John McCarty:
An Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator: McCarty, John, 1944-
Title: John McCarty Papers
Dates: 1912-2010
Extent: 15 document boxes (6.30 linear feet), 1 oversize box (osb)
Abstract: The John McCarty Papers contain film stills, clippings, film and fan magazines, pressbooks, and McCarthy's writings which document the evolution of the horror and thriller film genres.
Call Number: Film Collection FI-055
Language: English and Spanish
Access: Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition: Gifts, 2011-2012 (10-12-012-G, 11-03-008G)
Processed by: Michael Rodney and Amy Armstrong, 2012
Repository: The University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Center
Biographical Sketch


His 2004 book, *Bullets Over Hollywood: The American Gangster Picture from the Silents to "The Sopranos,"* was produced as a major documentary by Hugh Hefner's Alta Loma Entertainment company and aired in 2005 and 2006 on the Starz/Encore cable network. He is also the co-producer-director-writer and narrator of *The Fearmakers: Masters of Screen Suspense and Terror*, a 10-part documentary series based on his book about some of the most influential makers of classic suspense and terror films. Additionally, McCarty has worked on other film projects including *Dead Horse Trail*, which earned an Honorable Mention citation at the 2008 Electric City Film Festival; *The Metamorphoses*, inspired by the Franz Kafka novel; and *The Confinement* (2009), inspired by the story "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

McCarty has also taught courses about cinema in the Department of Theatre at the University of Albany.

Sources:

In addition to material found within the McCarty Papers, the following source was used:

Scope and Contents

The John McCarty Papers consist primarily of materials collected and used by McCarty in the writing of his books and articles about film, particularly the suspense and horror film genres. Included are film publications, film stills, clippings, pressbooks, publicity materials, and a small amount of material associated with McCarty's writing and film projects including drafts, dust jacket designs, reviews of McCarty's books, and books written by McCarty. The collection is organized into three series: I. Reference Materials, 1920-2010; II. Memorabilia, 1912-1995; and III. Writings and Film Projects, 1966-circa 2008.

Series I. Reference materials make up the bulk of the material and is organized into four subseries: A. Publications, 1970-2010; B. Publicity Materials, 1972-1989; C. Film Stills, 1920-1993, undated; and D. Articles and Research, 1982-1985, undated. Subseries A. Publications is arranged alphabetically according to magazine title and is a mixture of horror and science fiction genre newsletters and magazines. Publications include Afraid Newsletter, Cinefantastique, Fangoria, FilmFax, Little Shoppe of Horrors, Twilight Zone Magazine, Starlog, and others. Several issues of Fangoria, FilmFax, Little Shoppe of Horrors, Mystery Scene, and Starlog contain articles written by McCarty.

Subseries B. Publicity Materials includes pressbooks, press releases, and press kits collected by McCarty. The material is arranged in alphabetical order by film title and the films represented date between 1972 and 1989. Among the films included are Andy Warhol's Frankenstein, The Brood, Creepshow, Dressed to Kill, Equus, Herbie Goes Bananas, Lady in White, Sphinx, and Sullivan's Pavilion.

Subseries C. Film Stills contains numerous production and publicity photographs collected by McCarty. The film stills represent movies from a variety of film genres, but the majority of photographs are of action, suspense, science fiction, and horror films. McCarty used many of these film stills to illustrate his books. Most of the photos are organized alphabetically by film title, but several folders of stills from unlabeled notebooks are filed at the end of the subseries. An index at the end of the finding aid lists film stills found in this series.

Subseries D. Articles and Research contains clippings, articles, and film reference material collected by McCarty, presumably used in his writings.

Series II. Memorabilia includes film stills, articles, publicity kits, and other material about directors and film genres. This material was organized by McCarty into numbered binders focused on a particular subject. Subjects include directors Roman Polanski, Alfred Hitchcock, Sam Peckinpah, and John Huston; American and British Cinema and Television and American Cinema (major and Indie studios) from the 1970s to the 1990s; the American gangster film; and the British horror production company, Hammer Films Ltd. McCarty's original binder titles appear in single quotes in the container list. In addition to the collected material, McCarty also inserted material related to his books on the subject. For example, the Alfred Hitchcock binders contain an assortment of Spanish serialized excerpts from his book, Alfred Hitchcock Presents. One of the John Huston
binders contains the dust jacket for his book, *The Films of John Huston*. For preservation purposes, the materials were removed from the binders, but their original order was maintained. An index at the end of the finding aid lists film stills found in this series.

Series III. Writings and Film Projects is the smallest series by volume and contains documents that relate to McCarty's published works and film projects. It is arranged alphabetically by book or project title. Material includes research, interview notes, reviews, dust jackets and cover art, correspondence, publisher's catalogs, and film still order forms. Of particular interest are a draft of *The Films of John Huston* (1987) and McCarty's proposals for the books *Thrillers: Seven Decades of Classic Film Suspense* (1992) and *The Stuff that Dreams are Made of: John Huston and the Golden Age of Hollywood* (unpublished). Also present are dust jackets for some of McCarty's books.

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**Separated Material**

A collection of books, including eighteen volumes--many signed--of McCarty's published books, a special edition documentary about Sam Peckinpah, and the *Wild Bunch* audio soundtrack were transferred to the Ransom Center Library. Three recordable compact discs, labeled as digital photographs, were transferred to the Ransom Center Electronic Records Collection.

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**Index Terms**

**People**

Cushing, Peter, 1913-1994.


McCarty, John, 1944-

Polanski, Roman.

Peckinpah, Sam, 1925-1984.

**Subjects**

Horror films.

Monster films.

Motion Pictures, American.

Producers and Directors.

Splatter films.

**Document Types**
Articles.
Books.
Clippings.
Film Stills.
Periodicals.
Pressbooks.
Writings.
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Vol. 14 No. 3, May 1984

Vol. 21 Nos. 2-6, September 1990-June 1991

Vol. 22 Nos. 1-2, 5, August 1991-April 1992

Duplicate issues, 1973-1981

Cinema Retro, Vol. 6 Nos. 16-18, Winter-Autumn 2010

Fangoria

No. 88, November 1989, contains Phantom Pains by McCarty

No. 104, July 1991, contains The Midwife of Mutilation by McCarty

No. 152, May 1996

Spanish editions, No. 1 December 1990 and No. 5, January 1992


Film Comment

Spring 1972

March/April 1977

Filmfax

No. 25, February/March 1991

No. 29, October/November 1991

No. 30, December/January 1992

No. 71, February/March 1999

No. 112, October/December 2006; contains From Narrow Margins to Boston Stranglings by McCarty

Duplicate issue, 2006

Little Shoppe of Horrors (formerly The Hammer Journal)

No. 4, April 1978
No. 6, July 1981; contains James Bernard co-written by McCarty

No. 7, December 1982; contains Nigel Kneale's Quatermass Phenomenon co-written by McCarty

No. 8, May 1984

No. 9, March 1986

No. 10/11, July 1990

No. 19, September 2007

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No. 23, October 2009

Lumiere, March 1973

Mystery Scene

No. 50, November/December 1995; contains Diabolique: The Thriller That Wouldn't Die by McCarty

No. 53, May/June 1996; contains Female Psychos by McCarty

Starlog

November 1987; contains Taking a Trip One Step Beyond by McCarty

May 1991; contains John Newland's "Errand of Mercy" by McCarty

Duplicate issue, 1987

T.V. Guide, 11-17 May 1985; contains Presenting Alfred Hitchcock…in a Wine Vat…Beside a Torture Rack…Twitting the Sponsors co-written by McCarty

Twilight Zone Magazine, April 1985

Video Times, May 1986

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'The American Gangster Picture' notebooks 11 and 12, film stills, Psychotronic magazine (Summer 1991), pressbook, copies of film reviews, 1912-1991

'Alfred Hitchcock' notebooks 13 and 14, film stills, serialized excerpts from McCarty's Alfred Hitchcock Presents (Spanish), VHS covers from The New Alfred Hitchcock Presents: The Pilot (Spanish, 1985), 1927-1985


'John Huston'

Notebook 17, film stills, pressbooks, clippings, letters, printed material, 1938-1987


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