
Lowell Ganz & Babaloo Mandel Collection

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Writers Guild Foundation Archive

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Lowell Ganz & Babaloo Mandel Collection

Dates: 1985-1994

Collection Number: WGF-MS-004

Creator/Collector: Ganz, Lowell, 1948-Mandel, Babaloo, 1949-

Extent: 5.5 linear feet

Repository: Writers Guild Foundation Archive

Los Angeles, California 90048

Abstract: The Lowell Ganz & Babaloo Mandel Collection, 1985-1994 is comprised of materials relating to the writing duo's screenwriting careers, including handwritten and fully typed drafts, story notes, treatments, partial drafts and rewrites, re-shoot notes, and assorted production materials for eight films, including CITY SLICKERS (1991), CITY SLICKERS II (1994), A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN (1992), and PARENTHOOD (1989).

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

Lowell Ganz & Babaloo Mandel Collection. Writers Guild Foundation Archive

Acquisition Information

Donated by Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel, January 9, 2012.

Biography/Administrative History

Lowell Ganz (born August 31, 1948 in Glen Oaks, New York) and Marc "Babaloo" Mandel (born October 13 in New York, New York) are long-time screenwriting partners that began their careers writing for comedic television in the 1970s. By 1974, Ganz was co-producing Happy Days alongside creator and mentor Garry Marshall – a series for which Mandel also wrote several episodes. The two New Yorkers met in a Hollywood comedy club where Mandel worked as a gag writer. Both were also on the writing staff for the sitcom The Odd Couple and discovered that they had a lot in common – from their offbeat sense of humor to their adoration of Billy Wilder. Their creative partnership began with collaborations on Laverne and Shirley and the duo made their feature screenplay debut with the black comedy NIGHT SHIFT (1982), which reunited Ganz and Mandel with Happy Days alumni Henry Winkler and director Ron Howard. SPLASH (1984) brought Howard, Ganz, and Mandel together once again and firmly established the writing pair as a successful Hollywood scripting team. They would go on to write hits such as PARENTHOOD (1989), CITY SLICKERS (1991), and A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN (1992 – directed by Laverne and Shirley colleagues Penny Marshall and co-starring Garry Marshall). Both Ganz and Mandel have appeared in small roles in the films they have written. Notably, Ganz plays an announcer in A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN and each play writers in MR. SATURDAY NIGHT. The theatrical releases of GUNG HO, PARENTHOOD, and A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN also served as springboards for follow-up television series which Ganz and Mandel contributed to. Other screenwriting credits include EDTV (1999), WHERE THE HEART IS (2000), ROBOTS (2005), FEVER PITCH (2005), and PARENTAL GUIDANCE (2012)--New York Times.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Lowell Ganz & Babaloo Mandel Collection, 1985-1994 is comprised of materials relating to their screenwriting careers and organized by film title. In addition to handwritten and fully typed drafts, the collection includes story notes, treatments, partial drafts and rewrites, re-shoot notes, "wild lines" (extra dialogue that is recorded off camera for use in post-production), and assorted production materials. SPIES LIKE US (1985) features a writing partnership with actor and writer Dan Aykroyd, and their recurrent collaboration with actor, director, producer, and screenwriter Billy Crystal is represented by materials from CITY SLICKERS (1991), CITY SLICKERS II (1994, co-written), FORGET PARIS (1995, co-written), and MR. SATURDAY NIGHT (1992, co-written). Ganz and Mandel wrote the majority of material in this collection in an era without modern script writing computer software. This is expressed in story notes and basic plot points jotted down on index cards and a plethora of handwritten script page inserts, comments, and dialogue revisions. The duo's distinctive writing process is well-documented in such highlights as predominantly handwritten early drafts for CITY SLICKERS and A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN, their personal screening notes for CITY SLICKERS II, and a selection of typewritten drafts for the then untitled "Fatherhood Comedy" PARENTHOOD which feature extensive hand cut and pasted alterations.

Indexing Terms

Screenplays
Screenwriters
Television writers
