



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

Guide to the

**Hilda Haynes papers**

1932-1984

Sc MG 626

## Summary

**Creator:** Haynes, Hilda, 1912-1986

**Title:** Hilda Haynes papers

**Date:** 1932-1984

**Size:** 2.79 linear feet (8 boxes)

**Source:** Gift of A. Eugene Lashley, November 1997.

**Revision History:** Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

**Abstract:** Hilda Haynes (1912-1986) was a stage, screen, and television actress whose career spanned almost forty years. The Hilda Haynes papers consist of biographical material, speeches and other writings, scripts and reviews, and scrapbooks.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Hilda Haynes papers, Sc MG 626, 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:** Accessioned by Diana Lachatanere, December 1997.

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: director's chair seat back.

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: moving image materials. For more information, please contact the division at [schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org](mailto:schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org) or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

## Creator History

Hilda Haynes (1912-1986) was a stage, screen, and television actress whose career spanned almost

forty years. Haynes was born and raised in New York City, and became an actress during the early 1940s. She studied and performed with the American Negro Theatre during the 1940s and 1950s, and she was a member of the Negro Actors Guild. She performed in *The River Niger* (Negro Ensemble Company) during its national tour, 1973-74, as well as in several films, television programs, and Broadway and Off-Off Broadway shows.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Hilda Haynes papers consists of biographical material, including a transcript of an oral history interview, and journals. Additionally, there are speeches and other writing; scripts; reviews of theatrical productions in which she appeared; and scrapbooks of reviews and other articles, telegrams, and letters. In addition to performing in plays and films, Haynes also did dramatic readings, many of which were written for her by Langston Hughes. The poetry, scripts, and other materials from these readings are included as well.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American actresses  
African American motion picture actors and actresses  
African American women dramatists  
African American women entertainers  
African Americans in the performing arts -- New York (State) -- New York

### **Names**

Haynes, Hilda, 1912-1986  
American Negro Theatre

## Container List

### Biographical

- b. 1 f. 1-2 Biographical statements and resumes
- b. 1 f. 3 Chapter for a book by David Talbot
- b. 1 f. 4 Oral history transcripts
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence
- b. 1 f. 6 Contracts

### Writing

- b. 1 f. 7 Various
- b. 1 f. 8 "The Animal Kingdom in Revolt"
- b. 1 f. 9 Handwritten notes and notebook on Blacks in performing arts
- b. 1 f. 10 "The Negro in American Life" speech, Langston University
- b. 1 f. 11 Programs
- b. 1 f. 12 Miscellaneous

### Reviews

- b. 1 f. 13 *The River Niger*
- b. 1 f. 14 *Take a Giant Step and Trouble in Mind*
- b. 2 f. 1 *Wedding Band*

### Clippings

- b. 2 f. 2 Haynes, Hilda
- b. 2 f. 3 Theater
- b. 2 f. 4 Paul Robeson Citation Award Committee 1984
- b. 2 f. 5 Autographed programs  
Includes autographs from Haynes's castmates from *The Miracle Worker*.

### Notebooks and journals

- b. 2 f. 6 1966-1969
- b. 2 f. 7 1976-1978
- b. 2 f. 8 1978-1981

### Scripts

- b. 3 f. 2 *Baldwin, James. Blues for Mr. Charlie (2 copies)*
- b. 3 f. 3 *Carter, Steve. Nevis Mountain Dew* 1978
- b. 3 f. 4 *Childress, Alice. Wedding Band (2 copies)* 1962
- b. 4 f. 1-2 Davis, Ossie 1963  
Includes *Curtain Call*, *Aldridge, Sir* and *Purlie Victorious*.
- b. 4 f. 3 *Gibson, William and Clifford Odets. Golden Boy* 1968
- b. 4 f. 4 *Goodman, Dody. Mourning in a Funny Hat* 1971
- b. 4 f. 5 *Mitchell, Lofton. Tell Pharaoh* 1970
- b. 4 f. 6 *Pine, Les. Monday's Heroes*
- b. 4 f. 7 *Sackler, Howard. The Great White Hope*
- b. 5 f. 1 *Walker, Joseph A. The River Niger*
- b. 5 f. 2 *Yordan, Philip. Anna Lucasta*

### Readings

- b. 5 f. 3 Various authors
- b. 5 f. 4-5 Scripts and poetry by Langston Hughes
- b. 5 f. 6 "The Right and the Wrong Home" by Haynes 1934

### Education

- b. 5 f. 7 Commencement programs and New Theatre School catalog 1933-1936
- b. 5 f. 8 Certificates
- b. 5 f. 9 *The Hatchet, yearbooks from George Washington High School* 1932-1933
  - b. 6 *The Lion, yearbook of Langston University* 1963

### Scrapbooks

- b. 3 f. 1 Early career scrapbook 1933-1944
  - b. 7 1947-1955
  - b. 7 1957-1958
  - b. 8 1961-1967
  - b. 8 1968-1972