



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

Guide to the

Frank Silvera Writers Workshop records

1973-1992

Sc MG 64

Summary

Creator: Frank Silvera Writers Workshop

Title: Frank Silvera Writers Workshop records

Date: 1973-1992

Size: 83 linear feet

Source: Gift, Frank Silvera Writers Workshop

Abstract: The Workshop was founded in 1973 by playwright/director Garland Lee Thompson, along with famed actor/director Morgan Freeman, director/actress Billie Allen and journalist Clayton Riley, as a living memorial to the late actor, director, teacher and producer, Frank Silvera (1914-1970). The Workshop has been based in the heart of Harlem, New York, for the past 26 years. The Workshop has built a long time-honored and prestigious reputation as a nationally and internationally renown playwrights development theatre for up-coming and established artists of all colors, sizes and shapes. Records contain administrative files, production files, including contracts and set designs, and more than one thousand play scripts from the Writers/Directors series and the Larry Neal Memorial Seminar Series. Scripts are chiefly unpublished and unproduced and were written by members of the workshop. Among playwrights included are Mari Evans, Billy Graham, A. Marcus Hemphill, Larry Neal, Vinnette Carroll, Ruby Dee, Owen Dodson, Charles Gordone, Charles Fuller, Laurence Holder, James De Jongh, Clifford Mason, Ntozake Shange, Ed Shockley, Garland Lee Thompson, Richard Wesley, and Samm-Art Williams.

Access: Advance notice required.

Conditions Governing Use: Photocopying of scripts requires permission of the Frank Silvera Writers Workshop

Preferred citation: Frank Silvera Writers Workshop records, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

The Workshop was founded in 1973 by playwright/director Garland Lee Thompson, along with famed

actor/director Morgan Freeman, director/actress Billie Allen and journalist Clayton Riley, as a living memorial to the late actor, director, teacher and producer, Frank Silvera (1914-1970). The Workshop has been based in the heart of Harlem, New York, for the past 26 years. The Workshop has built a long time-honored and prestigious reputation as a nationally and internationally renowned playwrights development theatre for up-coming and established artists of all colors, sizes and shapes.

Scope and Content Note

Records contain administrative files, production files, including contracts and set designs, and more than one thousand play scripts from the Writers/Directors series and the Larry Neal Memorial Seminar Series. Scripts are chiefly unpublished and unproduced and were written by members of the workshop. Among playwrights included are Mari Evans, Billy Graham, A. Marcus Hemphill, Larry Neal, Vinnette Carroll, Ruby Dee, Owen Dodson, Charles Gordone, Charles Fuller, Laurence Holder, James De Jongh, Clifford Mason, Ntozake Shange, Ed Shockley, Garland Lee Thompson, Richard Wesley, and Samm-Art Williams.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American dramatists
African American theater
American drama -- African American authors
Drama -- Study and teaching
Dramatists -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scripts

Names

Frank Silvera Writers Workshop
Carroll, Vinnette
De Jongh, James
Dee, Ruby
Dodson, Owen, 1914-1983
Evans, Mari, 1923-2017
Fuller, Charles
Gordone, Charles
Graham, Billy, 1918-
Hemphill, A. Marcus
Holder, Laurence
Mason, Clifford, 1932-
Neal, Larry, 1937-1981
Shange, Ntozake
Shockley, Ed
Thompson, Garland Lee
Wesley, Richard, 1945-
Williams, Samm-Art