Finding Aid for the Ben Starr Scripts, 1948-1968

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Ben Starr Scripts,
Date (inclusive): 1948-1968
Collection number: 1077
Creator: Starr, Ben
Extent: 6 boxes (3 linear ft.)
Abstract: Ben Starr (b.1921) was president of the Radio Writers Guild, West and Television Writers of America. The collection consists of scripts by Ben Starr and various collaborators for television, radio, film, and a play. Includes scripts for Our man Flint, How to commit marriage, The family way, and My favorite Martian.
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
Restrictions on Access
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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Ben Starr Scripts (Collection 1077). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.
UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 3222255
Biography
Starr was born October 18, 1921 in Manhattan, New York; BS, UCLA, 1942; air force navigator in B-17s for 3.5 years; after his release from military service, Starr began writing in 1946; was president of Radio Writers Guild, West and Television Writers of America.
Scope and Content
Collection consists of scripts by Ben Starr and various collaborators for television, radio, film, and a play. Includes scripts for Our man Flint, How to commit marriage, The family way, and My favorite Martian.
Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
1. Radio material.
2. Television material.
3. Feature films.
4. Broadway play.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Subjects
Starr, Ben--Archives.
Screenwriters--Archival resources.
Genres and Forms of Material
Film scripts.
Television plays.
Radio plays.
Radio Material

Box 1
First Nighter Radio Show (Half Hour)
“Mama Tells Fortunes.” January 1948
Physical Description: (20pp.)
Note
“My original, typed by me script. First sale of my writing.”

Box 1
First nighter framework for “Mama Tells Fortunes” broadcast. May 20, 1948
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 13pp.)
Note
[Date from] night of the actual broadcast.

Box 1
“The Honest Dope.” Aired December 16, 1948
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 20pp.)
Note
“Second sale of writing. To same radio series.”

Box 1
Curtain Time Radio Show (Half Hour)
“Dodie Writes Another Letter” script. March 9, 1949
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 37pp.)

Box 1
Stars Over Hollywood Radio Show (Half Hour)
“A Penny Saved” script. May 29, 1950
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 28pp.)
Note
“Starred Jack Paar in first radio dramatic role.”

Television Material

Box 1
Climax: Show (One Hour Long)
“Thin Air” revised script. September 14, 1955
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 100pp.)
Scope and Content Note
Contains original annotations on p.76.
Note
“Won the Edgar Allan Poe Special Award by Mystery Writers of America, April 19, 1956.”

Box 1
“The Pink Cloud” second revision. October 27, 1955
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 83pp.)

Box 1
Studio One Show (One Hour)
“The Funny Looking Kid” final revised script. May 19, 1958
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 113pp.)

Box 1
Front Row Center (One Hour)
“Uncle Barney” final revised script. February 26, 1956
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 112pp.)
**Television Material**

**Finding Aid for the Ben Starr Scripts, 1948-1968**

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**Box 1**

**The Dick Powell Show (One Hour)**

Scope and Content Note
3 original scripts co-written with Robert O'Brien.

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**Box 1**

“**No Strings Attached.**” January 29, 1962

Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 67pp.)

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**Box 1**

“**The Senator from Horse-Shoe Bend.**” April, 12, 1962

Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 68pp.)

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**Box 1**

“**Special Assignment.**” July 9, 1962

Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 72pp.)

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**Boxes 1-2**

**The Phil Silvers Show (Half Hour)**

Scope and Content Note
10 original television scripts.

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**Box 1**

“**Harry Today, Gone Tomorrow**” production sheet. May 10, 1963

Physical Description: (Mimeoed)
Scope and Content Note
Also, second draft, dated April 5, 1963 (mimeoed, 46pp.).

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**Box 1**

“**Moonlight and Dozes:**” production sheet. June 26, 1963

Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 39pp.)
Scope and Content Note
Also, final draft, dated (on production sheet) June 6, 1963.

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**Box 1**

“**Beauty and the Least**” production sheet. June 27, 1963

Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 41pp.)
Scope and Content Note
Also, revised draft, dated July 18, 1963.

---

**Box 1**


Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 38pp.)

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**Box 1**


Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 40pp.)

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**Box 1**

“**Will the Real Harry Grafton Please Stand Up?**” Production sheet and final draft. August 1, 1963

Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 38pp.)

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**Box 1**

“**Cyrano De Grafton**” production sheet. August 19, 1963

Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 41pp.)
Scope and Content Note
Also, final draft of script, August 7, 1963.

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**Box 2**

“**How to Succeed in Business Without Crying**” production sheet and final draft. September 10, 1963

Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 36pp.)
Box 2  “Las Vegas Was My Mother's Maiden Name” production sheet and final draft. October 1, 1963
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 35pp.)
Scope and Content Note
Annotations on pp.11, 13, 14, 18, 19 and 20.
Revised pages typed by me, dated October 4, 1963: 11, 11-A, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 20-A (8pp.).

Box 2  “Take Her. She's Tall” production sheet and final draft. January 27, 1964
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 37pp.)

Box 2  My Favorite Martian Show (Half Hour)
Box 2  “Who Am I?” November 26, 1963
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 36pp.)

Box 2  “My Nephew. The Artist.” December 10, 1963
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 40pp.)

Box 2  “Coo Coo.” January 17, 1964
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 35pp.)

Box 2  “Heir Today, Gone Tomorrow.” 1966
Physical Description: (35pp.)
Scope and Content Note
“My original typed script with notes and cuts.”
Note
“Show was aired but I don’t have a mimeoed copy.”

Box 2  Tugboat Annie Pilot (Half Hour)
Box 2  Script, co-written. February 24, 1956
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 44pp.)
Note
“Series bought off pilot script.”

Box 2  The Thin Man Pilot (Half Hour) January 1957
Physical Description: (40pp.)
Scope and Content Note
“My original pilot script typed by me (Can’t find the mimeoed copy).”
Note
I was also co-producer on pilot film.
Starred Peter Lawford and Phyllis Kirk.

Box 2  Perry Mason Pilot (One Hour)
Note
“Final credits for writing was with Lawrence Marks.”

Box 2  My original outline. February 1956
Physical Description: (8pp.)
Scope and Content Note
Also, my mimeoed second draft script, dated April 25, 1956 (85pp.).
Note
“Typed by me.”
Feature Films

Box 2

Sammy
Note
“Unproduced Original; Sold to a Producer”

Box 2

The Elephant Who Couldn't Remember. April-1946
Physical Description: (8pp.)
Note
“Original short story typed by me.”

Box 2

Synopsis entitled Sammy. September 1951
Physical Description: Dittoed. (4 pages.)

Box 2

Screen treatment. November 1952
Physical Description: (20pp.)
Note
“Typed by me.”

Box 2

Original screenplay. 1955
Physical Description: (93pp.)
Scope and Content Note
With notes and cuts etc.
Note
“Typed by me.”

Box 2

Final script. Late 1955
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 97pp.)

Box 2

Our Man Flint
Note
(Produced by 20th Century Fox)
Starred James Coburn, Lee Cobb.

Box 2

Cartel of Evil. Original screenplay by Hal Fimberg. April 24, 1964
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 111pp.)
Scope and Content Note
Includes:
Memo from Darry F. Zanuck, dated May 2, 1964 (5pp.).
My First Draft, dated November 11, 1964 (Mimeoed, 129pp.).
Shooting Final Draft (co-written), March 12, 1965 (Mimeoed, 117pp.).

The Pad
Note
(Produced by Universal)
Final credit shared with Tom Ryan.
Starred Brism Bedford, Julie Summers, James Farentino.

Box 3

The Private Ear First Draft screenplay by Tom Ryan. August 4, 1965
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 126pp.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3</th>
<th><strong>My original screenplay. November 4, 1965</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: (107pp.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Typed by me, with notes, cuts etc.”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3</th>
<th><strong>The Pad (And How to Use It). November 10, 1965</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 103pp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Final Screenplay by me.”</td>
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</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3</th>
<th><strong>Texas Across the River</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Produced by Universal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final screen credits shared with Wells Root and Harold Greene.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Starred Dean Martin, Apin Delon.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 3</th>
<th><strong>Original screenplay by Wells Root and Harold Greene. n.d. [1953?]</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 136pp., with blue cover)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 3</th>
<th><strong>First draft screenplay by John Gay. April 12,1965</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 134pp.)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3</th>
<th><strong>Second Draft screenplay by John Gay. May 18, 1965</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 126pp.)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3</th>
<th><strong>Revised Second draft screenplay by Ben Starr. January 4, 1966</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 123pp.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hand notations by me on pp.1, 2, 6, 7, 12, 14, 16, 20-22, 24-26, 31-35, 44, 50, 52, 55, 60, 62, 64, 66, 73, 94, 96, 97, 100, 101, 106.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3</th>
<th><strong>Final Screenplay by me. January 21, 1966</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 123pp.)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 4</th>
<th><strong>The Spirit is Willing</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Produced by Paramount)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Still entitled <em>Poltergeist</em>, but subsequently changed to <em>The Spirit is Willing</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Starred Sid Caesar.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 4</th>
<th><strong>Outline. January 5, 1966</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: (5pp.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“My original typed by me.”</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 4</th>
<th><strong>The Visitors February 24, 1966</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: (134pp.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“My first draft screenplay.”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Typed by my secretary at Paramount studios.”</td>
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Box 4  

**Poltergeist preliminary script. February 24, 1966**  
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 131pp.)

Box 4  

**Shooting script by me. March 15, 1966**  
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 130pp.)

Box 4  

**The Busy Body**  
Note  
(Produced by Paramount)  
Starred Sid Caesar, Anne Baxter.

Box 4  

**My original screenplay-with notes and changes. June 6, 1966 (133pp.)**  
Scope and Content Note  
Back yellow sheet with casting suggestions.  
Note  
"Typed by me."

Box 4  

**Preliminary script. July 7, 1966**  
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 141pp.)

Box 4  

**Shooting script. August 24, 1966**  
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 135pp.)

Box 5  

**How to Commit Marriage**  
Note  
(Produced) (Co-written) (Inerama)  
Starred Bob Hope, Jackie, Gleason, Jane Wyman.

Box 5  

**Screen Treatment. April 28, 1965**  
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 47pp.)

Box 5  

**Step Outline. September 4, 1967**  
Physical Description: (7pp.)  
Note  
"Typed by me."

Box 5  

**First draft. January 1968**  
Scope and Content Note  
Annotated by me on pages: 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 23, 37, 37-A, 39, 40, 43, 45, 51, 57, 61, 64, 75, 85-88, 97, 107-110, 112, 117, 121, 122.  
Note  
"Typed by professional typist."

Box 5  

**Second draft. January 1968**  
Physical Description: (130pp.)  
Note  
"Typed professionally."
Box 5

**Notes. January 1968**
Physical Description: (7pp.)
Scope and Content Note
"Written by me after talking with producer Bill Lawrence."

Box 5

**First draft mimeoed by Naho Productions. January 31, 1968**
Physical Description: (126pp.)
Scope and Content Note
"With typed changed by Michael Kanin and myself, based on notes dated January 1968."

Box 5

**Rough step outline. February 23, 1968**
Physical Description: (12pp.)
Scope and Content Note
"Typed by me after learning that Jackie Gleason was hired to co-star with Bob Hope."
Note
"Outline was collaborative effort."

Box 5

**Revised script. May 10, 1968**
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 122pp.)

Box 5

**Outline. May 12, 1968**
Physical Description: (6pp.)
Scope and Content Note
"Typed by me to accommodate more changes. Loose notes and ideas."

Box 5

**Revision. May 20, 1968**
Physical Description: (122pp.)
Scope and Content Note
"Practically a new version of screenplay."
Note
"Typed by Michael Kanin and me."

Box 5

**Second Revision reflecting above re-write. May 22, 1968**
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 122pp.)

Box 5

**Final Draft. June 5, 1968**
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 124pp.)

**Broadway Play**

Box 6

**The Family Way**
Note
(Produced by Leonard Sillman)

Box 6

**“It’s Better With Two.” 1955**
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 124pp.)
Scope and Content Note
First version of play.

Box 6

**“The Family Way” (new title). 1957**
Physical Description: (Mimeoed, 119pp.)
Box 6

**Version. early 1964**
Physcal Description: (Mimeoed, 117pp.)

Box 6

**Version. late 1964**
Physcal Description: (Mimeoed, typed and handwritten, 130pp.)

Scope and Content Note
"Reflects numerous changes."

Box 6

**Rehearsal script. December 1964**
Physcal Description: (124pp.)

Scope and Content Note
"Filled with changes I made by hand during the two weeks run in Philadelphia."

Box 6

**Clean copy of play as presented in New York at Lyceum Theatre. January 13, 1965**
Physcal Description: (Photocopy, 122pp.)

Scope and Content Note
Includes set, prop and costume breakdowns.

Note
Versions available from Samuel French Company.