Finding Aid for the Harvey Lembeck Papers, 1946-1982

Processed by Norma M. Vega and Julie L. Graham; machine-readable finding aid created by Norma M. Vega and Julie Graham

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Harvey Lembeck Papers

Date (inclusive): 1946-1982

Collection number: 287

Creator: Lembeck, Harvey

Extent: 4 boxes (2 linear ft.) and 1 carton (1.5 linear ft.)

Abstract: Harvey Lembeck made his acting debut in the Broadway production of Mr. Roberts (1948) and went on to establish himself in film, television, and on stage. The collection consists of photographs, clippings, ephemera and a small number of scripts related to his career.


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, Performing Arts Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Restrictions on Access

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Provenance/Source of Acquisition


Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Harvey Lembeck Papers (Collection 287). Performing Arts Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

Biography

Harvey Lembeck was born in Brooklyn, NY, on April 15, 1923. His numerous credits include roles in film, television, and theater. He made his acting debut in the Broadway production of Mr. Roberts with Henry Fonda (1948). His film work includes Stalag 17 (1953), Love with the Proper Stranger (1963), The Unsinkable Molly Brown (1964), and he is well known for his recurring role as Erich Von Zipper in a string of 1960s beach party films. He established his television career as Rocco Barbella on The Phil Silvers Show: You'll Never Get Rich (1955-1959). He founded the Harvey Lembeck Comedy Workshop (1964) to train performers in the art of comedy. Lembeck died in Beverly Hills, CA, on January 5, 1982.

Scope and Content

The bulk of the collection consists of photographs, clippings, and/or printed ephemera for a variety of motion picture, television, and stage projects related to the career of actor Harvey Lembeck. Additionally, there are a small number of scripts for selected projects including, Anytown USA, Hotel or Why Do You Need Such Big Potatoes, Mother Juggs and Speed, Nice People, Man of La Mancha, and a project titled Von Zipper, among others. It is important to mention that there are no scripts for number of other projects in which Lembeck was involved, such as beach party films, Ensign O'Toole, Love with a Proper Stranger, Mr. Roberts, Sergeant Bilko, Stalag 17, or The Unsinkable Molly Brown. Additional materials in the collection include a small number of fan letters (1950s, 1970s, and 1980s); a small amount of clippings and printed ephemera related to the Harvey Lembeck Comedy Workshop; and a small sampling of photographs documenting in a small way Lembeck’s philanthropic associations. File titles were supplied by the processor.

Organization and Arrangement

Arranged in the following series:

1. Series 1. Awards (Box 1)
2. Series 2. Baseball Team (Box 1)
3. Series 3. Business Files (Box 1)
4. Series 4. Education (Box 4)
5. Series 5. Fan Mail (Box 1)
6. Series 6. Harvey Lembeck Comedy Workshop (Box 1)
7. Series 7. Material related to the Death of Harvey Lembeck (Box 1)
8. Series 8. Philanthropic Work (Box 1).
9. Series 9. Projects (Boxes 1-5)
10. Series 10. Resumes (Box 1)

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

Subjects
Lembeck, Harvey--1982--Archives.
Actors--United States--Archival resources.

Series 1. Awards (1975, 1980; Box 1)
Scope and Content Note
The series includes award certificates from the Actors Fund and National Society of Literature and the Arts.

Box 1, Folder 23
Certificates from Actors Fund and National Society of Literature and the Arts 1975, 1980

Series 2. Baseball Team (no date; Box 1)
Scope and Content Note
The series consists of one file containing seven photographs of baseball teams organized by Lembeck. There was no background information available about the teams, but it appears they include individuals from the entertainment industry. The photographs are not dated or labeled, and are not arranged in a particular order.

Box 1, Folder 10
Baseball team photographs (teams organized by HL) (7 items) no date

Series 3. Business Files (1950s-1990s; Box 1)
Scope and Content Note
The series consists of one file of contracts and agreements for various television and commercials appearances. The file is arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 4
Contracts and agreements for various projects 1950s-1990s
Note
Mostly for television appearances and commercials ads.

Series 4. Education (ca. 1946-1947; Box 4)
Scope and Content Note
This series contains a copy of student transcripts from New York University Washington Square College of Arts and Science, ca.1946-47.

Box 1, Folder 21
New York University Washington Square College of Arts and Science student copy of transcripts (2 copies) ca. 1946-47

Series 5. Fan Mail (1946-1980s; Box 1)
Scope and Content Note
This series is one folder of fan letters written to Lembeck and includes notes from Lembeck's parents. The letters are arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 3
Note cards from parents (2) 1946, 1968, 1980

Box 1, Folder 7
Fan letters to Lembeck 1950s, 1970s, 1980s
Series 6. Harvey Lembeck Comedy Workshop (1975, 1978-1986, 1999; Box 1)
Scope and Content Note
The Harvey Lembeck Comedy Workshop started in 1964, and was born out of Lembeck's desire to create an environment where professionals could grow and hone their comedic talents. The series includes two folders. One folder contains a small mixture of press clippings, printed ephemera, and thank you notes (believed to be from students). The other folder contains a drawing by [Lisa] Leeman titled A Comedy Class, which is believed to be related to the workshop. The material is arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 12
A Comedy Class - drawing by [Lisa] Leeman 1975
Note
Believed to be related to Harvey Lembeck Comedy Workshop.

Box 1, Folder 13
Harvey Lembeck Comedy Workshop file 1978-1986; 1999
Note
Clippings, thank you notes from [students], and printed ephemera.

Series 7. Material related to the Death of Harvey Lembeck (1940s-1980s; Box 1)
Scope and Content Note
This series includes two files. One file contains a small number of documents compiled by Mrs. Lembeck regarding Equity/Pension benefits. The other consists of obituaries written about Lembeck. The documents and obituaries are arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 5
Equity/Pension 1940s-1980s
Note
Appears to be Receipts, contracts, statements, and photocopies of Playbills and clippings compiled by Mrs. Lembeck regarding survivor benefits following Harvey Lemeck's death.

Box 1, Folder 6
Obituaries written about HL 1982

Series 8. Philanthropic Work (1954; ca. 1960s, ca. 1970s; Box 1).
Scope and Content Note
The series includes a small number of photographs and printed ephemera documenting in a small way Lembeck's association with Eddie Cantor Loge B'nai B'rith, the American Veterans of World War II (AMVET), and a Columbia Hospital charitable event. The files are arranged alphabetically by organization name.

Box 1, Folder 8
Columbia Hospital Fashion Show luncheon photograph with HL no date
Box 1, Folder 9
Eddie Cantor Loge, B'nai B'rith 1960s, 1970s
Note
Certificate, photographs, unsigned speech and other printed ephemera recognizing Lembeck's service to the organization.

Box 1, Folder 11
AMVET (American Veterans of World War II) - photographs and press release featuring HL 1954

Series 9. Projects (ca. 1940s-1980s; Boxes 1-5)
Scope and Content Note
The series is comprised of photographs, clippings, and/or printed ephemera for a variety career related projects in which Lembeck was involved. Also included is a small number of scripts for selected projects including Anytown USA, Hotel or Why Do You Need Such Big Potatoes, Mother Juggs and Speed, Nice People, Man of La Mancha, and a project titled Von Zipper, among others. There are no scripts for beach party films, Love with a Proper Stranger, Mr. Roberts, Sergeant Bilko, or Stalag 17. The series is arranged alphabetically into sub-series by project title.
Additional Press Clippings

Box 5
- Binders for scripts no date

Note
Binders/covers are from scripts in the collection except for Captain Kangaroo binder. Binders were removed as preservation measure.

Additional Press Clippings

Box 2, Folder 14

Note
Reviews and promotional or publicity write ups for Lembeck and/or the various projects for which he was associated.

Anytown, U.S.A.

Box 3, Folder 3
- Anytown, U.S.A. - 2nd draft script 1979 Jun 17

Anytown, USA

Box 3, Folder 4
- Anytown, U.S.A. - revised first draft script 1979 Jun 25

Box 3, Folder 5
- Anytown, U.S.A. - script no date

Beach Party

Box 1, Folder 15
- Beach Party - clippings 1964

Bell Are Ringing

Box 3, Folder 6
- Bells Are Ringing - program (Jun 29 - Jul 4) no date

Clorox Liquid Plumber

Box 1, Folder 1
- Advertisement for Clorox Liquid Plumber ad - audiotape no date

Note
RESTRICTED FROM ACCESS: Use of audio materials may require production of listening or viewing copies.

Command (The)

Box 1, Folder 17
- Command (The) - clippings 1954

Command Decision

Box 3, Folder 7
- Command Decision - script material and program no date

Ensign O'Toole

Box 1, Folder 18
- Ensign O'Toole - clippings, photographs, and press release 1962-963

Fiorello
Fiorello
Box 3, Folder 8
Fiorello - playbill and clippings 1959

Frogman
Box 3, Folder 9
Frogman - photographs (8 items) no date

George and Alana Show
Box 3, Folder 10
George and Alana - revised first draft script 1978 May-June
Note
Pilot script for half-hour daily comedy-talk show serial. With Hollywood Reporter

Girls In The Night
Box 1, Folder 19
Girls In The Night - photographs (18 items) 1953
Box 1, Folder 20
Girls In The Night - clippings 1953

Harrison and Tyler Show
Box 3, Folder 11
Harrison and Tyler Show (The) - script 1976 Aug 23
Note
Script binder in box 5.

Horowitz of Dublin Castle
Box 4, Folder 1
Horowitz of Dublin Castle - script 1974 Jan 14
Note
With photographs and clipping

Hotel (The) - or - Why Do You Need Such Big Potatoes?
Box 3, Folder 13
Hotel (The) - or - Why Do You Need Such Big Potatoes? - script no date
Box 3, Folder 14
Hotel (The) - or - Why Do You Need Such Big Potatoes? - carbon copy of a script
1969 Mar 10

How To Succeed In The Tuna Business Without Really Trying
Box 4, Folder 2
How To Succeed In The Tuna Business Without Really Trying - script and program
1978-1979
Note
Script binder in box 5.

I Was A Carnival Confidence Girl
Box 4, Folder 3
I Was A Carnival Confidence Girl no date
Note
Magazine pages where Harvey Lembeck's image was used for story
Kaluna Tropical Drinks

Box 1, Folder 1
Advertisement for Kaluna Tropical Drinks ad - audiotape no date
Note
RESTRICTED FROM ACCESS: Use of audio materials may require production of listening or viewing copies.

Lopez

Box 4, Folder 4
Lopez - script no date

Man of La Mancha

Box 2, Folder 1
Man of La Mancha - script 1965
Box 2, Folder 2
Man of La Mancha - photographs and ephemera 1966-1967
Note
Includes piece of cloth with [cast members?] signatures.
Box 2, Folder 3
Man of La Mancha - sheet music no date
Box 2, Folder 4
Man of La Mancha - clippings 1967
Box 5
Man of La Mancha - David Atkinson photograph inscribed to HL no date
Note
Appears to be cast member from production of Man of La Mancha.

Mission Over Korea

Box 4, Folder 5
Mission Over Korea - clippings 1953

Mister Roberts (stage)

Box 2, Folder 5
Mister Roberts (stage) - photographs, programs, and telegrams 1948
Box 2, Folder 6
Mister Roberts (stage) - clippings 1948-1949

Mother, Juggs and Speed

Box 4, Folder 6
Mother, Juggs and Speed - script and shooting schedule 1978
Note
Script binder in box 5.

Nice People

Box 4, Folder 7
Nice People - script no date
Box 4, Folder 8
Nice People - script and photograph no date

Oklahoma

Box 4, Folder 9
Oklahoma - theater programs and photocopies of clippings 1958 - 1959

Oliver
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 7</th>
<th>Oliver - script and ephemera 1966</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 8</td>
<td>Phoenix '55 - theater program and playbill 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 9</td>
<td>Phoenix '55 - clippings for theater production 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 2</td>
<td>HL photograph negatives no date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note</td>
<td>Photographic prints for selected negatives may be found in Box 3, folder 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 10</td>
<td>Sergeant Bilko - photographs and clipping 1955, 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note</td>
<td>With one slide and an original drawing of Harvey Lembeck and Allan Melvin in their Bilko roles by Joe E. O'Connell (1955).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 11</td>
<td>Singles Bar - shooting setup no date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 10</td>
<td>Something Old Or Something New - notes no date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 11</td>
<td>Stalag 17 (motion picture) - clippings 1953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 12</td>
<td>Stalag 17 (stage) - photographs and playbill 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 13</td>
<td>Stalag 17 (stage) - clippings 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 14</td>
<td>There Is No 13 - printed ephemera for 24th Berlin International Film Festival ca. 1980s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 12</td>
<td>Thieves (The) - notes no date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 15</td>
<td>U.S.S. Teakettle - photographs and cast sheet no date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 16</td>
<td>U.S.S. Teakettle - clippings 1951</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unidentified Projects

Box 1, Folder 24
Frank Sinatra jokes - notes for bit (unknown event) no date

Box 2, Folder 17
Unidentified photographs for [television project?] no date

Note
Appears to be publicity photographs for television project.

Box 2, Folder 18
Unidentified projects notes no date

Box 3, Folder 12
Here Comes Diana Pechefsky (The Huntress) - [continuity script?] no date

Box 4, Folder 13
Uncle Frank - or - Services Unlimited - treatment 1978

Box 4, Folder 14
Untitled script pages no date

Box 3, Folder 1
HL photographs (45 items) [1940s-1980s]

Note
Mostly head shots with some candid shots of Harvey Lembeck. Negatives for selected items may be found in Box 3, folder 2.

Von Zipper

Box 1, Folder 16
Von Zipper - script and notes 1964

We Open In New Haven

Box 1, Folder 2
We Open In New Haven - photograph no date

Note
Photograph of TAV Celebrity Theater marquee mounted on wood plaque.

Box 4, Folder 19
We Open In New Haven - script no date

Note
Script binder in box 5.

Box 4, Folder 20
We Open In New Haven - photographs of cast and crew (66 items) no date

Wedding Breakfast

Box 4, Folder 17
Wedding Breakfast - printed ephemera 1954

Box 4, Folder 18
Wedding Breakfast - clippings 1954

Willie and Joe Back At The Front

Box 2, Folder 15
Willie and Joe Back At The Front - photographs (20 items) no date

Box 2, Folder 16
Willie and Joe Back At The Front - clippings and press book 1952-1953

You’ll Never Get Rich

Box 4, Folder 21
You’ll Never Get Rich - clippings 1955

Series 10. Resumes ([pre-1980s; Box 1)

Scope and Content Note
The series consists of two resumes and a printed image of Lembeck.

Box 1, Folder 22
Harvey Lembeck Resumes [pre-1980s?]

Note
Two resumes and printed image of Lembeck on cardstock.