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## David Gaard Theatrical Works

### Collection number: Coll2008-072

ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives  
Los Angeles, California

Processed by:

Michael C. Oliveira

Date Completed:

December 31, 2008

Encoded by:

Michael C. Oliveira

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Processing this collection has been funded by a generous grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.



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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** David Gaard theatrical works

**Dates:** circa 1966-2007

**Collection number:** Coll2008-072

**Creator:** Gaard, David, 1945-

**Collection Size:** 3 records boxes, 1 archives half-carton, and 1 oversized box.5 linear feet.

**Repository:** ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives.

Los Angeles, California 90007

**Abstract:** Scripts and screenplays of original theatrical works and adaptations for the stage and screen by David Gaard, alone and in collaboration with others, together with some production and performance materials, including contracts, set designs, e-mails, schedules, flyers, postcards, programs, and reviews.

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

### Access

The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

### Publication Rights

Researchers wishing to publish materials must obtain permission in writing from ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives as the physical owner. Researchers must also obtain clearance from the holder(s) of any copyrights in the materials. Note that ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives can grant copyright clearance only for those materials for which we hold the copyright. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain copyright clearance for all other materials directly from the copyright holder(s).

### Preferred Citation

Box #, folder #, David Gaard theatrical Works, Coll2008-072, ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

### Acquisition Information

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Gift of David Gaard per deeds of gift dated December 29, 2001, February 22, 2005, and November 20, 2007.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Michael C. Oliveira, December 2008.

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### Biography

David Gaard was born April 4, 1945, in Duluth, Minnesota. He graduated from high school early, just after his 16th birthday. He attended the University of Minnesota; however his participation in Vietnam War protests, a role in a university theater production, and an active social life left little time for his studies. In the autumn, he left school and stayed in Minneapolis, obtaining a role in a community theater production. When the show closed, he convinced his parents of his need to "find himself", and with their blessings he left for Los Angeles.

He found a number of positions through the California State Employment Office, including one with a Hollywood casting agency. Gaard also found bit parts in various stage productions through Minnesotan connections. His work and social life continued to leave little time to complete projects; after leaving a group sales position, Gaard returned to writing. For three months, he focused on writing through each afternoon, allowing time in the evening for his social life. By early 1967, he had completed his first play, *Lee Foster*. After receiving positive feedback from friends, he relocated to New York City to sell his play.

In the city he found a "dark and depressing studio apartment in the bowels of Hells Kitchen", a job, and within a month met his future partner, M. Sanford Kaplan, a married graduate anthropology student at New York University. While Kaplan sought to overcome his ambivalence about his future, Gaard returned to writing. By the autumn of 1968, Gaard had completed the play, *And Puppy Dog Tails*, and he and Kaplan were living together. The play previewed in September, only months after the Stonewall riots, and ran successfully through January 1970 in New York, and through that summer in San Francisco. The following year, Bill Murray played a part in a Chicago production.

Off-Off Broadway, with its understanding of the counter culture of which Gaard and Kaplan were a part, was booming. Gaard continued writing and Kaplan continued his graduate work, including a trip to Bali in the early 1970s. They arranged to meet in Nepal; during the trip Gaard purchased a script for Sun Yu's play *The Women's Representative*. He adapted the play and it was performed in New York. This changed the fortunes of Mr. Sun and led to Gaard's trip to the People's Republic of China a decade later.

In New York City, Gaard's works were been performed at The Old Reliable and The Extension; he adapted works for Richard Schechner's Performance Group and was a founding member of the Nighthouse Company. In 1975, Gaard and Kaplan left New York for Northern California. With the advent of AIDS, "the whimsical world of *And Puppy Dog Tails* had turned into a vicious frightening mad dog". They sold their telecom business, relocated to Woodstock, New York, and Gaard returned to writing in the early 1990s.

In 1994, the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers (SSDC) selected one of his plays for a reading of new works at Lincoln Center. In the following years Gaard worked with avant-garde troupes such as GAIL GATES et al, Gorilla Repertory Theatre Company, The International WOW, and New York Fringe Festival. The New Jersey Public Library selected his play, *Made for Each Other*, for their AIDS awareness series in 1996; however, library officials closed the play during the opening night intermission.

Gaard continued with several success productions at the HERE Arts Center. He garnered the Audience Favorite Award for his production of *All's Well That Ends Well* at the 2000 New York Fringe Festival. Gaard and Kaplan presently live in New York City where Gaard continues to write and direct.

### Scope and Content of Collection

The collection contains original and adapted works of playwright David Gaard, written alone and in collaboration with others, including his long-term partner, M. Sanford Kaplan. The materials include proposals, treatments, drafts, scripts, and screenplays for developed and undeveloped projects. The production project files contain a variety of production and promotional documentation, including scripts, set designs, e-mails, schedules, flyers, postcards, programs, and reviews. The collection consists of three series (1) Original Works, (2) Adaptations and Productions, and (3) Personal and Miscellaneous.

### Indexing Terms

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

Gaard, David, 1945-

Gay dramatists

Gay theater

Stage adaptations

Screenplays

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Scripts (documents)  
Treatments (documents)  
Bausch, Richard, 1945-  
Brecht, Bertold, 1898-1956  
Carroll, Lewis, 1832-1898  
Cummins, Robert  
Ionesco, Eugene, 1909-1994  
Kaplan, M. Sanford  
Kingsley, Sidney, 1906-1995  
Lentsch, Bill  
Muldowney, Dominic, 1952-  
Peterson, John  
Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616  
Sophocles, 496 BCE-406 BCE  
Swenson, Swen, 1932-  
Weill, Kurt, 1900-1950  
Yu, Sun, 1900-

Series 1: **Original Works circa 1966-2004**

**Physical Description:** 67 folders.

**Series Scope and Content**

The Original Works Series consists of works for stage and/or screen written by Gaard, alone or in collaboration with his partner, M. Sanford Kaplan. The series consists of proposals, treatments, and production and promotional materials, including scripts, set designs, schedules, flyers, postcards, programs, and reviews. The plays are organized alphabetically title. Gaard's first completed play, *Lee Foster* was performed as *The Acme Novelty Company*; another early Gaard play, *Swing to the Right* was performed as *The Day They Gave Babies Away*.

**About Bernard Carlton 1999**

**Physical Description:** 6 folders.

Box 1 : 1-5                    **Early script with notes, revised scripts, promotion materials, and reviews 1999**

**Physical Description:** 5 folders.

Box 5 : 1 (Oversize)       **Promotional materials and reviews 1999**

Box 1 : 6                    ***The Acme Novelty Co.*, Script 1971**

Box 1 : 7-8                ***And Puppy Dog Tails*, Scripts and promotional materials 1974-1975**

**Physical Description:** 2 folders.

Box 1 : 9                    ***As Tears Go By*, Script 1999**

***Befriending Beau* 2000-2002**

**Physical Description:** 3 folders.

Box 1 : 10-12            **Scripts, screenplay, production and promotional materials, and reviews 2000-2002**

**Physical Description:** 2 folders.

Box 5 : 2 (Oversize)       **Promotional materials, ticket sale reports, and reviews 2000**

Box 1 : 13                ***Cocaine Before Chapel*, Early script circa 1985**

Box 1 : 14                ***The Day They Gave Babies Away*, Revised Script circa 1973**

Box 1 : 15-16            **eXs, Script, promotional materials, and reviews 2001**

**Physical Description:** 2 folders.

Box 1 : 17                ***The Fabulous Ten O'Clock Scholar*, Scripts 1999-2003**

Box 1 : 19-20            ***Flash!!*, Scripts by David Gaard and M. Sanford Kaplan 1997**

**Physical Description:** 2 folders.

Box 1 : 21-22            ***Fog Over Frisco*, Synopsis, sample dialogue, screenplay 1995**

**Physical Description:** 2 folders.

Box 1 : 23-24            ***The Ghost of Sergeant Pepper*, Synopsis, outline of screenplay and novel, and three sample chapters 1994**

**Physical Description:** 2 folders.

Box 1 : 25                ***Gramercy Park Dot Com*, Project outline circa 1997**

Box 1 : 26-28            ***High Crimes and Treason*, Synopsis and scripts 1995-2002**

**Physical Description:** 3 folders.

Box 2 : 1                    ***Hook, Line, and Sinker*, Screenplay rough draft 1998**

- Box 2 : 32      ***Later Than Spring*, Rough draft and script 1994**  
Box 2 : 2      ***Lee Foster*, Script circa 1966**  
                 ***Made for Each Other* 1996-1998**  
  
                 **Physical Description: 6 folders.**
- Box 2 : 3-6      **Scripts, production materials, and reviews 1996-1998**  
  
                 **Physical Description: 4 folders.**
- Box 5 : 3 (Oversize)      **Reviews 1996-1998**  
Box 4 : 1      **Photographs - Publicity Stills 1997**  
Box 2 : 7-8      ***Made for Each Other*, Screenplay by David Gaard and M. Sanford Kaplan 1998**  
  
                 **Physical Description: 2 folders.**
- Box 2 : 9-10      ***The Marilyn Project*, Script 1974, 2004**  
Box 2 : 11      ***Mother's Day*, Treatment by David Gaard and M. Sanford Kaplan 1999**  
                 ***Power Strokes* 1999-2001**  
  
                 **Physical Description: 4 folders.**
- Box 2 : 12-13      **Working script, production and promotional materials, and reviews 1999-2001**  
  
                 **Physical Description: 2 folders.**
- Box 5 : 4 (Oversize)      **Ticket sale reports and reviews 2000**  
Box 4 : 2      **Photographs - Casting Headshots 1999-2000**  
Box 2 : 14      ***Praire Light*, Script circa 1982**  
Box 2 : 15-17      ***The Sailor, Home from the Sea*, Script, production and promotional materials, and reviews 1999-2000**  
  
                 **Physical Description: 3 folders.**
- Box 2 : 18-20      ***Shadow Boy*, Script 2001**  
  
                 **Physical Description: 3 folders.**  
  
                 ***Sheets* 1997-1998**  
  
                 **Physical Description: 5 folders.**
- Box 2 : 21-24      **Production and promotional materials and draft and revised scripts by David Gaard and M. Sanford Kaplan 1997-1998**  
  
                 **Physical Description: 4 folders.**
- Box 5 : 5 (Oversize)      **Reviews 1998**  
Box 2 : 25      ***Something Evil*, Synopsis rough draft circa 1995**  
Box 2 : 26      ***Steve Adams and the the Curse of the Vindictive Heart* , Cast List circa 1973**  
Box 2 : 27      ***Swing to the Right*, Script 1969**  
Box 2 : 28      ***The Talent for Deception*, Script, production proposal, and synopsis circa 1995**  
Box 1 : 18      ***The Ten O'Clock Scholar (working title)* , Script rough draft 1999**  
Box 2 : 29      ***Thursday's Child*, Rough draft circa 1995**  
Box 2 : 30-31      ***Young and Deadly*, Script 1998-1999**  
  
                 **Physical Description: 2 folders.**

Series 2: Adaptations and Productions 1973-circa 2005

**Physical Description:** 27 folders.

**Series Scope and Content**

The Adaptations and Productions Series consists of theatrical works and screenplays adapted, directed, or produced by Gaard. The series consists of proposals, treatments, along with production and promotional materials such as scripts, set designs, schedules, flyers, programs, and reviews. The plays are organized alphabetically by performance title.

- Box 3 : 1            ***Alice in Wonderland*, by Lewis Carroll, produced by M. Sanford Kaplan and David Gaard, Script 1997**  
***All's Well That Ends Well*, by William Shakespeare, conceived and adapted by David Gaard 2000**
- Physical Description:** 5 folders.
- Box 3 : 2-5            **Treatment, script, production and promotional materials, and reviews 2000**
- Physical Description:** 4 folders.
- Box 5 : 6 (Oversize)    **Promotional material and reviews 2000**  
***Antigone*, by Sophocles, adapted by David Gaard and M. Sanford Kaplan 1996**
- Physical Description:** 2 folders.
- Box 3 : 6            **Modellbuch for a mixed media production 1996**  
Box 5 : 7 (Oversize)    **Set sketches 1996**  
Box 3 : 7            ***The Battle for Brennan Street*, from a story by Robert Cummins, by David Gaard and M. Sanford Kaplan, Screen treatment circa 1985**  
***Dead End*, by Sidney Kingsley, directed by David Gaard 2001**
- Physical Description:** 3 folders.
- Box 3 : 8-9            **Script and promotional materials 2001**
- Physical Description:** 2 folders.
- Box 5 : 8 (Oversize)    **Reviews 2001**  
Box 3 : 10            ***The Flowroom*, by John Peterson, directed by David Gaard, Production and promotional materials 1999**  
Box 3 : 11            ***It's Enough to Make you Sick*, 3 plays directed by David Gaard and Bill Lentsch, Flyer 1973**  
Box 3 : 12-13            ***The Killer*, by Eugene Ionesco, directed by David Gaard, Proposal, script, and production and promotional materials 2001**
- Physical Description:** 2 folders.
- Box 3 : 14            ***The Last Good Time*, based on a novel by Richard Bausch, play by David Gaard, Script 1987**  
Box 3 : 15            ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*, by William Shakespeare, produced by M. Sanford Kaplan and David Gaard, Program 1997**  
Box 3 : 16            ***Mother Courage*, by Bertold Brecht, translated by Ralph Manheim, edited by David Gaard and Richard Schechner, Script 1974**  
Box 3 : 17            ***Much Ado About Nothing*, by William Shakespeare, Proposal by David Gaard circa 2005**  
***Two Gentlemen of Verona*, by William Shakespeare 2001**
- Physical Description:** 4 folders.
- Box 3 : 18-20            **Treatment for an environmental production, conceived and directed by David Gaard 2001**
- Physical Description:** 3 folders.
- Box 5 : 9            **Promotional material and reviews 2001**

Box 3 : 21-22      ***Wars, Whores, and Tin Pan Alley***, text by Bertold Brecht, music by Kurt Weill and Dominic Muldowney, conceived and adapted by David Gaard and Swen Swenson, Scripts and programs 1986

**Physical Description:** 2 folders.

Box 3 : 23      ***The Women's Representative*** by Sun Yu, adapted by David Gaard, Script 1973

Series 3: **Personal and Miscellaneous 1994-2007**

**Physical Description:** 9 folders.

**Series Scope and Content**

The Personal and Miscellaneous Series consists of various biographical and miscellaneous materials relating to Gaard's personal and professional life. The biographical information consists of autobiographical notes written for performances and to document the materials in his collection; it also includes Gaard's personal recollection of the production of the *PRIDE Newsletter*, forerunner of the *Advocate*. The Clippings file consists of newspaper clipping which may have been considered for concept development. The Correspondence File includes e-mail and letters not directly related to a work, other performance programs, and loose performance materials. The GAle GAtes et al. file documents several performances of the company. The spiral bound notebooks includes various incomplete titled works and acts, including *A Sky Full of Moon*, *The Ghost of Sergeant Pepper*, *Those are Revolting Queens.*, *Dakota Visitor*, *About Leonard Carrington*, and *Midnight in Marrakech*.

- Box 3 : 24            **Biographical information 1999-2007**
- Box 5 : 10 (Oversize) **Clippings 1992-2000**
- Box 3 : 25            **Correspondence 1993-2002**
- Box 5 : 11 (Oversize) **Fringe Festival programs and newspapers 1997-2001**
- Box 3 : 26            **GAle et GAtes et al. 1996**
- Box 3 : 27-29        **Spiral Bound notebooks circa 1990-circa 1997**

**Physical Description:** 3 folders.

- Box 4 : 3            **Photographs and a slide from an unknown performance circa 1998**