



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Victor Bumbalo papers**

1969-2013

\*T-Mss 2014-192

Compiled in 2015.

## Summary

**Creator:** Bumbalo, Victor

**Title:** Victor Bumbalo papers

**Date:** 1969-2013

**Size:** 2.94 linear feet (7 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Victor Bumbalo, 2014.

**Abstract:** The Victor Bumbalo papers date from 1969 to 2013 and document Bumbalo's career as a playwright and television writer. The collection includes scripts, clippings, photographs, and publicity material.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Video recording is unavailable pending digitization.

**Preferred citation:** Victor Bumbalo papers, \*T-Mss 2014-192. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled in 2015.

## Creator History

Born in Utica, New York, in 1942, Victor Bumbalo has written extensively for theatre, television, and film. He received his master's degree in theatre from Bennington College in 1967, where he studied under Bernard Malamud. Immediately after graduating, Bumbalo moved with his husband Tom to New York City, where he established himself as a director and writer in the Off- and Off-Off Broadway theatre community in New York City. During the summers of 1968 to 1970, he served as artistic director of the noted Soul and Latin Theatre (SALT) in Harlem. By the late 1970s, Bumbalo began particularly focusing his playwriting on the lives of gay men, their friends, lovers, and families. Several of his works were produced by John Glines' theatre company, including *Kitchen Duty* and *Niagara Falls*. Bumbalo's other major plays include *Show What are Tuesdays Like?*, *Questa*, and *Adam and the Experts*. During the

1980s and early 1990s, Bumbalo was also very active as a team leader with the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) organization in New York City, and HIV/AIDS figures in many of his plays from this period. Bumbalo's plays have been consistently produced across the United States and internationally and most have been published.

In recognition of his body of work, Bumbalo received the Ingram Merrill Award for Playwriting in 1987, and was a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award in 2006 for *Questa* and again in 2007 for *Niagara Falls*. During the 1980s, Bumbalo was also awarded two residences at the McDowell Colony and one at Yaddo. In honor of his friend and fellow playwright, in 1993 Bumbalo established the Robert Chesley/Victor Bumbalo Foundation to support residencies for emerging LGBT playwrights at the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos, New Mexico.

In 1995, Bumbalo moved to Los Angeles to focus on writing for television, most notably for David Milch's *NYPD Blue* and for CBS's *American Gothic*, as well as HBO's *Spawn* and ABC's *Relativity*. Bumbalo also wrote several movies of the week that were produced by major networks. With Dan Lauria, who appeared in *Questa*, he co-authored the screenplay, *Book of Joe*. He also wrote for Nickelodeon and for 20th Century Fox Animation. Bumbalo was also the writer, director, and producer of the 2010 short film *Two Boys*, which won recognition at several film festivals. He is currently working on new theatrical pieces and is a practicing Buddhist Dharma teacher.

## Scope and Content Note

The Victor Bumbalo papers date from 1969 to 2013. The bulk of the collection documents Bumbalo's plays and television episodes through scripts, clippings, and publicity material. The files document both the plays' original runs and later productions. There is also a grouping of material (Box 7) comprised of articles written by and about Bumbalo, including an editorial written by Bumbalo about the Gay Men's Health Crisis, and ephemera.

A detailed listing of items included in the collection can be found as an Additional Resource.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

AIDS (Disease) -- United States -- Drama  
Drama  
Gay men -- Drama  
Gay theater -- United States  
Homosexuality and theater  
Theater -- 20th century  
Theater -- 21st century  
Theater -- United States

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)  
Photographs  
Scripts  
Television scripts

### Occupations

Dramatists  
Television writers

## Container List

- Adam and the Experts*
- b. 1 f. 5-40 1989-2011
  - b. 2 f. 1-44 1989-1996
  - b. 6 f. 1-6 *American Gothic* 1995-1996
  - b. 5 f. 12 *And Then* circa 2000s
  - b. 1 f. 3 *Be Nice*
  - b. 6 f. 7 *The Book of Joe* 2002
  - b. 7 f. 1 *Dan Decker vs. the Zeebians* 2003
  - b. 6 f. 12-15 *Dying to Live* 1998-1999
  - b. 5 f. 6 *East Utica* 2013
  - b. 6 f. 8 *Entering Richmond* 2000
  - b. 4 f. 76-90 *Homosexual Acts* 1991-1993
  - b. 1 f. 1 *If Only* 1996
  - Kitchen Duty*
  - b. 4 f. 55-75 1979-2009
  - b. 7 f. 2 1981
  - b. 5 f. 7 *Monsignor* 2012
  - Niagara Falls*
  - b. 2 f. 45-74 1981-1984, 2008
  - b. 3 f. 1-14 1981-1983, 2008
  - b. 5 f. 13-16 *NYPD Blue* 1995, 2001
  - b. 1 f. 2 *Paul Used to Be Good*
  - b. 5 f. 8-9 *The Prince on Sunday* 1994
  - b. 7 f. 3-36 Published Material by and about Bumbalo and Ephemera 1969-2009  
Some material pertains to the Soul and Latin Theater.
  - b. 6 f. 9-10 *Relativity* 1996
  - b. 6 f. 11 *Road Crew* 2008
  - b. 4 f. 13-54 *Questa* 2005-2009
  - b. 5 f. 10-11 *Sex Club* 1995-1996
  - b. 5 f. 17-18 *Spawn* 1997
  - b. 5 f. 1-5 *Tell* 1995-1999
  - b. 5 f. 19 *Tweek* 1999
  - b. 1 f. 4 *Two Boys* 2011-2012  
Video recording is unavailable pending digitization.
  - What are Tuesdays Like?*
  - b. 3 f. 15-65 1992-2008
  - b. 4 f. 1-12 1993-2008
  - b. 5 f. 20 *Wow Wow Wubbzy* 2000s