



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Rose Leiman Goldemberg papers

1968-2014

*T-Mss 2016-003

Compiled by Heather Halliday, 2016.

Summary

Creator: Goldemberg, Rose Leiman

Title: Rose Leiman Goldemberg papers

Date: 1968-2014

Size: 8.82 linear feet (21 boxes); 103.59 mb (35 computer files)

Source: Donated by Rose Leiman Goldemberg, 2016.

Abstract: Rose Leiman Goldemberg is an American playwright and screenwriter of dramatic and musical works based on biographies and true stories. Her papers (1968-2014) document her writing career and creative process. The collection contains early drafts and final scripts for plays and television movies; production notes; correspondence; press clippings; reviews; and sound and video recordings.

Conditions Governing Access:

Sound and video materials are unavailable pending digitization.

Conditions Governing Use: The author/creator retains copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Theatre Division at theatre@nypl.org.

Preferred citation: Rose Leiman Goldemberg papers, *T-Mss 2016-003. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Processing note: Compiled by Heather Halliday, 2016.

Creator History

Rose Leiman Goldemberg is an American playwright and screenwriter of dramatic and musical works based on biographies and true stories. She was born in 1928 in the Port Richmond neighborhood of Staten Island, New York. As an adult, she moved to Manhattan and has been based in New York City for the duration of her career. Goldemberg's earliest writings were poetry and she has written

professionally for radio, television, film, and the stage. The lives of both ordinary and famous women, feminism, and Jewish culture are frequent themes in her writing.

Her most prominent work was *The Burning Bed* (1984), a television movie based on the true story of a survivor of domestic violence, played by Farrah Fawcett. Another well-known television movie written by Goldemberg, *Stone Pillow* (1985), starred Lucille Ball as a homeless person. Other screenplays written by Goldemberg include *Land of Hope* (1976), and *Mother and Daughter: The Loving War* (1980). Goldemberg was more involved with the production and filming of television movies, mini-series, and shows than is typical for screenwriters, making cast recommendations and visiting the sets. Most of her screenplays are dramas.

Goldemberg's plays, many of which are musicals, frequently incorporate biographical material, as with *Sophie* (1987), about entertainer Sophie Tucker; *Picon Pie* (2005), about Yiddish theater actress Molly Picon; and *Letters Home* (1979), a dramatization of published correspondence between author Sylvia Plath and her mother. Her plays have been produced widely Off-Broadway and in venues throughout the United States and internationally.

Scope and Content Note

The Rose Leiman Goldemberg papers (1968-2014) are arranged according to the titles of her plays and television productions. The bulk of the collection is comprised of early drafts of scripts, revisions of scripts, final scripts, production notes, correspondence, and press clippings. Many titles also contain files of research material and sound and video recordings. For most movie titles, production files, such as shooting schedules and casting notes, are present. *The Burning Bed* is the most well-represented title in the collection, occupying seven boxes. *Letters Home* and *Land of Hope* are also strongly represented.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged according to production title, starting with her two most prominent works, *The Burning Bed* and *Letters Home*. Other titles follow in chronological order according to premiere dates. Sound and video recordings from all titles are grouped together and noted at the end of the container list.

Key Terms

Subjects

Playwriting
Television scripts

Occupations

Screenwriters

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scripts
Sound recordings

Container List

The Burning Bed 1980-1990

Goldemberg wrote the screenplay and co-produced the television film *The Burning Bed*, which was originally broadcast by the NBC network in 1984. It was based on the true story of Francine Hughes, played by Farrah Fawcett, a victim of domestic violence who killed her abuser by setting their bed on fire. The movie earned very high ratings, was rebroadcast many times, and sparked public discourse about domestic violence. The screenplay won the Writers Guild of America Award for Best Dramatic Adaptation, and was nominated for Emmy and Humanitas Awards. Various drafts and iterations of the screenplay, from early notes and first drafts to the final script, are included. Research materials include biographical information about Francine Hughes and domestic violence statistics. Files of information about the movie's ratings and Goldemberg's payments and residuals are also included.

- b. 1 f. 1 American Film Institute, Los Angeles International Film Festival 1990
- b. 1 f. 2 Casting Notes 1980-1984
- b. 1 f. 3 Contacts 1980-1984
- b. 1 f. 4-5 Correspondence 1980-1985
- b. 1 f. 6 Emmy Awards 1985
- b. 1 f. 7 Faith McNulty Manuscript 1980
- b. 1 f. 8 Farrah Fawcett Photographs 1984
- b. 1 f. 9 Humanitas Prize 1985
- Newspaper Clippings
- b. 2 f. 4 1986-1990
- b. 1 f. 10 Reviews 1984
- b. 2 f. 1-3 Reviews 1984-1985
- b. 2 f. 5 Television Listings 1984-1987
- Notes and Drafts
- b. 2 f. 6-7 1980-1981
- b. 3 f. 1-2 1983-1984
- b. 3 f. 3 Outlines 1980
- b. 3 f. 4 Payments and Residuals 1980-1986
- b. 3 f. 5 Press Releases 1984
- b. 4 f. 1 Ratings 1984
- b. 4 f. 2 Research Material 1977-1980
- Scripts
- b. 4 f. 3-7 Drafts 1981
Includes first and second drafts.
- b. 5 f. 1-4 Second Drafts 1981
- b. 6 f. 1-3 1981
- b. 6 f. 4 Drafts 1984
- b. 6 f. 5-6 1984
- b. 7 f. 1-2 1984
- b. 7 f. 3 Shooting Schedule 1984
- b. 7 f. 4 Treatment and Rough Drafts 1980
- b. 7 f. 5 Writers' Guild of America Awards 1985-1986

Letters Home 1975-2014

Letters Home premiered as part of *The Women's Project* at the American Place Theatre in New York City in 1979. It dramatizes the correspondence between author Sylvia Plath and her mother. It was later staged at the Theatre at New End in London; Playbox Theatre in Melbourne; and in Paris; Copenhagen; Montreal; Tel Aviv; Los Angeles; and other cities. In 1986, French feminist film director Chantal Akerman adapted it for film. Files hold various drafts and iterations of the script, from early notes and first drafts to the final published script. Goldemberg's copy of Plath's correspondence, also titled *Letters Home*, with copious handwritten notes, is included.

- b. 8 f. 1 Correspondence 1979-2014
- b. 8 f. 2-4 Press Clippings 1979-2004
- b. 8 f. 5 Notes 1979-1980
- b. 8 f. 6 Photographs 1979
- b. 8 f. 7 Production Schedule 1979
- b. 8 f. 8 Posters and Programs 1979-2000s
- b. 8 f. 9 Promotional Material 1979-1980
- b. 8 f. 10 Reviews 2010-2012
- Scripts
Includes drafts, notes, and a published version.
- b. 9 f. 1-6 1979-1986
- b. 8 f. 11-13 1979-1986
- b. 9 f. 7 Sylvia Plath Correspondence, Published 1975
- b. 10 f. 1 *The Women's Project* 1980
Published anthology, including *Letters Home*.

Land of Hope 1969-1977

Land of Hope was a pilot for a television series about the immigrant experience in the United States, which aired on the CBS network in 1976. Multiple versions of the screenplay script are included.

- b. 10 f. 2 Awards 1976-1977
- b. 10 f. 3 Correspondence 1975-1976
- b. 10 f. 4-5 *Moshe's Uncle* 1975
Early title of *Land of Hope*.
- b. 11 f. 1 Notes 1975-1976
- b. 11 f. 2 Outlines and Treatments 1975-1976
- b. 11 f. 3 Photographs 1976
- b. 11 f. 4-5 Production 1969-1976
- b. 11 f. 6 Publicity 1976
- b. 11 f. 7-8 Research Material 1970-1976
- Scripts
- b. 11 f. 9 1975
- b. 12 f. 1-4 1976
- b. 12 f. 5-6 Notes and Revisions 1975-1977

Mother and Daughter: The Loving War 1978-1980

Mother and Daughter: The Loving War was a mini-series first broadcast on the CBS network in 1980, which was nominated for a Writers Guild of America Best Drama Award. Multiple versions of the screenplay are included.

- b. 13 f. 7 Correspondence 1979-1980
- b. 13 f. 8 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings 1980

Mother and Daughter: The Loving War (cont.)

- b. 13 f. 9 Notes 1978-1980
- b. 13 f. 10 Production 1978-1980
- b. 14 f. 1-6 Scripts 1979
- b. 14 f. 7 Treatments circa 1979

Personals 1980

This section contains files for an aborted project which was to be a musical comedy about dating through the use of newspaper classified personal ads.

- b. 15 f. 1 Drafts 1980
- b. 15 f. 2 Legal Dispute 1980
- b. 15 f. 3 Notes 1980
- b. 15 f. 4 Production 1980
- b. 15 f. 5 Publicity 1980
- b. 15 f. 6 Research Material 1980
- b. 15 f. 7 Scripts 1980
- b. 15 f. 8 Songs 1980

Born Beautiful 1968-1982

Born Beautiful was a television movie broadcast on the NBC network in 1982 that took a critical view of the modeling industry. Multiple versions of the screenplay are included. Research material contains information and articles about modeling and the fashion industry.

- b. 13 f. 1 Newspaper Clippings 1982
- b. 13 f. 2 Notes 1981
- b. 13 f. 3 Production 1982
- b. 13 f. 4 Research Material 1968-1981
- b. 13 f. 5-6 Scripts 1982

Death at Dinner 1983

Death at Dinner was a segment of *The Booth* television series written by Goldemberg, which aired on the PBS network in 1985.

- b. 15 f. 9-10 Scripts 1983
- b. 15 f. 11 Set Sketch circa 1983

Stone Pillow 1978-1986

Stone Pillow was a television movie written by Goldemberg, which starred Lucille Ball in the dramatic role of a homeless person living on the streets of New York City. It originally aired on the CBS network in 1985. Various drafts and iterations of the screenplay are included. Research material contains information about homelessness and New York City's services for the homeless. Information about film's ratings are also included.

- b. 16 f. 1 Contact 1984
- b. 16 f. 2 Correspondence 1985
- b. 16 f. 4 Notes 1984-1985
- b. 16 f. 3 Press Clippings 1985-1986
- b. 16 f. 5 Production 1985
- b. 16 f. 6 Publicity 1985
- b. 16 f. 7 Ratings 1985
- b. 16 f. 8-9 Research Material 1978-1985
- Scripts
- b. 16 f. 10 1985
- b. 17 f. 1-3 1985

Stone Pillow (cont.)

b. 17 f. 4 Treatments 1984-1985

Sophie 1981-1991

Sophie, a musical about the life of American singer and actress Sophie Tucker, was first staged at the Jewish Repertory Theater, starring Judith Cohen, in 1987. Multiple versions of the script are included.

b. 17 f. 5 Correspondence 1987

b. 17 f. 6 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings 1984-1991

b. 17 f. 7 Notes and Drafts 1981-1982

b. 18 f. 1 Plot Summaries circa 1981

b. 18 f. 2 Production 1984-1987

b. 18 f. 3 Programs 1987-1991

Scripts

b. 18 f. 4 Drafts, Act I 1981

b. 18 f. 5 Drafts, Act II 1982

b. 18 f. 6-7 1987-1990

b. 18 f. 8 Songs 1981-1982

Dark Holiday 1984-1989

Dark Holiday was a television movie written by Goldemberg that tells the true story of an American woman kidnapped in Turkey, which aired on the NBC network in 1989. Multiple versions of the screenplay are included.

Never Pass This Way Again Script

b. 18 f. 9-10 1984

b. 19 f. 1 1984

b. 19 f. 2 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings 1989

b. 19 f. 3 Notes 1987

b. 19 f. 4 Outline 1987

b. 19 f. 5 Payments 1987-1988

b. 19 f. 6 Production 1987-1989

b. 19 f. 7 Publicity 1989

b. 19 f. 8 Research Material 1984-1988

Scripts

b. 19 f. 9-12 Drafts 1987-1988

b. 20 f. 1-5 1988-1989

Picon Pie 1968-2011

Picon Pie, a musical about the life of Yiddish theater actress Molly Picon, has been staged across the United States at theaters including the Santa Monica Playhouse, the Hollywood (Florida) Playhouse, and in Off-Broadway theaters in New York. These files hold multiple versions of the script. Goldemberg's copy of *So Laugh a Little* by Molly Picon with copious handwritten notes is included.

b. 20 f. 6 Correspondence 2002-2011

b. 20 f. 7 Lamb's Theatre Production 2005

b. 20 f. 8 Ed Gaynes 2002-2003

b. 20 f. 9 Music circa 2004

b. 21 f. 1 Newspaper Clippings 2002-2007

b. 21 f. 2 Notes from DR2 Theatre Production 2004

Picon Pie (cont.)

- b. 21 f. 3 Notes and Drafts 2002
- b. 21 f. 4 Productions 2001-2006
- b. 21 f. 5 Programs and Publicity 2003-2005
- b. 21 f. 6 Research Material 2004-2008
- b. 21 f. 7 Santa Monica Playhouse Production 2002
- Scripts
- b. 21 f. 8 circa 2004
- er. 2 2005
(157.5 Kilobytes (1 computer file))
- b. 21 f. 9 *So Laugh a Little by Molly Picon* 1968, 1997
- b. 21 f. 10 Miscellaneous 1980-2010

Sound and Video Recordings circa 1976-2002

Sound and video recordings relate to selected titles written by Goldemberg.

Sound and video materials are unavailable pending digitization.

Letters Home

- origvid.244664 Directed by Chantal Akerman, Act I 1986
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244665 Directed by Chantal Akerman, Act II 1986
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244666 circa 1986
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244667 circa 1986
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244668 *Land of Hope* circa 1976
Original Video unavailable until digitized.

Born Beautiful

- origvid.244671 Part I 1980
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244672 Part II 1980
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244669 1980
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244670 1980
Original Video unavailable until digitized.

Mother and Daughter: The Loving War

- origvid.244673 Part I 1980
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244674 Part II 1980
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244675 *Death at Dinner* 1985
Original Video unavailable until digitized.

Sophie

- origsr.244678 17 Songs from the Play 1995
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- er. 1 34 Songs from the Play circa 1987
(105,917 Kilobytes (34 computer files))

Sound and Video Recordings (cont.)

Dark Holiday

- origvid.244677 Finnegan / Pinchuk Production 1989
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- Interviews with Gene LePere 1980s
- origsr.244678 In Jackson, Michigan 1980
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.244679 1980s
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.244680 1980s
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.244683 1980s
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.244684 1980s
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.244681 1981
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.244682 1986
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.

Picon Pie

- origvid.244689 Starring Barbara Minkus at Santa Monica Playhouse 2002 April 21
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244685 Part I 2002 December 8
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244686 Part II 2002 December 8
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244687 Part I 2002 December 12
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244688 Part II 2002 December 12
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244690 Santa Monica Playhouse 2002 December 12
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origvid.244691 *June Gable and Stuart Zagnit on The Barry Z Show* circa 2004
Original Video unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.244693 Starring June Gable circa 2004
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.244694 Starring June Gable, Act I circa 2004
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.
- origsr.244695 Starring June Gable, Act II circa 2004
Original Sound recording unavailable until digitized.