 1939-2020

Box 50 Folder 1-2

Folder 3

Folder 4-5

Folder 6-9

Folder 1-3

Folder 4

Folder 5

Folder 6

Folder 7

Folder 8

Folder 9

Folder 10

Folder 11

Folder 12
Collected plays, publicity and reviews

*Collected Plays: Volume II*, 1996  
*15 Short Plays*, 1994  
*Three Plays*, with setting copy, 1990  
Reviews, various titles
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

Daybooks, blank

The Dramatists Guild, 1985

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

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
III. Works of Others

Articles and clippings about others [oversize removed to Box 61]


Lyons, Steven. "Cockroach Infestation"

Programs, various non-McNally performances

Ryton, Royce. "The Unvarnished Truth"

Oversize