
Gary Belkin

Finding aid created by Writers Guild Foundation Archive staff using RecordEXPRESS

Writers Guild Foundation Archive

7000 West Third Street

Los Angeles, California 90048

(323) 782-4680

hswett@wgfoundation.org

<https://www.wgfoundation.org/wgf-library-archive/about-the-film-and-tv-archive/>

2018

Descriptive Summary

Title: Gary Belkin

Dates: 1955-1985

Collection Number: WGF-MS-013

Creator/Collector: Belkin, Gary, 1927-2005

Extent: 3.2 cubic feet

Repository: Writers Guild Foundation Archive
Los Angeles, California 90048

Abstract: The Gary Belkin Papers, 1955-1985, document Belkin's writing career, especially his early years. The bulk of his collection consists of skits he wrote or co-wrote for "The Danny Kaye Show" and "Caesar's Hour."

Language of Material: English

Access

Available by appointment only.

Publication Rights

The responsibility to secure copyright and publication permission rests with the researcher.

Preferred Citation

Gary Belkin. Writers Guild Foundation Archive

Acquisition Information

Donated by Tony De Sena, June 28, 2010

Biography/Administrative History

Born April 24, 1927, Gary Belkin grew up in New York City. After serving in the Army in WWII, he began his career as a writer for radio comedians and proposed cartoon ideas to the New Yorker magazine. He started in television when he was hired as a writer for Caesar's Hour. Afterward, he wrote for shows including Car 54, Where are You?, The Danny Kaye Show, and The Carol Burnett Show, as well as specials for performers including Doris Day and Anne Bancroft. He wrote for Newhart, Three's Company and The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson later in his career. Belkin won many awards over the course of his career. He earned two Emmys and a WGA Award on the Carol Burnett Show, and won an Emmy and a WGA Award for Annie, the Women in the Life of a Man. He was nominated for seven additional Emmy Awards: two for The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson, one for The Carrol Burnett Show, one for The Doris Mary Anne Kappelhoff Special, one for The Danny Kaye Show, and two for Caesar's Hour. He also won a WGA Award for Car 54, Where Are You? in 1963 and the Danny Kaye Show in 1966 and was nominated in 1975 for Annie and the Hoods. Additionally, he won and was nominated for two Daytime Emmys for Sesame Street. Belkin died on July 28, 2005 of emphysema and he was survived by friends.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Gary Belkin Papers, 1955-1985, consists of television scripts and skits, books, and other materials. While the collection dates from 1955 to 1985, the bulk covers between 1955 and 1965 when he wrote for Caesar's Hour and The Danny Kaye Show. The largest part of the collection, Series I, comprises skits he wrote or co-wrote for Caesar's Hour and The Danny Kaye Show although the scripts are sometimes incomplete. The collection covers episodes #31-88. Also included are award nominated and winning scripts for specials hosted by Anne Bancroft. They include revised pages with his written comments and changes. Also included is an unproduced television pilot entitled Inspector Benjamino co-written with Mel Brooks. Series II comprises a small collection of items including a telegram from Danny Kaye to Belkin about losing the Emmy award and a comedy record album and accompanying transcript of I am the President for comedian David Frye. Belkin co-wrote the material with Tony Geiss, Donald Ross, and Norman Steinberg.

Indexing Terms

Teleplays

Caesar's hour (Television program)

Television Comedy writers.
