Smothers Brothers scripts for The Smothers Brothers comedy hour, 1967-1969

Finding aid prepared by UCLA Arts Library Special Collections staff, pre-1999; initial EAD encoding by Julie Graham; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé.

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The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour, featuring the folk singing, comedy team Tom and Dick Smothers, premiered on CBS in February 1967. The variety show attracted a younger, politically engaged audience. The show's content featured irreverent digs at many dominant institutions such as organized religion and the presidency. It also included sketches celebrating the hippie drug culture and material opposing the war in Vietnam. These elements made The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour one of the most controversial television shows in television history. The Smothers Brothers' oppositional politics led to very public battles over censorship. As CBS attempted to dictate what was appropriate prime time entertainment fare, the Smothers tried to push the boundaries of acceptable speech on the medium. The recurring skirmishes between the brothers and the network culminated on 4 April 1969, one week before the end of the season, when CBS summarily threw the show off the air. Network president Robert D. Wood charged that the Smothers had not submitted a review tape of the upcoming show to the network in a timely manner. The Smothers accused CBS of infringing on their First Amendment rights.


The show, appearing at a pivotal moment of social and cultural change in the late 1960s, ended up embodying some of the turmoil and pitched conflict of the era. In the aftermath of the show's cancellation in 1969, the Smothers received a great deal of support in the popular press. Tom Smothers attempted to organize backing for a free speech fight against CBS among Congressional and Federal Communications Commission members in Washington D.C. While they were unsuccessful in forcing CBS to reinstate the show, the Smothers did eventually win a suit against the network for breach of contract. In the years following their banishment from CBS, the Smothers attempted to recreate their variety show on the other two networks. In 1970, they did a summer show on ABC, but were not picked up for the fall season. In 1975 they turned up on...
NBC with another variety show which disappeared at mid-season. *(Historical information from: The Encyclopedia of Television; http://www.museum.tv/eotv/smothersbrot.htm)*

**Scope and Content**

The collection consists of bound volumes of scripts for Smothers Brothers television variety show, *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*. Included are versions of final draft scripts. Guests represented among the scripts include Eddie Albert, The Beatles, Harry Belafonte, Jack Benny, George Burns, Glenn Campbell, Betty Davis, Jefferson Airplane, Jackie Moms Mabley, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Pete Seeger, and Ravi Shankar, among others.

**Organization and Arrangement**

The collection is arranged chronologically.

**Related Material**

- Smothers Brothers television scripts and production material (Collection PASC 36). Available at Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.
- Smothers Brothers musical arrangements (Collection PASC-M 36). Available at Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.
- Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour Collections, UCLA Film and Television Archive. Available at the UCLA Film and Television Archive.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Smothers Brothers comedy hour  
Smothers Brothers--Archives

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<td>2/5/1967</td>
<td>1ST, 2ND, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: NABORS, JIM; ST. JOHN, JILL; SULLIVAN, ED.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1</td>
<td>2/12/1967</td>
<td>FINAL DRAFT, 2 COPIES. GUESTS: ALBERT, EDDIE; GABOR, EVA.</td>
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<td>Box 1</td>
<td>2/19/1967</td>
<td>FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: BENNY, JACK; BURNS, GEORGE; OFARIM, ESTHER.</td>
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<td>2/26/1967</td>
<td>FIRST, FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: DAVIS, BETTE; CRANE, BOB.</td>
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<td>Box 2</td>
<td>3/5/1967</td>
<td>FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: EDEN, BARBARA; PAUL REVERE &amp; THE RAIDERS; REINER, CARL.</td>
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<td>Box 2</td>
<td>3/12/1967</td>
<td>FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: BURNETT, CAROL; BAJA MARIMBA BAND.</td>
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<td>Box 2</td>
<td>3/19/1967</td>
<td>FINAL DRAFT, 2 COPIES. GUESTS: STEVENS, INGER; DURANTE, JIMMY; THE TURTLES; KERR, ANITA.</td>
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<td>Box</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3/26/1967</td>
<td>First, Second, Final. Guests: Jones, Jack; S&amp; M Krofft's Puppets; Randall, Tony</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4/9/1967</td>
<td>First, Final (2 copies). Guests: May, Elaine; Ofarim, Esther; Blue Magoos</td>
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<td>4/16/1967</td>
<td>Second, Final Drafts. Guests: Morse, Robert; Paulsen, Pat; Turner, Lana; The Electric Prunes</td>
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<td>4/23/1967</td>
<td>First, Final Drafts. Guests: Gary, John; O'Brien, Margaret; Simon &amp; Garfunkel</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4/30/1967</td>
<td>First, Final Drafts. Guests: Sinatra, Nancy; Sinatra, Frank Jr.; De Luise, Dom</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>5/7/1967</td>
<td>First, Final Drafts. Guests: Wilson, Nancy; Paulsen, Pat; Winters, Jonathan; Jefferson Airplane</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>5/14/1967</td>
<td>First, Final Drafts. Guests: Leigh, Janet; Simon &amp; Garfunkel</td>
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<td>5/21/1967</td>
<td>First, Final Drafts. Guests: Landau, Marty; Bain, Barbara; Paulsen, Pat</td>
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<td>5/28/1967</td>
<td>First, Final Drafts. Guests: Backus, Jim; O'Brien, Margaret; The Association</td>
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<td>6/2/1967</td>
<td>First, Final Drafts. Guests: Carr, Vikki; Allen, Steve; Teddy Neely Five</td>
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<td>6/11/1967</td>
<td>First, Final Drafts. Guests: Jones, Shirley; Harrison, Noel; The Buckinghams</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>6/18/1967</td>
<td>First, Final Drafts. Guests: Gary, John; Grimes, Tammy; The Buckinghams</td>
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Box 6  **Airdate: 6/25/1967**  
Scope and Content Note  
FIRST, FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: DAVIS, BETTE; OFARIM, ESTER & ABI; PAULSEN, PAT; RANDALL, TONY; JONES, JACK.

Box 6  **Airdate: 9/10/1967**  
Scope and Content Note  
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: LEIGH, JANET; SEEGER, PETE; GENTRY, BOBBIE; PAULSEN, PAT.

Box 7  **Airdate: 9/17/1967**  
Scope and Content Note  
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: ROONEY, MICKEY; PAULSEN, PAT; DAVIS, BETTE; THE WHO.

Box 7  **Airdate: 9/17/1967**  
Scope and Content Note  
FIRST, FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: BURNS, GEORGE; PAULSEN, PAT; HERMAN'S HERMITS.

Box 8  **Airdate: 10/1/1967**  
Scope and Content Note  
FIRST, SECOND, FINAL. GUESTS: HARRISON, NOEL; CAKE, THE; PAULSEN, PAT; TURNER, LANA.

Box 6  **Airdate: 10/8/1967**  
Scope and Content Note  
SECOND, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: PAULSEN, PAT; GARSON, GREER; THE ASSOCIATION.

Box 8  **Airdate: 10/15/1967**  
Scope and Content Note  
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: SMITH, KATE; SCHELL, RONNIE; PAULSEN, PAT; SIMON & GARFUNKEL.

Box 9  **Airdate: 10/22/1967**  
Scope and Content Note  
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: ALBERT, EDDIE; MABLEY, JACKIE; PAULSEN, PAT; THE BYRDS.

Box 9  **Airdate: 10/29/1967**  
Scope and Content Note  
FIRST, FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: JONES, SHIRLEY; PAULSEN, PAT; BLACKSTONE, JR.; THE NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND.

Box 8  **Airdate: 11/5/1967**  
Scope and Content Note  
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: CRAWFORD, JOAN; PAULSEN, PAT; THE ASSOCIATION.

Box 9  **Airdate: 11/12/1967**  
Scope and Content Note  
FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: MASON, JAMES; RODGERS, JIMMIE; FRYE, DAVID; PAULSEN, PAT; FELDON, BARBARA.
Box 9  **Airdate: 11/19/1967**
Scope and Content Note
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: WILSON, NANCY; PAULSEN, PAT; SEGAL, GEORGE; PAUL REVERE & THE RAIDERS.

Box 10  **Airdate: 11/26/1967**
Scope and Content Note
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: AMES, NANCY; IAN, JANIS; PAULSEN, PAT; DURANTE, JIMMY.

Box 10  **Airdate: 12/10/1967**
Scope and Content Note
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: MOOREHEAD, AGNES; CROSBY, NORM; PAULSEN, PAT; THE HOLLIES.

Box 10  **Airdate: 12/17/1967**
Scope and Content Note
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: BANKHEAD, TALLULAH; PAULSEN, PAT; THE TEMPTATIONS.

Box 11  **Airdate: 12/24/1967**
Scope and Content Note
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: FABRAY, NANETTE; VALLE, MARCOS; PAULSEN, PAT; BENNY, JACK.

Box 6  **Airdate: 12/31/1967**
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: ALBERT, EDDIE; COLLINS, JUDY; THE IRISH ROVERS.

Box 15  **Airdate: 1/5/1968**
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: PAULSEN, PAT; FABRAY, NANETTE; STEPPENWOLF; THE FATHERS.

Box 11  **Airdate: 1/7/1968**
Scope and Content Note
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: BERGEN, EDGAR; CARNE, JUDY; THE FIRST EDITION.

Box 11  **Airdate: 1/14/1968**
Scope and Content Note
FIRST, FINAL. GUESTS: DUKE, PATTY; PAULSEN, PAT; RICKLES, DON; THE ASSOCIATION.

Box 12  **Airdate: 1/21/1968**
Scope and Content Note
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: CAESAR, SID; CAMPBELL, GLENN; PAULSEN, PAT; BLACKSTONE RANGERS.

Box 12  **Airdate: 1/28/1968**
Scope and Content Note
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: MORSE, ROBERT; PAULSEN, PAT; FABRAY, NANETTE; PAUL REVERE & THE RAIDERS.

Box 12  **Airdate: 2/4/1968**
Scope and Content Note
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: GODFREY, ARTHUR; MABLEY, JACKIE "MOMS"; PAULSEN, PAT; FRENCH, LEIGH; THE BEE GEES.
**Box 13**

**Airdate: 2/11/1968**

Scope and Content Note
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: KNOTTS, DON; SHANKAR, RAVI; PAULSEN, PAT; TORME, MEL.

**Box 13**

**Airdate: 2/18/1968**

Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFTS, 3 COPIES. GUESTS: SINATRA, NANCY; SINATRA, FRANK, JR.; PAULSEN, PAT; JULLIARD STRING QUARTET.

**Box 13**

**Airdate: 2/25/1968**

Scope and Content Note
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: SEEGER, PETE; PAULSEN, PAT; FRENCH, LEIGH.

**Box 14**

**Airdate: 3/3/1968**

Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: CAMPBELL, GLENN; MABLEY, JACKIE "MOMS"; HARTFORD, JOHN; PAULSEN, PAT.

**Box 14**

**Airdate: 3/10/1968**

Scope and Content Note
FIRST, FINAL DRAFTS. GUESTS: CAMPBELL, GLENN; BROTHERS, JOYCE, DR..

**Box 14**

**Airdate: 9/29/1968**

Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT, 2 COPIES. GUESTS: ELLIOT, CASS; PAULSEN, PAT; BELAFONTE, HARRY.

**Box 14**

**Airdate: 10/13/1968**

Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: FELDON, BARBARA; MEDLEY, BILL.

**Box 14**

**Airdate: 10/27/1968**

Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: STEINBERG, DAVID; PAULSEN, PAT; EVERLY BROTHERS; NEW DAY SINGERS; LEONARD, JACK E..

**Box 15**

**Airdate: 11/3/1968**

Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: CAMPBELL, GLENN; FRENCH, LEIGH; PAULSEN, PAT; CLINGER SISTERS.

**Box 15**

**Airdate: 11/10/1968**

Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: WILLIAMS, MASON; PAULSEN, PAT; SMITH, KATE; JEFFERSON AIRPLANE.

**Box 15**

**Airdate: 11/17/1968**

Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: DION; WARREN, JENNIFER; DONOVAN; THE COMMITTEE.

**Box 15**

**Airdate: 11/24/1968**

Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: RANDALL, TONY; WARREN, JENNIFER; PAULSEN, PAT.
Box 15  Airdate: 12/8/1968
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: HAMPTON, PAUL; NEWHART, BOB; HAIR CAST; FIRST EDITION.

Box 15  Airdate: 12/22/1968
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: GOBEL, GEORGE; SPANKY & OUR GANG.

Box 15  Airdate: 1/12/1969
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: SMOTHERS BROS. WRITING STAFF; TOM & DICK SMOTHERS.

Box 15  Airdate: 1/19/1969
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: MASON, JACKIE; CHARLES, RAY.

Box 16  Airdate: 1/26/1969
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: FRENCH, LEIGH; WILLIAMS, ANDY; THE CLINGERS.

Box 16  Airdate: 2/2/1969
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: FRENCH, LEIGH; IVES, BURL; THE CHAMBERS BROTHERS; JACKIE & ROY.

Box 16  Airdate: 2/16/1969
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: FRYE, DAVID; LIBERACE; HEDGE & DONNA.

Box 16  Airdate: 2/23/1969
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: BORGE, VICTOR; SOUTH, JOE; THE BEATLES; THE HELLO PEOPLE; THE CLINGERS.

Box 16  Airdate: 3/2/1969
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: COLLINS, JUDY; FRENCH, LEIGH; WINTERS, JONATHAN.

Box 16  Airdate: 3/9/1969
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: BAEZ, JOAN; HARTFORD, JOHN; MASON, JACKIE; THE COMMITTEE; APRIL & NINO.

Box 16  Airdate: 3/23/1969
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: SAHL, MORT; WARREN, JENNIFER; DONOVAN; PETER, PAUL, AND MARY.

Box 16  Airdate: 4/6/1969
Scope and Content Note
FINAL DRAFT. GUESTS: PAULSEN, PAT; WILLIAMS, MASON; ROSE, BIFF; IKE & TINA TURNER.