Hoffman, Richard.

Richard Hoffman - John Guare collection
1972-1993

### Descriptive Summary

**Identification:** MSS 505  
**Creator:** Hoffman, Richard.  
**Title:** Richard Hoffman - John Guare collection  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1972-1993  
**Extent:** .6 linear feet and oversize removals (2 boxes)  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

### Administrative Information

**Citation:** MSS 505, Richard Hoffman - John Guare collection, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.  
**Shelving Summary:** Boxes 1-2: Shelved in SPEC MSS manuscript boxes; Removals: Shelved in SPEC MSS oversize boxes (32 inches)  
**Location:** Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/  
**Source:** Purchase, June 2005.  
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Biographical Notes

Richard Hoffman

Brooklyn-based theater collector and book dealer Richard Hoffman built a number of literary collections around American playwrights over a period of many years. Hoffman has said that he entered the United States Army in the 1950s as an actor and left as a writer. His military experience led to an assignment to create a television program titled "Your Army in View," which consisted of interviews and live drama. After his discharge from the service in 1955, Hoffman taught in the drama department of The City University of New York. During this period he was awarded a Eugene O'Neill fellowship for playwriting. He also began to seriously collect rare books and first editions of contemporary American dramatists, notably the playwrights Eugene O'Neill, Arthur Miller, and Neil Simon. Hoffman's interest in collecting first editions led to his career as an antiquarian book dealer.

John Guare

American playwright John Guare (1938- ), whose award-winning plays are known for their dark humor and sharp portrayals of the American family, has had a successful career in theater since his debut in 1960. His plays have been produced in many major American cities such as New York and Los Angeles, as well as abroad. In addition to writing original screenplays, such as Atlantic City (1980), for which he was nominated for an Academy Award, Guare has also successfully adapted many of his own plays for the screen, such as the multi-award-winning Six Degrees of Separation (1990).

Guare was born February 5, 1938, in New York, New York. Guare wrote his first play at the age of 11, well before his education at Georgetown University and Yale University. Guare's first success as a playwright came in 1968 when his one-act play Muzeeka earned him an Obie Award. Guare's darkly humorous vision of the American family manifests itself in scenes of illness, painful death, and murder and is reflected in such works as House of Blue Leaves (1971) and Bosoms and Neglect (1979). Guare has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career, including a New York Drama Critics' Award, an Obie, the Outer Critics' Circle Award and the Los Angeles Critics' Prize in 1971 for House of Blue Leaves. In 1972, he was awarded a Tony and a Rockefeller grant in playwriting, and for Atlantic City (1980) he received the New York Film Critics Award, the Los Angeles Film Critics' Award, the National Society of Film Critics' Award, the Venice Film Festival Grand Prize, and an Academy Award nomination for best original screenplay. In 1989 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters; 1993 saw Guare's election to the Theatre Hall of Fame; and in 2005, he was awarded an Obie for sustained achievement.

Sources:
Scope and Content Note

The Richard Hoffman - John Guare Collection comprises .6 linear feet and oversize removals of playscripts, film scripts, theater programs, playbooks and a poster related to six of Guare's works, spanning the dates between 1972 and 1993. The collection is organized into six series: I. Atlantic City (1980); II. Bosoms and Neglect (1979); III. The House of Blue Leaves (1971); IV. Landscape of the Body (1977); V. Six Degrees of Separation (1990); and VI. Two Gentlemen of Verona (1973).
Selected Search Terms

Personal Names

Guare, John.

Topical Terms

Film adaptations.

American drama--20th century.

Form/Genre Terms

Scripts (documents)

Theater programs.

Photographs.

Posters.

Press releases.

Occupation

Playwrights.

Personal Contributors

Guare, John.

Related Materials in this Repository

MSS 484 Richard Hoffman - Neil Simon collection
MSS 485 Richard Hoffman - Arthur Miller collection
MSS 490 Richard Hoffman - David Rabe collection
MSS 496 Richard Hoffman - David Mamet collection
MSS 508 Richard Hoffman - Lorraine Hansberry collection
MSS 510 Richard Hoffman - August Wilson collection
Arrangement

I. Atlantic City (1980)
II. Bosoms and Neglect (1979)
III. The House of Blue Leaves (1971)
IV. Landscape of the Body (1977)
V. Six Degrees of Separation (1990)
VI. Two Gentlemen of Verona (1973)
Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I. Atlantic City, 1981

This series comprises material relating to Guare's 1981 film Atlantic City, directed by Louis Malle. The series includes a press kit for the film which consists of cast and crew list with biographical information on Guare, Malle, producer Denis Heroux, and leading actors Burt Lancaster and Susan Sarandon. Also included are an opening announcement and press releases on Lancaster and Sarandon, held in a portfolio from Paramount Pictures.

Press kit, 1981 [Box 1 F1]

Series II. Bosoms and Neglect, 1978-1979

This series consists of two typescript drafts for stage productions of Bosoms and Neglect (1979).

Playscript, 1978 [Box 1 F2]


Playscript, 1979 [Box 1 F3]


Series III. The House of Blue Leaves, 1967-1971

This series comprises material relating to The House of Blue Leaves, Guare's first play. Included are two typescript playscripts, one of which is signed by Guare, and one playbill from a May 1971 production starring Anne Meara and Harold Gould and directed by Mel Shapiro.

Playscript, 1967 [Box 1 F4]

Typescript with minor deletions on pages 1-24 and 1-25; housed in black wrappers; "Warren Lyons Productions, Inc., Betty Ann Besch Productions, Inc." This copy is signed by Guare on the title page.

Playscript, 1967 [Box 1 F5]

Typescript copy in blue wrappers. "Warren Lyons Productions, Inc."

Playbill, 1971 May [Box 1 F6]

"Warren Lyons and Betty Ann Besch present The House of Blue Leaves / John Guare’s Comedy, starring Anne Meara, Harold Gould … directed by Mel Shapiro."

Series IV. The Landscape of the Body, 1977
This series consists of several typescript playscripts of Guare's play *The Landscape of the Body*, including the original typescript which is signed by Guare, the stage copy of F. Murray Abraham from the 1977 New York Shakespeare Festival Production at the Newman Public Theater, and an annotated stage copy from another staging of the play at the 1977 New York Shakespeare Festival.

**Playscript, 1977 [Box 2 F7]**


**Playscript, 1977 [Box 2 F8]**


**Playscript, 1977 [Box 2 F9]**


**Series V. Six Degrees of Separation, 1991-1993**

This series comprises material relating to Guare's play *Six Degrees of Separation* and its 1993 film adaptation starring Stockard Channing, Will Smith, and Donald Sutherland and directed by Fred Schepisi. Included in the series are a 1991 playbill and theater poster from a stage production featuring Stockard Channing and signed by Guare and several members of the cast, as well as a draft of the film script and a press kit from the film production.

**Film script, 1993 [Box 2 F10]**

"Six Degrees of Separation by John Guare / based on his play." Culver City, Calif.: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures, January 25, 1993. Typescript copy with revision dates on each page. "The writing credits may not be final and should not be used … "

**Film press kit, 1993 [Box 2 F11]**

Includes synopsis, cast and crew list, and biographical information on the cast, production crew and filmmakers. Also contains ten black and white photographs.

**Playbill, July 1991, Lincoln Center Theatre, New York, 1991 [Box 2 F12]**

2 copies

Directed by Gregory Mosher and featuring Stockard Channing, Courtney B. Vance and John Cunningham. One copy is signed by several members of the cast and the author.
Series V.

Theater poster, 1991 [Box 2 F13] (Removed to SPEC MSS oversized boxes (32 inches))

Lincoln Center Theater, New York City, [1991]; Signed by John Guare and entire cast of play.

Series VI. Two Gentlemen of Verona, 1973

This series consists of one playbook from a 1973 New York Shakespeare Festival production of Two Gentlemen of Verona featuring Jonelle Allen, Clifton Davis, Edith Diaz, and Larry Kert and directed by Mel Shapiro.

Playbook, 1973 [Box 2 F14]