



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Edward Albee scripts

1949-1966

*T-Mss 1964-003

Summary

Creator: Albee, Edward, 1928-2016

Title: Edward Albee scripts

Date: 1949-1966

Source: Scripts: Gift, Edward Albee, 1964

Abstract: Collection consists entirely of scripts of original plays and adaptations from the early career of playwright Edward Albee. It includes typescripts and proofs, many with handwritten revisions, and in various versions. Plays included in the collection are THE ZOO STORY, THE DEATH OF BESSIE SMITH, THE AMERICAN DREAM, WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?, FAM AND YAM, TINY ALICE, A DELICATE BALANCE, BOX and QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN MAO, and the adaptations: THE BALLAD OF THE SAD CAFE, MALCOLM, EVERYTHING IN THE GARDEN, and a musical adaptation of BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S. Also includes some unfinished and untitled manuscripts.

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>

Conditions Governing Access:

The written permission of the Edward Albee Estate is necessary for access to the collection. Materials may not be reproduced in any form without permission from the Estate. Further written permission is required if quotations are desired.

Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division.

Preferred citation: Edward Albee Scripts, *T Mss 1964-003, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed and machine-readable finding aid created by Elisabeth Elkind and Mary Ellen Rogan. The Edward Albee Scripts were originally cataloged under the library's RM classification system, but were recataloged in 1998 into the library's online database

Creator History

Edward Franklin Albee III was born on March 12, 1928, probably in Virginia, and adopted by Reed A. and Frances (Cotter) Albee shortly after his birth. The Albees, a wealthy family with theatrical connections, lived in Larchmont, New York. Albee grew up alienated by his parents' lifestyle and struck out on his own, moving to Greenwich Village, NY, after three semesters at Trinity College. He had various jobs; his favorite was as a messenger for Western Union, before achieving his first success in 1959 with a German language production in Berlin of his play, *The Zoo Story*. His best known work, which scandalized Broadway in 1962 and established him as America's most acclaimed young playwright, is *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?*.

In 1963 Albee, with Richard Barr and Clinton Wilder, began producing new plays by new playwrights at a theater they rented in Greenwich Village and thus were a part of the burgeoning Off-Off Broadway movement. In 1964 Albee created the Edward Albee Foundation, a summer retreat at Montauk, Long Island, which provides living and working space for six artists. Albee has taught playwriting at various colleges and often directs his own plays. After the 1960s his writing became less prolific and less well received. For many years he has been more popular in Europe than in America. However, he has won numerous awards including the Pulitzer Prize three times: for *A Delicate Balance* in 1967, *Seascape* in 1975 and *Three Tall Women* in 1994.

Custodial History

The Edward Albee Scripts were given to the Billy Rose Theatre Division of The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts by Edward Albee beginning in 1964.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists entirely of scripts of original plays and adaptations from the early career of the playwright Edward Albee. It includes typescripts and proofs, many with handwritten revisions, and in various versions. Plays included in the collection are *The Zoo Story*, *The Death Of Bessie Smith*, *The American Dream*, *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?*, *Fam and Yam*, *Tiny Alice*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Box* and *Quotations from Chairman Mao*, and the adaptations: *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*, *Malcolm*, *Everything in the Garden*, and a musical adaptation of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. Also contains some unfinished and untitled manuscripts, including a few that are entirely handwritten. There is, however, no copy of *The Sandbox*, an Albee play from this period, in the collection.

Arrangement: The collection, in one series, scripts, is arranged alphabetically by title. Within a title, they are arranged in the order of their former RM (cataloging) numbers.

Key Terms

Subjects

American drama -- 20th century

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scripts

Names

Albee, Edward, 1928-2016

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 *The American Dream by Edward Albee - Carbon typescript*
- b. 1 f. 2 *The American Dream by Edward Albee - Published proofs (4 versions) 1961*
- b. 1 f. 3 *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe by Edward Albee - Carbon typescript with revisions for first 10 scenes*
- b. 1 f. 4 *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe by Edward Albee - Carbon typescript for 2nd half*
- b. 1 f. 5 *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe by Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions for first 10 scenes*
- b. 1 f. 6 *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe by Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions for 2nd half*
- b. 1 f. 7 *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe by Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions and inserts for 1st half*
- b. 1 f. 8 *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe by Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions and inserts for 2nd half*
- b. 2 f. 1 *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe by Edward Albee - Partial typescript with notes and revisions*
- b. 2 f. 2 *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe by Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions and notations for the publisher for 1st part. 1963*
- b. 2 f. 3 *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe by Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions and notations for the publisher for 2nd part. 1963*
- b. 2 f. 4 *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe by Edward Albee - Author's proof with handwritten annotations. 1963*
- b. 2 f. 5 *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe by Edward Albee - Final plate proof with handwritten annotations. 1963*
- b. 2 f. 6 *Box by Edward Albee - Original typescript*
- b. 2 f. 7 *Box by Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions (also includes Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung)*
- b. 2 f. 8 *Breakfast at Tiffany's by Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions (Part 1 of 2)*
- b. 2 f. 9 *Breakfast at Tiffany's by Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions (Part 2 of 2)*
- b. 2 f. 10 *Breakfast at Tiffany's by Edward Albee - Carbon typescript - new version*
- b. 3 f. 1 *Breakfast at Tiffany's by Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions (Act I)*
- b. 3 f. 2 *Breakfast at Tiffany's by Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions (Act I)*
- b. 3 f. 3 *Breakfast at Tiffany's by Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions (Act II)*
- b. 3 f. 4 *Breakfast at Tiffany's by Edward Albee - Production notes (includes partial script, revisions, notes on performances and costumes, scene breakdowns, time plots)*
- b. 3 f. 5 *The City of People by Edward Albee - Typescript final version. 1949*
- b. 3 f. 6 *The Death of Bessie Smith by Edward Albee - Typescript 1959*
- b. 3 f. 7 *A Delicate Balance by Edward Albee - Act I - typescript with revisions. 1966*
- b. 3 f. 8 *A Delicate Balance by Edward Albee - Act II - typescript with revisions. 1966*
- b. 3 f. 9 *A Delicate Balance by Edward Albee - Act III - typescript with revisions 1966*
- b. 3 f. 10 *A Delicate Balance by Edward Albee - Act I - clean script*
- b. 3 f. 11 *A Delicate Balance by Edward Albee - Act II - clean script*
- b. 3 f. 12 *A Delicate Balance by Edward Albee - Act III - clean script*

- b. 4 f. 1 *A Delicate Balance* by Edward Albee - Act I - typescript with handwritten revisions
- b. 4 f. 2 *A Delicate Balance* by Edward Albee - Act II - typescript with handwritten revisions
- b. 4 f. 3 *A Delicate Balance* by Edward Albee - Act III - typescript with handwritten revisions and notes on possible cuts 1966
- b. 4 f. 4 *A Delicate Balance* by Edward Albee - partial typescript with additions, notes and cast list 1966
- b. 4 f. 5 *The Dispossessed* by Edward Albee - typescript with cuts and additions 1958
- b. 4 f. 6 *The Dispossessed* by Edward Albee - clean photocopied typescript 1958
- b. 4 f. 7 *The Dispossessed* by Edward Albee - clean typescript 1958
- b. 4 f. 8 *An End to Summer* by Edward Albee - partial handwritten script (Act I, scene 1), with ideas and sketches for Act III
- b. 4 f. 9 *An End to Summer* by Edward Albee - partial script with handwritten notes
- b. 4 f. 10 *Everything in the Garden* by Edward Albee - Act I II - typescript with handwritten revisions
- b. 4 f. 11 *Everything in the Garden* by Edward Albee - Act III - typescript with handwritten revisions
- b. 4 f. 12 *Fam and Yam* by Edward Albee - typescript with penciled stage directions 1960
- b. 4 f. 13 *Fam and Yam* by Edward Albee - clean typescript 1960
- b. 4 f. 14 *Fam and Yam* by Edward Albee - carbon of clean typescript 1960
- b. 5 f. 1 *The Ice Age* by Edward Albee - Act I - early draft with revisions
- b. 5 f. 2 *The Ice Age* by Edward Albee - Act I - later draft
- b. 5 f. 3 *The Invalid* by Edward Albee - Act I - four versions 1952
- b. 5 f. 4 *The Making of a Saint* by Edward Albee - clean typescript 1953-1954
- b. 5 f. 5-7 *Malcolm* by Edward Albee - original typescript with six pages of changes and revisions 1965-1966
- b. 5 f. 8 *Malcolm* by Edward Albee - script excerpts with changes and revisions 1965
- b. 5 f. 9-11 *Malcolm* by Edward Albee - typescript with revisions and new pages
- b. 5 f. 12 *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung* by Edward Albee - original typescript
- b. 5 f. 13-14 *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung* by Edward Albee - clean typescript with author's notes and character descriptions
- b. 6 f. 1-2 *Tiny Alice* by Edward Albee - typescript with handwritten revisions
- b. 6 f. 3-4 *Tiny Alice* by Edward Albee - typescript, also includes description of Act III
- b. 6 f. 5 *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee - clean typescript of first fifteen pages of earliest script
- b. 6 f. 6-8 *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee - typescript with revisions
- b. 7 f. 1-2 *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee - Act I II - clean typescript 1961-1962
- b. 7 f. 3-5 *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee - clean typescript of 2nd version
- b. 7 f. 6 *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee - pages deleted from 2nd script

- b. 7 f. 7-8 *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee - final script 1962
- b. 8 f. 1 *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee - author's proof 1962
- b. 8 f. 2 *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee - recast plate proofs 1962
- b. 8 f. 3 *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* by Edward Albee - script changes for recording
- b. 8 f. 4 *Ye Watchers and Ye Lonely Ones* by Edward Albee - handwritten manuscript 1951
- b. 8 f. 5 *The Zoo Story* by Edward Albee - typescript with notes and corrections 1958
- b. 8 f. 6 *Untitled play* by Edward Albee - handwritten manuscript (probably *The Recruit*)
- b. 8 f. 7 *Untitled play* by Edward Albee - manuscript (probably *The Recruit*)
- b. 8 f. 8 *Untitled play* by Edward Albee - clean typescript Act I (probably *In a Quiet Room*) 1949
- b. 8 f. 9 *Untitled play* by Edward Albee - handwritten manuscript (probably *Hatchet, Hatchet*)
- b. 8 f. 10 *Untitled play* by Edward Albee - later version (probably *Hatchet, Hatchet*)
- b. 8 f. 11 *Untitled play* by Edward Albee - typescript with revisions (possibly *The Merry Month of May*)
- b. 8 f. 12 *Untitled play* by Edward Albee - typescript with revisions
- b. 8 f. 13 *Untitled play* by Edward Albee - typescript with handwritten revisions
- b. 8 f. 14 *Untitled play* by Edward Albee - typescript with revisions