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William Friedberg papers 6796315

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Description is written in: English.

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Friedberg, William, 1916-1965
Title:	William Friedberg papers
ID:	6796315
ID:	MS#1455
Date [inclusive]:	1950-1965
Physical Description:	5.72 linear feet 11 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	William "Billy" Friedberg (1916-1965) is best remembered as a television comedy writer, although he also wrote plays, musicals, variety reviews, short stories, and radio programs. Among his best-known works are episodes of "Car 54, Where Are You?", "As Time Goes By", and "The Phil Silvers Show". Friedberg's work represented in this collection spans many genres, including comedy review sketches, TV dramas, short stories, plays, and musicals.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William Friedberg papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical / Historical

William "Billy" Friedberg (1916-1965) was a New York theatre publicity agent who began writing and then producing television during the 1950s and early 1960s. He is best remembered as a television comedy writer, although he also wrote plays, musicals, variety reviews, short stories, and radio programs. Among his best-known works are episodes of "Car 54, Where Are You?" "As Time Goes By", and "The Phil Silvers Show". In 1957 and 1958, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences awarded Friedberg the Emmy for Best Comedy

Writing of a Variety or Situation Comedy, for "The Phil Silvers Show"; he was nominated for the same award again in 1959. He collaborated on a few television scripts with writer Neil Simon, worked on various television programs with producers Nat Hiken and Max Liebman, and wrote routines for comedians such as Alan King and Martha Raye. His television work began in the period of review and variety programs sponsored by large corporations, and evolved into the era of the long-running serial drama or sitcom. Later in his career he served as a producer for a few television series, including "Harry's Girls". He was married briefly in 1945 to actress Jane Hoffman, and then from 1950-1965 to actress Hope Cameron. Friedberg died of a heart attack at the age of 49.

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Summary

Friedberg's work represented in this collection spans many genres, including comedy review sketches, TV dramas, short stories, plays, and musicals. The vast majority of the collection consists of typed scripts, either drafts or "shooting scripts" used for production, which Friedberg wrote or produced. Production files for some of the scripts are the second-largest group of material, including casting ideas, budgets, contracts, advertising records, and intra-staff memos. The collection also contains documents which Friedberg used in his creative process, including typed or handwritten notes and ideas for future works, and newspaper clippings that he used for inspiration. Three sketchbooks of pencil drawings are also present, which may be the work of Friedberg's wife Hope Cameron. Finally, there are a small number of family snapshots and personal papers.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. xml document instance created by Patrick Lawlor EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2008-11-07 2009-05-22 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Hope Cameron Friedberg. Method of acquisition--Donated by the estate of; Date of acquisition--1999.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Anne Holt, GSAS 2013.

Processing Information

Finding aid written by Anne Holt in June 2008.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared.
Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

"American Film Scripts Online (AFSO)"; "Neil Simon: Plays" Harvard Theatre Collection, Houghton Library, Harvard University; "The Richard Hoffman Neil Simon Collection" University of Delaware.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Dramatists, American -- 20th century
- Radio serials
- Radio programs -- United States
- Screenwriters -- United States
- Television authorship
- Television -- Production and direction
- Television scripts
- Theater -- United States -- History -- 20th century
- Friedberg, William, 1916-1965
- Hiken, Nat
- King, Alan, 1927-2004
- Liebman, Max
- Raye, Martha
- Simon, Neil

Collection Inventory

Series I: Writings and Work of Billy Friedberg, 1950-1965, undated

Scope and Contents

This series consists of Friedberg's writings, organized by genre, and documents that supported the creative process and production of his dramatic work (drafts, notes, contracts, budgets, etc.). Also included are production documents of the television programs that he produced. Material in this series is arranged alphabetically. When multiple episodes of a program are included, they are arranged in chronological order.

Subseries I.1: Television, 1950-1965**Scope and Contents**

This subseries contains Friedberg's television scripts arranged in alphabetical order by the show's title, together with documents such as Friedberg's notes, intra-staff memos, budgets, and other records of production.

Title/Description	Instances	
<i>Allen King Show</i>		
Notes and Memos, 1960	box 1	
Script Drafts, undated	box 1	folder 2-3
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)		
Script, Shooting, and Documentation, 1960	box 1	folder 4
<i>As Time Goes By</i>		
Notes and Scenario, circa, 1960-1961	box 1	folder 5
Script--Early Drafts, undated	box 1	folder 6
Script--Pilot, 1961	box 1	folder 7
<i>Bob and Ray Show, The</i>		
Scripts, 1952 March-April	box 2	folder 1
Scripts, 1952 May-June	box 2	folder 2
Scripts, 1952 July	box 2	folder 3
Scripts, 1952 July-August	box 2	folder 4
Scripts, undated	box 2	folder 5
<i>Buick Circus Hour, The</i> --Scripts, 1953	box 2	folder 6
<i>Car 54, Where Are You?</i>		
Scripts # 31-38, circa, 1962	box 3	folder 1
Scripts # 42-45, undated	box 3	folder 2
Scripts # 46-47, undated	box 3	folder 3
Correspondence, 1962	box 3	folder 4
<i>Colgate Comedy Hour, The</i> --Script, 1952 December	box 3	folder 5

<i>Drumbeater, The</i> --Scripts, circa, 1959	box 3	folder 6
<i>Harry's Girls</i> --Documentation, 1963	box 3	folder 7
<i>Jack Carson Review, The</i>		
Scripts, 1950 October-November	box 4	folder 1
Scripts, 1950 December	box 4	folder 2
Scripts, 1951 January-February	box 4	folder 3
Scripts, 1951 April-May	box 4	folder 4
Scripts, 1951 June-September	box 4	folder 5
Scripts, undated	box 4	folder 6
<i>Law and Mr. Jones, The</i> --Scripts and Documentation, 1960	box 4	folder 7
<i>Leave it to Larry</i>		
Scripts # 1-2, 1952 October	box 5	folder 1
Scripts # 3,4, and 6, 1952 October-November	box 5	folder 2
Scripts # 7, 9, 1952 December	box 5	folder 3
<i>Magnificent Montague, The</i> --Pilot Script, circa, 1957	box 5	folder 4
<i>Martha Raye Show, The</i>		
Scripts, undated	box 5	folder 5
Scripts, 1951	box 5	folder 6
Scripts, 1952	box 5	folder 7
Scripts, 1952	box 6	folder 1
Scripts, 1953	box 6	folder 2-3
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)		
Scripts, 1954	box 6	folder 4-5
<u>Physical Description:</u> (2 Folders)		
<i>Max Liebman Presents</i>		
Script, 1954 October 10	box 6	folder 6
Script, 1954 October 23	box 6	folder 7
Script, 1954 November	box 7	folder 1
Script, 1955 January	box 7	folder 2
Script, 1955 April 9	box 7	folder 3
Script, 1955 April 24	box 7	folder 4
Script, 1955 May	box 7	folder 5

<i>McKeever and the Colonel</i> --Shooting Schedules, 1962	box 7	folder 6
NBC News Broadcast--Script, 1954 April	box 7	folder 7
<i>NBC Presents Betty and Jane Kean</i> --Script, undated	box 7	folder 8
<i>Old Man Webster</i>		
Notes and Correspondence, circa, 1961	box 7	folder 9
Script Drafts, undated	box 7	folder 10
<i>Perry Como Show, The</i> --Script, 1960 April	box 8	folder 1
<i>Peter Loves Mary</i> --Shooting Schedule, undated	box 8	folder 2
<i>Phil Silvers Show, The</i> (aka "Sergeant Bilko")-- Documentation, 1957-1961	box 8	folder 3
[<i>Satin and Spurs</i>]--Script, circa, 1954	box 8	folder 4
<i>Shirley</i> --script, 1964	box 8	folder 5
<i>Three's Company</i> --Scenarios and Notes, undated	box 8	folder 6
<i>U.S. Rubber Company Presents U.S. Royal Showcase</i> -- Script, 1952 January	box 8	folder 7

Subseries I.2: Radio, 1950-1951

Scope and Contents

Included in this subseries are the scripts of fifty-one episodes of the radio serial "The Magnificent Montague" in chronological order. These aired in 1950-1951, and several years later (circa 1957) Friedberg wrote a pilot script for an adaptation of the series into a television program, included in Subseries I.1. The series title is also the name of a popular African-American disc jockey of the late 1950s and the 1960s; however, they seem to be unrelated.

Title/Description	Instances	
<i>Magnificent Montague, The</i>		
Scripts # 1-4, 1950 November-December, 1950	box 8	folder 8
Scripts # 5-9, 1950 December - 1951 January, 1950 December, 1951 January	box 8	folder 9
Scripts # 10-14, 1951 January-February	box 8	folder 10
Scripts # 15-19, 1951 February-March	box 8	folder 11
Scripts # 20-24, 1951 March-April	box 9	folder 1
Scripts # 25-29, 1951 April-May	box 9	folder 2
Scripts # 30-34, 1951 June	box 9	folder 3
Scripts # 35-39, 1951 June-August	box 9	folder 4
Scripts # 40-44, 1951 August-September	box 9	folder 5
Scripts # 45-49, 1951 September-October	box 9	folder 6

Scripts # 50-51, 1951 October

box 9

folder 7

Subseries I.3: Other Writings and Work, 1953-1963, undated**Scope and Contents**

This subseries comprises all other genres of writing by Friedberg, including plays, musicals, and short stories, and unidentified writings and fragments, in alphabetical order by genre. Included are writings generated in the creative process: ideas for future projects that either did not come to fruition or are not included here in their finished form, and clippings that he used for inspiration. The subseries contains a group of memos from director Robert Soderberg, who collaborated with Friedberg on the television programs "Peter Loves Mary" and "McKeever and the Colonel." Also present is the text for a course on acting in commercials, titled "TV Commercials University" -- it is unclear whether Friedberg taught this class (and thus, wrote this text) or participated as a student.

Title/Description	Instances	
Clippings--Inspiration, undated	box 10	folder 1
Memos--Soderberg, Robert, 1960-1962	box 10	folder 2
New Projects--Notes and Scenarios, undated	box 10	folder 3
Plays--Scripts and Supporting Documentation	box 10	folder 4
Scripts--Other Authors, 1953-1963	box 10	folder 5
Short Stories--Drafts, undated	box 10	folder 6
<i>T.V. Commercials University</i> --Classroom Text, circa, 1958	box 10	folder 7
Untitled Writings and Script Fragments, undated	box 11	folder 1

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Series II: Personal, circa 1950-1965**Scope and Contents**

This series holds a folder of letters from Neil Simon, written circa 1964 when Simon was in London; most of the contents are personal, chronicling Simon's experience living in England, but he also occasionally touches on various professional projects, both his own and Friedberg's. This series contains a "General" folder of personal papers such as letters, contracts, clippings about Friedberg, and a resume. Series II also includes two unidentified photos, probably of Friedberg, and a caricature of him by an unknown artist. Lastly, it houses three sketchbooks of pencil drawings, artist unknown, although two are marked "Hope" on the cover, suggesting that they may have belonged to Friedberg's wife, Hope Cameron. Items are arranged alphabetically by material type, after the General folder.

Title/Description	Instances	
General--Correspondence, Documents, and Clippings, undated	box 11	folder 2
Caricature of Billy Friedberg, undated, artist unknown	box 12	folder 1
Photographs, undated	box 11	folder 3
Simon, Neil--Correspondence, circa, 1964		

box 11 folder 4

Sketchbooks (3), undated

box 11 folder 5

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