



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Frederick O'Neal papers

1914 - 2001 [bulk ca. 1940 - 1991]

Sc MG 427

Processed by Janice Quinter on December 29, 2009.

Summary

Creator: O'Neal, Frederick, 1905-1992

Title: Frederick O'Neal papers

Date: 1914 - 2001 [bulk ca. 1940 - 1991]

Size: 22.2 linear feet (45 archival boxes)

Source: Gift of Frederick and Charlotte O'Neal, 1991-2004.

Abstract: The Frederick O'Neal Papers document the theatrical, labor, and civic activities of this actor and labor leader, mostly from the 1940s through the 1990s. The collection consists primarily of personal papers, correspondence, speeches and addresses, writing, and information about the theatrical productions in which he appeared. There are also research materials about the 19th century African-American actor, Ira Aldridge, and files pertaining to the many organizations with which O'Neal was associated.

Preferred citation: [Item], Frederick O'Neal papers, Sc MG 427, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Janice Quinter on December 29, 2009.

Related Materials:

Also in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division: American Negro Theatre records; American Negro Theatre scrapbook; Black Academy of Arts and Letters records; First World Festival of Negro Arts, United States Committee, press agent's files; Ira Aldridge Society records; Mildred Stock research collection; and Negro Actors Guild of America records.

Creator History

Frederick O'Neal was an African-American actor and director in theater, motion pictures, radio, and

television, as well as a labor leader in performing arts unions. Primarily a character actor, O'Neal began his career in St. Louis, where he organized the Aldridge Players. In 1936, after more than ten years of acting in road companies throughout the West and Midwest, O'Neal settled in New York City. In 1940, together with Abram Hill, he co-founded the American Negro Theatre (ANT) in Harlem. In 1944, he made his Broadway debut in the role of the comic bully in *Anna Lucasta* with Hilda Simms, which was originally produced by the ANT on its stage and later traveled to London.

By the mid-1960s, O'Neal had become active in the Actors' Equity Association (AEA). In 1964, after serving in a number of positions with the union, he was elected president, a post he held until 1973. As the first African-American president of the AEA, he worked with producers to end discrimination in the casting of its members. In 1969, he became a member of the AFL-CIO Council, and from 1970 until his retirement in 1988, he was president of the Associated Actors and Artists of America.

O'Neal was also a member of a number of organizations, including the Catholic Interracial Council, for which he served as treasurer; the Catholic Actors Guild (vice president); the Negro Actors Guild (president 1960-1964); the Afro-American Guild of Performing Artists (treasurer); and the American Committee for the First World Festival of Negro Arts, Dakar, (treasurer). He served on the board of a number of organizations including the African-American Labor Council, A. Philip Randolph Institute, and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA).

Scope and Content Note

The Frederick O'Neal Papers document the theatrical, labor, and civic activities of this actor and labor leader, mostly from the 1940s through the 1990s. The collection consists primarily of personal papers, correspondence, speeches and addresses, writing, and information about the theatrical productions in which he appeared. There are also research materials about the 19th century African-American actor, Ira Aldridge, and files pertaining to the many organizations with which O'Neal was associated. The personal papers series, 1914-2001, encompasses resumes, interviews, news clippings, and other printed material. Most of the correspondence is with the organizations in which he participated. Much of the general correspondence includes invitations to various conferences, panels, lectures, events, and gatherings held by politicians. The speeches and addresses series, 1960s-1990, contains the transcripts and research material O'Neal used to prepare the speeches. Most of the topics he dealt with concern African-American contributions to American theater, racial discrimination in American theater, and the progress of integration in the theater and trade unions. The writing series, 1930-1987, consists of published articles, along with drafts and research material, which O'Neal wrote about black actors in the United States, American labor unions and actors, labor unions in Israel, the role of the arts in American society, and integration in the theater. The theatrical career series, 1928-1991, includes productions in which O'Neal was involved, i.e. dramatic readings, films, plays, radio, sound recordings, and television. Notable items include correspondence and reviews for the film version of *Anna Lucasta*. Material for the many plays that O'Neal produced consists of play scripts, correspondence, programs, reviews, budgets, agreements, and for American Negro Theatre (ANT) productions, a scrapbook. There is a significant amount of information devoted to the ANT production of *Anna Lucasta*, as well as the productions in England and Scotland (1947-1948). This series also contains playbills and programs for a variety of productions in which O'Neal was featured, as well as for lectures that he gave nationwide, from 1928-1991. Scripts (1948-1969) primarily by such African-American playwrights as Owen Dodson, Gertrude Jeannette, George Norford, and Shauneille Perry, as well as white playwrights, form part of this series. The Ira Aldridge research material series, 1955-1992, pertains to research O'Neal and several scholars conducted that resulted in publications. The material includes correspondence between O'Neal and the scholars, printed matter, and a manuscript or the actual publication, when available. The organizations series, 1925-1991, contains files devoted to theater and arts organizations,

including the Afro-American Guild of Performing Arts, the American Negro Theatre, the Catholic Actors Guild, the Founding Committee for the Establishment of the American Negro Theatre (1962-1967), the Harlem Cultural Council, and the Negro Actors Guild. Labor organizations with which he was intimately involved include the Actors' Equity Association. Equity files, 1946-1982, consist of materials related to integrating black actors in New York and Washington, D.C. productions and hotels, and the blacklisting of actors in the 1950s. Files include information on O'Neal's vice presidency of the AFL-CIO from 1969-1989 and his position as chairman of its Civil Rights Committee. O'Neal also maintained files for the African-American Labor Center; from 1950-1957, during the period when O'Neal was a board member, there are press releases and letters condemning AWARE, Inc., a group formed to combat communism in the entertainment world. Files document some of O'Neal's time as president of the Associated Actors and Artists of America (the 4A's), which was the primary association of trade unions for performing artists in the United States. The cultural and civic organizations material, 1952-1992, contains O'Neal's files for organizations that are neither theatrical nor labor-oriented, but for which he served as a board member or in some other capacity; many of the organizations pertain to Africa and African Americans.

Arrangement: Collection organized into seven series: I. Personal papers; II. Correspondence; III. Speeches and addresses; IV. Writings; V. Theatrical career; VI. Ira Aldridge research materials; and VII. Organizations.

Key Terms

Subjects

Actors -- United States
African American actors
African American entertainers
African American labor leaders
African American theater -- New York (State) -- New York
African Americans -- Segregation
African Americans -- Social conditions
African Americans in the performing arts
Black author
Discrimination in employment
Labor unions
Labor unions and the arts
Theater and society

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Radio scripts
Scrapbooks
Scripts
Speeches (documents)
Television scripts
Theater programs

Names

Aldridge, Ira Frederick, -1867
Dodson, Owen, 1914-1983
Jeannette, Gertrude, 1914-
Norford, George, 1918-
O'Neal, Frederick, 1905-1992
Perry, Shauneille
Simms, Hilda, 1920-

Actors' Equity Association
AFL-CIO
African-American Labor Center
Afro-American Guild of Performing Artists
American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
American Negro Theatre
Associated Actors and Artistes of America
Catholic Interracial Council (New York, N.Y.)
Coordinating Council for Negro Performers
Harlem Cultural Council
Negro Actors Guild of America

Container List

- Personal papers 1914 - 2001
 - Biographical information
 - b. 1 f. 1-5 Resumes and biographical sketches
 - Printed matter
 - b. 1 f. 6 1946 - 1947
 - b. 1 f. 7 1952 - 1970s
 - b. 1 f. 8 1970s - 1980s
 - b. 1 f. 9 1980s - 1992
 - Labor
 - b. 1 f. 10 1965 - 1973
 - b. 1 f. 11 1977 - 1985
 - b. 1 f. 12 Interviews and reply to questionnaire 1945 - 1931
 - b. 1 f. 13 News clippings 1945 - 1992
 - b. 2 f. 1-2
 - b. 2 f. 3-5 Awards and medals 1952 - 1992
 - Tributes
 - b. 2 f. 6 1952 - 1988
 - b. 2 f. 7 1963 - 1975
 - b. 2 f. 8 Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School 1983
 - b. 2 f. 9 1983 - 1987
 - Certificates
 - b. 2 f. 10 1952 - 1991
 - b. 2 f. 11 1969 - 1980
 - b. 36 1979
 - Box 36 replaces folder 12 in box 2.
 - b. 2 f. 13-14 Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, St. John's University 1981
 - b. 2 f. 15 Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Tougaloo College 1982
 - Family
 - b. 2 f. 16-17 Correspondence 1946 - 1991
 - b. 2 f. 18 Obituaries 1949 - 1977
 - b. 2 f. 19 Death of John O'Neal (brother) 1968
 - b. 2 f. 20 Greeting cards 1972
 - b. 2 f. 21 Get well cards and letters 1976
 - b. 2 f. 22 Correspondence with friends 1980 - 1990
 - Travel
 - b. 2 f. 23 Overseas travel 1947 - 1966
 - b. 2 f. 24 Trip to Africa – notes
 - b. 2 f. 25-26 Packing lists 1953 - 1991
 - Correspondence to Charlotte (wife)
 - b. 2 f. 27 1938

Personal papers (cont.)

Correspondence to Charlotte (wife) (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 28-29 1942 November - December
- b. 2 f. 30-32 1943 January - March
 - b. 2 f. 33 1945 - 1946
 - b. 2 f. 34 1947
- b. 2 f. 35-36 1948
 - b. 2 f. 37 1949
 - b. 2 f. 38 1950 - 1962

Correspondence from Charlotte

- b. 2 f. 39 1938 - 1939
- b. 2 f. 40 1939 - 1941
- b. 2 f. 41-42 1942 November - December
- b. 2 f. 43-44 1943 January - March
 - b. 2 f. 45 1945
 - b. 2 f. 46 1946
 - b. 2 f. 47 1947
- b. 2 f. 48-49 1948
 - b. 3 f. 1 1949 - 1952

Charlotte O'Neal

- b. 3 f. 2-3 Correspondence 1966 - 1999
- b. 3 f. 4 Certificate 1929
- b. 3 f. 5 Music 1914 - 1940s

Harlem apartment, 41 Convent Avenue

- b. 3 f. 6 1942 - 1949
- b. 3 f. 7 1951 - 1958
- b. 3 f. 8 1960 - 1997

Financial records

- b. 3 f. 9-13 Family ledgers 1957 - 1974
 - b. 4 f. 1 Pension information 1973 - 1991
 - b. 3 f. 2 1983 - 1984
- b. 4 f. 3-6 Business cards and address lists

Death of Frederick O'Neal

- b. 4 f. 7-8 Obituaries and memorials 1992 - 2001
- b. 4 f. 9 Correspondence 1992

Diaries

- b. 5 f. 1-9 1938 - 1951
No diaries from 1942-1946.
- b. 6 f. 1-8 1952 - 1959
- b. 7 f. 1-8 1960 - 1969
No diaries for 1966-1967.
- b. 8 f. 1-10 1970 - 1979
- b. 9 f. 1-7 1986 - 1992

Correspondence 1944 - 1993

Correspondence (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 1 G-W 1944 - 1958
- b. 10 f. 2-3 General 1949 - 1959
- b. 10 f. 4 British Actors' Equity Association 1953 - 1954
- b. 10 f. 5 Honoring Clarence Derwent 1952
- b. 10 f. 6 Henderson, Vickie 1952
- b. 10 f. 7 Henry, Carl R., Jr 1959
Hughes, Langston
- b. 10 f. 8 Poetry and letters 1950s - 1967
- b. 10 f. 9 *Simply Heavenly reviews* 1957
- b. 10 f. 10-11 Karamu House 1960 - 1969
General
 - b. 10 f. 12 1960 - 1964
 - b. 10 f. 13-14 1964 - 1968
 - b. 10 f. 15-17 1965 - 1965
 - b. 11 f. 1-9
 - b. 11 f. 10 From actors 1969 - 1974
 - b. 11 f. 11 Ferris State College conference, "The Image of the Negro in American Film" 1969
 - b. 11 f. 12 Invitations 1960s - 1981
 - b. 12 f. 1 Politicians 1966 - 1979
 - b. 12 f. 2 Powell, Adam Clayton regarding the National Conference on Black Power 1966
 - b. 12 f. 3 Conference on theater 1966
Includes panelists' statements.
General
 - b. 12 f. 4-5 A 1966 - 1969
 - b. 12 f. 6 B 1965 - 1969
 - b. 12 f. 7-10 C 1966 - 1969
Includes University of California, Riverside, where O'Neal taught (folder 10).
 - b. 12 f. 11 E 1966 - 1968
 - b. 12 f. 12 F 1965 - 1969
 - b. 12 f. 13 G 1966 - 1969
 - b. 12 f. 14 H 1966 - 1969
 - b. 13 f. 1 L-N 1966 - 1969
 - b. 13 f. 2-3 M-R 1966 - 1969
 - b. 13 f. 4 Q-P 1966 - 1969
 - b. 13 f. 5-6 R-T 1966 - 1970
 - b. 13 f. 7 W-Y 1964 - 1969
 - b. 13 f. 8 Larry Tajiri Memorial Foundation 1970 - 1971
 - b. 13 f. 9-11 1970 - 1975
 - b. 14 f. 1-3
 - b. 14 f. 4 Contributions to organizations 1971
 - b. 14 f. 5 1975 - 1976

Correspondence (cont.)
General (cont.)

- b. 14 f. 6 1976 - 1977
- b. 14 f. 7 1976 - 1981
- b. 14 f. 8 1978
- b. 14 f. 9 1979
- b. 14 f. 10 Contributions to organizations 1977
- b. 14 f. 11 Amistad Research Center 1978 - 1984
- b. 14 f. 12-13 B 1973 - 1979
- b. 14 f. 14 1980 - 1988
- b. 14 f. 15 Letters from school children 1980
- b. 14 f. 16 1981 - 1983
- Gill, Glenda E
- b. 14 f. 17 Article on Federal Theatre and Canada Lee 1981
- b. 14 f. 18 "Six Black Performers in Relation to the Federal Theater" – Ph.D.
b. 15 f. 1-2 dissertation 1981
- b. 15 f. 3-4 1982 - 1988
- b. 15 f. 5 Contributions to organizations 1983
- b. 15 f. 6 1984 - 1985
- b. 15 f. 7 Contributions to organizations 1985 - 1987
- b. 15 f. 8 Wallace, Emmett Babe 1986 - 1991
Includes copies of music and poems.
- b. 15 f. 9-10 1987 - 1989
- b. 16 f. 1 Jackson, Reginald B. – singing of national anthem at presidential
inauguration 1989
- b. 16 f. 2-10 1989 - 1993
- Speeches and addresses 1940s - 1990
- b. 17 f. 1 1940s
- b. 17 f. 2-3 Speeches on the subject of the Negro's contribution to American theatre
and racial discrimination in American theatre 1950s - 1960s
- b. 17 f. 4 1952 - 1958
- b. 17 f. 5 Speeches on the subject of the church and the theatre 1954 - 1962
- b. 17 f. 6-7 Speeches on the topic of the problem of the Negro in theatre 1954 - 1967
- b. 17 f. 8 Eulogy for Clarence Derwent 1959
- b. 17 f. 9 1960s
- b. 17 f. 10 "The Artist's Responsibility to His Profession" 1962
- b. 17 f. 11 Lectures and performances at Southern Illinois University 1962
- b. 17 f. 12 Brotherhood Week – Negro History Week 1962 - 1966
- b. 17 f. 13 Remarks on status of blacks in the performing arts and testimony before the
U.S. House of Representatives 1962 - 1968
- b. 17 f. 14 "Bits of Personal Philosophy" 1962 - 1971
- b. 17 f. 15 David Petegorsky Award acceptance speech 1964
- b. 17 f. 16 Speech supporting legislation for the arts and humanities before the 89th
Congress 1965
- b. 17 f. 17 Speech on the topic of Negro and labor 1966 - 1969

Speeches and addresses (cont.)

- b. 17 f. 18 Labor Day address to AFL-CIO 1967 - 1973
- b. 17 f. 19 "The Arts in Our Society: A Re-evaluation of the Arts and the Artist" 1968
- b. 17 f. 20 "The Negro Actor" 1968
- b. 17 f. 21 Black Labor Movement 1969
- b. 17 f. 22-23 "Effective Communication in a Humanistic Society" 1969 - 1970
- b. 17 f. 24 "Ghetto Power in Action" – National Urban League 1969
- b. 17 f. 25 "The Role of Art in American Civilization" 1969
- b. 17 f. 26 1960s
- b. 17 f. 27 AFL-CIO, Civil Rights Committee 1970
- b. 17 f. 28 "The Challenge of the 1970s" 1970
- b. 17 f. 29 ILGWU conventions and meetings 1970
- b. 17 f. 30 Unions and civil rights 1970
- b. 17 f. 31-33 "The Use of the Arts in Effective Communication" 1970 - 1971
- b. 17 f. 34 American Trade Union Council for Histadrut (Israel) 1971
- b. 17 f. 35 Civil rights and organized labor 1971
- b. 17 f. 36 "Is a Black-Labor-Liberal Alliance Viable?" 1971
- b. 17 f. 37-40 Trade union movement 1971 - 1973
Includes Eugene Debs dinner.
- b. 17 f. 41 Affirmative action 1972
- b. 18 f. 1 British Trades Union Congress 1972
- b. 18 f. 2 Women's Council of Brooklyn 1972 - 1979
- b. 18 f. 3-5 A. Philip Randolph Institute, various chapters 1973 - 1984
- b. 18 f. 6 Community arts 1973
- b. 18 f. 7 The role of unions in politics 1973
- b. 18 f. 8 "Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going? How Do We Get There?"
1973 - 1974
- b. 18 f. 9 1975 - 1978
- b. 18 f. 10 1978 - 1979
- b. 18 f. 11 Blacks on stage 1978 - 1980
- b. 18 f. 12 Speeches to Illinois State Federation and Cornell graduates 1979 - 1981
- b. 18 f. 13 Labor Day address 1970s
- b. 18 f. 14 "The Role of Art in American Civilization" 1970s
- b. 18 f. 15 Speech fragments 1970s
- b. 18 f. 16 Various trade unions 1979 - 1988
Includes speeches and background material for the Illinois State Federation, AFL-CIO, Union Label Service Trades, and Workers Defense League.
- b. 18 f. 17-18 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People 1980 - 1981
Includes speeches to New Rochelle branch and labor luncheon.
- b. 18 f. 19 1980 - 1982
- b. 18 f. 20 Religion and Labor Conference 1982
- b. 18 f. 21 Riverside Study Center 1982
Speech on work in America.

Speeches and addresses (cont.)

- b. 18 f. 22 United Federation of Teachers 1982
Speech on the celebration of black heritage.
- b. 18 f. 23 Black Trade Unionists Forum 1982 - 1983
- b. 18 f. 24 Report of AFL-CIO Civil Rights Committee 1985
- b. 18 f. 25 Reelection of Senator Troy Brailey 1985
- b. 18 f. 26 Catholic Interracial Council 1985
- b. 18 f. 27 Black/Jewish relations 1985
- b. 18 f. 28 AFL-CIO Civil Rights Institute 1987
- b. 18 f. 29 American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (AFTRA) 1987
- b. 18 f. 30 11th Annual Freedom Heritage Awards Banquet 1988
- b. 18 f. 31 Issue of A. Philip Randolph stamp 1989
- b. 18 f. 32 Material for speeches to unions 1980s
- b. 18 f. 33-34 Negativism in our society 1980s
- b. 18 f. 35 ca. 1990
- b. 18 f. 36 "Pressed for Time" undated
- b. 18 f. 37 "The Role of the Theatre in Our Society" undated
- b. 18 f. 38-39 Speech material on the theater undated
- b. 18 f. 40-42 Speeches by others 1970s - 1980s
- b. 18 f. 43 Poetry for speeches

Writing 1930 - 1987

- b. 19 f. 1 *High Lights (playlet)* 1930
- b. 19 f. 2 News articles 1949 - 1965
Includes clippings and drafts.
- b. 19 f. 3 "Integration" 1952
Includes reviews of article.
- b. 19 f. 4 *Articles published in Equity* 1952 - 1963
- b. 19 f. 5 "The First Great American Negro Actor" 1955
- b. 19 f. 6 "The Negro in the American Theatre" 1956
Includes manuscript and research material.
- b. 19 f. 7 "The Negro's Contribution to Our Theatre" 1956
Includes manuscript and research material.
- b. 19 f. 8 Research on minority performers 1957 - 1965
Includes correspondence and minutes.
- b. 19 f. 9 "Did You See a Negro on Television Last Night?" and "Where Do We Go From Here?" 1962
- b. 19 f. 10 "The Negro in the Living Arts" and "The Status of the Negro Actor" 1963 - 1964
- b. 19 f. 11 "The Negro in Today's Theatre: Problems and Prospects" and "Integration Report" 1966
- b. 19 f. 12 "The Arts in Our Society: A Re-evaluation" and "The Importance of the Arts in Our Society" 1968
- b. 19 f. 13 "The Negro Creative Artist and His Roots" 1960s
- b. 19 f. 14 "The Role of the Black Trade Unionist", "The Future of Black Theatre in America", and "Histadrut: Shaping Israel's Future" 1970 - 1971

Writing (cont.)

- b. 19 f. 15 "Black Theatre" and "A Glance at the Past, a Look at the Future" 1977 - 1987
- b. 19 f. 16 "The Actor in Our Society" undated

Theatrical career

Productions 1928 - 1991

Dramatic readings

- b. 20 f. 1 "Great Negro Americans" – Alan Sands Productions 1966
- b. 20 f. 2 United Nations 1968
- b. 20 f. 3-5 With Hilda Simms 1969

Films

- b. 20 f. 6-7 *Anna Lucasta* 1958-1959
Includes correspondence and reviews.
- b. 20 f. 8 *Cotton Comes to Harlem* screenplay by Ossie Davis and Arnold Perl 1969
- b. 20 f. 9 *Free, White, and 21* 1963
- b. 20 f. 10 *The Man With the Golden Arm* screenplay by Jack Kirkland, based on the novel by Nelson Algren 1955
- b. 20 f. 11 *Something of Value* screenplay by Richard Brooks, adapted from the novel by Robert C. Ruark 1956
- b. 20 f. 12 *Take a Giant Step* screenplay by Julius J. Epstein and Louis Peterson 1958
Includes shooting calls.

Plays

- b. 20 f. 13 *The Afro-Philadelphian* by Lofton Mitchell 1970
- Anna Lucasta* 1945-1953
 - b. 21 f. 1 U.S. productions 1945-1947
 - b. 21 f. 2-7 England and Scotland tour 1947-1953
Includes correspondence, playbills, programs, reviews, and newspaper clippings.
 - b. 21 f. 7 *Summer theater package with The Open Shelf* 1950
 - b. 21 f. 8 Actors Associates production 1952-1953
 - b. 21 f. 9-10 Tour to England 1953
Includes correspondence and newspaper clippings.
 - b. 22 Scrapbook of British Production 1947-1948
- b. 23 f. 1 *Anthropologist at Large* by John Swallow undated
- b. 23 f. 2 *Ballad for Bimshire* 1963
- b. 23 f. 3 *Black Majesty* by Elmore R. Condon undated
Based on the book, *Black Majesty*, by John W. Vandercook.
- b. 23 f. 4 *Curtain Call, Mr. Aldridge, Sir (a dramatic reading)* by Ossie Davis 1963
- b. 23 f. 5 *Dark of the Moon* by Howard Richardson and William Berney 1944
- b. 23 f. 6 *Death of a Salesman* 1963
- b. 23 f. 7-8 *Elim* by McEvoy Patterson 1952
Includes script and budget.
- b. 23 f. 9 *An Evening with Ethel Waters* undated
- b. 23 f. 10 "Forward" by Herman Dreer and George L. Vaughn 1934
- b. 23 f. 11-13 *The Gentle Folks* by Frank Alexander and E. A. Krumschmidt 1950-1958
- b. 24 f. 1-3 Includes two scripts, an agreement, co-producer information, and a budget.

Theatrical career (cont.)

Productions (cont.)

Plays (cont.)

- b. 24 f. 4-5 *The Green Pastures by Marc Connelly* 1957-1959
- b. 24 f. 6 *The Headmaster and Waiting on the Man by John Terrance* undated
- b. 24 f. 7-8 *Head of the Family by George Norford* 1950
Includes script with O'Neal's comments.
- b. 24 f. 9 *House of Flowers* 1954-1955
Includes programs and reviews.
- b. 24 f. 10 *The Iceman Cometh* 1968
- b. 24 f. 11 *If at First You Don't Succeed by Frank Alexander* 1956
- b. 24 f. 12 *The Journey of Simon McKeever by Albert Maltz* undated
- b. 24 f. 13 *A Lady Passing Fair* 1947
- b. 24 f. 14 *Made in Heaven by Clarence Williams* 1954
- b. 24 f. 15 *The Madwoman of Chailot* 1970
- b. 24 f. 16-17 *The Man with the Golden Arm by Jack Kirkland* 1956
Based on the novel by Nelson Algren.
Includes script, program, and reviews.
- b. 25 f. 1 *Marseilles* 1962
- b. 25 f. 2-3 *Pinky* 1949
Includes news clippings.
- b. 25 f. 4-5 *Rainbow Terrace by Alan Dirskin* 1978-1980
Includes script with scenes 1-2 and document regarding Mordecai Gorelik.
- b. 25 f. 6 *Romeo and Juliet script with production idea by O'Neal* undated
- b. 25 f. 7 *Salvation on a String* 1954
Includes program and review.
- b. 25 f. 8 *Shakespeare in Harlem* 1960
- b. 25 f. 9 *Strange Land by Carl Mahon* 1943
- b. 25 f. 10 *Strivers Row by Abram Hill* undated
- b. 25 f. 11-13 *Take a Giant Step by Louis Peterson* 1952-1953
Includes script, playbills, reviews, and telegrams.
- b. 25 f. 14-15 *Tell Pharaoh by Loftin Mitchell* 1967-1975
- b. 26 f. 1-2 Includes various scripts, one of which is marked up.
- b. 26 f. 3 *Tribute to Langston Hughes by Susan Batson* 1967
- b. 26 f. 4-6 *The Winner by Elmer Rice* 1954
Includes script, programs, reviews, and correspondence.
- b. 26 f. 7 Examples of non-stereotyped roles 1954-1956
Includes roles in *House of Flowers*, *Trial*, and *The Battler*.
- b. 26 f. 8 Co-producer on various plays
- Radio scripts and sound recordings
- b. 26 f. 9 *Five-Fifths of a Man by Francine R. April* undated
Written for *Voice of Freedom*.
- b. 26 f. 10 *The Green Pastures by Marc Connelly* undated
British Broadcasting Company, adapted and produced by Roy Lockwood.
- b. 26 f. 11-12 *New World A'Coming by Owen Dodson* 1945
- b. 26 f. 13 *The Life and Times of Jess B. Semple by Langston Hughes, adapted for radio by Robert Lucas* 1950
- b. 26 f. 14 *Great Negro Americans* 1960

Theatrical career (cont.)

Productions (cont.)

Radio scripts and sound recordings (cont.)

- b. 26 f. 15 *Silhouettes in Courage* 1970

Television

- b. 26 f. 16 *Command by Christopher La Farge* 1956

Adapted for television by Paul Monash from Fatigue's "You Pay Something for Everything", United States Steel Hour.

- b. 27 f. 1-3 *The Green Pastures by Marc Connelly* 1957-1959

Includes ABC television episode's partial script, music, and rehearsal schedule from 1957; and Hallmark Hall of Fame's production script and rehearsal schedule from 1959.

Theatrical playbills and programs

- b. 27 f. 4-5 Playbills listing O'Neal 1928-1991

- b. 27 f. 6-10 General

- b. 28 f. 1 Broadway general programs 1963-1964

Contracts

- b. 28 f. 2 Permits 1947-1953

- b. 28 f. 3 1949-1953

- b. 28 f. 4 1954-1962

- b. 28 f. 5 1963-1970

Scripts 1948 - 1969

Playscripts

- b. 29 f. 1 *Alexander, William F. Call Protection* 1960

- b. 29 f. 2 *Allen, Corey. A Christmas Carol* 1968

Adapted from the novel by Charles Dickens and revised by LeVoy Melville.

- b. 29 f. 3 *Brooks, Norman. Fragile Fox* undated

- b. 29 f. 4 *Buckminster, Harold. Homecoming* undated

- b. 29 f. 5 *Carter, Philip Milton. The Butcher Shop* undated

- b. 29 f. 6 *Cerf, Kurt. Elektra* 1952

Translation based on the German version by Hugo Von Hofmannsthal.

- b. 29 f. 7 *Cohen, Al. Actor* 1965

- b. 29 f. 8 *Dodson, Owen. Bayou Legend* 1948

- b. 29 f. 9 *Flourney, Richard (story by). Casey Jones* undated

Adaptation by George Abbott and Arthur Carter, lyrics by Sammy Cahn, and music by Vernon Duke. – "

- b. 29 f. 10 *Frisch, Max. Biedermann and the Firebugs* 1963

- b. 30 f. 1 *Glasgow, Emerson and Harry Wagstaff Gribble. Chichi Estera as adapted from Trumbo* 1951

- b. 30 f. 2 *Gorelik, Mordecai. Megan's Son* 1969

- b. 30 f. 3 *Jeannette, Gertrude. Light in the Cellar* 1960

- b. 30 f. 4 *Jones, Leslie. Still Life* 1960

- b. 30 f. 5 *Karlen, Stymean. The Eleventh Commandment* undated

- b. 30 f. 6 *Lamb, Arthur Clifton. Roughshod Up the Mountain (2 copies)* 1953

- b. 30 f. 7 *Lynn, John. Up in the Old Gum Tree* 1955

- b. 30 f. 8 *Maier, Nathan. Public Relations* undated

- b. 31 f. 1 *Morris, Harry. Savage Measures* undated

- b. 31 f. 2 *Norford, George. Jackson* undated

Theatrical career (cont.)

Scripts (cont.)

Playscripts (cont.)

- b. 31 f. 3 *Pawley, Thomas D. The Tumult and the Shouting* undated
- b. 31 f. 4 *Perry, Shauneille. Things of the Heart: Marian Anderson's Story* 1981
- b. 31 f. 5 *Rodman, Selden and A. F. MacLiesh. The Revolutionists* undated
- b. 31 f. 6 *Ross, Darlan. Side Street Playboys* undated
- b. 31 f. 7 *Sherriff, R.C. Miss Mabel, adapted by Abram Hill* undated
- b. 31 f. 8 *Van Dyke, Philip. A Woman and Her Hounds* undated
- b. 31 f. 9 *Unidentified playwright. Julius Caesar, modern adaptation* undated
- b. 31 f. 10 *A Treasury of Black Plays as Compiled in 1938 by John D. Silvera, WPA Theatre Project, republished edition* 1986
Contains synopses and production notes.

- b. 32 f. 1 **Screenplay** 1962
Includes *The People vs. Ernie Jones* by Harold Hoffman and Larry Buchanan.

Television and video scripts

- b. 32 f. 2 *Boshell, Gordon. Focus on the Colour Bar, BBC Broadcast* 1950
- b. 32 f. 3 *Norford, George. With the Wallaces* undated
- b. 32 f. 4 *Ross, Harlan. The Bridal Theatre of the Air: Pocahontas and Rolfe (video script)* 1949
- b. 32 f. 5 **Fragments of unidentified genre** undated

Ira Aldridge research material 1955 - 1992

- b. 33 f. 1 **Bellamy, Peter** regarding Ira Aldridge article, correspondence 1964
- b. 33 f. 2-5 *Marshall, Herbert and Mildred Stock. Ira Aldridge, the Negro Tragedian* 1955-1959
Includes correspondence with O'Neal, book reviews, and research material.
- b. 33 f. 6 *Marshall, Herbert. The Roles of Ira Aldridge, manuscript* undated
- Mortimer, Owen** 1955-1992
 - b. 33 f. 7 "Ira Aldridge, Shakespearean Actor", article 1955
- b. 33 f. 8-11 *Speak of Me As I Am: The Story of Ira Aldridge manuscript* 1990
- b. 33 f. 12 **Correspondence** 1990-1992
- b. 34 f. 1-4 *O'Neal, Frederick. "The First Great American Negro Actor", articles in Equity* 1955
Includes manuscript drafts, research material, correspondence with Mildred Stock, and published articles.

Organizations

Theatrical and arts 1925 - 1991

- b. 35 f. 1-2 **Actor's Fund of America** 1985-1989
- b. 35 f. 3-9 **Afro-American Guild of Performing Artists** 1985-1991
- b. 35 f. 10 **The Aldridge Players** 1932-1935
- b. 35 f. 11 **Alliance for the Arts** 1986
- b. 35 f. 12-14 **American Negro Theatre** 1942-1988
Includes research about the theater and newspaper clippings.
 - b. 36 **Scrapbook II** 1925-1947
 - b. 37 **Scrapbook III** 1941-1947
- b. 38 f. 1 **American Theatre of Being** 1965-1966
- b. 38 f. 2 **American Theatre Wing** 1990

Organizations (cont.)

Theatrical and arts (cont.)

- b. 38 f. 3-4 AUDELCO 1981-1987
Includes Outstanding Pioneer Award and printed matter.
- b. 38 f. 5 Black Academy of Arts and Letters 1969
- b. 38 f. 6 Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame 1990
- b. 38 f. 7 Canada Lee Foundation 1955-1956
- b. 38 f. 8-9 Catholic Actors Guild of America 1969-1988
Includes George M. Cohan award.
- b. 38 f. 10 College of Fellows of the American Theatre 1991-1992
- b. 38 f. 11 Committee for the Employment of Negro Performers 1962
- b. 38 f. 12 Conference on the Extension of Opportunities for Professional Training
through Education 1966
Coordinating Council for Negro Performers 1951-1963
- b. 38 f. 13 1951-1954
- b. 38 f. 14 1952-1958
- b. 37
- b. 38 f. 15-16 1954-1955
- b. 38 f. 17-18 1956-1958
- b. 39 f. 1 1958-1962
- b. 39 f. 2 Newspaper clippings 1952-1958
- b. 39 f. 3 1962-1963
- b. 39 f. 4 Discrimination in Theatre and Other Arts 1964
- b. 39 f. 5-6 Founding Committee for the Establishment of the American Negro
Theatre, Inc 1962-1967
- b. 39 f. 7 Freedom Theatre 1988-1989
Harlem Cultural Council 1965-1991
- b. 39 f. 8 Proposal for art exhibition at City College written by Romare Bearden
1967
- b. 39 f. 9 1965-1966
- b. 39 f. 10 Jazzmobile 1967
- b. 39 f. 11 1969-1971
- b. 39 f. 12 1971-1991
- b. 39 f. 13 Harlem Suitcase Theatre ca. 1940s
- b. 39 f. 14 Ira Aldridge Society 1958-1973
- b. 40 f. 1-2
- b. 40 f. 3-4 Junior Black Academy of Arts and Letters 1982-1989
- b. 40 f. 5 The Lambs 1966-1968
- b. 40 f. 6-8 Negro Actors Guild 1945-1983
- b. 40 f. 9 New Lafayette Players 1963
- b. 40 f. 10 "On the Jersey Side" proposal 1984
- b. 40 f. 11 The Players 1966-1967
- b. 40 f. 12 Symphony of the New World 1966-1970
- Labor 1941 - 1991
- Actor's Equity Association 1941-1978
- b. 41 f. 1 Integration of black actors 1941-1965

Organizations (cont.)

Labor (cont.)

Actor's Equity Association (cont.)

- b. 41 f. 2 Information about integration in theatre 1948-1957
- b. 41 f. 3-4 Integration of black performers, research file 1950s
- b. 41 f. 5 Clippings on integration of black actors 1950s
- b. 41 f. 6 Hotel Accommodations Committee 1950-1952
- b. 41 f. 7-8 Anti-Blacklisting Committee 1946-1957
- b. 41 f. 9 Negotiating Committee and contract demands 1954-1957
- b. 41 f. 10 Minutes and reports 1956-1965
- O'Neal
- b. 41 f. 11 Speeches, minutes, and memoranda 1951-1955
- b. 41 f. 12-16 Nominations, elections, and campaign literature for presidency and vice-presidency 1952-1967
- b. 41 f. 17-21 Articles, news clippings, and newsletters 1952-1989
- b. 41 f. 22 Chorus Equity Association 1955
- b. 41 f. 23 1957-1961
- b. 41 f. 24-25 Inter-American Federation of Entertainment Workers, Second Congress 1961-1962
- b. 41 f. 26 Committee for the Employment of Negro Performers 1962
- b. 41 f. 27 Correspondence 1964-1992
- b. 41 f. 28 Proposal to place minority youth in theater industry 1969
- b. 41 f. 29 Correspondence 1970-1973
- b. 41 f. 30 Richard Nixon's Enemies List 1973
- b. 41 f. 31 Equity Library Theatre 1974
- b. 41 f. 32 Proposal for the establishment of a nonprofit corporation to produce Negro films 1970s
- b. 42 f. 1 Ethnic Minorities Committee 1980-1983
- b. 42 f. 2 Proposal for commercially sponsored professional touring companies 1983-1987
- b. 42 f. 3 Non-Traditional Casting Symposium 1986-1987
- AFL-CIO 1957-1990
- b. 42 f. 4 1957-1985
- b. 42 f. 5-6 Demonstration Arts Project 1967-1971
- b. 42 f. 7 Civil Rights Department 1975-1976
- b. 42 f. 8 1975-1989
- b. 42 f. 9 Trades Union Congress (Brighton, England) 1980
- b. 42 f. 10-11 Civil Rights Committee 1980-1984
- b. 42 f. 12 Trip to Egypt – Technical Assistance Program 1981
- b. 42 f. 13 South Africa Labor Movement 1981-1982
- b. 42 f. 14 Attendance at various conferences 1982-1989
- b. 42 f. 15-17 Civil Rights Institute 1982-1988
Includes Civil Rights Committee.
- b. 42 f. 18 1983-1987
- b. 42 f. 19-21 United Black Labor for '84 – Presidential Nomination and Election of Walter Mondale 1984

Organizations (cont.)

Labor (cont.)

AFL-CIO (cont.)

- b. 42 f. 22 Randolph Memorial Ad Hoc Committee 1987
- b. 42 f. 23 1988
- b. 42 f. 24 A. Philip Randolph Institute, dedication of memorial bust 1989-1990
- b. 42 f. 25 News clippings
- African–American Labor Center 1974-1988
- b. 42 f. 26-27 1974-1976
- b. 42 f. 28 1978
- b. 42 f. 29 Report of 1979 activities, Board of Directors meeting 1980
- b. 42 f. 30 Report of 1984 activities, Board of Directors meeting 1984-1985
Includes conference program.
- b. 42 Investments in South Africa, AFL-CIO statement regarding Southern Africa 1988
- American Federation of Television and Radio Artists 1951-1990
- b. 43 f. 1 "Red Channels" – counteracting Communist accusations 1951-1952
- b. 43 f. 2-3 AFTRA and Actor's Equity Association condemnation of AWARE, Inc. regarding Communist blacklisting 1950-1957
Includes clippings.
- b. 43 f. 4 1962-1990
- Associated Actors and Artists of America 1963-1990
- b. 43 f. 5 Proposal to study the employment status of Negroes in the performing arts 1963
- b. 43 f. 6 1970-1979
- b. 43 f. 7 Sponsored touring shows 1973-1988
- b. 43 f. 8 Business/Labor Working Class Group 1976
- b. 43 f. 9 Labor's International Hall of Fame 1977
- b. 43 f. 10 Elections in Rhodesia 1979
- b. 43 f. 11 1981-1983
- b. 43 f. 12 A. Philip Randolph Library at Borough of Manhattan Community College 1983
- b. 43 f. 13-14 Conferences on Retirees, Study Group on Social Security 1983-1985
- b. 43 f. 15-16 American Income Life Insurance Company 1984-1985
- b. 43 f. 17 Conferences on retirees 1984-1988
- b. 43 f. 18 Protest rally against apartheid in South Africa 1986
- b. 43 f. 19-20 Project South Africa, divestment of American companies doing business in South Africa 1986
- b. 43 f. 21 Membership profile 1986
- b. 43 f. 22-25 Correspondence 1988
- b. 43 f. 26 1989-1990
- b. 43 f. 27 News clippings 1963-1980
- Forum of Black Trade Unionists 1982-1990
- b. 43 f. 28-29 Leadership Committee 1982-1990
- b. 43 f. 30-32 1983-1987
- b. 43 f. 33 Election of officers to various organizations 1949-1957

Organizations (cont.)

Cultural and civic 1952 - 1992

- b. 44 f. 1-2 American Committee on Africa 1966-1982
- b. 43 f. 3-5 American Foundation for Negro Affairs 1968-1975
- b. 44 f. 6 American Jewish Committee – Democratic Heritage Award to O'Neal 1985
- American Society of African Culture 1959-1970
- b. 44 f. 7 The First Conference of Negro Writers, selected papers 1959
- b. 44 f. 8 Minutes 1962-1967
- b. 44 f. 9-12 1961-1970
- A. Philip Randolph 1982-1988
- b. 44 f. 13 Educational Fund 1982
- b. 44 f. 14 Institute – Commemoration of 25th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington 1988
- Bayard Rustin Fund 1986-1991
- b. 44 f. 15 A. Philip Randolph commemorative stamp and other projects 1986-1990
- b. 44 f. 16-17 1988-1991
- b. 44 f. 18 Black Academy of Arts and Letters – conference to establish 1968
- b. 44 f. 19 Brooklyn Academy of Music, Conference on New Directions 1966
- Catholic Interracial Council 1960-1992
- b. 44 f. 20 1960-1978
- b. 44 f. 21 Hoey Award to O'Neal 1964
- b. 44 f. 22 1969
- b. 44 f. 23-24 1979-1991
- b. 44 f. 25 Howard Beach incident 1987
- b. 44 f. 26 1992
- b. 44 f. 27 Committee of Inquiry into the Problems of Black Hebrews 1980
- FESTAC (First World Festival of Negro Arts U.S. Committee) 1964-1975
- b. 44 f. 28-29 Executive Committee meetings – minutes, etc 1964-1965
- b. 44 f. 30-32 1965-1966
- b. 44 f. 33 Second World Black and African Festival 1975
- b. 45 f. 1 Harlem Urban Development Corporation – Cultural Facilities and Performing Arts Task Force 1972
- b. 45 f. 2 International University of Communications 1969
- b. 45 f. 3 King, Kennedy Development Foundation – Academy Plaza 1972
- b. 45 f. 4 Muscular Dystrophy Association 1970-1989
- b. 45 f. 5 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Mid-Manhattan Branch 1965-1971
- b. 45 f. 6-8 National Committee on United States–China Relations 1973-1977
Includes Board of Directors' meetings.
- b. 45 f. 9 National Conference of Christians and Jews 1952-1969
- b. 45 f. 10 National Council for Culture and Art 1981
- National Urban League 1965-1987
- b. 45 f. 11 1965-1987

Organizations (cont.)

Cultural and civic (cont.)

National Urban League (cont.)

- b. 45 f. 12 Labor Education and Advancement Program 1969
- b. 45 f. 13 Memorandum on urban-racial crisis to Richard M. Nixon 1969
- b. 45 f. 14 Report, search committee to replace Whitney Young, Executive Director
1971
- b. 45 f. 15 Labor Advisory Council, Civil Rights Conference 1983-1985
- b. 45 f. 16 Labor Affairs Luncheon Honoring O'Neal 1986
- b. 45 f. 17 1987
- New York Urban League 1958-1990
- b. 45 f. 18 "Job Status of the Negro Professional Musician in the New York
Metropolitan Area", by Douglas G. Pugh 1958
- b. 45 f. 19 Annual Frederick Douglass Dinners 1963-1990
- b. 45 f. 20 Negro Labor Committee for the Election of Governor Rockefeller 1966
- b. 45 f. 21 Negro Marketing Institute report 1963
- b. 45 f. 22 New World Festival of Africatude 1992
- b. 45 f. 23 San Bernardino County Committee for the Employment of the
Handicapped 1959
- b. 45 f. 24 Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture – Schomburg
Corporation 1984-1991
- b. 45 f. 25 Southern Illinois University, Visiting Professor of Theater 1962
- b. 45 f. 26 Temporary Study Commission on the Future of the Adirondacks 1968-1971
- b. 45 f. 27 United Nations Development Corporation 1978-1980
- b. 45 f. 28 Virgin Islands Festival of the Arts conference 1964
- b. 45 f. 29 Wilkes University Black History Month Symposium 1991
- b. 45 f. 30-32 Lists of board members and invited guests of various organizations 1980s