



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**William Hanley scripts**

1957-1996 [bulk 1957-1976]

\*T-Mss 2016-005

Compiled by Susan M. Kline, 2016.

## Summary

**Creator:** Hanley, William, 1931-2012

**Title:** William Hanley scripts

**Date:** 1957-1996 [bulk 1957-1976]

**Size:** 1.89 linear feet (5 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Patricia Hanley, 2016

**Abstract:** The William Hanley scripts (1957-1996) document the career of playwright and television screenwriter William Hanley, who was known for his Broadway play *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground*.

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**Processing note:** Compiled by Susan M. Kline, 2016.

## Creator History

Born in Lorain, Ohio, American playwright, novelist, and Emmy-winning television screenwriter William Hanley (1931-2012) was known for his Broadway play *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground* and television movies and mini-series. Hanley grew up in New York City, studied at Cornell University for a year, and joined the United States Army in the 1950s. Although not an actor, Hanley enrolled at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Hanley wrote his first play in 1957, but it was not until 1962 that his work was produced. His one-act plays, *Whisper Into My Good Ear* and *Mrs. Dally Has a Lover*, staged Off-Broadway at Cherry Lane Theatre, led to a Drama Desk Award. Hanley's Broadway debut *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground*, a three person drama starring George Rose, opened at the Plymouth Theatre in 1964 and received a Tony Award nomination. While praised for these Broadway and Off-Broadway productions, Hanley's writing proved to be well-suited for television. Hanley sold his stage play *Flesh and Blood* to NBC for

\$112,500 in 1966, a sum then unheard of for a single television work. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s Hanley concentrated on television screenwriting and won two Emmys. Hanley died in Connecticut in 2012.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The William Hanley scripts (1957-1996) primarily contain scripts for plays and television with 22 projects documented, including many that were not produced. The scripts, primarily written between 1957 and 1976, are often annotated and edited.

The Broadway play *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground* is the most well-represented work in the collection, with several drafts, notes, and casting information present; scripts and correspondence document his late work, *Halloran's Debt* (1995-1996). Three drafts exist for *A Country Without Rain* and two novels written by Hanley are included. The majority of Hanley's works for television are not included in the collection.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged alphabetically by script title.

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

Dramatists -- United States -- 20th Century

Playwrights -- United States -- 20th Century

Television writers -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Subjects**

Playwriting -- 20th century

Television scripts -- 20th century

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Screenplays

Scripts

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 *Babyhip (screenplay)* 1968
- b. 1 f. 2 *Bubbles and Bijou Dreams* 1959
- b. 1 f. 3 *The Burden* 1959
- b. 1 f. 4-6 *A Country Without Rain* 1959-1961  
Three drafts.
- b. 1 f. 7 *Daddy Again* 1983  
Second draft.
- b. 2 f. 1 *The Dim Light of Memory* 1957
- b. 2 f. 2-3 *The End of Romance and the Continued Pursuit of Happiness* 1967-1968  
Includes a novel draft.
- b. 2 f. 4 *Great Kills* 1976
- b. 2 f. 5-7 *Halloran's Debt* 1995-1996  
First draft, outline, and correspondence.
- b. 3 f. 1 *Halloran's Debt* 1996  
Second draft.
- b. 3 f. 2 *Imminent Departures (novel)* 1973
- b. 3 f. 3 *In the Dark* 1965
- b. 3 f. 4 *The Monogamist* 1974
- b. 3 f. 5 *Morgan's Eyes (screenplay)* 1974
- b. 3 f. 6-7 *O, Morning Blues* 1961, 1965  
Two drafts.
- b. 4 f. 1 *Ox Goes North (screenplay)* 1974
- b. 4 f. 2 *Pretty Maids All in a Row* 1969
- b. 4 f. 3 *Prisoners Dream* 1964
- b. 4 f. 4-7 *Slow Dance on the Killing Ground* 1964-1965  
Drafts, notes, and casting information.
- b. 5 f. 1 *Something For Nothing* 1966
- b. 5 f. 2 *The Sound of Silence* 1958
- b. 5 f. 3 *State of Grace* 1974
- b. 5 f. 4 *Three Entertainments* 1958