Guide to the
Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee papers
1932-2015
Sc MG 305

The acquisition and processing of the Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee papers has been made possible by the generosity of Katharine J. Rayner.

This collection was processed by Amelia Carlin and Heather Lember in 2019.

Summary

Creator: Davis, Ossie

Title: Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee papers

Date: 1932-2015

Size: 73.67 linear feet (179 boxes)

Source: Purchased from Nora Davis Day and Dr. Hasna Muhammad in 2018.

Abstract: Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee were African American actors, directors, writers, and activists whose careers spanned the mediums of theatre, television, radio, film, and print. Their papers date from 1932 to 2015, and chronicle the couple's artistic careers as performers and authors, as well as their work as civil rights activists. The collection consists of materials generated by Davis and Dee over a lifetime of performing arts work and activism, and in their personal lives together.

Access: Some collections held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in the NYPL's online catalog for detailed location information. To request access to materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, please visit: http://archives.nypl.org/divisions/scm/request_access

Conditions Governing Access:

Sound and video recordings held by the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division are unavailable pending digitization.

Correspondence item in Box 178 is closed to all access until after January 1, 2043.

Conditions Governing Use: No photography, scans, or photocopies are allowed on box 16 until January 2021.

Preferred citation: [Item], Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee papers, Sc MG 305, Schomburg Center for
Ossie Davis (1917-2005) and Ruby Dee (1922-2014) were African American performing artists, writers, and activists. They worked collaboratively and independently throughout their careers as actors, authors, directors, playwrights, producers, and voice-over narrators. Their work spanned the mediums of film, television, radio, and theatre. Together they also published collections of poetry and essays, a joint memoir, articles, books for children, plays, and speeches.

Ossie Davis (born Raiford Chatman Davis) was born in 1917 in Cogdell, Georgia. He left Georgia in 1935 to attend Howard University, where he studied English and drama, then moved to Harlem with the intent of establishing a stage career as a playwright. In Harlem, Davis joined the Rose McClendon Players and studied acting with Lloyd Richards. He made his stage debut in a 1939 production of Joy Exceeding Glory.

Dee was born Ruby Ann Wallace in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1922. Her family moved to Harlem soon after she was born. Dee earned a Bachelor's degree from Hunter College in New York City, where she studied French and Spanish. Between 1940 and 1945, she apprenticed with the American Negro Theatre (ANT) which occupied the basement stage of the 135th Street, Harlem Branch of the New York Public Library. She studied radio techniques at the American Theatre Wing, and appeared on a number of radio shows. Dee made her stage debut in a production of Abram Hill's On Strivers Row in 1940. The following year she married the blues singer, Frankie Dee, retaining his name after they divorced in 1945.

Dee and Davis were cast together in the Broadway production of Jeb, which was Davis' Broadway debut, and launched his professional theatre career. In 1946, Davis and Dee were cast together again in the American Negro Theatre's production of Philip Yordan's Anna Lucasta. Dee replaced Hilda Sims in the lead, and remained in the starring role when the play moved to Broadway. On December 9, 1948, the couple was married during a single-day break in their work on a production of Smile of the World.

Dee was cast in the role of the Defending Angel in the 1953 Broadway production of The World of Sholom Aleichem. The production, which was stage managed by Davis, marked one of the first times that a black actor appeared on Broadway in a role not specifically written for a black character. Five years later, in 1958, Davis and Dee were called to appear before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) as a result of their perceived communist sympathies. Although they were not officially blacklisted, they were surveilled by the FBI. During this period, as a means of generating work, they performed readings, dramatizations, short works, and gave talks at schools, churches, colleges, and other community spaces.

In 1959, Dee was cast opposite Sidney Poitier in the lead role of Ruth Younger in Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun, which was the first play by a black woman to be produced on Broadway. Davis assumed the part of Walter Lee after Poitier left the production, and Dee reprised her role opposite Poitier for the film version in 1961. Four years later, Dee became the first black woman to play a lead role at the American Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, Connecticut, where she was cast in the role of Kate in The Taming of the Shrew.
During the 1950s and 1960s, Davis continued to act in theater productions as well as write for the stage. Among Davis' many playwriting credits, his most widely known work is *Purlie Victorious* (1961), which satirized racial stereotypes in the American South. Davis and Dee played the lead roles in the theatrical production, which Davis then adapted for the screen in 1963's *Gone are the Days*. Davis also directed a number of films throughout the 1970s including *Cotton Comes to Harlem* (1970) *Kongi's Harvest* (1970) *Black Girl* (1972), *Gordon's War* (1973), and *Countdown at Kusini* (1976).


Davis and Dee began hosting a weekly radio show, *The Ossie Davis & Ruby Dee Story Hour*, in 1975. Five years later, along with their three children, they formed Emmalyn Productions, also referred to as Emmalyn II Productions, and Emmalyn Enterprises. Among their various projects was the Davis and Dee hosted television show, *With Ossie and Ruby* (1981-1982, 1985). In 1997, the couple published a joint autobiography *With Ossie and Ruby: In This Life Together* to commemorate their 50th Anniversary.

Davis and Dee were activists throughout their lives, and prominent in the civil rights movement. The couple was close to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and were instrumental in fundraising and publicizing his work and that of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Davis and Dee were also founding members of the Association of Artists for Freedom. They were organizers and fundraisers for the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where Davis was responsible for the entertainment programming, and served as emcee of the morning's proceedings. From the mid 1950s onwards, they were closely involved with the labor union Local 1199 and beginning in the late 1970s, with their cultural program "Bread and Roses," which was created by Moe Foner. Additionally, Davis and Dee raised money for the Freedom Riders, were decades-long supporters of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of New York, and friends with Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz. Davis eulogized Malcolm X at his funeral in 1965, and famously re-created the eulogy as a voice-over in Spike Lee's 1992 film, *Malcolm X*.

Davis and Dee garnered a number of prestigious awards acknowledging their contributions to the American stage, film, television, and for their activism. This includes the NAACP Image Awards, the National Medal of Arts, the Kennedy Center Honors, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' Silver City Award, and the lifetime achievement award of the Screen Actors' Guild. Additionally, Dee was awarded two Emmys, an Obie, a Drama Desk Award, and an Oscar nomination for her performance in *American Gangster*. Davis earned a Emmy nominations for his work in *Teacher, Teacher, King*; and *Miss Evers' Boys*, and was awarded a Daytime Emmy for his role in the children's special *Finding Buck McHenry* (2001).

Davis died on February 4, 2005, while filming *Retirement* in Florida. Dee was in New Zealand working on *Naming No.2* at the time. She died on June 11, 2014, at home in New Rochelle, New York.

**Custodial History**

The materials in this collection were previously arranged and inventoried by a researcher hired by Davis and Dee in 1997. The researcher compiled thirty-two binders, which assisted the couple in organizing their files in preparation for writing their joint autobiography *With Ossie and Ruby: In This Life Together*. After the publication of the book, the researcher continued to work with Davis and Dee to compile subsequent binders and inventory their files.
The Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee Drama Collection, 1951-1981 [bulk 1970-1979] (Sc MG 305) has been integrated into the Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee Papers, 1932-2015. Originally transferred to the Schomburg Center in 1989, the Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee Drama Collection consisted principally of scripts from productions written, directed, or featuring Davis and Dee but also included an assortment of programs, clippings, and other printed matter.

Scope and Content Note

The Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee papers date from 1932 to 2015 and trace the couple's professional lives as writers, directors, actors, and activists. Portions of the couple's papers were progressively selected and arranged into numbered binders beginning in 1997, to assist in the creation of their joint memoir. These binders have their own internal organization and have been maintained in this collection as a series. The remaining files have been grouped into the following series: Writings and Projects; Materials by Others; Administrative Files; Activism and Politics; Playbills and Programs; and Audio and Moving Image. The collection details Davis and Dee's collaborative and solo artistic processes and decades long creative output in the mediums of theatre, film, television, radio, and publishing, while tracing their life-long work for civil rights and social justice.

Key Terms

Occupations
Actors.
Actresses.
African American actors
Labor leaders -- United States
Motion picture directors.

Subjects
African American actresses
African American motion picture actors and actresses
African American motion picture producers and directors
African American political activists
African Americans in television broadcasting
African Americans in the performing arts
Civil rights workers -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Screenplays
Scripts
Sound recordings
Video recordings (physical artifacts)

Names
Davis, Ossie
Dee, Ruby
Container List

Series I: Binders 1932-2014 (47 boxes 19.04 linear feet)

The Binders are organized into eight subseries: Chronological; Correspondence; Local 1199; Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz; Productions; Publications, Speeches, and Other Writings; and Source Notebooks. A detailed list of the contents of the binders is available as an additional resource to this finding aid. The original titles of the binders, when present, and their categories, have been maintained.

The Chronological binders date from 1932 to 2014, and chronicle the creative, activist, and professional activities of Davis and Dee through clippings, articles, programs, meeting minutes, flyers, letters, and telegrams. These materials, some of which were annotated by Davis and Dee, document the couple’s many public appearances throughout the United States at universities, public schools, theaters, community centers, museums, and concert halls. Included are texts from dramatic readings and spoken word events; files of commencement speeches and graduation addresses; materials from memorials and tributes at which they spoke; and posthumous tributes to the couple. Davis and Dee's performances were often given for organizations and on behalf of causes geared towards social justice, civil rights, education, and community building. Some of the organizations and causes represented in the Chronological files include the National Organization for an American Revolution (City College), the NAACP, Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Day concerts, and their fundraising efforts for Sickle Cell Disease awareness.

There is a small amount of correspondence interspersed throughout the Chronological binders. This includes a 1960 letter Dee penned to Columbia Pictures in which she outlined her political activities, and provided a statement on her position regarding Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. There is also a handwritten draft letter from Dee to Lena Horne, material documenting Davis and Dee's organization of the 1963 Christmas boycott, papers from a town hall forum on the subject of "The Black Revolution and White Backlash" from 1964, and some internal meeting minutes and statements from the Association of Artists for Freedom, of which Davis and Dee were founding members.

The Correspondence binders contain letters, notes, postcards, and telegrams. These files include both personal letters between Davis and Dee, and letters from family and friends. The personal letters span from the early years of the couple's relationship in the late 1940s, to a poem written by Dee to her husband on her life without him in 2005. Their correspondence addresses plans for marriage, arrangements of family life, writing and acting work, and their thoughts and impressions on various topics both personal and political. Letters from family members date from 1942 to 1970, and are from Dee's immediate relatives, including her mother, Giady's Hightower. The Friends section dates from 1938 to 1970, and contains letters from a range of notable artists and activists in Davis and Dee's milieu including Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Paul Robeson, and Gwendolyn Brooks.

The Local 1199 Union binder is comprised of correspondence, programs, flyers, clippings, scripts, and photographs dating from 1954 to 2001. This material includes letters to Moe Foner, "Bread and Roses" programs, union newsletters, and a script from one of Davis and Dee's performances. There are also photographs present which depict the couple at various Local 1199 events, as well as with such notable figures as Moe Foner, Martin Luther King, Jr., A. Philip Randolph, and Joan Mondale.

The Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz binder includes postcards, letters, articles, clippings, programs, and some written works. There is a cache of letters and postcards from Malcolm X which he sent to Davis and Dee during his travels to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and a number of African cities. Many of the letters are long, and include an elucidation of his position concerning the struggle for black freedom and equal rights in the international context. There is also a draft of Malcolm X's funeral program procedure; an Islamic funeral program; and numerous clippings regarding Davis' eulogy, including the transcription which was published in the New York Amsterdam News. There are also notes from sixth grade students written to Davis regarding his eulogy, and a request from Grump publisher, Roger Price, for Davis to write a piece on the subject. Dee's participation in fundraising for Malcolm X's widow, Betty Shabazz and their children, is detailed in letters and meeting minutes.
The Productions subseries trace Davis and Dee's output from their fledgling careers in their very first theater companies to Dee's stage, film, and television work in the 2000s. The files consist of material grouped into the categories of Stage; Film and Television; and Joint Productions, followed by material from Anna Lucasta, A Raisin in the Sun, Purlie Victorious, and Dee's one-woman show My One Good Nerve. There are also programs present for the 1946 production of Jeb, where Davis and Dee first met and collaborated. Clippings of reviews are also present and accompanied by programs, a small amount of correspondence, cast contact sheets, and some contracts. Of special interest is the program from Davis's first stage appearance with the Rose Mc lendon Players in Joy Exceeding Glory (1939), and correspondence between Dee and Alice Childress detailing Dee's thoughts and concerns about her role in The Wedding Band (1966), both of which are found in binder 23. The Film and Television binders include material from Davis's films Kongi's Harvest and Cotton Comes to Harlem. This subseries also include a handwritten note from Spike Lee inviting the couple to appear in Do the Right Thing, along with some material from their appearance at the Cannes Film Festival to support the film's 1989 nomination. The files also contain a small amount of material from Lee's Jungle Fever.

Publications, Speeches, and Other Writings binders date from 1972 to 1992, and hold files regarding the couple's published books; speeches, tributes, and eulogies delivered by Ossie Davis; essays and interviews, including an essay style journal entry handwritten by Davis in Cairo on US Army Red Cross letterhead in 1944 (binder 46); Ruby Dee's column for the New York Amsterdam News; and obituaries and tributes for friends and colleagues. This includes clippings, dust jackets, correspondence, and notes. There are also some interview transcripts present.

Source Notebooks are a curated collection of copies, transcripts, and excerpts of works drawn from a variety of texts. The notebooks comprise some original prose and poetry by Davis and Dee, but mostly hold compositions by others, including excerpts from religious texts. Davis and Dee drew on these materials when creating presentations, dramatic readings, and recitals. Additionally, there are a number of programs, transcripts, and setlists present from these performances. There are several pieces in Notebook 8 by Langston Hughes which have been inscribed to Dee and Davis.

The material in the binders subseries is arranged chronologically.

Chronological

b. 1 f. 1-9 1932-1968
Binder 1. Contains Interracial Youth Fellowship programs with Dee's artwork, and clippings of several poems that Dee composed as a teenager for New York Amsterdam News.

b. 1 f. 10
b. 2 f. 1-8
b. 3 f. 1 1960-1975
Binder 2.

b. 3 f. 2-6 1974-1979
Binder 3.

b. 3 f. 7 1980-1987
b. 4 f. 1-3 Binder 4.

b. 4 f. 4-7 1984-1988
b. 5 f. 1-3 Binder 5.

b. 5 f. 4-8 1989-1991
Binder 6. Contains material from the 1989 Black American Film Festival in India where Dee was a delegate.

b. 6 f. 1-5 1992-1994
Binder 7.

b. 6 f. 6-7 1995-1997
b. 7 f. 1-3 Binder 8. Contains National Medal of the Arts material.

b. 7 f. 4-5 1998
Binder 9.

b. 7 f. 6 1999-2000
b. 8 f. 1-7 Binder 10.
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Series I: Binders (cont.)
Chronological (cont.)

b. 8 f. 8 2001
b. 9 f. 1-3 2002
b. 9 f. 4-6 2004
b. 10 f. 1-6 Kennedy Center Honors 2004
b. 11 f. 1-6 2005
b. 12 f. 1-4 Ossie Davis Obituaries 2005
b. 12 f. 5-7 Ossie Davis Tributes 2005
b. 13 f. 1-2 2006-2008
b. 13 f. 3-7 2009-2014
b. 14 f. 1-5 Ruby Dee Obituaries 2014
b. 14 f. 6-7 Binder 15.
b. 15 f. 1-4 Binder 16.
b. 15 f. 5-7 Binder 17. Includes funeral and memorial program, transcripts of eulogies, and photographs.

Correspondence
b. 16 f. 1-9 Davis and Dee Personal Correspondence 1947-2009
b. 178 f. 1 Ossie Davis Handwritten Letter 1957
b. 17 f. 1-7 Family and Friends 1938-1990
b. 18 f. 1-9 Local 1199 1954-2001
b. 19 f. 1-8 Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz 1962-1971

Productions
Stage
Contains clippings, programs, and flyers, with some correspondence.

b. 20 f. 1-6 1939-1965
b. 177 f. 1 1966-1979, 1985
b. 21 f. 1-8 1986-2003
b. 22 f. 1-4 1994-2011
b. 22 f. 5-7 1994-2011
b. 23 f. 1 1994-2011

Film and Television
b. 23 f. 2-7 1947-1969
b. 176 f. 1 Binder 27. Contains clippings, promotional materials, contracts, letters, and programs.
1968-1989
Binder 28. Contains materials from Kongi’s Harvest, Cotton Comes to Harlem, Buck and the Preacher, Gordon’s War, Black Girl, and Do the Right Thing.

1990-2003
Binder 29. Includes material from Jungle Fever.

1994-2001
Binder 41.

Davis and Dee Joint Projects and Productions

1974-1987
Binder 42. Materials from Today is Ours, Countdown at Kusini, The Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee Story Hour, and With Ossie and Ruby.

1982-1984
Binder 43. Contains treatment, scripts, and photographs.

Publications, Speeches, and Other Writings

Books 1972-2008
Binder 44. Contains some correspondence, dust jackets, and clippings.

Speeches and Tributes by Ossie Davis 1952-2004
Binder 45.

Essays and Interviews 1944-2002
Binder 46. Contains personal essays, letters, reviews, forewords, and interview transcripts.

...Swingin’ Gently 1977-1980
Binder 47. Clippings and drafts of Ruby Dee’s columns for the New York Amsterdam News.

Obituaries and Tributes for Friends and Colleagues 1963-2014
Binder 56.
Series I: Binders (cont.)
Source Notebooks (cont.)

b. 38 f. 6-7  Africa 1960s-1990s

b. 39 f. 5-8  Ruby Originals, Tributes, Arrangements, and Monologues 1960s-1990s
b. 40 f. 1  Notebook 5.

b. 40 f. 2-3  Stories 1960s-1990s

b. 40 f. 4-5  Multicultural Programs 1960s-1990s

b. 40 f. 6-7  Hughes, Langston 1960s-1990s
b. 41 f. 1-3  Notebook 8. Contains works inscribed by Hughes and sent to Davis and Dee.

b. 41 f. 4-7  Greats-Literary 1960s-1990s

b. 42 f. 4-7  Greats-Political 1960s-1990s

b. 43 f. 1-3  Prose 1960s-1990s

b. 43 f. 4-8  Novel Excerpts, Short Stories, Openings, Programs, and Children's Works 1960s-1990s

b. 44  Poetry, Excerpts, Stories, and Essays 1948-1985

Notebook 13. Contains original work by Davis and Dee, poetry, novel excerpts, short stories, essays and articles.
Series II: Writings and Projects 1940-2012 (81 boxes 33.38 linear feet)

This series is grouped into the subseries Ossie Davis Projects; Ruby Dee Projects; and Joint Projects. The files comprise papers related to Davis and Dee's creative and professional activities as actors, authors, narrators, and directors.

The Ossie Davis Projects subseries reflects Davis' prolific writing practice, which contains a prodigious amount of scripts, treatments, one-acts, partial scenes, short stories, plots, plans, outlines, and ideas. These files include a mixture of published, produced, unfinished, and unproduced works, and feature recurrent themes of civil rights figures and historical events. There are compositions for stage, television, and film, as well as a number of short stories. Davis' creative evolution and the progression of his projects are illustrated in some of his early notes and ideas, as well as the initial stages of works that later came to fruition. Among Davis' produced works, there is extensive documentation of scripts he penned for Local 1199, as well as legal files, financial documentation, correspondence, and production materials for Purlie Victorious, Countdown at Kusini, Sybil, and With Ossie and Ruby.

Ruby Dee Projects are arranged into sections titled Adaptations, Performances, and Workshops; Book Projects; and Various Writings. Her files hold administrative materials, proposals, meeting agendas, correspondence, scripts, financial documentation, notes, drafts, and original manuscripts. Dee's adaptation of The Disappearance is specifically well-documented, featuring scripts, correspondence, budgets, casts, lists, and notes. There is also copious documentation for both the My One Good Nerve and Zora is My Name! book projects that include manuscripts, drafts, correspondence, and administrative materials. Of special interest is material tracing the development of the My One Good Nerve book into a performance piece, which includes documentation of a private performance for guests at her home in 1993.

Joint Projects hold material generated from the couple's many artistic collaborations. The most thoroughly documented projects are the Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee Story Hour radio show, With Ossie & Ruby television series, their production company Emmalyn Enterprises, and their joint memoir With Ossie & Ruby: In This Life Together.

Ossie Davis Projects
1199 Scripts and Readings

b. 44 f. 6-7 1950s-1960s
Includes The Montefiore Story, The Path of the Runner, The High Cotton, Rosa McCullough, and The Union Democracy Built

b. 44 f. 8 Freedom Over Me 1961

b. 44 f. 9 Negro History Week [1954]

b. 44 f. 10 The People of Clarendon County 1955
Performed by Davis, Dee, and Sydney Poitier.

b. 44 f. 11 Reading 1950s

b. 44 f. 12 Sit Down for Freedom 1950s-1960s

b. 44 f. 13 The Union Democracy Built 1957

b. 44 f. 14 What Can You Say to Mississippi and The Unfinished Business 1956

Assorted Works

b. 45 f. 1 "After the Burning" 1993
Television miniseries story idea and plot outline.

b. 45 f. 2 Alexis is Fallen circa 1974
b. 45 f. 4-8  Alice in Wonder 1950s, 1981
   Originally called The Big Deal. Includes letter with extensive notes from Julien Mayfield.

b. 46 f. 1   "Alvin Daylight"/ "Sweet Jesus"  1971-1972
b. 46 f. 2   "Amistad"

b. 46 f. 3-4  At the Gate: The Suicide of Poets
b. 46 f. 5-6  The Bert Williams Story
   Also called Nobody: The Bert Williams Story.

b. 46 f. 7   Bingo!  1985

b. 47 f. 1   "Blind James Cooper" or "Junior With His Blindness On"  1981
b. 47 f. 2   "The Boxer"
   Story idea.

b. 47 f. 3   "Boy Across the Country"
   Treatment.

b. 47 f. 4   "The Broken Picture"

b. 47 f. 5   Camera Three TV Presentation  1969
b. 47 f. 6-9  Clay's Rebellion [1953]

b. 47 f. 10-14 Committee of One/The Mayor of Harlem

b. 48 f. 1-2  The Cosby Show Stories  1983-1984

b. 48 f. 3   Countdown at Kusini  1973
b. 48 f. 4-6  Curtain Call, Mr. Aldridge Sir  1963-2002
b. 48 f. 7-8  Damita's Folk  1970s
b. 48 f. 9   Dan and the Human Heart  1960s

b. 48 f. 10-11  The Days of Grace  1988-1993
b. 49 f. 1-2

b. 49 f. 3   Dramatic Fragments  1960s
b. 49 f. 4   The Drinking House Over the Way
b. 49 f. 5   "DuBois on Education"  1960s
   A dramatization by Dee and Davis.

b. 49 f. 6-7  The Eleventh Hour: My Problems Have Problems  1964-1965
   Formerly "Sarah in a Showcase."

b. 49 f. 8   Everybody Can be Somebody: The OIC Story  1972
b. 50 f. 1   "A Father to Perfection"

b. 50 f. 2-3  For Us the Living: The Medgar Evers Story  1975, 1983

b. 50 f. 4-6  Frederick Douglass/Escape to Freedom  1975-1984
   Also called "The Young Frederick Douglas."

b. 50 f. 7-8  The Freedmen's Hospital Story  1967
b. 51 f. 1   The General  1984
b. 51 f. 2   Hip Is  1972-1973
b. 51 f. 3   A Hundred Years of Laughter  1980s
b. 51 f. 4   Howard 125  1992
b. 51 f. 5   I Before E Except After C  1963
b. 51 f. 6   "I Did it For Myra"

b. 52 f. 1-2  Ideas and Notes for Stories and Plays  1967-1980s
Series II: Writings and Projects (cont.)
Ossie Davis Projects (cont.)
Assorted Works (cont.)

b. 52 f. 3  "In This Corner, The Mail Order Mauler" 1960s
       Screenplay.

b. 52 f. 4  "Knight and Daye" 1970
       Story idea variations.

b. 52 f. 5-8  Langston 1981-1982

b. 52 f. 9  "Lonesome Journey: No Hiding Place" 1950s

b. 52 f. 10  "Mama" 1967

b. 52 f. 11  "A Man Called Allen" 1960s

b. 53 f. 1  MLK vis-à-vis Malcolm X

b. 53 f. 2-3  Montgomery Footprints -- Montgomery Bus Boycott Story Treatment 1957

b. 53 f. 4  "Mortgage" 1950

b. 53 f. 5  "The Moses Report"

b. 53 f. 6  Musical Dramas-Outlines

b. 53 f. 7-10  National Education Television 1965
       Contains The History of the Negro People: Slavery, Love in Exile, and Who Hath Found Love.

b. 53 f. 11  "The Neon Rainbow" 1977

b. 53 f. 12  "None So Blind"

b. 53 f. 13  Puddin' Head Wilson 1967

b. 54 f. 1-3  Notebooks 1950-1986
       Includes personal journal entries and notes on The Days of Grace, Bingo!, and My One Good Nerve.

b. 54 f. 4  Now is the Time 1967

b. 54 f. 5  "Papa's Got to Go" 1979-1980

b. 54 f. 6  Paul Robeson: All American 1998

b. 55 f. 1  Poetry by Ossie Davis 1976-1987

b. 55 f. 2  "Pop's People" 1979

b. 55 f. 3  "Ragged Spirit" 1982

b. 55 f. 4  "Robin Quarters"

b. 55 f. 5  "The Rock" 1968
       Screen treatment of the novel by Davis Wagoner.

b. 55 f. 6  "Room Tax" 1984

b. 55 f. 7-8  "The Separate City" 1960s

b. 56 f. 1-6  Short Stories 1960s-1970s
       Stories, drafts and ideas

b. 56 f. 7  Sketches in Criticism 1960s-1970s

b. 56 f. 8  "The Sniper" 1960s-1970s

b. 56 f. 9  Soliloquy 1960s-1970s

b. 56 f. 10  Source Book (Ideas) 1960s-1970s

b. 56 f. 11  "Star Black" 1972

b. 56 f. 12-14  Story Ideas 1950s-1970s
       Notes, ideas, and outlines. Including for Star Black, Sybil, and The Chosen Place...The Timeless People.

b. 56 f. 15  Super March on Washington 1972-1977

b. 57 f. 1-3
Series II: Writings and Projects (cont.)
Ossie Davis Projects (cont.)
Assorted Works (cont.)

b. 57 f. 3-6  That Pryson Woman 1986-1996
b. 58 f. 1  "They Seek a City" 1960s-1970s
b. 58 f. 2-4  Today is Ours/Glowchild 1973
b. 58 f. 5  "Treadwell" 1970
b. 58 f. 6  Unnamed Play Draft
b. 58 f. 7-9  Various One-Acts 1950s-1960s
  Contains Night School and Portrait of the Devil.

b. 59 f. 1-6  Various Treatments, Outlines and Story Ideas 1960s-1993
b. 59 f. 8-10  Willoughby 1974
b. 59 f. 11  Writers Guild of America 1972-1980
  Registration receipts for various works by Davis.
b. 60 f. 1  Writings and Notes 1940s-1950s
  Contains an early draft of Clay's Rebellion
b. 60 f. 2  Xmas Story Idea 1976-1978
b. 60 f. 3  Zack Donegan 1976-1981
  Home is the Hunter script and Blackstone notes.

Unfinished and Unproduced Works

b. 60 f. 4-7  Big John Singletary 1979-1983
  Also called Them That Are at Ease, and Big John Singletary, Man and Wife. Contains notebooks with multiple drafts.

b. 62 f. 1-4  The Family Menderson 1977
  Also called The Homecoming.

b. 62 f. 5-6  Father Divine 1978-1979
b. 63 f. 1-2
b. 63 f. 3-7  Purlie Victorious 1950s-2006
b. 64-66  Contains agreements, correspondence, notebooks, a costume sketch, book mock-up, scripts, and box office statements. Includes materials related to the stage musical, television series, and film.

b. 66 f. 4-7  Countdown at Kusini 1972-2000
b. 67-70  Contains an educational classroom guide, correspondence, production materials, legal files, financial documents, and publicity materials. Also includes the production "bible," which provides detailed records of cast, itineraries, budgets, and includes a copy of the script. Includes working files for the creation of a "Remembering Kusini" report, that was requested by the Delta Sigma Theta sorority (DST), whose members commissioned and funded the film. The report delves into the motivation for the project's genesis, the conditions surrounding the filming and production, and conclusions drawn concerning the film itself and potential of black financed and created cinema. Includes Davis's Nigerian diary entries, reminiscences of cast and crew, correspondence with DST president Lillian Pierce Benbow, drafts, and notes.

b. 70 f. 6-9  Sybil 1961-2003
b. 71-74  Contains early drafts, scripts, screenplays, film treatments, and notes.

Ruby Dee Projects

Adaptations, Performances, and Workshops

b. 74 f. 6-10  "Books With Legs" 1993-1994
  Includes Dee's proposal, information packet, meeting agendas, planning materials, and correspondence.

b. 74 f. 11  The Disappearance 1991-1994
b. 75 f. 1-8  Dee's adaptation of Rosa Guy’s novel and the first in her "Books With Legs" series concept. Contains scripts, legal and administrative correspondence, budgets, cast lists, and notes.

b. 176 f. 3  Child Abuse Hotline Poster 1980s
Guide to the
Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee papers

Series II: Writings and Projects (cont.)
Ruby Dee Projects (cont.)
Adaptations, Performances, and Workshops (cont.)

b. 176 f. 4
Chimua Achebe and Ruby Dee at Temple University 1988
Poster.

b. 77 f. 1-5
The Chosen Place, The Timeless People 1970-1982

b. 77 f. 6-11
John Boscoe and the Devil 1985-2007
Contains scripts, some administrative correspondence, and a letter from Arthur P. Davis.

b. 78 f. 7
Maud Martha
By Gwendolyn Brooks, adapted for the stage by Dee.

b. 78 f. 8-10
Take It From the Top (AKA "Twin-Bit Gardens") 1974-1991
Contains scripts, scores, staging and casting files, and correspondence.

b. 176 f. 5
Their Eyes Were Watching God Poster 2012

b. 82 f. 2-7
Workshops at Hunter College and Pratt Institute 1991-1993
Curriculum, notes, and correspondence.

b. 82 f. 8
Zora is My Name! 1982-1991
Contains scripts, correspondence, notes, and administrative material from the Howard University and the American Playhouse productions of the play. Also includes some material from the University of California, Davis student production.

Book Projects

b. 87 f. 2-6
Glowchild 1970-1975
Contains submissions, correspondence, and working draft.

b. 87 f. 7-9
Two Ways to Count to Ten: A Liberian Folk Tale and Tower to Heaven 1985-1990
Contains correspondence, manuscripts, and revisions. Also includes some other story book ideas.

b. 88 f. 4-8
My One Good Nerve 1981-2012
Contains an original manuscript, scripts, notes, correspondence, legal files, planning materials, and financial documents.

Various Writings

b. 90 f. 8
Aunt Zurletha 1981-2008
Contains a teleplay, correspondence with Pearl Bailey, reprint permissions, a revised script, project file, and television proposal.

b. 91 f. 8
Compilation of Platform Material 2006-2007
Mostly poetry and excerpts by other writers, with some by Dee.

b. 91 f. 9
Essays, Statements, and Articles 1959-1999

b. 92 f. 6-15
Notes and Ideas 1960-2012

b. 92 f. 16
Poems and Rhymes 1974-1997

Short Stories and Story Ideas

b. 93 f. 7
Galloping Grannies 1991-1993

b. 93 f. 8-9
The Half People of Dinga-Batta-Ut and The Griot Who Forgot 1986-1990

b. 93 f. 10
Hippity-Hop Hip Pigeon 1986-1990

b. 93 f. 11
Making Faces 1990

b. 93 f. 12-13
Mr. Marbles 1977

b. 93 f. 14-16
The Stepmother 1979-2009
Scripts, notes, and correspondence for theatre productions.

b. 94 f. 1-2
Tributes and Elegies 1974-2006

Joint Projects

b. 94 f. 3
"Things We've Worked At and On" circa 1960s
Series II: Writings and Projects (cont.)
Joint Projects (cont.)
b. 94 f. 4  "Marriage and Courtship" 1964 Script.
b. 176 f. 6  Spring Fever Poster 1966
Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee Story Hour
b. 94 f. 5-7  Proposals, Breakdowns, and Agreements 1974-1975
b. 94 f. 9-17  Radio Program Scripts 1975-1977
b. 95-98  Most scripts were compiled or created by Clement and Arden Hill Cumberbatch.
b. 98 f. 15  Ideas and Organization Notebook 1976
b. 99 f. 1  Interview Transcripts and Excerpts 1975-1988
b. 99 f. 2  Series Breakdown 1976-1977
b. 99 f. 3  Story Hour Book Proposal [1978]
b. 99 f. 4  W-DAS FM Program Airings List 1987
With Ossie & Ruby Television Series
b. 99 f. 5-9  Drafts and Notes 1980-1986
b. 100 f. 1-7
b. 101 f. 1-2
b. 101 f. 3-6  Season 1 1980
Contains correspondence, set drawings, notes, and scripts.
b. 102 f. 1-11  Season 2 1981-1982
b. 103 f. 1  Contains scripts, contact sheets, and negatives made during filming of season two.
b. 103 f. 2-7  Season 3: In Other Words...Ossie & Ruby 1981-1998
b. 104-109  Contains administrative files, correspondence, notes, and scripts for produced and unproduced episodes.
Emmalyn Enterprises/Emmalyn Productions
b. 109 f. 4  Correspondence With Authors 1972-1978
Includes correspondence with William Bradford Huie, and a 1973 letter from Ruby McCollum.
b. 109 f. 5  Poets and Poetry 1973-1978
b. 109 f. 6-8  Notable African Americans and Civil Rights Figures 1976-1993
b. 109 f. 9  Civil Rights and Public Policy 1980s
Clippings.
b. 111 f. 1-2  Contains proposals, planning, and blueprint by Earl G. Graves for a Pioneers in Black Business Amphitheater.
b. 111 f. 3  Brazil 1982
b. 111 f. 4-6  Generations 1982
b. 111 f. 7-10  A Walk Through the 20th Century With Bill Moyers: The Second American Revolution 1982-1984
A joint production with PBS.
b. 112 f. 5  Black Classics 1983-1992
b. 113 f. 1  David Dowe 1985
b. 113 f. 2-5  Bible 1987-1991
Concerning the recording and distribution of an audio version of the New Testament.
b. 113 f. 6  Black Presence circa 1990s
b. 113 f. 7  Dick Campbell 1990s
Series II: Writings and Projects (cont.)

Joint Projects (cont.)
Emmalyn Enterprises/Emmalyn Productions (cont.)

b. 113 f. 8
Howard University 1990-1992

b. 113 f. 9-12
Hands Upon the Heart 1990-1994
b. 114 f. 1-4
Love Album 1992

b. 114 f. 8-10
Atlanta, Atlanta 1992-1993
b. 115 f. 1
b. 115 f. 2
Trick the Devil 1993
b. 115 f. 3
Taro Meyer Project 1994
b. 115 f. 4
Rights and Permissions 1994-1996
b. 115 f. 5-7
Apollo Theatre Easter Program 1995-1996
b. 115 f. 8-12
Two Hah Hahs and a Homeboy 1994-1996
b. 116 f. 1-4
Trademark for Dee/Davis 1996

Book Projects

b. 116 f. 5
Langston 1980-1987
b. 116 f. 6
Escape to Freedom 1989
b. 116 f. 7-8
Just Like Martin 1991-1995
b. 117 f. 1-7
Purlie Victorious 1992-1994
b. 117 f. 8-12
With Ossie & Ruby: In This Life Together 1997-2000
b. 118-122
Life Lit by Some Large Vision 2005

Series III: Material By Others 1940-2012 (24 boxes 9.79 linear feet)

This series consists of both scripts and writings that Davis and Dee used in conjunction with their work in theatre, film, television, radio, audio books, and video games. Many of the scripts are annotated, and include such details as scene breakdowns, schedules, and production information. The material is arranged into the subseries: Stage Scripts; Film, Television, and Radio Scripts; and Writings. The Scripts are arranged chronologically, and the Writings are arranged alphabetically by author. Of special interest is the script from the original Broadway production of A Raisin in the Sun, as well as scripts for Boesman and Lena, The Taming of the Shrew, Do the Right Thing, and Countdown at Kusini.

Stage Scripts

Arranged chronologically.

b. 122 f. 3
Hansberry, Lorraine -- A Raisin in the Sun 1958
Rehearsal script for original Broadway production.

b. 122 f. 4
Shakespeare, William -- The Taming of the Shrew 1965
American Shakespeare Festival. Includes notes and revisions by Dee and the director.

b. 122 f. 5
Shakespeare, William -- The Tragedy of King Lear 1965
American Shakespeare Festival.

b. 122 f. 6
Childress, Alice -- Wedding Band 1965

b. 123 f. 1
Aristophanes -- The Birds 1966

b. 123 f. 2-3
Childress, Alice -- Wedding Band 1967

b. 123 f. 4
Fugard, Athol -- Boesman and Lena: A Play in Two Acts 1970

b. 123 f. 5
Childress, Alice -- Wedding Band 1972
Ivanhoe Theatre production.

b. 124 f. 1
Mitchell, Loften -- Readings From the Works of A Harlem Playwright 1972
Prepared for and inscribed to Ossie Davis by Mitchell.
Series III: Material By Others (cont.)
Stage Scripts (cont.)

b. 124 f. 2  Merriam, Eve -- Take Care 1979-1980
Co-written by Davis.

b. 124 f. 3  Take Care, Take Care 1982

b. 124 f. 4  Gardner, Herb -- I'm Not Rappaport 1986
Broadway Production.

b. 124 f. 5-6  Milner, Ron -- Checkmates 1988-1989
Broadway Production. Includes annotated contact sheets and production schedule.

b. 124 f. 7-8  Williams, Tennessee -- The Glass Menagerie 1989

b. 125 f. 1-2  Take Care, Take Care 1991
From the Great Lakes Theater Festival.

b. 125 f. 3  Cleage, Pearl -- Flyin' West 1994
Crossroads Theatre Company. Includes notes and stage directions.

b. 125 f. 4  Cooney, Doug -- Beeswax 1995
City Lights/New Dramatists Reading.

b. 125 f. 5  Ionesco, Eugene -- Ionescopade 1996

b. 125 f. 6  Milner, Ron -- Checkmates 1996-1998
Performing Arts Festival, Bermuda.

b. 125 f. 7  Seaton, Sandra -- The Bridge Party 1998
University of Michigan Production.

b. 126 f. 1  McCullers, Carson -- Member of the Wedding 2000-2001

b. 126 f. 2-3  Chenzira, Ayoka -- Flying Over Purgatory 2000-2002
Spellman College Production.

b. 126 f. 4  Wimberly, Bridgette -- Saint Lucy's Eyes 2000-2003
Contains materials from various productions.

b. 126 f. 5  Kennedy, Adrienne -- Hitler's Addendum 2001
Actor's Studio presentation.

b. 126 f. 6  Hershey, John -- Hiroshima 2003
Radio Play.

b. 175  St. Lucy's Eyes 2003
Commemorative Album.

b. 126 f. 7  Tuft, Sarah -- 110 Stories 2004
Public Theatre Stage Reading.

b. 127 f. 1  Williams, Tennessee -- Lament for the Moths 2004
Poetry adapted by Michael Clark Haney.

b. 127 f. 2  Taylor, Regina -- Post Black 2011
Going to the River Festival.

Film, Television, and Radio Scripts
Arranged chronologically.

b. 127 f. 3  Marriage and Courtship 1964

b. 127 f. 4  Leokum, Arkady -- Neighbors 1966

b. 127 f. 5  Baehr, Nicholas E. -- Ride With Terror 1967

b. 127 f. 6  Dassin, Jules and Mayfield, Julian -- Uptight 1968
Includes notes and revisions.

b. 127 f. 7  Kinoy, Ernest -- Buck and the Preacher 1970-1971

b. 128 f. 1
Series III: Material By Others (cont.)
Film, Television, and Radio Scripts (cont.)

b. 128 f. 2  
**Countdown at Kusini** 1974  
Includes annotations.

b. 128 f. 3-4  
**Kinoy, Ernest** -- **Roots: The Next Generation** 1978  
Shows #3 and #4.

b. 128 f. 5  
**Ormsby, Alan** -- **Cat People** 1981

b. 128 f. 6  
**Long Day's Journey Into Night** 1982

b. 129 f. 1  
**Go Tell it on the Mountain** 1983  
Teleplay by Gus Edwards and Leslie Lee.

b. 129 f. 2-3  
**Mann, Abby** -- **Atlanta Child Murders** 1984

b. 129 f. 4  
**Darnell, Cynthia** -- **Spenser: For Hire “Personal Demons”** 1986  
Revised final draft.

b. 129 f. 5  
**Williams, Sherley Anne** -- **Dessa Rose** 1987

b. 129 f. 6  
**Kinoy, Ernest** -- **Lincoln** 1987  
Written for television.

b. 130 f. 1  
**Lee, Spike** -- **Do the Right Thing** 1988  
Second draft.

b. 130 f. 2  
**Rachel and Her Children** 1989  
Teleplay for Trinity Playhouse.

b. 130 f. 3  
**China Beach: “Skylark”** 1990  
Final draft.

b. 130 f. 4  
**Lenski, Robert W.** -- **Decoration Day** 1990  
Teleplay.

b. 130 f. 5  
Episode #133.

b. 130 f. 6  
**The Court Martial of Jackie Robinson** 1990

b. 130 f. 7  
**Fisher, Maxine** -- **Jazztime Tale** 1991  
Animated film.

b. 130 f. 8  
**Roman, Lawrence** -- **The Ernest Green Story** 1991-1992  
Teleplay.

b. 131 f. 1  
**Cop and a Half** 1992

b. 131 f. 2  
**Haley, Alex and Stevens, David** -- **Queen Part 1** 1992

b. 131 f. 3-4  
**Byrum, John** -- **Middle Ages** 1992  
Television series.

b. 131 f. 5  
**Goldsman, Akiva** -- **The Client** 1993

b. 132 f. 1  
**Evening Shade** 1993  
Partial script.

b. 132 f. 2  
**Comer, James** -- **Maggie's American Dream** 1993  
Audiobook.

b. 132 f. 3-6  
**King, Stephen** -- **The Stand** 1993

b. 132 f. 7  
**Morrison, Toni** -- **The Bluest Eye** 1994

b. 133 f. 1  
**Just Cause** 1994  
Film.

b. 133 f. 2  
**M&M Smith: For Posterity's Sake** 1994  
Documentary.

b. 133 f. 3  
**Houston, Dianne** -- **Tuesday Morning Ride** 1994
Gardner, Herb -- I'm Not Rappaport 1995
Final draft, screenplay.

Mr. and Mrs. Loving 1995

The Client: "A Perfect World" 1995

Bird, Brian and Wierick, John -- The James Mink Story 1995

Ripper 1995
Video game. Ossie Davis did voice work.

Clark, Bob -- Baby Geniuses 1996

Rothberg, Jeff -- A Simple Wish (AKA: The Fairy Godmother) 1996

Rose, Reginald -- Twelve Angry Men 1996
First draft.


Fuller, Charles -- The Wall: The Badge 1997
HBO film.

Passing Glory 1998

Promised Land "Episode #304: Baptism By Fire" 1998

Finding Buck McHenry 1999
Final production draft, Showtime.

Milner, Ron -- Checkmates 1999
Audio script.

Mann, Emily -- Having Our Say 1999
Script, revisions and crew list.

Touched by an Angel: "The Christmas Gift" 1999

Fallon, Joe -- Between the Lions: "Bug Beard" 2000

A Few Good Hearts 2001

Kelly, Mary Pat -- Proudly We Served 2002

Presidio Med 2002

The L Word: "Lawfully" 2003

Fatherhood 2003

The L Word: "Loud and Proud" 2004

The L Word: "L’Chaim" 2004

Parks, Suzan-Lori -- Their Eyes Were Watching God (Teleplay) 2004

King, Michael Houston -- The Way Back Home 2004

Fraser, Toa -- No. 2 2004-2005

Retirement 2004-2005
Revision and call sheet.

Zaillian, Steven -- American Gangster 2006

Swanson, Christine -- Clarksdale 2006

Schickner, Kyle -- Steamroom 2006
Final draft script and shooting schedule.

MacDonald, Allen -- CSI : "Empty Eyes" 2007

Koren, Steve -- A Thousand Words 2008

Video Girl 2009
Series III: Material By Others (cont.)
Film, Television, and Radio Scripts (cont.)

b. 139 f. 3  Love, Barack (AKA: The Politics of Love)  2010
b. 139 f. 4  Keiser, Ian and Lapacek, Shaun -- Red & Blue Marbles  2011
b. 139 f. 5  1982 The Movie  2012
b. 139 f. 6  Betty and Coretta  2012

Production Script.

Writings
Arranged by author's surname.

b. 139 f. 7  Anderson, Mignon Holland -- Mostly Women Folk and a Man or Two: Tales  1976
b. 140 f. 1  Angelou, Maya – Still I Rise  1970s
b. 140 f. 2  Baily, Marilyn – Black Migration to Kansas  1870-1880  1969
b. 140 f. 3  Barnes, Forrest; Broekman, David; Robeson, Eslanda; Latouche, John -- Good-Bye Uncle Tom: An American Folk Opera  1940s
Based on Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin.

b. 140 f. 4  Bernstein, Walter and John Killens -- Salute to Paul Robeson: A Cultural Celebration of his 75th Birthday  1970s
b. 140 f. 5  Boggs, James; Boggs, Grace Lee; Paine, Lyman; and Paine, Freddy -- New Questions For An American Revolution  1972

Branch, William
b. 140 f. 6  In Splendid Error: A Play in Three Acts  1973
b. 140 f. 7  Red, White and Black  1972
b. 140 f. 8  Burgie, Irving – Ballad for Bimshire  1960s
b. 140 f. 9  Crisco, D. – Estevanico: Negro Discoverer of the Southwest  circa 1960s
b. 140 f. 10  Da Silva, Howard and Felix Leon -- The Zulu and the Zayda  1965

b. 141 f. 1  Dodson, Owen -- Bayou Legend  1974
b. 141 f. 2  Forsyth, James -- Defiant Island  1960s
b. 141 f. 3  Gonzales, Babs -- I Paid My Dues  1960s
b. 141 f. 4  Gordon, Ruth -- The Leading Lady  1947
b. 141 f. 5  Gribble, Harry Wagstaff -- Almost Faithful  1947
b. 141 f. 6  Henderson, Allison -- The Story of the 25th Station Hospital  1961
b. 141 f. 7  Hill, Abram -- Walk Hard  1940s

Hughes, Langston
b. 141 f. 8  Actor's Choice: "Langston Hughes the People's Poet"  1969
b. 141 f. 9  Emperor of Haiti 1960s
b. 142 f. 1  Jeannette, Gertrude –This Way Forward To Light In the Cellar  1973
b. 142 f. 2  King, Don -- "Hannibal"  1975
b. 142 f. 3  Leaks, Sylvester – "In These Words" – In Memoriam To W.E.B. Du Bois  1868-1963  1964
b. 142 f. 4  Lessing, Norman -- Hawaii Five-O: "Hari-Kari: Suicide Murder"  1974
b. 142 f. 5  McReynolds, John W. -- "Dear Mr. Baldwin: An Open Letter From John W. McReynolds"  1964
b. 142 f. 6  Maddow, Ben -- The Balcony  1962
b. 142 f. 7  Marshall, Paule -- CBS TV Workshop #14 - "Brown Girl, Brownstones"  1960s
b. 142 f. 8  Mason, C. L. -- Gabriel in the Fields: The Story of a Field Rebellion  circa 1960s
b. 142 f. 9  Milner, Ron and Hurt, Thomas E. -- The Hit 1971
Mitchell, Lofton
b. 142 f. 10  The Bancroft Dynasty 1970s
b. 143 f. 1  The Phonograph 1974
b. 143 f. 2  "Readings From the Works of a Harlem Playwright" for Ossie Davis 1970s
b. 143 f. 3  Nemiroff, Robert -- To Be Young, Gifted and Black: The World of Lorraine Hansberry 1967
b. 143 f. 4  Rigby, Ray -- The Hill [1965]
b. 143 f. 5  Shakespeare, William - Hamlet 1975
b. 143 f. 6  Soyinka, Wole -- Kongi’s Harvest 1960s
b. 143 f. 7  Thomas, Piri -- Chicago 1972
b. 144 f. 1  Theodore Ward and Dona, Sarah B. -- Ouah Lan’ 1975
b. 144 f. 2  Ward, Theodore -- "Throwback" 1951
b. 144 f. 3  Wesley, Richard -- Strike Heaven on the Face 1972
b. 144 f. 4  Weston, Randy -- "Jammin’ In Africa"
The Administrative files hold professional Correspondence; documentation from Miscellaneous Jobs; Daily Planners and Itineraries; Personal Legal files; and Awards and Honorary Degrees. The Miscellaneous Jobs files are arranged alphabetically, and contain contracts, correspondence, and travel schedules. The daily planners date from 1978 to 2014, and record Davis and Dee’s appointments, engagements and day-to-day professional and personal activities. These planners also contain a small amount of inserted ephemera.

b. 144 f. 7-9  Correspondence 1997-1999
b. 145 f. 1-5
b. 146 f. 1-2

Miscellaneous Jobs
b. 146 f. 3  1982 The Movie 2014
b. 146 f. 4-6  African Heritage Movie Network 1995-1997
b. 146 f. 7  A.F.I. (American Film Institute) 2004
b. 146 f. 8  American Greetings (Ebony) 2007-2009
b. 146 f. 9  Apollo Theatre Foundation 1998-2000
b. 147 f. 1-2
b. 147 f. 3  AT&T/Uniworld 1995-1996
b. 147 f. 4  B.L. Stryker 1988
b. 147 f. 5  Bingo-Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings Company 1997
b. 147 f. 6  The Bridge Party Michigan 1998
b. 147 f. 7  Checkmates 1998
b. 147 f. 8-10  Contracts 1995-2015
b. 148 f. 1-2
b. 148 f. 3  Deacons for Defense 2002
b. 148 f. 4  Dinosaurs 1997-1998
b. 148 f. 5  Emergence-See 2003-2005
b. 148 f. 6  Evening Shade 1990-1991
b. 148 f. 7  The Feast of All 2000
Series IV: Administrative Files (cont.)
Miscellaneous Jobs (cont.)

- b. 148 f. 8  Finding Buck McHenry 1999
- b. 148 f. 9  Flyin' West 1994
- b. 148 f. 10  Forgive Us Our Trespasses 2004
- b. 148 f. 11  Get on the Bus 1996
- b. 148 f. 12  Glass Menagerie 1989
- b. 148 f. 14  Having Our Say 1999
- b. 148 f. 15  JAG 2003
- b. 148 f. 16  The L Word 2003
- b. 148 f. 17  Life's Essentials with Ruby Dee 2011
- b. 148 f. 18  The Member of the Wedding 2000
- b. 148 f. 19  Miscellaneous Blurs and Recommendations 1999-2003
- b. 148 f. 20  National Black Leadership 1999
- b. 148 f. 21-22  National Memorial Day Concert 1998-2002

- b. 149 f. 1  No. 2 2006-2007
- b. 149 f. 2  Ohio State Murders 1991
- b. 149 f. 3  Old Hats 1999
- b. 149 f. 4  O&D [Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee] Contracted Gigs 1991
- b. 149 f. 5  O&D [Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee] Yearly Productions 1999-2003
- b. 149 f. 6  Passing Glory 1998
- b. 149 f. 7  Paul Robeson, All-American 1996-1998
- b. 149 f. 8  The Perfect Age of Rock and Roll 2008
- b. 149 f. 9  Permissions 2004-2014
- b. 149 f. 10  Porgy & Bess Documentary 1996-1998
- b. 149 f. 11  Promised Land/Touched by an Angel 1997-1998
- b. 149 f. 12  Red and Blue Marbles 2008
- b. 149 f. 13  The Secret Path 1998
- b. 149 f. 14  She Hate Me 2003
- b. 149 f. 15  A Simple Wish 1996-1997
- b. 149 f. 16  Social Security 1987
- b. 149 f. 17  The Soul of a Butterfly: Reflections on Life’s Journey 2004
- b. 149 f. 18  St. John's Ice Cream 1975
- b. 150 f. 1  St. Lucy’s Eyes 2002-2003
- b. 150 f. 2  Steam 2006-2007
- b. 150 f. 3  A Storm in Summer 1999
- b. 150 f. 4-5  Their Eyes Were Watching God 2000-2004
- b. 150 f. 6  Touched by an Angel 2002
- b. 150 f. 7  Vows 1999
- b. 150 f. 8-10  Daily Planners and Itineraries 1976-2014
- b. 151-165
- b. 165 f. 4-5  Personal Legal 1960-1970
Awards and Honorary Degrees 1970-2001

Series V: Activism and Politics 1948-2003 (3 boxes 1.25 linear feet)

The Activism and Politics files are arranged alphabetically by subject matter, individual, or organization, and hold correspondence, handwritten notes, and transcripts related to Davis and Dee’s lifetime of work with social justice causes. Of note are Ossie Davis’ FBI files, which he obtained via a FOIA request. Also included are files related to Grace Lee Boggs, Gary Graham, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Paul Newman, Sidney Poitier, Eslanda Robeson, Paul Robeson, Harry Belafonte, and Nat Turner.

Boggs, Grace Lee 2003
"Black Revolution and the White Backlash” Transcript 1964
Enterprise Productions 1948
FBI Files -- Ossie Davis 1970s
Graham, Gary and Abu-Jamal, Mumia 1994-1995
Motown -- Ossie Davis’ Black Caucus Speech 1991-1992
Newman, Paul 1968
Notes -- Miscellaneous (Ossie Davis) 1970s-1980s
Poitier, Sidney 1968-1970
Robeson, Eslanda 1964
Robeson, Paul 1960s
Robeson, Paul and Belafonte, Harry -- Clippings and Reviews 1958-1959
Television/FCC 1960s
Turner, Nat 1968

Series VI: Playbills and Programs 1943-2013 (9 boxes 3.42 linear feet)

Contains an assortment of theater programs dating from 1943 to 2013. Most of the programs have been arranged chronologically, while additional programs have been grouped into those associated with Davis and Dee, and programs related to African American and other minority theater. Many of the included programs contain handwritten impressions and commentary by Dee and Davis.

Davis and Dee Related Programs 1950-2003
African American and Asian American Theater 1953-2003

Series VII: Audio and Moving Image 1937-2014 (2 boxes 0.67 linear feet)

The Audio and Moving Image material dates from 1946 to 2012, with the bulk of the recordings being from the 1980s and 1990s. These recordings embody the couple’s professional careers in radio, television, film, and theatre. Davis and Dee’s work is chronicled through stage performances that include dramatic roles, readings, and rehearsals; interviews on television and radio; television appearances, as both hosts and guests; voice-over and narration work; speeches; and event hosting. The couple’s working and personal friendships are revealed through eulogies, tributes, and memorials, while their social justice work is chronicled through Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and television specials. Although the majority of the recordings are related to Davis and Dee in their professional capacities, there is a group of recordings of informal conversations; personal notes and musings; meetings; and line rehearsals for dramatic work.

Sound and video recordings were transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division.