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Guide to the

Willie Thomas Harris play scripts

1951-1984

Sc MG 613

Summary

Creator: Harris, Willie Thomas

Title: Willie Thomas Harris play scripts

Date: 1951-1984

Size: 26 items

Source: Gift, Harris, Sharon

Abstract: Collection consists of eighteen play scripts and one film script. With the exception of one play which was published in Paris, in French, all plays are unpublished. Titles for three act plays include: "Leedsville," 1951 (carbon copy, with minor corrections); two versions of "The end of the search" (one of the copies lacks the t.p., the date is unknown, and bears handwritten corrections, alterations, and additions. The second copy is dated 1953. Ultimately this play was rewritten as a novel); "A star for Bella," 1956; two copies of "Sounds in the alley," 1964 (the typewritten draft of the play with handwritten corrections, and its final typewritten version); two versions of "God takes the late train," 1964 (carbon copy draft with handwritten alterations, and its final typewritten version); "Not a single blade of grass," 1966 (carbon copy); "The blood of the starches," 1969.

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Creator History

Playwright. Willie Thomas Harris was born in Birmingham, Alabama. Harris studied painting at the Art Students League for one year (1948-1949), after which he transferred to Columbia University where he majored in creative writing and studied playwriting for four years (1951-1955). After leaving the University he completed four full length plays which were produced in Los Angeles, 1961, and in Madison, Wisconsin, 1963. Harris left the United States in the mid-sixties, and lived in Europe from 1965 to 1978. He resided in Paris, France, where he wrote several plays, three of which were translated to French by Pierre Roudy. "The beginning of the marathon," a play for children, was produced in Paris by O.R.T.F. (Office de radiodiffusion-télévision française), and published under the title "L'autre

marathon."

Willie Thomas Harris also experimented with the novel form and wrote three novels: "The end of the search," 1971, "Ston's Gym and Club," 1973, and "Out of buzzard roost," 1978, all unpublished. In 1978, he returned to the United States where he continued to write full length plays, and a film script, "To the bayou winds." "Not a single blade of grass," produced at the 18th Street Playhouse, won the Theater of Renewal Award for Best Play, 1986. Willie Thomas Harris died in 1989.

Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

African American authors
African American dramatists
American drama -- 20th century
American drama -- African American authors
Authors -- United States
Dramatists, American -- 20th century

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Motion picture plays
Musical scores
Plays
Scripts

Names

Harris, Willie Thomas
Roudy, Pierre