



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Michael Townsend Smith collection of scripts

1965-2002

*T-Mss 2003-021

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2015

Summary

Creator: Smith, Michael Townsend

Title: Michael Townsend Smith collection of scripts

Date: 1965-2002

Size: 4 linear feet (10 boxes)

Source: Donated by Michael T. Smith, 2003.

Abstract: Michael Townsend Smith (b.1935-) is an American playwright and director for Off-Off Broadway and alternative theatres. The collection holds Smith's scripts and the scripts of other playwrights.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts 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. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

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Creator History

Michael Townsend Smith (1935-) is an American playwright, director and one of the founders of the Off-Off Broadway theatre movement. His writings include *Captain Jack's Revenge*, *Country Music*, and *Heavy Pockets*. Occasionally, Smith worked under the pseudonym Vernon O'Ray.

Early in his career, he directed some works of other playwrights at Caffé Cino, a popular place for Off-

Off Broadway productions. Smith also produced the works of playwrights Maria Irene Fornes, Jean-Claude van Itallie, H.M. Koutoukas and Ronald Tavel.

Eventually, Smith expanded his productions to other cities. In 2003, Smith relocated to Oregon to continue his theatrical work.

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of the collection holds scripts written by other playwrights, notably Ronald Tavel (1936-2009) and H.M. Koutoukas (1937-2010). Writings by other playwrights also include *Dr. Kheal* by Maria Irene Fornes and *Eat Cake* by Jean-Claude van Itallie.

Michael T. Smith's scripts are occasionally annotated and include *Captain Jack's Revenge*, *Heavy Pockets*, and *Trouble*. The latter script was written under the pseudonym Vernon O'Ray.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged as follows: Michael T. Smith Scripts, and Scripts of Other Playwrights.

Key Terms

Subjects

Experimental theater -- New York State -- New York
Off-Off Broadway theater

Occupations

Playwrights

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scripts

Names

Koutoukas, H. M. (Haralambos Monroe), 1937-2010
Tavel, Ronald

Container List

Michael T. Smith Scripts

- b. 1 f. 1-2 Captain Jack's Revenge 1970
- b. 1 f. 3 Country Music 1971
- b. 1 f. 4 Cowgirl Estacs 1976
- b. 1 f. 5 Denver Trilogy 1971
- b. 1 f. 6 (The) Dinner Show 1974
- b. 1 f. 7 (A) Dog's Love 1966
- b. 1 f. 8 Dogs Bark All Night 2000
- b. 1 f. 9 Double Solitaire 1973
- b. 1 f. 10 Fast Forward 1999
- b. 1 f. 11 Half Life 1983
- b. 1 f. 12-13 Heavy Pockets 1981
- b. 2 f. 1 Human Beans 2002
- b. 2 f. 2 Life is A Dreampla 1978
This play was adapted by Smith.
- b. 2 f. 3 (The) Next Thing 1966
- b. 2 f. 4 One Hundred Thousand Songs 1987
- b. 2 f. 5 Peas 1971
- b. 2 f. 6 Point Blank 1972
- b. 2 f. 7 Prussian Suite 1974
- b. 2 f. 8 Ton 1971
- b. 2 f. 9 Trouble 1988
- b. 2 f. 10-11 Turnip Family Secrets 1982
- b. 2 f. 12 (A) Wedding Part 1974

Scripts by Other Playwrights

- b. 10 f. 1 Agenoux, Soren. Donovan's Johnson 1967
- b. 9 f. 10 Birimisa, George. Mr. Jello 1968
- b. 3 f. 3 Bush, Josef. Evening Raga circa 1969
- b. 3 f. 4 Celer, Jim. Stranger Than Spending a Night in a Fort Dodge Truckstop circa 1972
- b. 3 f. 5 Charlip, Remy. More, More More circa 1960s-1980s
- b. 3 f. 6 Community College of Westerly. A Celebration of Twelfth Night 1986
- b. 3 f. 7 DiPrima, Diane. Whale Honey 1991
- b. 3 f. 8 Duras, Marguerite. Agatha 1987
- b. 3 f. 9 Eyen, Tom. (The) White Whore & Why Hanna's Skirt Won't Stay Down circa 1970
- b. 3 f. 10 Fornes, Marie Irene. Dr. Kheal 1968
- b. 3 f. 11 Forman, R. Evidence circa 1974
- b. 3 f. 12 Fratti, Mario. Che Guevara 1970
- b. 3 f. 13 Garvin, Fred. Buffalo Meat 1968

Scripts by Other Playwrights (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 14 Gordon, Robert. (The) Light and Dark of It 1973
- b. 4 f. 1 Haislip, William and Bush, Josef. Philosophy in the Bedroom by the Marquis De Sade circa 1960s-1980s
Heide, Robert
- b. 4 f. 2 Moon circa 1974
- b. 4 f. 3 Tropical Fever in the Key West 1983
- b. 4 f. 4 Heliczer, Piero. Bessie Smith circa 1960s-1980s
Hoffman, William M
- b. 4 f. 5 Gilles de Rais 1973
- b. 4 f. 6 (A) Quick Nut Bread to Make Your Mouth Water 1971
- b. 4 f. 7 XXX 1971
- b. 4 f. 8 Horovitz, Israel. Line 1967
- b. 4 f. 9 Jones, LeRoi. [Dutchman] and the Slave 1971
Kespert, Charles
- b. 4 f. 10 The Executioners 1972
- b. 4 f. 11 Light Cell Death circa 1974
- b. 4 f. 12 Kessler, Lyle. Burning Bright circa 1960s-1980s
Koutoukas, H.M
- b. 5 f. 1 (A) Letter From Colette or Dreams Don't Send Valentines circa 1960s
- b. 5 f. 2 Medea or The Stars May Understand circa 1960s
- b. 5 f. 3 Melancholy Camp circa 1960s
- b. 5 f. 4 Orpheus in Your Music 1965
- b. 5 f. 5 Tell Me Tender Tales or Feathers are for Ramming circa 1960s
- b. 5 f. 6 Michael Touched Me or Hang Up Your Red Shoes circa 1960s
- b. 5 f. 7 Things Left to Die 1965
- b. 5 f. 8 With Creatures Make My Wa circa 1960s
- b. 5 f. 9-11 Kraus, Ruth. Untitled Works 1965
- b. 5 f. 12 Kufferberg, Tuli. Fuck Nam 1966
- b. 5 f. 13 Lashes, Gloria. Queens Awake or The Gasman Cometh 1989
- b. 5 f. 14 Lasker-Schuler, Else. Landi 1987
- b. 6 f. 1 (The) Living Theatre. The Legacy of Cain 1968
- b. 6 f. 2 Magnuson, Jim. Game Time 1970
Mednick, Murray
- b. 6 f. 3 Coyote 1992
- b. 6 f. 4 (The) Hawk circa 1960s-1990s
- b. 6 f. 5 Murrin, Tom. Mad Dog The Mind-Reader 1970
Owens, Rochelle
- b. 6 f. 7 Homo 1966
- b. 6 f. 8 Istanbul 1968
- b. 6 f. 9 (The) Karl Mark Play circa 1974
- b. 6 f. 10 Kontraption 1977

Scripts by Other Playwrights (cont.)

- b. 6 f. 10 Peluso, Emanuel. Hurricane of the Eye 1969
Potter, Melisand
- b. 6 f. 11 Columbine and the Polar Bear Cloud circa 1976
- b. 6 f. 12 Jawbreakers circa 1976
- b. 6 f. 13 Minimal Zoo circa 1976
- b. 7 f. 1 Potter, Robert A. Where is Sicily? 1969
Reznikov, Hanon
- b. 7 f. 2 Anarchia 1993-1994
- b. 7 f. 3 Utopia 1995
- b. 7 f. 4 Rothenberg, Jerome. That Dada Strain circa 1987
- b. 7 f. 5 Satin, Victor. Agon 1973
Schlottmann, William
- b. 7 f. 6 (The) Monkey Man's Pick-Up 1973
- b. 7 f. 7 No Luggage People 1973
Shepard, Sam
- b. 7 f. 8 Geography of a Horse Dreamer 1974
- b. 7 f. 9 Shaved Splits 1970
Starkweather, David
- b. 7 f. 10 (The) Myth of Light circa 1960s
- b. 8 f. 1 (The) Wish House 1968
Tavel, Ronald
- b. 8 f. 2 Arenas of Lutetia 1967
- b. 8 f. 3-4 Bigfoot 1970, 1972
- b. 8 f. 5 Boy on a Straight-Back Chair or Their Town 1966
- b. 8 f. 6-7 Gazelle Boy 1976
- b. 8 f. 8 Gorilla Queen 1966
- b. 8 f. 9 Hanoi Hanna, Radio Star 1965
- b. 8 f. 10 How Jacqueline Kennedy Became Queen of Greece 1973
- b. 8 f. 11 Kitchenette 1965
- b. 9 f. 1 (The) Life of Juanita Castro 1965
- b. 9 f. 2 My Foetus Lived on Amboy Street 1985
- b. 9 f. 3 (The) Ovens of Anita Orangejuice. A History of Modern Florida 1977
- b. 9 f. 4 Playbirth 1976
Two plays in same folder
- b. 9 f. 4 How the Reverend Left Danbury circa 1960s-1980s
- b. 9 f. 5 Success and Succession 1983
- b. 9 f. 6 (The) Understudy 1981
- b. 9 f. 7 Thompson, Erie. Artists for the Revolution circa 1970
van Itallie, Jean Claude
- b. 9 f. 9 Eat Cake 1971
- b. 9 f. 10 (A) Mystery Farce 1972

Scripts by Other Playwrights (cont.)

b. 9 f. 11 Weiss, Jeff. A Funny Walk Home 1967