



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

Guide to the

Sweet Love, Bitter film collection

1962-1972 [bulk 1967]

Sc Mg 710

Processed by Janice Quinter, September 2002.

Summary

Title:

Date: 1962-1972 [bulk 1967]

Size: 0.03 linear feet (3 folders)

Source: Purchase from McBlain Books, 2002.

Abstract: Sweet Love, Bitter is an independent movie, written, produced, and directed, in 1967, by Herbert Danska and Lewis Jacobs. The story is based on the novel Night Song, written by John Williams and inspired by the life of jazz saxophonist Charlie "Bird" Parker. The black and white film starred Dick Gregory as the musician, along with Don Murray, Robert Hooks, and Diana Varsi. This interracial drama dealt with two contemporary American themes, the African American as the creative genius and the African American in American society. In addition, heroin addiction and an interracial love affair were themes addressed in this film. The Sweet Love, Bitter film collection consists of the screenplay entitled Night Song by Herbert Danska and Lewis Jacob (1963); a film proposal by Nat Hentoff, which was distributed to potential investors; Danska's and Jacobs's outline of the movie; and a budget estimate. Additionally, there is an outline of the third and final cut, a location list, five cue cards used by Dick Gregory during filming, and news clippings of advertisements and reviews. Documents relating to the controversy over control and cutting of the film complete this collection.

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

Preferred citation: [Item], Sweet Love, Bitter film collection, Sc Mg 710, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Janice Quinter, September 2002.

Creator History

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Scope and Content Note

The *Sweet Love, Bitter* film collection consists of the screenplay entitled *Night Song* by Herbert Danska and Lewis Jacob (1963); a film proposal by Nat Hentoff, which was distributed to potential investors; Danska's and Jacobs's outline of the movie; and a budget estimate. Additionally, there is an outline of the third and final cut, a location list, five cue cards used by Dick Gregory during filming, and news clippings of advertisements and reviews. Documents relating to the controversy over control and cutting of the film complete this collection.

Key Terms

Subjects

African Americans in motion pictures
Experimental films -- United States
Independent filmmakers -- United States
Motion picture plays -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Motion picture plays

Names

Danska, Herbert. Sweet love, bitter. Sweet love, bitter.
Jacobs, Lewis. Sweet love, bitter. Sweet love, bitter.
Parker, Charlie, 1920-1955
Williams, John A., 1925- Night song. Night song.

Container List

- f. 1 Folder 1
- f. 2 Folder 2
- f. 3 Folder 3