



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Arnold Auerbach papers

1936-1957

*T-Mss 2011-152

Compiled by Diana Bertolini.

Summary

Creator: Auerbach, Arnold Malcolm, 1912-

Title: Arnold Auerbach papers

Date: 1936-1957

Size: 2.73 linear feet (7 boxes)

Source: Bequest of Arnold Auerbach, 2011.

Abstract: Arnold Auerbach (1912-1998) was an American comedy writer for radio, television, and theatre. The Arnold Auerbach papers cover Auerbach's career in the theatre with scripts and other production materials.

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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Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Compiled by Diana Bertolini.

Creator History

Arnold M. Auerbach was born in New York City on May 23, 1912. He attended Columbia University, where he began his writing career, editing and contributing humor pieces to the college magazine, Jester. Auerbach's involvement with this publication introduced him to another contributor, a young

Herman Wouk (the Pulitzer Prize winning author) who would be one of Auerbach's earliest collaborators.

While trying to get his career as a playwright off the ground, Auerbach found work supporting radio writer David Freedman, by mining old humor magazines for jokes that could be used in his shows. This foot-in-the-door gave Auerbach and Wouk a chance to audition original material for popular radio star Fred Alle. They got the job and held it for five years, until the breakout of World War II sent both writers into the armed forces.

While in the Army's Special Services Division, Auerbach wrote revues to entertain the troops, often in collaboration with Harold Rome. After the war ended, Auerbach and Rome created a Broadway musical revue, based on their wartime pieces, called Call Me Mister. The show, which opened in 1946, was a great success, and ran for 734 performances.

In 1948, Auerbach contributed sketches to another hit revue, Inside U.S.A., which featured songs by Howard Dietz and Arthur Schwartz. Auerbach teamed up with Rome for another revue, Bless You All (1950), but it wasn't as successful as their previous collaboration, only running for three months.

The failure of Bless You All was indicative of the decrease in popularity of revues, largely due to the increase in popularity of television variety shows, which also featured comedy sketches. Auerbach was a natural at television comedy writing and had a long career in television, writing material for stars like Milton Berle, Al Jolson, Frank Sinatra, and Phil Silvers and winning an Emmy Award.

In 1940, Auerbach married Justine Rubin, with whom he had two children. He died in New York City on October 19, 1998.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists almost entirely of script materials for pieces Arnold Auerbach wrote for film, television, theater, and radio. Script materials include full scripts, fragments, outlines, and notes for sketches, skits, and plays. Certain shows, such as Bless Us All and Call Me Mister, also include programs. There are also several short stories by Auerbach. This collection does not contain personal material.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by title or description.

Key Terms

Names

Auerbach, Arnold Malcolm, 1912-

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 "Actor-Waiter," 1949
- b. 1 f. 2 "Alice in Radioland," 1943-1944
- b. 1 f. 3 Army Sketches 1943-1944
- b. 1 f. 4 "Barbara Comes of Age," undated
- b. 1 f. 5-6 The Big Box 1957
- b. 1 f. 7 Bless You All 1951
- b. 1 f. 8 Breakfast Scene undated
- b. 1 f. 9 "The Butter & Egg Woman," undated
- b. 1 f. 10-11 Call Me Mister 1946-1949
 - b. 2 f. 1 The Charlie Chaplin Fadeout undated
 - b. 2 f. 2 Coca Script circa 1954
for Imogene Coca.
 - b. 2 f. 3 "The Crock of Gold," undated
 - b. 2 f. 4 Crooked Halo 1949
 - b. 2 f. 5 Edward G. Robinson Sketch undated
 - b. 2 f. 6 Ethel and Albert undated
 - b. 2 f. 7 "Ex-Child Star...Again," 1949
 - b. 2 f. 8 Favorite Son 1936
 - b. 2 f. 9 Fenwick Babbitt...Santa Claus Sketch undated
 - b. 2 f. 11 Five Cents More undated
 - b. 2 f. 12 Funny Face undated
 - b. 2 f. 10 "First Draft," 1952
 - b. 3 f. 1 The Girl with the Beautiful Mind undated
 - b. 3 f. 2 "Giveaways," undated
 - b. 3 f. 3 Hail to the Chief undated
 - b. 3 f. 4 Henry Morgan...Matador Sketch undated
- b. 3 f. 5-6 His Honor, Homer Bell 1944
 - b. 3 f. 7 Hoot Hawkins undated
 - b. 3 f. 8 "Hot Majesty" undated
 - b. 3 f. 9 "Husband's Little Helper," 1949
- b. 4 f. 1 Inside U.S.A 1948
 - b. 4 f. 2 It All Came True 1945
 - b. 4 f. 3 Jukebox Boy undated
 - b. 4 f. 4 Lunch-Hour Follies/Lunch-Time Follies undated
 - b. 4 f. 5 The Man Who Stopped Worrying undated
 - b. 4 f. 6 McCarthy Sketch for Democratic Jamboree undated
 - b. 4 f. 7 Miss Harris Gets Help undated
 - b. 4 f. 8 "Nothing But the Tooth," undated
 - b. 4 f. 9 The Odyssey of Homer Whitehead undated
 - b. 4 f. 10 "The Old Greek," undated

- b. 4 f. 11 The Old Order undated
- b. 4 f. 12 On Your Way Rejoicing undated
- b. 4 f. 13 The "Our Song" Kid undated
- b. 4 f. 14 Out of This World undated
- b. 4 f. 15 "Paired Off," 1956
- b. 4 f. 16-17 Pan/Once Upon a Spring 1947
 - b. 5 f. 1 "Parade...Love Story," undated
 - b. 5 f. 2 "Part Time Poet," undated
 - b. 5 f. 3 The Paul Winchell Show 1954
 - b. 5 f. 4 "A Place to Sleep," undated
 - b. 5 f. 5 "The Play Doctor," undated
 - b. 5 f. 6 "The Pour Soul at the Movies" and "The Pour Soul in a Supermarket," undated
 - b. 5 f. 7 President's Commercial undated
 - b. 5 f. 8 "Prestige," undated
 - b. 5 f. 9 "The Rebellion of Mr. Breitmueller" 1949
 - b. 5 f. 10 Reggie Van Gleason Sketch undated
 - b. 5 f. 11 "Return Match," undated
 - b. 5 f. 12 Return Passage undated
- b. 5 f. 13-15 Room Service undated
 - b. 5 f. 16 Russian Sketch undated
 - b. 5 f. 17 The Saturday Bus 1954
 - b. 5 f. 18 "Silent Laugh," 1949
 - b. 5 f. 19 "Sir Toby," undated
 - b. 5 f. 20 The Soft Touch undated
 - b. 5 f. 21 Southern Sketch undated
- b. 6 f. 1 "Square Table of the Air," undated
- b. 6 f. 2 Strange Harbor undated
- b. 6 f. 3 The Super-Sensory Miss 1956
- b. 6 f. 4 "Tea and Sympathy," undated
- b. 6 f. 5 Television Intro Sketch undated
- b. 6 f. 6 "Those Two," undated
- b. 6 f. 7 "Tight Squeeze," 1956
- b. 6 f. 8 Till the Cows Come Home 1943-1944
- b. 6 f. 9 Top Platter 1955
- b. 6 f. 10 "2.19 Collect," undated
- b. 6 f. 11 "Two on the Aisle," undated
- b. 6 f. 12 "Unlucky Night," 1956
- b. 6 f. 13 "Wait for the Laugh," undated
- b. 6 f. 14 The White Mouse 1954
- b. 6 f. 15 "Will Rogers Home," undated
- b. 6 f. 16 "Vamp," 1955

- b. 6 f. 17 You Know Me AI undated
- b. 7 f. 1-2 Unidentified and Various Scripts, Sketches, Notes, and Fragments 1940-1955,
undated