Summary

Creator:  Comden, Betty
Title:  Comden and Green papers
Date:  1933-2003
Size:  12 linear feet (29 boxes)
Source:  The Comden and Green Papers were predominantly donated to the Billy Rose Theatre Division in 1986 by Betty Comden and Adolph Green.

Abstract:  Betty Comden and Adolph Green were lyricists, librettists, screenwriters and performers. This collection consists of scripts, production files, office files, financial records, awards, photographs and programs from 1933 to 2003.

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


Language of the Material:  English

Processing note:  Originally processed before 1991, re-processed by Diana Bertolini; Machine-readable finding aid created by Diana Bertolini.

Related Materials:  Scripts and programs pertaining to Betty Comden and Adolph Green can also be found in the Adolph Green Papers (call number *T-Mss 2004-023 in the Billy Rose Theatre Division).
Creator History

Adolph Green was born in the Bronx, New York on December 2, 1915. After a brief stint as a runner on Wall Street, Green began his theatrical career as an actor and soon found himself writing and performing satirical sketches with the nightclub act, The Revuers. Green's fellow Revuers included Judy Holiday and Betty Comden, who became his lifelong writing partner. Betty Comden was born Elizabeth Cohen on May 3, 1919 in Brooklyn, NY. Comden attended New York University, where she studied drama, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Education in 1938. The Revuers played at the Village Vanguard and the Rainbow Room in the late 1930s and made regular appearances on radio and one brief appearance in the Fox film, Greenwich Village (1944). The team of Comden and Green scored a hit with their Broadway debut, On The Town (1944), for which they provided the book and lyrics to Leonard Bernstein's score as well as appearing in the original Broadway cast.

After their second show, Billion Dollar Baby (1945), written with composer Morton Gould, Comden and Green signed with Metro-Goldwin-Mayer and began working for the Arthur Freed Unit. Their first project was a screenplay and additional lyrics for Good News (1947). They went on to write original screenplays for several classic movie musicals, including Singin' In The Rain (1952), The Bandwagon (1953), It's Always Fair Weather (1955) and the final film of the legendary partnership between Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, The Barkleys of Broadway (1949). They also adapted the screenplay and provided lyrics to new songs for their own On The Town (1949).

In the early 1950s Comden and Green resumed their Broadway career with the revue Two On The Aisle (1951), the first of many collaborations with their most frequent composer, Jule Styne. Their next project, Wonderful Town (1953), reunited them with Leonard Bernstein and won the Tony Award as Best Musical. Their next seven Broadway musicals were collaborations with Styne, including additional songs for Peter Pan (1954), Say, Darling (1958), Do-Re-Mi (1960), Subways Are For Sleeping (1961), Fade Out-Fade In (1964) and Best Musical Tony Award winner, Hallelujah, Baby! (1968). The most successful show from Comden and Green's collaboration with Jule Styne was Bells Are Ringing (1956), which was written as a vehicle for Comden and Green's old friend, Judy Holliday, now an Academy Award winning actress.

During this period of high productivity on Broadway, Comden and Green also continued work on various film projects, adapting Bells Are Ringing for the screen in 1960. They also did the 1958 screen adaptation of Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee's play Auntie Mame, which starred Wonderful Town's Rosalind Russell. Though their last produced film was the comedy with songs, What A Way To Go! (1964), they continued to work on screenplays for the rest of their careers. Comden and Green also continued their performing careers in 1959, with the first version of their successful revue, A Party With Betty Comden and Adolph Green, which they performed several times on Broadway and around the country over the following thirty years.

In 1970 Comden and Green provided the book for Charles Strouse and Lee Adams' score for Applause, a musical version of the classic film, All About Eve, (1950) which won the Tony Award for Best Musical. Another Comden and Green show won the Tony later in the decade: On The Twentieth Century in 1978, which also won them and their composer, Cy Coleman, the Tony for Best Score. Comden and Green's next project was a departure from the witty, urbane style that had characterized their previous work when they tackled nineteenth century feminism in a collaboration with composer Larry Grossman and director Harold Prince. A Doll's Life (1982) investigates what might have happened to Nora from Ibsen's A Doll's House after she slams the door and leaves her family. This ambitious
project was unsuccessful, but demonstrated Comden and Green’s versatility. Their last original musical, however, was a triumph, both artistically and financially. *The Will Rogers Follies* (1991), another collaboration with Cy Coleman, ran 981 performances and brought Comden, Green and Coleman another Best Score Tony Award.

Throughout their career as writers, Comden and Green continued to work as performers in such films as *My Favorite Year* (1982), *I Want to Go Home* (1989) and *Garbo Talks* (1984). They also appeared in countless tributes and concerts including *Follies in Concert*, performed at Avery Fisher Hall in 1985 and Green appeared as Dr. Pangloss in the London Symphony Orchestra’s *Candide*, conducted by Leonard Bernstein in 1989.

Betty Comden was married to artist Steven Kyle from 1942, until his death in 1979. They had two children, Alan Kyle and Suzanne Kyle. Adolph Green’s first marriage in 1941, to actress/painter Elizabeth Reitell ended in divorce, as did his second marriage to actress Allyn Ann McLerie from 1945-1953. In 1960 he married actress Phyllis Newman, with whom he had two children, Amanda Green and Adam Green, and to whom he remained married until his death on October 23, 2002.

**Scope and Content Note**

This collection contains scripts, production files, office files, financial records, awards, photographs and programs from as early as 1933 and as late as 2003. The strengths of this collection are several scripts for unproduced or incomplete works by Comden and Green as well as other writers, and the multiple drafts of certain shows, reflecting the process of revising a script and extensive business correspondence and office records. Of special interest are various drafts and handwritten sheet music for songs from collaboration with Leonard Bernstein on a musical adaptation of Thornton Wilder’s *The Skin of Our Teeth*, which was never finished, scripts for episodes of a proposed television adaptation of *Bells Are Ringing*, the transcript of an oral history interview with Fanny Brice, conducted in preparation for an autobiography which was never written, called *Don’t Pick Up Your Money Till You’ve Finished Singing*, and various parody lyrics written for political campaigns and tributes. This is a collection of professional materials and its scope does not extend to personal materials, which are only minimally represented here.


**Key Terms**

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**

- Awards
- Financial records
- Photographs
- Programs
- Radio scripts
- Scripts (documents)
- Sheet music
- Television scripts
Occupations
Lyricists
Screenwriters
Television writers

Subjects
Musical films -- United States
Musical theater -- New York (State) -- New York
Musicals
Television musicals -- United States

Names
Bernstein, Leonard, 1918-1990
Brice, Fanny
Comden, Betty
Green, Adolph
Wilder, Thornton, 1897-1975
“Revuers”
Series I: Scripts 1933 - 1979 (11 boxes)
This series consists of complete scripts written for theatre, film, television and radio, produced and unproduced. Betty Comden and Adolph Green wrote the majority of these scripts. Some of these scripts are for projects written by various associates and friends of Comden and Green's.

Alphabetical.

**Applause, Book by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Charles Strouse, Lyrics by Lee Adams** 1969, 1972, Undated

b. 1 f. 1  *Welcome to the Theatre, Book by Sidney Michaels - Clean script of early version of Applause* Undated
Alternate title, *Make Believe*.

b. 1 f. 2  Early mimeographed script with extensive revisions Undated

b. 1 f. 3  Mimeographed script with minor revisions Undated


b. 1 f. 5  Television script 1972 Jan. 8

b. 2 f. 1  Clean mimeograph of television script Undated

**Bells Are Ringing, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Jule Styne** 1958 - 1959, 1974, Undated

b. 2 f. 2  Carbon of typed early script with changes Undated

b. 2 f. 3  Clean mimeographed script of intermediate version Undated

b. 2 f. 4  Clean mimeograph of final script, revised 1959 Apr. 30

b. 2 f. 5  Incomplete first draft of screenplay 1958 Oct. 7

b. 2 f. 6  Screenplay with notes and changes 1958 Dec. 12, 1959 Apr. 2.
Includes supplementary materials, dated 1959 Apr. 2.

b. 2 f. 7  Mimeographed screenplay with changes 1959 Mar. 3, 1959 Apr. 2
Includes supplementary materials, dated 1959 Apr. 2

b. 2 f. 8  Mimeograph of revised screenplay 1959 Aug. 18

b. 3 f. 1  *Mimeographed script of German translation by Ralf Wolter - Ein Engel In Der Leitung* Undated

b. 3 f. 2  Mimeograph of television script 1974 Jan. 1

**Busby, Original Story and Screenplay and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green - First draft of screenplay** 1975
Unproduced.

b. 3 f. 3  First draft of screenplay 1975 Aug. 18

b. 3 f. 4  Second draft of screenplay 1975 Oct. 27

b. 3 f. 5  Revised first draft of screenplay 1975 Nov. 11
Series I: Scripts (cont.)

By Bernstein, Book by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Leonard Bernstein, Lyrics by Various Authors ca. 1975, Undated
All drafts give title as "The Bernstein Show."

b. 3 f. 6  Clean mimeographed script 1975 July
b. 3 f. 7  Carbon of script with minor revisions 1975 July
b. 3 f. 8  Mimeograph of script with minor revisions Undated

b. 4 f. 1  By the Old Moulmein Pagoda by Irwin Shaw - Clean mimeographed script Undated
b. 4 f. 2  Come Blow Your Horn by Neil Simon - Carbon or early script, using title One Shoe Off 1959 July
b. 4 f. 3  Do - Re - Mi, Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Jule Styne, Book by Garson Kanin - Temporary Published Version 1961 Jan. 15 Includes letters, notes and script fragments.

b. 4 f. 4  The Fabulous Fifties, Television script by Betty Comden and Adolph Green - Script draft 1960 Jan. 31
Fun with the Revuers, Radio show by Betty Comden, Adolph Green, Judith Tuvim (Judy Holliday), John Frank and Alvin Hammer 1940
Radio scripts 1940

b. 4 f. 5  # 1: "Just For Fun," 1940 Mar. 5
b. 4 f. 6  # 2: "In The Subway," 1940 Apr. 9
b. 4 f. 7  # 4: 1940 Apr. 23
b. 4 f. 8  1940 Apr. 30
b. 4 f. 9  # 7: "Radio," 1940 May 21
b. 4 f. 10 # 9: "Fashion Opening," 1940 June 11
b. 4 f. 11 # 10: 1940 June 18
b. 4 f. 12 # 12: "Radio City Opening," 1940 July 9
b. 4 f. 13 1940 Aug. 3
b. 4 f. 14 # 15: "Summer in the City," 1940 Aug. 12
b. 4 f. 15 1940 Sept. 6
b. 4 f. 16 # 19: "Etiquette," 1940 Sept. 15
b. 4 f. 17 # 20: 1940 Sept. 22
b. 4 f. 18 # 22: "Inventions," 1940 Oct. 6
b. 4 f. 19 # 23: "A Salute to the Automobile Manufacturers Association of America," 1940 Oct. 13
b. 4 f. 20 # 25: "A Salute to Radio," 1940 Nov. 3

b. 5 f. 1  The Greeks Had a Word For It by Zoe Akins - Clean carbon of play 1930, Undated
b. 5 f. 2  I'm Getting Married, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Jule Styne - "As Broadcast" mimeographed script of television musical with revisions 1966 Dec. 10 - 1966 Dec. 12, 1967 Apr

Let's Celebrate, Television program by Betty Comden and Adolph Green 1972
b. 5 f. 3  "First Show" - Clean mimeographed script 1972 Nov. 3, 1972 Nov. 12.

b. 5 f. 4  "Show #1: Columbus" - Clean photocopy of script 1972 Nov. 10, 1972 Nov. 12
Airdate: 1972 Nov. 12

b. 5 f. 5  "First Show" - Script with minor revisions Undated, 1972 Nov. 12

b. 5 f. 6  "Show #2: Awards" - Photocopied script with minor changes 1972 Nov. 10, 1972 Nov. 13
Airdate: 1972 Nov. 13

b. 5 f. 7  Lorelei!, Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Jule Styne,
Book by Kenny Solms and Gail Parent - Mimeographed script with changes 1973 Nov. 16
The Movie, Screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green 1968
Unproduced.

b. 5 f. 8  Treatment for screenplay with changes 1968 Mar. 9
Under title, A Story for a Movie.

b. 5 f. 9  First draft with changes 1968 Aug.

b. 6 f. 1  Photocopy of second draft with changes Undated

b. 6 f. 2  Mimeograph of revised screenplay Undated

b. 6 f. 3  Music from Shubert Alley, Television program by Herb Sargent - Script for
program featuring Comden and Green performing "I Said Good Morning," 1959 Oct. 24

b. 6 f. 4  My Dear Public by Irving Caesar and Charles Gottesfeld, Songs by
Caesar/Marks/Lerner - Clean carbon. [Formerly cataloged as RM 2869.]
Undated
On The Town, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music
by Leonard Bernstein, Based on a concept by Jerome Robbins Undated, 1944
Dec. 28
Opened 1944 Dec. 28.

b. 6 f. 5  Carbon of early script with changes. [Formerly cataloged at RM 5018.]
Undated

b. 6 f. 6  Carbon of script with minor revisions. [Formerly cataloged at RM 5019.]
Undated

b. 6 f. 7  Clean mimeograph of final version of script. [Formerly cataloged at RM
5008.] Undated
On the Twentieth Century, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph
Green, Music by Cy Coleman 1977

b. 7 f. 1  Clean early draft 1977 Jan. 7
Under title, Twentieth Century.

b. 7 f. 2  Mimeograph of early draft with changes 1977 Aug. 18
Under title, The Twentieth Century LTD.
b. 7 f. 3
Mimeograph of early draft with changes, "Most recent - Still cuts missing,"
1977 Nov. 7
Under title, The Twentieth Century LTD.

b. 7 f. 4
Mimeograph of late script with minor changes Undated

b. 7 f. 5
On Your Toes, Music by Richard Rodgers, Lyrics by Lorenz Hart, Book by Rodgers Hart and George Abbott - Clean mimeograph of Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Production script Undated, 1936 Apr. 11
Original production opened 1936 Apr. 11.

Out of This World, Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter, Book by Betty Comden and Adolph Green Undated, 1950 Dec 21
This version was not produced, but a version of the show with a book by Dwight Taylor and Reginald Lawrence opened on Broadway 1950 Dec 21.

b. 8 f. 1
Carbon of script Undated

b. 8 f. 2
Clean carbon of script Undated
The name Hanya Holm is written on the cover page.

Peter Pan, Music by Moose Charlap, Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, Additional Music by Jule Styne, Additional Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green 1973, Undated

b. 8 f. 3

b. 8 f. 4
Script with extensive revisions Undated, 1979
Possibly a re-write for 1979 production which starred Sandy Duncan.

b. 8 f. 5
Saturday Night, Book by Julius J. Epstein and Philip G. Epstein, Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim - Clean mimeographed script 1959 May 20

b. 8 f. 6
Say It With Music, Screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music and Lyrics by Irving Berlin - Script draft 1966 Jan.
Unproduced.

b. 8 f. 7
Show of the Week - Radio script featuring The Revuers as special guests 1940 Dec. 29

b. 8 f. 8
The Show - Off by George Kelly, dialogue continuity by Herman J. Mankiewicz - Screenplay with notes 1933 Nov. 21


b. 9 f. 1
Clean mimeographed screenplay 1978 Dec. 2

b. 9 f. 2
Photocopy of mimeographed screenplay with notes 1979 Jan. 21

The Singing Ghost, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Jule Styne 1972, Undated
Unproduced.

b. 9 f. 3
The Ghost Goes West by Robert Sherwood - Clean mimeographed screenplay of film 1935, Undated
This film was the basis for The Singing Ghost.

b. 9 f. 4
Outline/treatment and mimeographed draft with changes by Betty Comden 1972 Sept. 25

b. 9 f. 5
Mimeographed draft with notes Undated
Guide to the Comden and Green papers

Series I: Scripts (cont.)

*Singin' In The Rain, Screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green* 1950 - 1951

- b. 9 f. 6 "Temporarily Complete" MGM Script Dept. draft 1950 Oct. 14
- b. 9 f. 7 Screenplay with notes and revisions by Betty Comden 1951 Apr. 11

*The Skin of Our Teeth, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Leonard Bernstein* 1963 - 1964, Undated

Unproduced.

  Includes casting notes and one note from Leonard Bernstein to Betty Comden.

- b. 10 f. 1 Carbon of script with minor revisions 1964 Dec. 10
  Script refers to this project by the alternate title, *Help! Help! Hooray!*

- b. 10 f. 2 Rough script with notes Undated
  Script refers to this project by the alternate title, *Help! Help! Hooray!*

- b. 10 f. 3 *Some Kind of Love Story and Elegy For a Lady* by Arthur Miller 1982 Dec.
  Alternate title, 2 by A.M. Includes inscription from David G. Myers to Betty Comden.

- b. 10 f. 4 *Straws in the Wind, by a various authors, including Betty Comden and Adolph Green and Cy Coleman* - Script Undated
  *Subways Are for Sleeping, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Jule Styne* 1961 - 1962

- b. 10 f. 5 Script with changes by Betty Comden 1961 May 12
- b. 10 f. 6 Philadelphia script with changes 1960 Nov. 2
- b. 10 f. 7 Script with changes 1962 Feb.

*That Was the Week That Was, Television script for episode featuring Betty Comden and Adolph Green, which aired* 1964 Dec. 15

- b. 10 f. 8 Second draft with notes 1963 Dec. 13
- b. 10 f. 9 Third draft with notes 1964 Dec. 15

- b. 11 f. 1 *Travelin' Light, by Betty Comden and Adolph Green* - Screen Treatment with extensive revisions by Betty Comden 1978 Nov. 20
  Alternate title, *I'm Comin' Virginia.*

- b. 11 f. 2 *Tucker Project, The '48 Tucker* - First draft of screenplay by David Siedler 1979 May 25
  Was basis for the motion picture *Tucker: The Man and His Dream.*

*What A Way To Go, Screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green* 1963, Undated

- b. 11 f. 3 First draft script 1962
  Uses original title, *I Love Louisa.*

- b. 11 f. 4 Second draft with corrections and drawings 1963 June 7
  Uses original title, *I Love Louisa.*

- b. 11 f. 5 Untitled script with notes Undated
**Series I: Scripts (cont.)**

b. 11 f. 6  
*Wonderful Town*, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green,  
*Music by Leonard Bernstein* - Television script with rehearsal schedule 1958  
Nov. 30

**Series II: Production Files 1944 - 2003 (10 boxes)**

This series consists of various materials pertaining to the productions of projects written by Comden and Green, as well as projects they considered, such as musical adaptations of the films *The Apartment* and *Sunset Boulevard* and projects by other authors, to which they contributed advice, such as Neil Simon’s *Come Blow Your Horn* (1961). Types of materials represented are business correspondence, notes, congratulatory messages, schedules, incomplete script materials, sheet music, technical plots and official financial and legal documents (box office statements, contracts, etc.) that pertain to specific productions.

Alphabetical.

*The Apartment*, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green,  
*Music by Jule Styne* 1965 - 1967, Undated  
Unproduced.

b. 11 f. 7  
Business correspondence 1965 - 1967

b. 11 f. 8  
Notes Undated  
Includes song spots and casting ideas.

*Applause*, Book by Betty Comden and Adolph Green,  
*Music by Charles Strouse, Lyrics by Lee Adams* 1968 - 1979, Undated

b. 11 f. 9  
Audition schedules 1969 - 1972  
Business correspondence 1968 - 1979

b. 11 f. 10  
1968 - 1970 June

b. 12 f. 1  
1970 July - 1970 Dec

b. 12 f. 2  
1971 Jan. - 1971 May

b. 12 f. 3  
1971 June - 1971 Dec

b. 12 f. 4  
1972 Jan. - 1972 Mar

b. 12 f. 5  
1972 Mar. - 1972 June

b. 12 f. 6  
1972 July - 1972 Dec

b. 12 f. 7  
1973 - 1974

b. 12 f. 8  
1975 - 1979

b. 12 f. 9  
Congratulatory messages 1969 - 1971

b. 12 f. 10  
Creative notes Undated

b. 12 f. 11  
Lyrics for original cast album Undated

b. 12 f. 12  
Notes regarding bus and truck tour Undated

b. 13 f. 1  
Script materials 1970

b. 13 f. 2  
Technical plot 1970

b. 13 f. 3  
Television recording and shooting schedules 1973

*Auntie Mame*, Screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green 1957 - 1958

b. 13 f. 4  
Business correspondence 1957 - 1958

b. 13 f. 5  
Contract 1957

b. 13 f. 6  
*The Barkleys of Broadway*, Screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green  
- Business correspondence 1948
Series II: Production Files (cont.)

*Bells Are Ringing, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green,
Music by Jule Styne* 1955 - 1979, 1990, Undated

Business correspondence 1955 - 1979

b. 13 f. 7 Aug 1955 - 1957
b. 13 f. 8 1957 Sept. - 1957 Dec
b. 13 f. 9 1958 Jan. - 1958 June
b. 13 f. 10 1958 July - 1958 Dec
b. 13 f. 11 1959
b. 13 f. 12 1960 - 1963
b. 13 f. 13 1964 - 1970
b. 14 f. 1 1971 - 1979

Film adaptation 1958 - 1971

b. 14 f. 2 Notes, scripts and correspondence 1958 - 1960
b. 14 f. 3 Royalty statements from MGM 1961 - 1971
b. 14 f. 4 Goodspeed Opera House Newsletter 1990

Telegrams 1956

b. 14 f. 5 New Haven tryout 1956 Oct.
b. 14 f. 6 Opening night 1956 Nov.

Television series 1973, 1974, Undated

Unproduced.

b. 14 f. 7 Script 1973
b. 14 f. 8 Script 1974
b. 14 f. 9 Pilot script Undated
b. 14 f. 10 Episode script with notes Undated
b. 14 f. 11 Notes and scenarios Undated

*Billion Dollar Baby, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green,
Music by Morton Gould* 1945 - 1973, Undated

b. 14 f. 12 Business correspondence 1946 - 1973
b. 14 f. 13 Financial statements 1945 - 1946
b. 14 f. 14 Notes Undated
b. 14 f. 15 *Bonanza Bound, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green,
Music by Saul Chaplin* - Business correspondence 1947 - 1960
b. 14 f. 16 *Busby, Original Story and Screenplay and Lyrics by Betty Comden and
Adolph Green* 1975 - 1976

Unproduced.

b. 14 f. 17 *By Bernstein, Book by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Leonard
Bernstein, Lyrics by Various Authors* - Business correspondence 1975 - 1976
b. 14 f. 18 *Come Blow Your Horn* by Neil Simon - Business correspondence 1959 - 1960

Uses original title, *One Shoe Off.*

*A Doll’s Life, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by
Larry Grossman* 1981 - 1983

b. 14 f. 19 Audition schedules 1981 - 1982
Series II: Production Files (cont.)

A Doll's Life, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Larry Grossman (cont.)

- Business correspondence 1981 - 1983

b. 14 f. 20

- Congratulatory messages/telegrams 1982

b. 14 f. 21

- Do - Re - Mi, Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Jule Styne, Book by Garson Kanin 1960

b. 14 f. 22

- Box office statements 1960 - 1962

b. 14 f. 23

- Fade Out - Fade In, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Jule Styne 1964 - 1968

b. 15 f. 1

- Business correspondence/financial statements 1964 - 1968

b. 15 f. 2

- Script revisions 1964

b. 15 f. 3

- Telegrams 1964 - 1965

b. 15 f. 4

- Golden Girl, by Betty Comden and Adolph Green - Notes/outline 1958

Unproduced.

b. 15 f. 5


b. 15 f. 6


b. 15 f. 7

- Business correspondence 1967 - 1978

b. 15 f. 8

- Congratulatory messages/telegrams 1968

- I'm Getting Married, Screenplay and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Jule Styne 1965 - 1971, Undated

b. 15 f. 9

- Business correspondence 1965 - 1971

b. 15 f. 10

- Casting ideas/schedules 1966

b. 15 f. 11

- Notes Undated

b. 15 f. 12

- It's Always Fair Weather, Original Screenplay and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Andre Previn - Business correspondence 1954 - 1955

b. 15 f. 13


b. 15 f. 14


- Lorelei!, Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Jule Styne, Book by Kenny Solms and Gail Parent 1972 - 1979

  - Business correspondence 1972 - 1979

b. 15 f. 15

- 1972 - 1973 June

b. 15 f. 16

- 1973 July - 1973 Dec

b. 15 f. 17

- 1974 - 1979

b. 16 f. 1

- Congratulatory messages/telegrams 1974

b. 16 f. 2

- Notes 1973

b. 16 f. 3

- Press clipping from The Globe and Mail 1973 May 3
Series II: Production Files (cont.)

*The Madwoman of Central Park West, Book by Arthur Laurents and Phyllis Newman, Songs by various authors, including Betty Comden and Adolph Green* 1979

b. 16 f. 4 Business correspondence 1979
b. 16 f. 5 Sheet music, lyrics and script ideas 1979

*The Movie, Screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green* 1968 - 1969, Undated
Unproduced.

b. 16 f. 6 Budget materials 1969 July - 1969 Sept
b. 16 f. 7 Business correspondence 1968 - 1969
b. 16 f. 8 Notes and script fragments Undated
b. 16 f. 9 *Music from Shubert Alley, Television program by Herb Sargent - Business correspondence/Notes/Schedules* 1959 - 1960

*On The Town, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Leonard Bernstein, Based on a concept by Jerome Robbins* 1944 - 1979, Undated

b. 16 f. 10 Article and correspondence 1971
b. 16 f. 11 Box office statements 1944 - 1946
Business correspondence 1945 - 1979

b. 16 f. 12 1945 - 1949
b. 16 f. 13 1954 - 1959
b. 16 f. 14 1960 - 1969
b. 16 f. 15 1971 - 1979
b. 16 f. 16 Casting materials 1962
b. 16 f. 17 Contract 1944
b. 16 f. 18 Notes Undated

b. 17 *On the Twentieth Century, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Cy Coleman* 1977 - 1979, Undated

b. 17 f. 1 Business correspondence 1977 - 1979
b. 17 f. 2 Congratulatory messages 1979
b. 17 f. 3 Notes Undated
b. 17 f. 4 *Press clipping, Chicago Tribune* 1979 Jan. 18
b. 17 f. 5 Technical plots Undated
b. 17 f. 6 *Out of This World, Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter, Book by Betty Comden and Adolph Green - Business correspondence* 1967 - 1979


b. 17 f. 7 Box office statements 1962, 1977
Business correspondence 1958 - 1980

b. 17 f. 8 1958
b. 17 f. 9 1959
b. 17 f. 10 1960 - 1962, 1969
b. 17 f. 11 1972 - 1976
b. 17 f. 12 1977
Series II: Production Files (cont.)
A Party With Betty Comden and Adolph Green (cont.)
Business correspondence (cont.)

b. 17 f. 13 1978 - 1980
b. 17 f. 14 Congratulatory messages 1958 - 1959, 1977
b. 17 f. 15 Telegrams 1958 - 1959, 1961

b. 18 Peter Pan, Music by Moose Charlap, Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, Additional Music by Jule Styne, Additional Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green 1951 - 1981, Undated
Business correspondence 1951 - 1981

b. 18 f. 1 1951 - 1959
b. 18 f. 2 1960 - 1969
b. 18 f. 3 1970 - 1973
b. 18 f. 4 1974
b. 18 f. 5 1975 - 1981
b. 18 f. 6 Congratulatory messages 1954 - 1955
b. 18 f. 7 Notes Undated


b. 18 f. 8 1958
b. 18 f. 9 1959, 1967, 1977

Say It With Music, Screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music and Lyrics by Irving Berlin 1965 - 1966, Undated
Unproduced.

b. 18 f. 10 Business correspondence 1965 - 1966
b. 18 f. 11 Notes Undated

b. 18 f. 13 Introduction to published version Undated

Stage version, 1985 Undated
b. 18 f. 14 Script drafts and notes 1985
b. 18 f. 15 Set sketches and casting notes Undated
b. 18 f. 16 The Singing Ghost, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Jule Styne - Business correspondence 1972 - 1974
Unproduced.

The Skin of Our Teeth, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Leonard Bernstein 1962 - 1965, Undated
Unproduced.

b. 19 f. 1 Business correspondence, casting notes 1962 - 1965
b. 19 f. 2 Sheet music Undated

Straws in the Wind, by a various authors, including Betty Comden and Adolph Green and Cy Coleman 1975, Undated
b. 19 f. 3 Program and notes 1975
b. 19 f. 4 Score Undated
Series II: Production Files (cont.)

Subways Are for Sleeping, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Jule Styne 1958 - 1974, Undated

b. 19 f. 5  Audition schedule/casting notes 1961
b. 19 f. 6  Box office statements 1962
b. 19 f. 7  Business correspondence 1958 - 1974
b. 19 f. 8  Congratulatory messages 1961
b. 19 f. 9  Lyrics Undated
b. 19 f. 10 Notes, outlines, revisions 1959
b. 19 f. 11 Story outline and summary Undated
b. 19 f. 12 Scenes with revisions Undated
b. 19 f. 13 Sunset Boulevard, Proposed musical adaptation by Betty Comden and Adolph Green - Correspondence 1962

Unproduced.

b. 19 f. 14 Take Me Out to the Ballgame Screenplay by Harry Tugend and George Wells - Salary statements 1948 June 9
Payment is for composition of five lyrics: "Sandman," "It's Fate Baby - It's Fate," "The Right Girl for Me," "Yes Indeedy" and "O'Brien to Ryan to Greenburg."

Tucker, Unproduced musical by Betty Comden and Adolph Green 1979, Undated

b. 19 f. 15 Notes, outlines, script fragments 1979
b. 19 f. 16 Sheet music Undated

Two on the Aisle, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Jule Styne 1951 - 1952, 2003, Undated

b. 20 f. 1  Box office statements 1951
b. 20 f. 2  Business correspondence 1951 - 1952
b. 20 f. 3  Congratulatory messages 1951
b. 20 f. 4  Sheet music, sketch script, correspondence 2003
b. 20 f. 5  Skits/scenes Undated
b. 20 f. 6  Waltz of the Toreadors, Proposed Comden and Green musical adaptation of Jean Anouilh's play - Business correspondence 1972
b. 20 f. 7  West Side Story, Music by Leonard Bernstein, Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by Arthur Laurents - Original story plan Undated
b. 20 f. 8  What A Way To Go, Screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green - Business correspondence 1963 - 1979
b. 20 f. 9  Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter? By George Axelrod, Produced by Jule Styne - Business correspondence 1957 - 1958

Wonderful Town, Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Music by Leonard Bernstein 1952 - 1981

Business correspondence 1952 - 1981

b. 20 f. 10  1952 - 1954
b. 20 f. 11  1954 July - 1954 Dec
b. 20 f. 12  1955 - 1959
b. 20 f. 13  1960 - 1968
b. 20 f. 14  1970 - 1981
b. 20 f. 15

Congratulatory telegrams 1953

Series III: Office Files 1933 - 1986 (4 boxes)
This series consists of materials pertaining to Comden and Green's career in general, and not to specific production, to the running of their office and outside activities, such as fund-raising, political campaigns, newspaper and magazine articles. Materials included are correspondence, fan mail, personal items, steno books, publicity materials and notebooks.

Alphabetical.

b. 21 f. 1

City Center Cinematheque - Publicity materials, Proposal, Correspondence
1973 Apr. 24
Also includes Cinemabilia Inc. catalog.

Correspondence 1933 - 1985, Undated

Benefits/Fund - raising 1947 - 1981
b. 21 f. 2
1947 - 1972
b. 21 f. 3
1974 - 1981
b. 21 f. 4
Fan mail 1945 - 1979
General 1933 - 1985, Undated
b. 21 f. 5
Alphabetized 1954 - 1980
Includes correspondence from Cecil Beaton, Leonard Bernstein, Margaret Leighton, Jessica Tandy & Hume Cronyn, Stanley Donen, Michael Feinstein, Marvin Hamlisch, Oscar Hammerstein, 2nd, Leland Hayward, Al Hirschfeld, Arthur Laurents, Josh Logan, Sidney Lumet, Dean Martin, David Merrick, Laurence Olivier, Harold Prince, Dore Schary, Stephen Sondheim, Peter Stone and Elaine Stritch.

b. 21 f. 6
Lauren Bacall - 3 cards 1962

b. 21 f. 7
Sidney Bernstein - 3 letters 1957, 1959

b. 21 f. 8
Herbert Graff 1973

b. 21 f. 9
Alan Jay Lerner - 2 notes 1959, 1961

b. 21 f. 10
Jerome Robbins - 2 post cards 1959, 1964

b. 21 f. 11
Richard Rodgers, 4 letters 1958 - 1962

b. 21 f. 12
Oliver Smith - 2 postcards Undated

b. 21 f. 13
Jule Styne - 4 notes 1962

b. 21 f. 14
Ed Sullivan - 3 notes 1959 - 1961

b. 21 f. 15
The White House - 3 invitations, 2 envelopes 1985

b. 21 f. 16
Lenore Wise - 2 letters 1933

b. 21 f. 17
Inter - office memos 1958 - 1960

b. 22 f. 1
Lectures/Panel Discussions 1965 - 1981

b. 22 f. 2
Fanny Brice memoir interview transcript - Don't Pick Up Your Money Till You've Finished Singing Undated
This interview seems to have been conducted for an unrealized autobiography by Fanny Brice.

Newspaper/magazine articles 1959-1971, 1985

b. 22 f. 3
"Comden and Green's Guide to Broadway" - Notes, drafts, correspondence 1959 - 1961

b. 22 f. 4
"The Lion Melts" - Notes, drafts, correspondence 1970

b. 22 f. 5
Singin' In The Rain piece for VOGUE - Draft with corrections 1985 Apr. 19
Various articles - Correspondence 1959 - 1971

Personal Items, 1958, 1967 Undated

Adolph Green Tel Aviv Items 1967, Undated, 1967 Sept. 7

Handwritten journal entries, Undated
Program for concert of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Leonard Bernstein, 1967 Sept. 7
Stationary and welcome letter from the Tel Aviv Hilton, Undated
Charred page from address book, 1967

Betty Comden’s passport 1958

Political campaigns - Correspondence, programs, lyrics 1960 - 1979

Steno books kept by Lucy Barry, Comden and Green’s secretary 1958 - 1961, Undated
Many of the notes in these books are written in shorthand.

Telephone calls 1958 Dec. 2 - 1959 Jan. 19
1959 Jan. - 1959 Mar
Telephone calls 1959 - 1961
1959 Mar. 26 - 1959 Apr. 28
1959 May 19 - 1959 June 11
1959 June 19 - 1959 Sept. 11
1959 Sept. 11 - 1959 Oct
1959 Oct. 22 - 1960 Jan. 27
1960 Jan. 27 - 1960 May 2
1960 May 2 - 1960 July 27
1961 Jan. 16 - 1961 Mar. 17
1961 Mar. 20 - 1961 June 8
1961 June 9 - 1961 Aug. 21
Notes 1961
Aug
Sept
Notebook Undated
Notes, “Party Record In Full,” Undated
Probably relating to A Party with Betty Comden and Adolph Green, almost entirely in shorthand.

Tribute to Irwin Shaw notes by Adolph Green Undated

Television, radio, concerts - Contracts, scripts, correspondence 1959 - 1979
Tributes/concerts 1959 - 1986

Correspondence, lyrics, scripts, programs 1959 - 1978
Correspondence, lyrics, scripts, sheet music, programs 1979 - 1986
Guide to the 
Comden and Green papers

Series III: Office Files (cont.)
Steno books kept by Lucy Barry, Comden and Green's secretary (cont.)

b. 24 f. 4 Various projects - Correspondence, contracts, script materials 1954 - 1980

This series consists of financial records that do not pertain to individual shows, but to various companies Comden and Green were involved with, as well as their general finances. Materials included are royalty statements, correspondence contracts, agreements and financial statements.

Alphabetical.

ASCAP, (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) 1959 - 1984

b. 24 f. 5 Correspondence/Agreements 1959 - 1984
b. 24 f. 6 Writer performance Records 1965 - 1980


b. 24 f. 7 ASCAP membership certificate 1975 June 26
b. 24 f. 8 Bank statements 1978 - 1980

Chapell Music Company/Stratford Music Corporation 1958 - 1981, Undated

b. 24 f. 9 Catalogues Undated
b. 24 f. 10 Correspondence 1958 - 1981
   b. 25 Financial statements 1964 - 1979
   b. 25 f. 1 1964 - 1965
   b. 25 f. 2 1975, 1979
   b. 25 f. 3 Royalty statements 1958 - 1980
   b. 25 f. 3 1958 - 1977
   b. 25 f. 4 1978 - 1980
   b. 25 f. 5 Columbia Records/CBS - Royalty statements 1966 - 1979
   b. 25 f. 6 Edwin H. Morris & Company Inc. - Royalty statements, 1952 1968 - 1979
   b. 25 f. 7 Leo Feist, Inc. - Royalty statements 1965 - 1979
   b. 25 f. 8 Melrose Music Corporation - Royalty statements 1968 - 1970
      b. 25 Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer Pictures 1948 - 1962
   b. 25 f. 9 Correspondence 1948 - 1962
   b. 25 f. 10 Contract 1954
   b. 25 f. 11 Mitch Miller Music Corporation - Royalty statements 1968 - 1978
   b. 25 f. 12 Robbins Music Corporation - Royalty statements 1964 - 1979
      Town Productions, Inc 1958 - 1962
   b. 25 f. 13 Correspondence 1958 - 1961
   b. 25 f. 14 Financial statements 1960 - 1962
   b. 25 f. 15 Agents - Contracts 1947, 1961, 1967
   b. 25 f. 16 Finances 1967 - 1974
   b. 25 f. 17 Investments - Correspondence/Agreements 1958 - 1968
Series V: Awards 1949 - 1985 (2 boxes)

Arrangement: Alphabetical. This series consists of materials pertaining to awards and honors for which Comden and Green were nominated. Materials include certificates, nomination plaques, correspondence and photographs pertaining to those awards.

Alphabetical.

b. 26 f. 1 Academy Award Nomination - Correspondence, The Bandwagon 1954
b. 26 f. 2 American Jewish Congress, National Women's Division Citation - Certificate, Betty Comden Undated
b. 26 f. 3 Billboard Donaldson Award - Certificate, Wonderful Town 1952 - 1953
Box Office Blue Ribbon Award Certificate 1949, 1950
b. 26 f. 4 The Barkleys of Broadway 1949
b. 26 f. 5 On The Town 1950
b. 26 f. 6 City of New York Certificate of Appreciation - Betty Comden and Adolph Green 1985
b. 26 f. 7 City of Philadelphia Welcome Certificate - Betty Comden and Adolph Green 1976
b. 26 f. 8 Bells Are Ringing, film version 1960
Do - Re - Mi 1961
b. 26 f. 9 Original Cast Show Album
b. 26 f. 10 Song of the Year, "Make Someone Happy"
b. 26 f. 11 On The Twentieth Century 1978
A Party With Betty Comden And Adolph Green 1959
b. 26 f. 12 Broadway Show Album
b. 26 f. 13 Comedy Performance
b. 26 f. 14 Israel Cultural Award - Correspondence 1980
b. 27 f. 1 Mayor's Award of Honor for Arts and Culture, New York City - Correspondence 1978
b. 27 f. 2 Muscular Dystrophy Association of America, Betty Comden - Citation of Merit 1957
b. 27 f. 3 The Musical Theatre Society of Emerson College Award of Distinction Plaque - Betty Comden 1976
b. 27 f. 4 New York Drama Critics Circle Award, Best New Musical - Wonderful Town 1953 Apr. 14
b. 27 f. 5 New York Newspaper Women's Club - Betty Comden, Certificate of Appreciation 1958 Nov. 14
b. 27 f. 6 New York University Alumnae Club, Woman of Achievement Award, Betty Comden - Correspondence, notes, photograph 1978 - 1979
b. 27 f. 7 Outer Critics Circle Award, Best New Musical - Wonderful Town 1952 - 1953
b. 27 f. 8 Photoplay Magazine Award, One of America's Ten Most Popular Pictures - The Bandwagon 1953
Screen Writers' Guild Nomination for Award Certificate - The Best Written Musical of the Year 1953, 1960 - 1961
b. 27 f. 9 The Bandwagon 1953
Guide to the
Comden and Green papers

Series V: Awards (cont.)
Screen Writers’ Guild Nomination for Award Certificate - The Best Written Musical of the Year (cont.)

b. 27 f. 10  Bells Are Ringing 1960 - 1961

b. 27 f. 11  The Songwriters Hall of Fame Awards of the National Academy of Popular Music - Betty Comden and Adolph Green Induction ceremony program and correspondence

b. 27 f. 12  Spirit of Achievement Award, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University Women’s Division, Betty Comden - Award certificate and photographs 1961 Apr. 19

b. 27 f. 13  Theatre Hall of Fame, Uris Theatre induction, Betty Comden and Adolph Green - Induction ceremony program and correspondence 1980 - 1981


b. 27 f. 15  Village Voice Off - Broadway Award, A Party with Betty Comden and Adolph Green 1958 - 1959

Series VI: Photographs 1943 - 1981 (1 box)
This series consists of photographs and contact sheets of Comden and Green and their collaborators and friends, many relating to their theatrical productions, others to television appearances and films. Their years with The Revuers are particularly well represented. The photographs of shows do not contain production shots, but include backstage, rehearsals, opening night parties and cast album recording sessions.

Alphabetical.

b. 28 f. 1  America - Israel Cultural Foundation Fund - Raiser - 4 photographs, 1 letter 1960

b. 28 f. 2  Applause - 4 photographs 1970

b. 28 f. 3  Arthur Murray Show - 6 photographs 1960 Apr.

b. 28 f. 4  ASCAP - 7 photographs, 1 letter 1976

b. 28 f. 5  Banshees luncheon - 4 photographs Undated

b. 28 f. 6  Bells Are Ringing - 6 photographs, 1 contact sheet 1956 - 1959

b. 28 f. 7  Leonard Bernstein - 4 photographs, 2 contact sheets Undated

b. 28 f. 8  The Blue Angel Niteclub - 2 photographs 1944

b. 28 f. 9  Betty Comden - 16 photographs, 7 contact sheets Undated

b. 28 f. 10  Betty Comden and Adolph Green - 11 photographs, 1940s - 1980s

b. 28 f. 11  Noel Coward - 1 photograph Undated

b. 28 f. 12  Do - Re - Mi - 16 photographs 1960

b. 28 f. 13  Dramatists’ Guild Tribute to Oscar Hammerstein 2nd - 2 photographs Undated

b. 28 f. 14  Ed Sullivan Show - 6 photographs, 1 flyer 1959

b. 28 f. 15  Hallelujah, Baby! - 4 photographs 1967

b. 28 f. 16  Lena Horne - 1 photograph Undated

b. 28 f. 17  Joe Franklin Show - 1 photograph 1977

b. 28 f. 18  Lorelei - 1 photograph 1973

b. 28 f. 19  George McGovern - 1 photograph 1972

On the Town 1943, 1959

b. 28 f. 20  Original production - 9 photographs 1943

b. 28 f. 21  Recording session - 8 contact sheets 1959
Series VI: Photographs (cont.)

b. 28 f. 22  A Party with Betty Comden and Adolph Green - 11 photographs, 4 contact sheets 1959, 1977
b. 28 f. 23  Charles Pierce - 1 autographed photograph Undated
b. 28 f. 24  Prince Phillip of Great Britain - 1 photograph Undated
b. 28 f. 25  "Remember These" recording session - 3 contact sheets Undated
b. 28 f. 26  The Revuers - 27 photographs, 2 Christmas cards, 1 clipping Undated
b. 28 f. 27  Singin' In The Rain - 18 photographs 1952
b. 28 f. 28  Straws In The Wind - 2 contact sheets 1975
b. 28 f. 29  Jule Styne - 3 photographs Undated
b. 28 f. 30  Subways Are For Sleeping Theatre Arts Magazine photo session - 6 photographs Undated
b. 28 f. 31  Theatre Hall of Fame - 2 photographs 1981
b. 28 f. 32  What A Way To Go, Screenplay by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, Slides/Production shots Undated
b. 28 f. 33  "Ziggy" Esquire Magazine photo shoot - 35 contact sheets 1960

Series VII: Programs 1942 - 1989 (1 box)

This series consists of programs, most of which do not pertain to Comden and Green's career, with the exception of a program for the 1975 New York Shakespeare Festival production of A Doll's House, on which Comden and Green's subsequent A Doll's Life was based. Most of these programs are for international theater from various nations, and some are for retrospective exhibitions. Also included are a commemorative calendar, a magazine and an annual report.

Alphabetical.

b. 29 f. 1  Alfonso Sastre: Noticia De Una Ausencia 1988
b. 29 f. 2  August Strinberg: The Swedish Institute 1961
b. 29 f. 3  Boris Aronson: Stage Design as Visual Metaphor 1989
b. 29 f. 4  The Canada Council 32nd Annual Report 1989
b. 29 f. 5  Carlo Gastwirtin, Schauspielhaus Zurich 1979 - 1980
b. 29 f. 6  Columbia Library Columns 1989
b. 29 f. 7  A Doll's House, New York Shakespeare Festival 1975
b. 29 f. 8  Imagination Workshop: Theatre Discipline and Mental Health Undated
b. 29 f. 9  Irish Theatre: The Irish Heritage Series 1979
b. 29 f. 10  The Laurence Olivier Awards 1984
b. 29 f. 11  New Plays: Export of Rights to Works by Soviet Authors Undated
b. 29 f. 12  Oregon Shakespeare Festival 1989
b. 29 f. 13  Piccolo Spoleto Festival 1989
b. 29 f. 14  Playwrights Horizons 1989
b. 29 f. 15  Report on Korean Theatre 1987
b. 29 f. 16  Rockefeller Center Magazine 1942
b. 29 f. 17  La Serva Amorosa 1987
b. 29 f. 18  Slovak National Theatre (Sprievodca Po Fondoch) 1989
b. 29 f. 19  The Stratford Festival Appointment Calendar 1987
b. 29 f. 20  The Theatre of Eugene Berman 1947
b. 29 f. 21  The Trustees and Guardians of Shakespeare's Birthplace - Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 1986