



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Ed Hall papers

1944-1991

Sc MG 447

Home to Harlem Project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: Hall, Ed, 1931-1991

Title: Ed Hall papers

Date: 1944-1991

Size: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift, Marion Simon, Trinity Repertory Company, Dec. 1991

Revision History: This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

Abstract: The Ed Hall Papers consist of correspondence concerning professional and personal matters (1944-1983), and a poem authored by Owen Dodson. Several letters are from Ted Shine and George Rose, and one letter each are from director Lloyd Richards, Bobby Short, Thornton Wilder, Boston Globe drama critic Kevin Kelly, Vinnette Carroll, and a telegram from Lorraine Hansberry. There are also several contracts for the productions in which he acted, including television shows. A file for Zulu and the Zayda contains quarterly financial reports for 1965-1966, showing that Hall was a small investor in the production. The collection includes obituaries and other articles with information about Hall's career.

Preferred citation: [Item], Ed Hall papers, Sc MG 447, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

Ed Hall (1931-1991) was an actor of stage, screen and television. He began his professional acting career in 1950 and performed primarily on Broadway, touring productions of Broadway plays, and later with the Trinity Repertory Company in Providence, Rhode Island. Hall had joined the Trinity Repertory Company in 1965, as its first black actor, and remained a member for 26 years, acting in more than eighty productions. His radio credits include the Philip Morris Playhouse.

Among the more well-known productions he acted in were: "Raisin in the Sun" (where he played the

African student, Joseph Asagai, in the original 1959 Broadway production), "No Time for Sergeants," "The Death of Bessie Smith," "Trumpets of the Lord," "The Zulu and the Zayda," "Joe Turner's Come and Gone," and the television show "Separate But Equal" which aired in 1991.

Scope and Content Note

The Ed Hall Papers consist of correspondence concerning professional and personal matters (1944-1983), and a poem authored by Owen Dodson. Several letters are from Ted Shine and George Rose, and one letter each are from director Lloyd Richards, Bobby Short, Thornton Wilder, Boston Globe drama critic Kevin Kelly, Vinnette Carroll, and a telegram from Lorraine Hansberry. There are also several contracts for the productions in which he acted, including television shows. A file for Zulu and the Zayda contains quarterly financial reports for 1965-1966, showing that Hall was a small investor in the production. The collection includes obituaries and other articles with information about Hall's career.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American actors
African American entertainers
African American theater
African Americans in the performing arts

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Contracts

Names

Dodson, Owen, 1914-1983
Hall, Ed, 1931-1991
Shine, Ted
Trinity Square Repertory Company

Container List

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- b. 1 f. 7 Fan Mail 1967
- b. 1 f. 8 Contracts 1952-1969
- Productions
- b. 1 f. 9 *No Time for Sergeants and Raisin in the Sun* 1957-1960
- b. 1 f. 10 *The Zulu and the Zayda* 1965-1966
- Printed Material
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