
Finding Aid for the John Copeland Babylon 5 Collection 2006.018.r

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Frank Mt. Pleasant Library of Special Collections and Archives, Leatherby Libraries

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Title: John Copeland Babylon 5 Collection

Identifier/Call Number: 2006.018.r

Contributing Institution: Frank Mt. Pleasant Library of Special Collections and Archives, Leatherby Libraries

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 59.5 Linear feet(31 folder boxes, 19 boxes)

Date (inclusive): 1993-1999

Language of Materials note: The materials in this collection are in English.

Location note: Leatherby Libraries

Abstract: This collection contains a various assortment of action figures, books, set-related ephemera, awards won by the show, glassware, concept art, production stills, pictures, photos, statues, trading cards, two video games, all related to Babylon 5, including the entire series on VHS. In addition to the Babylon 5 collection, the series Crusader and Wild West are contained on VHS.

Arrangement note

This collection is arranged by material type.

Biographical/Historical note

Babylon 5 is an American science fiction television series created by J. Michael Straczynski and produced by John Copeland. The show centers on the Babylon 5 space station: a focal point for politics, diplomacy, and conflict during the years 2257-2262. The five seasons of the series each correspond to one fictional sequential year in that time frame. The pilot film premiered on February 22, 1993. The regular series aired from January 26, 1994 and ran for five full seasons. The show spawned six television films and a spin-off series called Crusade, which aired in 1999 and ran for thirteen episodes. This award winning series broke new ground in television as the first program to create all of the visual effects using computer animation.

Information found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon_5

Crusade is a spin-off TV series, from the creators of Babylon 5. Its plot is set in 2267, five years after the events of Babylon 5, and just after the made-for-TV-movie, A Call to Arms. These episodes center around a race called the Drakh, who have released a nanovirus plague on Earth. If this plague is not stopped, it will destroy all life on the planet within five years. To that end, the destroyer Excalibur has been sent out to look for anything that could help find a cure. Like Babylon 5, Crusade was intended to have a five-year story arc, however, conflicts arose between the producers and executives at TNT and production was cancelled before the first episode was broadcast.

Information found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusade_%28TV_series%29

The Wild West was a ten-part series of some 3500 photos, sketches, and paintings of myths of the American West between the end of the Civil War to 1900. Includes first-person narratives, anecdotes, newspaper accounts, journals, and letters covering Buffalo Bill Cody, Calamity Jane, Wild Bill Hickok, Bat Masterson, Wyatt Earp, Geronimo, Sitting Bull, Annie Oakley, Billy the Kid, and George Custer. John Copeland was producer on two of these episodes entitled: "Cowboys" and "The Chroniclers".

Information found at http://www.fandango.com/thewildwest%5Btvdocumentaryseries%5D_v54594/summary

John Copeland has produced over 220 hours of Prime Time television programming. Many of these productions were not only award winners, but also brought innovations to film and television production, including the first television series to combine state of the art 3D computer generated character animation with live action and visual effects. John Copeland has been declared as "the producer's producer" because few in the industry can boast his comprehensive knowledge of the entire production spectrum. From traditional filmmaking techniques to the evolving landscape of new technologies, many of which Copeland helped pioneer, few have contributed as much in terms of shepherding quality entertainment to the small screen.

Information found at http://www.evergreenfilms.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=94&Itemid=59

Scope and Contents note

This collection was donated by Chapman alumni John Copeland, who produced the tv series Babylon 5, its' spinoff Crusade and the miniseries Wild West. The collection primarily contains Babylon 5 concept art, sketches, scripts, merchandise, and various ephemera and memorabilia related to the show, including the entire series on VHS. Aside from the Babylon 5 materials, the collection includes the Crusade and Wild West series on VHS, and a few concept sketches for the Crusade series.

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use note

There are no restrictions on the use of this material.

Preferred Citation note

[identify item], John Copeland Babylon 5 Collection (2006.18.r), Frank Mt. Pleasant Library of Special Collections and Archives, Chapman University, CA.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

This collection is a gift of Chapman alumni John Copeland.

Separated Materials note

The 1997 Hugo award for Babylon 5 series episode "Severed Dreama" was de-accessioned on 4/27/2011. John Copeland requested that his Hugo award be returned to him. This Hugo award was presented at the Lone Star convention Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 1997.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Copeland, John, '73, 1950-

Babylon 5 (Television program)

Babylon Five (Television program)

Science fiction television programs.

Television programs -- United States.

Box 50

Personal, Misc. 1991-1999

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: (1 box)

Scope and Contents note

This series contains various personal belongings donated by John Copeland. Included are: a large portrait of John Copeland, a signed picture of all the cast and crew, two paintings, and various personal photos. In addition to the photos, there is a music program on Amadeus Mozart, the "Dare" comic series by Grant Morrison, a post card directed to Copeland, a pin commemorating the 7th flight of the space shuttle Atlantis, and a "Mars Landing December 3, 1999" pass issued by NASA to Copeland.

Box 13-24,

Box 1-8, Box 9-12

Scripts and Production Notes 1993-1999

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: (24 folder boxes)

Scope and Contents note

This series contains an assortment of scripts and production notes from episodes, #109, #110, #111, #112, #113, #114, #115, #116, and #522 of Babylon 5 and the Babylon 5 movie "A Call to Arms".

Box 25-28,

Box 29-32

Artwork and Concept Art 1993-1999

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: (7 folder boxes, 1 box)

Scope and Contents note

This series contains concept art and sketches from Babylon 5 and the spin-off series Crusade.

Box Box 33-35,

Box 36

Audio/Visual: B5, Crusade, Wild West 1993-1999

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: (4 boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Contained in this series are every episode from the series Babylon 5, Crusader, and Wild West on VHS.

Box 37-38

Awards 1995-1998

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: (2 box)

Scope and Contents note

Included in this series are an assortment of awards won by John Copeland for his work on Babylon 5. The most notable of these are the 1997 Hugo award for "Best Dramatic Presentation" for the episode "Severed Dreams", and the 1996 Space Frontier Award for "Best Vision of the Future". Additionally, there are two Hugo nominee ribbons and a LoneStarCon2 ribbon.

Box 39, Box 40

Maquette, Production 1993

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: (2 boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Included in this series are two production maquettes used during the production of Babylon 5.

Title: Vorlon Ambassador Shuttle Model Dimensions: 34.5cm x 22.5cm Media: Resin ship on resin base Maquette #1: A production model used in the 1994 science fiction television series Babylon 5. The model was used in digital rendering for the show and is a part of the John Copeland Babylon 5 Collection. The model is signed by two unidentified crew members. This Vorlon ship was used by the character Ambassador Kosh, stationed on Babylon 5. In the show, the ship is suspected to be a sentient, living creature, telepathically linked to the Ambassador. It uses bio-organic technology and has no visible hatches, entranceways, or propulsion systems. This ship makes several appearances in the series and is a subject of great curiosity among the crew and staff of Babylon 5.

Title: Gangster N'Grath Model Dimensions: 20.2cm x 27cm Media: Resin figure on wooden base Maquette #2: The model is a production maquette for the 1994 science fiction television series Babylon 5. This figure is of N'Grath, a criminal kingpin and gangster, who operated from Babylon 5's notorious "Down Below" sector. Loosely referred to as a "legitimate businessman" by his fellow criminals, N'Grath was a member of a non-oxygen breathing, bipedal insectoid race of unknown origin. N'Grath was eventually removed from power in 2262 (Season 5), but remained a fan favorite for the remainder of the show.

Box 32, Box 41,
Object Garment
Rack

Realia, Production 1993-1999

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: (1 box)

Scope and Contents note

Included in this series are items used during the production of Babylon 5, including two chair backs, four Babylon 5 cast and crew passes, one Babylon 5 jacket, and one Crusade jacket.

Babylon 5 Merchandise 1993-1999

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: (8 boxes)

Scope and Contents note

This series contains merchandise relating to the television series Babylon 5. Included are action figures, trading cards, soundtracks, pewter statues and various other items.

Box 42-43

Misc. Babylon 5 Merchandise 1993-1999

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: (2 boxes)

Scope and Contents note

This subseries contains a miscellaneous assortment of merchandise related to the tv series Babylon 5. Included are glassware, book #3 in the Babylon book series, bookmarks, a binder for trading cards, a bust of G'Kar, a Babylon 5 roleplaying guide, two handheld custom Babylon 5 video games and a Babylon 5 day planner.

Box 45, Box 44

Toys 1993-1999

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: (2 boxes)

Scope and Contents note

This subseries contains action figures and minituar space ships. Additionally, a one-time John Copeland action figure is included.

Box 46

Pewter Statues 1993-1999

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: (1 box)

Scope and Contents note

Included in this series are 10 pewter statues of Babylon 5 characters and space ships.

Box 47-48

Trading Cards 1993-1999

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: (2 boxes)

Scope and Contents note

Contained in this subseries is a large collection of the Babylon 5 trading card game, including binders and boxes from the series.

Box 49

Music of Babylon 5 1993-1999

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: (1 box)

creator: Franke, Christoph, (Christopher), 1953-

Scope and Contents note

This subseries contains all 3 sets of the Babylon 5 soundtrack totaling 27-CDs. Composer Christopher Franke.
