



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Carol Benet collection of Sam Shepard research materials**

1970-1995

\*T-Mss 1996-003

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014.

## Summary

**Creator:** Benet, Carol, 1939-

**Title:** Carol Benet collection of Sam Shepard research materials

**Date:** 1970-1995

**Size:** 6.34 linear feet (16 boxes); 1.1 mb (50 computer files)

**Source:** Donated by Carol Benet, 1995-1998.

**Abstract:** Carol Benet (b. 1939) is an American writer, educator, and critic of the arts. The Carol Benet collection of Sam Shepard research materials dates from 1970 to 1995 and holds scholarly articles, reviews, scripts, programs, recorded interviews, notes, dissertation drafts, and correspondence relating to the playwriting career of Sam Shepard. Material in this collection was gathered by Benet for her dissertation, *The German Reception of Sam Shepard* (1987).

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**Preferred citation:** Carol Benet collection of Sam Shepard research materials, \*T-Mss 1996-003. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014.

## Creator History

Carol Benet (b. 1939) is an American writer, educator, and critic of the arts. She received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Berkeley in 1987. Benet's research focuses on Avant-garde American theater in the San Francisco Bay area, with particular focus on American playwright, actor, and screenwriter Sam Shepard (b. 1943). Her dissertation, *The German Reception of Sam Shepard*, was published by Peter Lang in 1990. She has taught literature seminars at the University of California, Berkeley; Dominican College in San Rafael, California; and at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Benet has been a freelance arts critic for local newspapers in the San Francisco Bay area since 1993.

She resides in Belvedere, California.

## Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from 1970 to 1995 and holds scholarly articles, reviews, scripts, programs, recorded interviews, notes, dissertation drafts, and correspondence relating to the playwriting career of Sam Shepard. Material in this collection was gathered by Benet for her dissertation, *The German Reception of Sam Shepard* (1987). The collection reflects Benet's examination of language, translation, the German theater audience, and the function of theater programs, or Programmheft, that accompany Shepard's plays.

Research material in this collection is primarily comprised of newspaper and magazine articles. Benet's notes are sometimes interspersed with the articles, many of which are annotated. The majority of the files relate to audience's and critics' receptions of Sam Shepard's plays in the United States and Germany. Other topics represented through articles and clippings include individual actors and directors; theater scholars; publishers; American and German theaters; American and German avant-garde; American Expressionism; the history of theater in Germany; and Sam Shepard's work as a whole within the larger context of American drama. Material relating to the 1983 German production *Bruder Eichmann* (Brother Eichmann) consists of one program and photocopies of legal and court documents from Eichmann's trial. Shepard plays reviewed and discussed in the articles include *Buried Child*, *Angel City*, *Chicago*, *Cowboy Mouth*, *True West*, *Fool for Love*, and *Curse of the Starving Class*. Several of the articles are in German.

In addition to material collected by Benet for her research, documents relating more specifically to Benet's writing of her dissertation are present. Material consists of dissertation chapter drafts, correspondence, research notes, bibliographies, her dissertation prospectus, and two copies of her final dissertation. Correspondence consists of thank-you letters to researchers and dissertation advisors, as well as research requests.

This collection holds scripts of Shepard's plays, many of which are photocopies of compilations, such as *The Unseen Hand and Other Plays* (1972), *Angel City and Other Plays* (with introduction by Jack Gelber, 1976), and *Mad Dog Blues and Other Plays* (1972). German scripts were primarily published by S. Fischer Verlag and include *Unternehmen Klapperschlange* (Operation Sidewinder), *Goldener Westen* (True West), *Melodrama Drama Drama*, *Cowboy Mouth*, *Wüste Liebe* (Savage Love), *Stimmen* (Tongues), and *Ikarus* (Icarus's Mother), among others.

Programs and magazines are also present in this collection. Productions range from Off-Off Broadway to Broadway plays primarily produced in the 1980s and 1990s in the United States and Germany. Some programs are annotated with Benet's ideas, and clippings and notes are sometimes interleaved with the programs. Also included are issues of *Performing Arts* magazine dating from 1992 to 1995.

The collection holds five floppy disks containing drafts of Benet's dissertation. Recorded interviews with theater critics, directors, playwrights, and scholars relating to Shepard's work are present. Interviewees include Martin Esslin, Robert Woodruff, Peter Jacobi, and Peter Kleinschmidt. Inquiries regarding audio material in the collection may be directed to the Billy Rose Theatre Division ([theatre@nypl.org](mailto:theatre@nypl.org)). Audio material will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged into four groups: Research Material; Dissertation; Scripts; and Programs and Articles. Programs and Articles are arranged chronologically; all other groups are

arranged alphabetically by folder title or production.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Articles  
Dissertations  
Research notes  
Scripts  
Theater programs

### **Subjects**

Theater -- Germany  
Theater -- History and criticism

### **Names**

Shepard, Sam, 1943- -- Criticism and interpretation

## Container List

### Research Material

- b. 1 f. 1 American Conservatory Theatre (ACT) 1987
- b. 1 f. 2 Action 1990
- b. 1 f. 3-4 Allen, Woody 1981-1987
- b. 1 f. 5 American Reception of Sam Shepard 1984
- b. 1 f. 6-7 *Angel City* 1984-1985
- b. 1 f. 8 Bogosian, Eric 1986
- b. 1 f. 9-11 *Buried Child* 1980-1987
- b. 1 f. 12 Chaikin, Joseph 1984
- b. 1 f. 13 *Chicago* 1984
- b. 1 f. 14-16 *Cowboy Mouth* 1985-1987
- b. 1 f. 17 *Cold Harbor* 1987
- b. 1 f. 18 Culled Information for Politics 1984
- b. 1 f. 19-21 *Curse of the Starving Class* 1981-1985
- b. 1 f. 22 Die Zeit 1983-1984
- b. 1 f. 23 Director 1984
- b. 1 f. 24 Drama, German Theater 1982-1984
- b. 1 f. 25 Dylan, Bob 1985
- b. 2 f. 1 *Bruder Eichmann* 1983
- b. 2 f. 2 English Reception of Sam Shepard 1981
- b. 2 f. 3 Esslin, Martin 1983
- b. 2 f. 4 Films 1984-1985
- b. 2 f. 5-8 *Fool For Love* 1983-1987
- b. 2 f. 9 German Actors 1984
- b. 2 f. 11-12 German Articles on American Avant-Garde 1984
- b. 2 f. 13 German Art--General 1984
- b. 2 f. 14 German Intention and Directors 1984-1985
- b. 2 f. 15 German Myths 1984
- b. 2 f. 16 German Interest in American Playwrights 1983-1984
- b. 2 f. 17-18 German Opinion of America 1983-1984
- b. 2 f. 19 German Problems 1985-1986
- b. 2 f. 21 German Reception of American Arts 1983-1984
- b. 2 f. 22 German Reception of French Arts 1983-1984
- b. 3 f. 1 German Reception of Sam Shepard-Spielzeit 1984-1986
- b. 2 f. 20 German Theater 1983-1984
- b. 3 f. 2 German Theater Actors, Directors, History 1983-1984
- b. 3 f. 3 Germany-American Drama Group--Classic Theater 1984
- b. 2 f. 10 Germany on American Myth 1983
- b. 3 f. 4 Gruppe 47 1984

Research Material (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 5 Göttingen 1984-1986
- b. 3 f. 6 Hemingway, David 1984
- b. 3 f. 7-8 *Icarus's Mother* 1984
- b. 3 f. 9 Intersection for the Arts 1986
- b. 3 f. 10 Interviews 1984-1987
- b. 3 f. 11 *La Turista* 1980
- b. 3 f. 12 Lewis, Jerry 1984
- b. 3 f. 13 *A Lie of the Mind* 1985-1987
- b. 3 f. 14 *Liebestoll* 1986, 1991  
Fool For Love
- b. 3 f. 15 Maazel, Lorin--Vienna 1984-1985
- b. 3 f. 16 Magic Theatre 1986
- b. 3 f. 17 *Melodrama Drama* 1984
- b. 3 f. 18-19 Miscellaneous--Shepard 1983-1986
  - b. 4 f. 1 Miscellaneous German Articles 1984
  - b. 4 f. 2 Monologues 1984-1986
  - b. 4 f. 3 Mueller, Roswitha 1980
  - b. 4 f. 4 Myth 1984-1985
  - b. 4 f. 5 Nomad Mad 1987
  - b. 4 f. 6 Notes 1983-1986
  - b. 4 f. 7 O-lan Shepard 1981
  - b. 4 f. 8 *Paris, Texas* 1984-1986
  - b. 4 f. 9 Paul, Arno 1984
- b. 4 f. 10-11 Perlmutter, Barbara 1986-1987
  - b. 4 f. 12 Politics 1984
  - b. 4 f. 13 Postmodern Architecture--Germany 1984-1986
  - b. 4 f. 14 Rauschenberg, Robert 1983-1984
  - b. 4 f. 15 Reception of American Art 1984
  - b. 4 f. 16 Reception-Audience 1984-1987
  - b. 4 f. 17 Reception Theory 1980
  - b. 4 f. 18 Reed, Pamela 1983-1987
  - b. 4 f. 19 Reviews of German and Classic Plays 1983-1984
- b. 5 f. 1 *Savage Love* 1985
- b. 5 f. 2 *Seduced* 1981
- b. 5 f. 3 Shepard in England 1981-1984
- b. 5 f. 4 Shepard in Regional 1984
- b. 16 f. 3-4 Shepard, Sam-General 1983-1984
  - b. 5 f. 5 Struttgart 1984
  - b. 5 f. 6 Subsidized Arts 1984-1987
  - b. 5 f. 7 *Suicide in B Flat* 1984
  - b. 5 f. 8 *Superstitions and The Sad Lament of Pecos Bill* 1981-1985

Research Material (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 9 Teaching Shepard circa 1984
- b. 5 f. 10 Theater Heute Articles 1983
- b. 5 f. 11 *Tongues* 1984
- b. 5 f. 12 *The Tooth of Crime* 1983-1985
- True West*
- b. 16 f. 1-2 1980-1982
- b. 5 f. 13-16 1981-1986
- b. 6 f. 1 1984-1986
- b. 6 f. 2 Tübingen 1984
- b. 6 f. 3-10 Unsorted Research Material 1979-1991
- b. 7 f. 1-7 Unsorted Research Material 1988-1992
- b. 7 f. 8-9 S. Fischer Verlag 1978-1986
- b. 7 f. 10 Walker Art Center 1983-1984
- b. 7 f. 11 Weins, Wolfgang 1987
- b. 7 f. 12-13 Wilson, Robert 1983-1986
- b. 7 f. 14 Woodruff, Robert 1984

Dissertation

- b. 8 f. 1 Bibliography 1986
- b. 8 f. 2 Books to Look Up 1983
- b. 8 f. 3 Data Bank and Bibliography 1983-1986
- b. 8 f. 4-5 Dissertation 1987
- Two copies of Benet's bound dissertation.
- er. 1 Dissertation Drafts 1980s
- (50 computer files 1.1 megabytes)
- b. 9 f. 1-9 Dissertation Chapter Drafts 1984-1986
- b. 8 f. 6 Dissertation Chapter Drafts 1987
- b. 9 f. 6 Gotham Book Store 1982
- b. 9 f. 7 Letters 1984-1987
- b. 9 f. 8 Notebooks 1985
- b. 9 f. 9 Prospectus 1983
- b. 9 f. 10-13 Publication 1990-1992

Scripts

- b. 10 f. 1 *Angel City and Other Plays* 1984
- b. 10 f. 2 *Chicago* 1986
- In German.
- b. 10 f. 3 *Cowboy Mouth* 1987
- In German.
- b. 10 f. 4 *Eight Plays from Off-Off Broadway* 1984
- b. 10 f. 5 *Forensic and the Navigators* 1984
- b. 10 f. 6 *Goldener Westen* 1983
- True West*
- b. 10 f. 7 *Die Hermannsschlacht* 1983

Scripts (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 8 *Ikarus* 1970  
*Icarus's Mother*
- b. 10 f. 9 *Jacaranda* 1984
- b. 10 f. 10 *La Turista* 1970
- b. 10 f. 11 *Lügengespinst* 1987  
*A Lie of the Mind*
- b. 10 f. 12 *Mad Dog Blues and Other Plays* 1984
- b. 10 f. 13 *Man Fly* 1984
- b. 10 f. 14 *Melodrama Drama* 1970  
In German.
- b. 10 f. 15 *Rhythm and Blaud odrt Der Zahn der Zeit* 1975  
*The Tooth of Crime*
- b. 10 f. 16 *Stimmen* 1983  
*Tongues*
- b. 10 f. 17 *Stadt Der Engel* 1986  
*Angel City*
- b. 10 f. 18 *Tanz, Marie!* 1990
- b. 10 f. 19 *The Tooth of Crime and Geography of a Horse Dreamer* 1984
- b. 10 f. 20 *The Unseen Hand* 1981
- b. 11 f. 1 *The Unseen Hand and Other Plays* 1984
- b. 11 f. 2 *Unternehmen Klapperschlange* 1987  
*Operation Sidewinder*
- b. 11 f. 3 *Wüste Liebe* 1983  
*Savage Love*

Articles and Programs

Articles

- b. 11 f. 4-7 1982-1995

Programs

- b. 11 f. 8-9 1970-1984
- b. 12 f. 1-6 1983-1987
- b. 13 f. 1-7 1984-1988
- b. 14 f. 1-5 1987-1993
- b. 15 f. 1-2 1991-1995