



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Michael Townsend Smith collection of scripts**

1965-2002

\*T-Mss 2003-021

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2015

## Summary

**Creator:** Smith, Michael Townsend

**Title:** Michael Townsend Smith collection of scripts

**Date:** 1965-2002

**Size:** 4 linear feet (10 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Michael T. Smith, 2003.

**Abstract:** Michael Townsend Smith (b.1935-) is an American playwright and director for Off-Off Broadway and alternative theatres. The collection holds Smith's scripts and the scripts of other playwrights.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:  
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

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**Preferred citation:** Michael Townsend Smith collection of scripts, \*T-Mss 2003-021. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

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## Creator History

Michael Townsend Smith (1935- ) is an American playwright, director and one of the founders of the Off-Off Broadway theatre movement. His writings include *Captain Jack's Revenge*, *Country Music*, and *Heavy Pockets*. Occasionally, Smith worked under the pseudonym Vernon O'Ray.

Early in his career, he directed some works of other playwrights at Caffé Cino, a popular place for Off-

Off Broadway productions. Smith also produced the works of playwrights Maria Irene Fornes, Jean-Claude van Itallie, H.M. Koutoukas and Ronald Tavel.

Eventually, Smith expanded his productions to other cities. In 2003, Smith relocated to Oregon to continue his theatrical work.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The bulk of the collection holds scripts written by other playwrights, notably Ronald Tavel (1936-2009) and H.M. Koutoukas (1937-2010). Writings by other playwrights also include *Dr. Kheal* by Maria Irene Fornes and *Eat Cake* by Jean-Claude van Itallie.

Michael T. Smith's scripts are occasionally annotated and include *Captain Jack's Revenge*, *Heavy Pockets*, and *Trouble*. The latter script was written under the pseudonym Vernon O'Ray.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged as follows: Michael T. Smith Scripts, and Scripts of Other Playwrights.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Experimental theater -- New York State -- New York  
Off-Off Broadway theater

### **Occupations**

Playwrights

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Scripts

### **Names**

Koutoukas, H. M. (Haralambos Monroe), 1937-2010  
Tavel, Ronald

## Container List

### Michael T. Smith Scripts

- b. 1 f. 1-2 Captain Jack's Revenge 1970
- b. 1 f. 3 Country Music 1971
- b. 1 f. 4 Cowgirl Estacs 1976
- b. 1 f. 5 Denver Trilogy 1971
- b. 1 f. 6 (The) Dinner Show 1974
- b. 1 f. 7 (A) Dog's Love 1966
- b. 1 f. 8 Dogs Bark All Night 2000
- b. 1 f. 9 Double Solitaire 1973
- b. 1 f. 10 Fast Forward 1999
- b. 1 f. 11 Half Life 1983
- b. 1 f. 12-13 Heavy Pockets 1981
  - b. 2 f. 1 Human Beans 2002
  - b. 2 f. 2 Life is A Dreampla 1978  
This play was adapted by Smith.
  - b. 2 f. 3 (The) Next Thing 1966
  - b. 2 f. 4 One Hundred Thousand Songs 1987
  - b. 2 f. 5 Peas 1971
  - b. 2 f. 6 Point Blank 1972
  - b. 2 f. 7 Prussian Suite 1974
  - b. 2 f. 8 Ton 1971
  - b. 2 f. 9 Trouble 1988
- b. 2 f. 10-11 Turnip Family Secrets 1982
- b. 2 f. 12 (A) Wedding Part 1974

### Scripts by Other Playwrights

- b. 10 f. 1 Agenoux, Soren. Donovan's Johnson 1967
- b. 9 f. 10 Birimisa, George. Mr. Jello 1968
- b. 3 f. 3 Bush, Josef. Evening Raga circa 1969
- b. 3 f. 4 Celer, Jim. Stranger Than Spending a Night in a Fort Dodge Truckstop circa 1972
- b. 3 f. 5 Charlip, Remy. More, More More circa 1960s-1980s
- b. 3 f. 6 Community College of Westerly. A Celebration of Twelfth Night 1986
- b. 3 f. 7 DiPrima, Diane. Whale Honey 1991
- b. 3 f. 8 Duras, Marguerite. Agatha 1987
- b. 3 f. 9 Eyen, Tom. (The) White Whore & Why Hanna's Skirt Won't Stay Down circa 1970
- b. 3 f. 10 Fornes, Marie Irene. Dr. Kheal 1968
- b. 3 f. 11 Forman, R. Evidence circa 1974
- b. 3 f. 12 Fratti, Mario. Che Guevara 1970
- b. 3 f. 13 Garvin, Fred. Buffalo Meat 1968
- b. 3 f. 14 Gordon, Robert. (The) Light and Dark of It 1973

Scripts by Other Playwrights (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 1 Haislip, William and Bush, Josef. *Philosophy in the Bedroom* by the Marquis De Sade circa 1960s-1980s  
Heide, Robert
- b. 4 f. 2 *Moon* circa 1974
- b. 4 f. 3 *Tropical Fever in the Key West* 1983
- b. 4 f. 4 Heliczzer, Piero. *Bessie Smith* circa 1960s-1980s  
Hoffman, William M
- b. 4 f. 5 *Gilles de Rais* 1973
- b. 4 f. 6 (A) *Quick Nut Bread to Make Your Mouth Water* 1971
- b. 4 f. 7 *XXX* 1971
- b. 4 f. 8 Horovitz, Israel. *Line* 1967
- b. 4 f. 9 Jones, LeRoi. *[Dutchman] and the Slave* 1971  
Kespert, Charles
- b. 4 f. 10 *The Executioners* 1972
- b. 4 f. 11 *Light Cell Death* circa 1974
- b. 4 f. 12 Kessler, Lyle. *Burning Bright* circa 1960s-1980s  
Koutoukas, H.M
- b. 5 f. 1 (A) *Letter From Colette or Dreams Don't Send Valentines* circa 1960s
- b. 5 f. 2 *Medea or The Stars May Understand* circa 1960s
- b. 5 f. 3 *Melancholy Camp* circa 1960s
- b. 5 f. 4 *Orpheus in Your Music* 1965
- b. 5 f. 5 *Tell Me Tender Tales or Feathers are for Ramming* circa 1960s
- b. 5 f. 6 *Michael Touched Me or Hang Up Your Red Shoes* circa 1960s
- b. 5 f. 7 *Things Left to Die* 1965
- b. 5 f. 8 *With Creatures Make My Wa* circa 1960s
- b. 5 f. 9-11 Kraus, Ruth. *Untitled Works* 1965
- b. 5 f. 12 Kufferberg, Tuli. *Fuck Nam* 1966
- b. 5 f. 13 Lashes, Gloria. *Queens Awake or The Gasman Cometh* 1989
- b. 5 f. 14 Lasker-Schuler, Else. *Landi* 1987
- b. 6 f. 1 (The) *Living Theatre. The Legacy of Cain* 1968
- b. 6 f. 2 Magnuson, Jim. *Game Time* 1970  
Mednick, Murray
- b. 6 f. 3 *Coyote* 1992
- b. 6 f. 4 (The) *Hawk* circa 1960s-1990s
- b. 6 f. 5 Murrin, Tom. *Mad Dog The Mind-Reader* 1970  
Owens, Rochelle
- b. 6 f. 7 *Homo* 1966
- b. 6 f. 8 *Istanboul* 1968
- b. 6 f. 9 (The) *Karl Mark Play* circa 1974
- b. 6 f. 10 *Kontraption* 1977
- b. 6 f. 10 Peluso, Emanuel. *Hurricane of the Eye* 1969

Scripts by Other Playwrights (cont.)

Potter, Melisand

- b. 6 f. 11 Columbine and the Polar Bear Cloud circa 1976
- b. 6 f. 12 Jawbreakers circa 1976
- b. 6 f. 13 Minimal Zoo circa 1976
- b. 7 f. 1 Potter, Robert A. Where is Sicily? 1969

Reznikov, Hanon

- b. 7 f. 2 Anarchia 1993-1994
- b. 7 f. 3 Utopia 1995
- b. 7 f. 4 Rothenberg, Jerome. That Dada Strain circa 1987
- b. 7 f. 5 Satin, Victor. Agon 1973

Schlottmann, William

- b. 7 f. 6 (The) Monkey Man's Pick-Up 1973
- b. 7 f. 7 No Luggage People 1973

Shepard, Sam

- b. 7 f. 8 Geography of a Horse Dreamer 1974
- b. 7 f. 9 Shaved Splits 1970

Starkweather, David

- b. 7 f. 10 (The) Myth of Light circa 1960s
- b. 8 f. 1 (The) Wish House 1968

Tavel, Ronald

- b. 8 f. 2 Arenas of Lutetia 1967
- b. 8 f. 3-4 Bigfoot 1970, 1972
- b. 8 f. 5 Boy on a Straight-Back Chair or Their Town 1966
- b. 8 f. 6-7 Gazelle Boy 1976
- b. 8 f. 8 Gorilla Queen 1966
- b. 8 f. 9 Hanoi Hanna, Radio Star 1965
- b. 8 f. 10 How Jacqueline Kennedy Became Queen of Greece 1973
- b. 8 f. 11 Kitchenette 1965
- b. 9 f. 1 (The) Life of Juanita Castro 1965
- b. 9 f. 2 My Foetus Lived on Amboy Street 1985
- b. 9 f. 3 (The) Ovens of Anita Orangejuice. A History of Modern Florida 1977
- b. 9 f. 4 Playbirth 1976  
Two plays in same folder
- b. 9 f. 4 How the Reverend Left Danbury circa 1960s-1980s
- b. 9 f. 5 Success and Succession 1983
- b. 9 f. 6 (The) Understudy 1981
- b. 9 f. 7 Thompson, Erie. Artists for the Revolution circa 1970

van Itallie, Jean Claude

- b. 9 f. 9 Eat Cake 1971
- b. 9 f. 10 (A) Mystery Farce 1972
- b. 9 f. 11 Weiss, Jeff. A Funny Walk Home 1967