
Finding Aid for the Lou Frizzell Papers 1930s-1970s

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Performing Arts Special Collections, Room A1713

Charles E. Young Research Library, Box 951575

Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575

Phone: (310) 825-4988

Fax: (310) 206-1864

Email: speccoll-paging@library.ucla.edu

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Lou Frizzell Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1930s-1970s

Collection number: 309

Creator: Frizzell, Lou

Extent: 3 boxes (1.25 linear feet)3 flat boxes

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Performing Arts Special Collections
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Character actor Lou Frizzell appeared in numerous stage productions, television shows, and motion pictures between the 1930s-1970s. The collection consists of scripts, photographs, scrapbooks, printed materials, and music related to his career.

Access

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF: Advance notice required for access

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Preferred Citation

Lou Frizzell Papers(Collection 309). Performing Arts Special Collections, University of California, Los Angeles.

Biography

Lou Frizzell was born June 10, 1920 in Missouri. He was character actor who appeared in numerous plays, Broadway productions, television shows, and films. Frizzell is probably best known for his work on the television shows *Bonanza* and *Chopper One*. Among his noteworthy motion picture credits are *The Other* (1972), *Ruby and Oswald* (1977), and *Capricorn One* (1978). He appeared in the Broadway production of *Oklahoma!* as well as guest starred on popular television shows such as *The Waltons* and *The Partridge Family*. Additionally, he wrote music for productions of *Desire Under the Elms*, *Wedding Night* and *Aria Da Capo*. One of Frizzell's most notable achievements came during World War II, when he served as Musical Director at the Japanese Internment Camp in Manzanar, California. The Japanese Community was so appreciative of his kindness and compassion that when the television movie, *Return to Manzanar* was in development, the Community requested that Frizzell play himself. Frizzell died at June 17, 1979 in his Los Angeles home after battling a lengthy illness.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of materials related to the career of actor, Lou Frizzell. The collection includes scripts, scrapbooks, photographs, printed materials, and music spanning the 1930s to the 1970s. The scripts are from various motion picture, television, and what appears to be theater projects in which Frizzell was involved including *Bonanza*, *Capricorn One*, *The Odd Couple*, and *The Walton's*. The scrapbooks document Frizzell's career during the 1950s and include reviews, programs, and photographs from mostly theater productions for which he was involved in some capacity. Also included is a small quantity of headshots and professional photographs of Frizzell, clippings, memorabilia, and public notices of Frizzell's death. Additionally, there is a small amount of sheet music and music scores from *Nuit De Noces*, *Desire Under the Elms*, and *Wedding Night*, operas all written by Frizzell.

Organization and Arrangement

The collection is organized into the following series:

- Series 1. Music, no date
- Series 2. Photographs
- Series 3. Printed Material
- Series 4. Scrapbooks
- Series 5. Scripts

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

Frizzell, Lou

Actors--United States--Archival resources.

Genres and Forms

Film scripts
scrapbooks
television scripts

Series 1. Music no date**Scope and Content Note**

The Music Series consists of a small collection of sheet music and music scores for *Nuit De Noces*, *Aria Da Copa*, *Desire Under the Elms*, and *Wedding Night*, all of which are operas written by Frizzell. Additionally, there are photocopied, unbound pieces of music that may be related to a production of *Desire Under the Elms*. There are no dates included with the material. There is no specific order to the series.

Box 7 **Aria Da Copa: A musical setting of Edna St. Vincent Millay's verse play by Lou Frizzell - handwritten score no date**

Box 7 **Desire Under the Elms: An opera in three acts by Lou Frizzell, based on the play by Eugene O'Neill - handwritten scores no date**

Scope and Content Note

Act one, act two, and act three scenes one and two.

Box 6, Folder 2 **Nuit De Noces: An Opera in One Act by Lou Frizzell - photocopy of music score no date**

Box 6, Folder 3 **Nuit De Noces: An Opera in One Act by Lou Frizzell - photocopy of music score no date**

Box 6, Folder 4 **Nuit De Noces: An Opera in One Act by Lou Frizzell - photocopy of music score. no date**

Box 3, Folder 1 **Sheet music no date**

Scope and Content Note

Photocopied, unbound pieces of music that may be related to the production of *Desire Under the Elms*.

Box 3, Folder 2 **Sheet music no date**

Scope and Content Note

Photocopied, unbound pieces of music that may be related to the production of *Desire Under the Elms*.

Box 7 **Wedding Night : An opera in one act by Lou Frizzell, based on the play *Nuit De Noces* by Frederic Witney - handwritten music score no date**

Series 2. Photographs (date, box 1) no date**Scope and Content Note**

The Photograph Series includes professional headshots of Frizzell and stage stills. The stage stills are possibly from a production of *Aria Da Capo*. The photographs in this series are not dated or labeled with project titles. Additionally, there is a publicity still of Gary Cooper from the production of *From Whom the Bell Tolls*. The series is arranged alphabetically by file titles which reflect the content of the folders.

Box 1, Folder 1 **Gary Cooper - publicity head shot for *From Whom the Bell Tolls* c. 1943**

Box 6, Folder 1 **Lou Frizzell - head shots, contact sheet and negatives no date**

Box 1, Folder 2 **Lou Frizzell - professional photographs no dates**

Scope and Content Note

Mostly head shots of Frizzell and some set shots from various projects in which he was involved.

Box 1, Folder 3

Stage stills no date

Scope and Content Note

May be from Aria Da Capo. Photographs by D. W. Page.

Series 3. **Printed Material (Box 1) 1935, 1943, 1970s**

Scope and Content Note

The Printed Material Series contains a mixture of clippings and memorabilia related to Frizzell. The clippings include an edition of a Manzanar free press (1943), Variety clipping regarding Aria Da Capo (1972), and obituary notices of his death. The memorabilia includes a Southern California Festival of Allied Arts certificate and a story believed to be written by Frizzell titled, City College Choir. The series is arranged alphabetically by file titles which reflect the content of the folders.

Box 1, Folder 7

City College Choir - story no date

Box 1, Folder 5

Frizzell clippings 1943, 1972

Scope and Content Note

Manzanar free press (1943) regarding high school choir piece. Variety tear out regarding Aria Da Capo (1972).

Box 1, Folder 4

Frizzell obituaries and grave site map 1979-1980

Box 1, Folder 6

Southern California Festival of Allied Arts - certificate (1st place) 1935

Scope and Content Note

Awarded to Frizzell for his script, David Copperfield.

Series 4. **Scrapbooks 1940s-1960s**

Scope and Content Note

The Scrapbook Series contains eight fragile scrapbooks which document selected periods of Frizzell's career. Each scrapbook may contain photographs and/or stills of selected live productions, reviews, programs, and other memorabilia. Productions documented in the scrapbooks include *Bell Book and Candle*, *Bus Stop*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Life with Father* and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The bulk of information in the scrapbooks pertain to Frizzell's involvement with Cecilwood Theater and Totem Pole Playhouse during the 1950s. Additionally there are two scrapbooks for what appears to be a 1941 UCLA production of *Warrior's Husband*. There is no specific arrangement to the series.

Box 1, Folder 8

Knickerbocker Holiday - scrapbook 1941

Scope and Content Note

UCLA University Dramatics society production.

Box 4, Folder 1

Scrapbook 1947-1951

Scope and Content Note

Very fragile scrapbook of reviews, telegrams, programs, and stills from stage productions in which Frizzell was involved in some capacity. Includes his performance in the Broadway production of *Oklahoma!*, among other projects produced in various places.

Box 4, Folder 2

Scrapbook 1957-1962

Scope and Content Note

Contains stills, reviews, and programs from a variety of plays in which Frizzell was involved as an actor.

Box 5, Folder 1

Scrapbook [ca. 1950s?]

Scope and Content Note

Fragile scrapbook contains photo stills, reviews, telegrams, and programs from Cecilwood Theater productions in which Frizzell was involved as an actor.

- Box 5, Folder 2 **Scrapbook 1953-1954**
 Scope and Content Note
 Scrapbook contains photo stills, reviews, telegrams, and programs from both Cecilwood Theater and Totem Pole Playhouse productions in which Frizzell was involved as an actor. Productions include; *Affairs of State, Bell Book and Candle, Burlesque, Cuckoo, Dark of the Moon, Gramercy Ghost, Life with Father, Moon is Blue, Mr. Roberts, My 3 Angels, Peg O' My Heart, The Plot of Stalag 17, Ten Little Indians, and Uncle Tom's Cabin.*
- Box 5, Folder 3 **Scrapbook 1954-1955**
 Scope and Content Note
 Contains stills, reviews, telegrams, and programs from Cecilwood Theater productions in which Frizzell was involved as an actor.
- Box 5, Folder 4 **Scrapbook 1955-1956**
 Scope and Content Note
 Contains photo stills, reviews, telegrams, and programs from Cecilwood Theater productions in which Frizzell was involved as an actor. Included are: *Anniversary Waltz, Apple of His Eye, Bus Stop, The Glass Menagerie, Happy Birthday, Red Rose for Me, The Solid Gold Cadillac, and The Time of Your Life.*
- Box 1, Folder 9 **Warrior's Husband - scrapbook ca. 1941**
 Scope and Content Note
 UCLA University Dramatics society production.

Series 5. **Scripts 1970s, no date**

- Scope and Content Note**
 The Script Series contains fourteen scripts which document Frizzell's acting career in television, film and/or stage during what appears to be the 1970s. Projects include: *Andersonville Trail, Bonanza, Capricorn One, The Other, and The Waltons*, among others. The files are arranged alphabetically by project title.
- Box 1, Folder 10 **And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little - script no date**
 Box 1, Folder 11 **Andersonville Trail (The) - script no date**
 Box 1, Folder 12 **Bonanza - script 1970 May 1**
 Scope and Content Note
 A Matter of Pride.
- Box 1, Folder 13 **Bonanza - script 1970 Jul 3**
 Scope and Content Note
 A Matter of Faith. Formerly titled A Matter of Pride.
- Box 1, Folder 14 **Capricorn One - script and shooting schedule 1976**
 Box 2, Folder 1 **Front Page (The) - script 1974 Mar 15**
 Box 2, Folder 2 **Jackie and Darlene - Jackie's First Bust - script 1978 Jan 31**
 Box 2, Folder 3 **Love is a Word - script no date**
 Box 2, Folder 4 **Me - script 1973 Mar 16**
 Box 2, Folder 5 **Odd Couple (The) - playscript no date**
 Box 2, Folder 6 **Other (The) - script and production information 1971**
 Box 2, Folder 7 **Rage - script 1971 Sept 28**
 Box 2, Folder 8 **Rudy and Oswald - script no date**
 Box 2, Folder 9 **Waltons (The) - script 1978 Jun 14**
 Scope and Content Note
 The Empty Nest.