

**THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**  
**THE BILLY ROSE THEATRE COLLECTION**

**EDWARD ALBEE**  
**SCRIPTS, 1949-1966**

**\*T-MSS 1964-003**  
**4/98**

**MAIN ENTRY:** Edward Albee, 1928-

**TITLE:** Scripts, 1949-1966

**SIZE:** 3.5 lin. ft. (8 boxes)

**ACCESS:** Restricted. The written permission of Albee is necessary for access to the collection. Further written permission is required if quotations are desired.

**SOURCE:** Gift of Edward Albee, 1964 and later.

**BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT:** American author, director and producer, Edward Albee has won numerous awards for his plays.

**DESCRIPTION:** Collection consists of scripts of original plays and adaptations from the early career of playwright Edward Albee.

**RELATED MATERIALS:** Articles, poems and short stories, mostly unpublished, and an unfinished novel, with many editorial corrections, are held by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Division of The New York Public Library at 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.

## INTRODUCTION

The Edward Albee Papers were given to the Billy Rose Theatre Collection of The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts by Edward Albee beginning in 1964. They were originally cataloged under the library's RM classification system, but were recataloged in 1998 into the library's online database.

## ARRANGEMENT NOTE

The collection, in one series, scripts, is arranged alphabetically by title. Within a title, they are arranged in the order of their former RM (cataloging) numbers.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Edward Franklin Albee III was born on March 12, 1928, probably in Virginia, and adopted by Reed A. and Frances (Cotter) Albee shortly after his birth. The Albees, a wealthy family with theatrical connections, lived in Larchmont, New York. Albee grew up alienated by his parents' lifestyle and struck out on his own, moving to Greenwich Village, NY, after three semesters at Trinity College. He had various jobs; his favorite was as a messenger for Western Union, before achieving his first success in 1959 with a German language production in Berlin of his play, *THE ZOO STORY*. His best known work, which scandalized Broadway in 1962 and established him as America's most acclaimed young playwright, is *WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?*.

In 1963 Albee, with Richard Barr and Clinton Wilder, began producing new plays by new playwrights at a theater they rented in Greenwich Village and thus were a part of the burgeoning Off-Off Broadway movement. In 1964 Albee created the Edward Albee Foundation, a summer retreat at Montauk, Long Island, which provides living and working space for six artists. Albee has taught playwriting at various colleges and often directs his own plays. After the 1960s his writing became less prolific and less well received. For many years he has been more popular in Europe than in America. However, he has won numerous awards including the Pulitzer Prize three times: for *A DELICATE BALANCE* in 1967, *SEASCAPE* in 1975 and *THREE TALL WOMEN* in 1994.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists entirely of scripts of original plays and adaptations from the early career of the playwright Edward Albee. It includes typescripts and proofs, many with handwritten revisions, and in various versions. Plays included in the collection are *THE ZOO STORY*, *THE DEATH OF BESSIE SMITH*, *THE AMERICAN DREAM*, *WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?*, *FAM AND YAM*, *TINY ALICE*, *A DELICATE BALANCE*, *BOX* and *QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN MAO*, and the adaptations: *THE BALLAD OF THE SAD CAFÉ*, *MALCOLM*, *EVERYTHING IN THE GARDEN*, and a musical adaptation of *BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S*. Also contains some unfinished and untitled manuscripts, including a few that are entirely handwritten. There is, however, no copy of *THE SANDBOX*, an Albee play from this period, in the collection.

**\*T-Mss 1964-003 - Edward Albee Scripts**  
**Container Listing**

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Box 1, folder 1</b>  | <i>The American dream</i> / Edward Albee – Carbon typescript.  |
| <b>Box 1, folder 2</b>  | <i>The American dream</i> , 1961 / Edward Albee - Published proofs (4 versions).   |
| <b>Box 1, folder 3</b>  | <i>The ballad of the sad cafe</i> / Edward Albee – Carbon typescript with revisions for first 10 scenes.   |
| <b>Box 1, folder 4</b>  | <i>The ballad of the sad cafe</i> / Edward Albee – Carbon typescript for 2 <sup>nd</sup> half.   |
| <b>Box 1, folder 5</b>  | <i>The ballad of the sad cafe</i> / Edward Albee – Typescript with revisions for first 10 scenes.  |
| <b>Box 1, folder 6</b>  | <i>The ballad of the sad cafe</i> / Edward Albee – Typescript with revisions for 2 <sup>nd</sup> half.   |
| <b>Box 1, folder 7</b>  | <i>The ballad of the sad cafe</i> / Edward Albee – Typescript with revisions and inserts for 1 <sup>st</sup> half.   |
| <b>Box 1, folder 8</b>  | <i>The ballad of the sad cafe</i> / Edward Albee – Typescript with revisions and inserts for 2 <sup>nd</sup> half.   |
| <b>Box 2, folder 1</b>  | <i>The ballad of the sad cafe</i> / Edward Albee – Partial typescript with notes and revisions.  |
| <b>Box 2, folder 2</b>  | <i>The ballad of the sad cafe</i> , 1963 / Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions and notations for the publisher for 1 <sup>st</sup> part.                                  |
| <b>Box 2, folder 3</b>  | <i>The ballad of the sad cafe</i> , 1963 / Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions and notations for the publisher for 2 <sup>nd</sup> part.                                  |
| <b>Box 2, folder 4</b>  | <i>The ballad of the sad cafe</i> , 1963 / Edward Albee - Author's proof with handwritten annotations.   |
| <b>Box 2, folder 5</b>  | <i>The ballad of the sad cafe</i> , 1963 / Edward Albee - Final plate proof with handwritten annotations.  |
| <b>Box 2, folder 6</b>  | <i>Box</i> / Edward Albee - Original typescript.   |
| <b>Box 2, folder 7</b>  | <i>Box</i> / Edward Albee - Typescript with revisions (also includes <i>Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung</i> ).   |
| <b>Box 2, folder 8</b>  | <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i> / Edward Albee – Typescript with revisions (Part 1 of 2)   |
| <b>Box 2, folder 9</b>  | <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i> / Edward Albee – Typescript with revisions (Part 2 of 2).  |
| <b>Box 2, folder 10</b> | <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i> / Edward Albee – Carbon typescript - new version.  |
| <b>Box 3, folder 1</b>  | <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i> / Edward Albee – Typescript with revisions (Act I).  |
| <b>Box 3, folder 2</b>  | <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i> / Edward Albee – Typescript with revisions (Act I).  |
| <b>Box 3, folder 3</b>  | <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i> / Edward Albee – Typescript with revisions (Act II).   |
| <b>Box 3, folder 4</b>  | <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i> , 1966 / Edward Albee - Production notes (includes partial script, revisions, notes on performances and costumes, scene breakdowns, time plots). |

- Box 3, folder 5** *The city of people*, 1949 / Edward Albee – Typescript final version.
- Box 3, folder 6** *The death of Bessie Smith*, 1959 / Edward Albee - Typescript.
- Box 3, folder 7** *A delicate balance*, 1966 / Edward Albee – Act I - typescript with revisions.
- Box 3, folder 8** *A delicate balance*, 1966 / Edward Albee – Act II - typescript with revisions.
- Box 3, folder 9** *A delicate balance*, 1966 / Edward Albee – Act III - typescript with revisions.
- Box 3, folder 10** *A delicate balance* / Edward Albee - Act I – clean script.
- Box 3, folder 11** *A delicate balance* / Edward Albee - Act II - clean script.
- Box 3, folder 12** *A delicate balance* / Edward Albee - Act III - clean script.
- Box 4, folder 1** *A delicate balance* / Edward Albee - Act I – typescript with handwritten revisions.
- Box 4, folder 2** *A delicate balance* / Edward Albee - Act II - typescript with handwritten revisions.
- Box 4, folder 3** *A delicate balance*, 1966 / Edward Albee – Act III - typescript with handwritten revisions, also contains notes on possible cuts.
- Box 4, folder 4** *A delicate balance*, 1966 / Edward Albee – partial typescript, revision additions and notes. Includes notes of nature of some of the characters and a cast and production staff list.
- Box 4, folder 5** *The dispossessed*, 1958 / Edward Albee – typescript with cuts and additions.
- Box 4, folder 6** *The dispossessed*, 1958 / Edward Albee – clean photocopied typescript.
- Box 4, folder 7** *The dispossessed*, 1958 / Edward Albee – clean typescript.
- Box 4, folder 8** *An end to summer* / Edward Albee - partial handwritten script (Act I, Scene 1). Also includes ideas and sketches for Act III.
- Box 4, folder 9** *An end to summer* / Edward Albee - partial script with handwritten notes.
- Box 4, folder 10** *Everything in the garden* / Edward Albee –Act I & II- typescript with handwritten revisions.
- Box 4, folder 11** *Everything in the garden* / Edward Albee – Act III - typescript with handwritten revisions.
- Box 4, folder 12** *Fam and Yam*, 1960 / Edward Albee – typescript with penciled stage directions.
- Box 4, folder 13** *Fam and Yam*, 1960 / Edward Albee - clean typescript
- Box 4, folder 14** *Fam and Yam*, 1960 / Edward Albee – carbon of clean typescript
- Box 5, folder 1** *The ice age* / Edward Albee - Act I - early draft with revisions
- Box 5, folder 2** *The ice age* / Edward Albee - Act I - later draft
- Box 5, folder 3** *The invalid*, 1952 / Edward Albee - Act I – four versions.
- Box 5, folder 4** *The making of a saint*, 1953-1954 / Edward Albee - clean typescript.
- Box 5, folder 5-7** *Malcolm*, 1965-1966 / Edward Albee – original typescript with 6 pages of handwritten changes and additions.
- Box 5, folder 8** *Malcolm*, 1965 / Edward Albee - script excerpts with changes & revisions.
- Box 5, folder 9-11** *Malcolm* / Edward Albee - typescript with revisions and new pages.
- Box 5, folder 12** *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung* / Edward Albee – original typescript.

- Box 5, folder 13-14** *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung* / Edward Albee - clean typescript, author's notes and character descriptions.
- Box 6, folder 1-2** *Tiny Alice* / Edward Albee - typescript with handwritten revisions.
- Box 6, folder 3-4** *Tiny Alice* / Edward Albee - typescript, also includes description of Act III.
- Box 6, folder 5** *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?* / Edward Albee - clean typescript of first 15 pages of earliest script.
- Box 6, folder 6-8** *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?* / Edward Albee - typescript with revisions.
- Box 7, folder 1-2** *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, 1961-1962 / Edward Albee - Act I & II – clean typescript.
- Box 7, folder 3-5** *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?* / Edward Albee - clean typescript of 2<sup>nd</sup> version.
- Box 7, folder 6** *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?* / Edward Albee - pages deleted from 2<sup>nd</sup> script.
- Box 7, folder 7-8** *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, 1962 / Edward Albee - final script.
- Box 8, folder 1** *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, 1962 / Edward Albee - author's proof.
- Box 8, folder 2** *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, 1962 / Edward Albee - recast plate proofs.
- Box 8, folder 3** *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?* / Edward Albee - script changes for recording.
- Box 8, folder 4** *Ye watchers and ye lonely ones*, 1951 / Edward Albee - handwritten manuscript.
- Box 8, folder 5** *The zoo story*, 1958 / Edward Albee - typescript with notes and corrections.
- Box 8, folder 6** Untitled play / Edward Albee - handwritten manuscript (probably *The Recruit*).
- Box 8, folder 7** Untitled play / Edward Albee - manuscript (probably *The Recruit*).
- Box 8, folder 8** Untitled play, 1949 / Edward Albee - clean typescript Act I (probably *In a Quiet Room*).
- Box 8, folder 9** Untitled play / Edward Albee - handwritten manuscript (probably *Hatchet, Hatchet*).
- Box 8, folder 10** Untitled play / Edward Albee - later version (probably *Hatchet, Hatchet*).
- Box 8, folder 11** Untitled play / Edward Albee - typescript with revisions (possibly *The Merry Month of May*).
- Box 8, folder 12** Untitled play / Edward Albee - typescript with revisions.
- Box 8, folder 13** Untitled play / Edward Albee - typescript with handwritten revisions.
- Box 8, folder 14** Untitled play / Edward Albee - typescript with revisions.