

James Saunders:

A Preliminary Inventory of His Papers at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Saunders, James, 1925-
Title:	James Saunders Papers
Dates:	1959-1992
Extent:	24 boxes (9.48 linear feet)
Abstract:	The papers of this British playwright contain notebooks, playscripts, television and film scripts, correspondence, articles, essays, programs, and reviews.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-03708
Language:	English
Access	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition	Reg. No. 13283
Processed by	Liz Murray, 1995
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Scope and Contents

This collection contains notebooks, playscripts, television and film scripts, miscellaneous notes, correspondence, articles, essays, theses, programs, and reviews of the work of British playwright James Saunders. The material spans his career from the late 1960s through the early 1990s. According to the dealer, only a little early material survives, Saunders having destroyed much ca. 1969 (with the exception of the holograph manuscript of *Next Time I'll Sing To You*, which was given to charity). Saunders is known for his contribution as an experimental playwright, pushing the limits of traditional theater. His work and interest in fringe theater characterize the latter part of his career.

The material is grouped in categories as received from the dealer with some rearrangement to achieve alphabetical order within major sections. The collection has been divided into the following series: Works, which are subdivided by genre--manuscript notebooks, translations, articles, essays, and theses by and about Saunders; Incoming Correspondence; Outgoing Correspondence; and Printed material. Some published translations of Saunders' works received with these papers were transferred to the HRHRC Library for cataloging. In general, the material is in fine condition with the sole exception of an early version of *The Emperor's Waltz*. Some sections were heavily edited, using a cut and paste technique employing double-sided tape. Care should be taken when using this version.

The majority of the collection is composed of just over 100 edited typescripts of his plays, as well as adaptations and dramatizations of works of authors including H.E. Bates, A.E. Coppard, Alexander Dumas, David Garnett, Graham Greene, Ronald Harwood, Vaclav Havel, Patricia Highsmith, Henry James, D. H. Lawrence, Olivia Manning, Iris Murdoch, Somerset Maugham, and Thomas Love Peacock. Many of Saunders' plays appear in several versions, with a few translated into French and German. Also included are his award winning plays *Next Time I'll Sing to You*, *Menocchio*, and *Fall*.

Saunders' 18 manuscript notebooks defy chronology or even full content description due to the way in which he penned the entries. Rather than employing the usual linear front-to-back approach, Saunders chose to enter different works beginning at both ends of the notebook with additional material interspersed throughout. Generally, these notebooks contain fragments, notes, character sketches, and drafts for his plays dating from 1959-1983.

Arranged in date order, the incoming correspondence reflects a wide range of correspondents including Saunders' agent, Margaret Ramsay (who described him as the first person she represented), Ramsay's assistants, plus numerous producers and others at the B.B.C., publishers, translators, theater administrators, directors, actors, critics, fellow playwrights, and students seeking Saunders' perspective on his work. In addition, there is a substantial amount of outgoing correspondence, also arranged by date. Featured in this material are Ed Berman, John Bratby, Michael Caine, Penelope Fitzgerald, Peter Hall, Christopher Hampton, David Hare, Vaclav Havel, Suzanne

Lombard, Charles Marowitz, John Mortimer, Iris Murdoch, V.S. Pritchett, Vanessa Redgrave, Robin Skelton, Hilde Spiel, and Tom Stoppard.

Adding perspective to Saunders' work, there is substantial documentation of his career in programs, handbills, and announcements of his plays produced worldwide, dating from 1960-1992. In addition there exists a large collection of reviews from newspapers and periodical literature including quantities of material from continental Europe. Also included are twenty short essays and introspective articles by Saunders, as well as several German and Italian theses on his work.

Series I. Works

Subseries A. Holograph Manuscript Notebooks

<i>Who was Hilary Maconochie?</i> [1959]	box 1 folder 1
<i>A Slight Accident</i>	folder 2
<i>If Love Decay and Double Double or Gimlet</i>	folder 3
<i>Gimlet; Triangle; More Stately Mansions</i>	folder 4
Act I of <i>A Scent of Flowers; The Blue Moccasins</i> ; script with characters Arthur, Sidney, Myra, Helen, Albert	folder 5
Parts of <i>The Pedagogue</i> and <i>Return to the City</i>	folder 6
Linking passages for <i>If Love Decay</i> and <i>Pay As You Go</i>	folder 7
<i>The Flower Case</i> [1965]	folder 8
Script (main characters Miss W. and Gee) and drafts of Lawrence's <i>The White Stocking</i> and <i>Two Blue Birds</i>	box 2 folder 1
Script (characters Rose, Benny, Basil, Arthur, Terry) and drafts of Lawrence's <i>New Eve and Old Adam</i> and <i>Monkey Nuts</i>	folder 2
<i>The Travails of Sancho Panza; The Borage Pigeon Affair</i> ; and a script involving a spaceship	folder 3
<i>A Punch and Judy Show; Bye-Bye-Blues; Diary of a Well-Meaning Man; The Flower Case</i>	folder 4
<i>Grasshopper</i>	folder 5
<i>The Emperor Waltz</i>	box 3 folder 1

Script (characters Don Juan and Charlotte) and a three page piece on synchronicity	folder 2
Script (characters Pupil and Tutor), possibly <i>Third Person</i>	folder 3
Notes entitled "Figner"	folder 4
Notes, drafts, and sketches for miscellaneous pieces including <i>The Mill</i> , <i>The Captain's Doll</i> , <i>The Sailor's Return</i>	folder 5-8
Subseries B. Playscripts	
<i>Alas Poor Fred</i>	box 4 folder 1
<i>The Ark</i>	folder 2
<i>Bodies</i>	folder 3-5
<i>Commital</i>	folder 6
<i>Emperor Waltz</i> [revised version]	folder 7
<i>Emperor Waltz</i> [final version]	folder 8
<i>Emperor Waltz</i>	box 5 folder 1-6
<i>Fall</i>	box 6 folder 1
<i>The Girl in Melanie Klein</i>	folder 2-3
<i>If Love Decay</i>	folder 4
<i>The Italian Girl</i> [various versions and notes]	folder 5-10
<i>A Journey to London</i>	folder 11
<i>A Journey to London</i>	box 7 folder 1-2
<i>Making It Better</i> [various versions]	folder 3-7
<i>More Stately Mansions</i>	box 8 folder 1
<i>Next Time I'll Sing to You</i>	folder 2

<i>The Old Man Who Liked Cats</i>	folder 3
<i>Play for Yesterday</i>	folder 4
<i>Scandella</i>	folder 5
<i>A Scent of Flowers</i>	folder 6
<i>Squat</i>	folder 7-8
<i>The Tempest (in a coffee cup)</i>	folder 9
<i>The Travails of Sancho Panza</i>	folder 10

Subseries C. Radio Plays

<i>After Liverpool</i>	box 9 folder 1
<i>Alas Poor Fred</i>	folder 2
<i>Barnstable</i>	folder 3
<i>Birdsong</i>	folder 4
<i>Bye Bye Blues</i>	folder 5
<i>A Child Crying</i>	folder 6
<i>The Confidential Agent</i>	folder 7
<i>The Flower Case</i>	folder 8
<i>Gimlet</i>	folder 9
<i>Headlong Hall</i>	folder 10
<i>The Island</i>	folder 11
<i>It's Not the Game It Was</i>	folder 12
<i>The Last Black and White Midnight Movie</i>	folder 13
<i>The Magic Bathroom</i>	folder 14-15
<i>Menocchio</i> [various versions and note fragments]	box 10 folder 1-4
<i>Next Time I'll Sing To You</i>	folder 5

<i>Nimrod's Oak</i>	folder 6
<i>Pay As You Go</i>	folder 7
<i>The Pedagogue</i>	folder 8
<i>Poor Old Simon</i>	folder 9
<i>Random Moments in a May Garden</i>	folder 10
<i>Redevelopment</i>	folder 11
<i>A Suspension of Mercy</i>	box 11 folder 1
<i>The Three Musketeers</i> [Episodes 1-6]	folder 2-7
<i>Women Are So Unreasonable</i>	folder 8

Subseries D. Television Scripts

<i>The Avenue</i> [Episodes 1, 4, 7, 13]	folder 9-12
<i>The Beast in the Jungle</i>	box 12 folder 1
<i>Bloomers</i> [Episodes 1-6]	folder 2-7
<i>The Blue Moccasins</i>	folder 8
<i>The Borage Pigeon Affair</i>	folder 9
<i>The Captain's Doll</i>	box 13 folder 1
<i>Craven Arms</i>	folder 2
<i>Dennis</i>	folder 3
<i>The First Lady</i>	folder 4
<i>The Flower Case</i>	folder 5
<i>The Grass God</i>	folder 6
<i>Jung</i>	folder 7-8
<i>Monkey Nuts</i>	folder 9

<i>New Eve and Old Adam</i>	box 14 folder 1
<i>Nothing to Declare</i>	folder 2
<i>Plastic People</i>	folder 3-4
<i>Random Moments in a May Garden</i>	folder 5-6
<i>School for Love</i>	folder 7
<i>Third Person</i>	folder 8
<i>The Unconquered</i>	folder 9
<i>Watch Me I'm a Bird; or Jam Saturday</i>	folder 10

Subseries E. Film Scripts

<i>The Sailor's Return</i>	box 15 folder 1
<i>What Maisie Knew</i>	folder 2

Subseries F. Miscellaneous Scripts, Translations, Essays, Articles, and Theses

Isaac Newton [notes for an aborted BBC documentary]	folder 3
<i>Puppet Play</i> [holograph manuscript synopsis]	folder 4
Abschiedskanon [<i>Bye Bye Blues</i>]	folder 5
<i>Barrabas</i>	folder 6
<i>Cuerpos</i> [<i>Bodies</i>]	folder 7
<i>Epitaphe pour un Chien</i>	folder 8
<i>Hilaire Maconochie, In Memoriam</i>	folder 9
<i>Ein Kind Weint</i>	folder 10
<i>Ein Tag Beim Zahnarzt</i>	folder 11
<i>Les Voisins</i>	folder 12

James Saunders' short essays and articles	box 16 folder 1
James Saunders, Greek translation of <i>A Scent of Flowers</i>	folder 2
Eckhard Auberlen, "Die Nutzung des dramatischen Mediums in James Saunders' <i>Next Time I'll Sing to You</i> "	folder 3
Hans Fraeulin, "Das Theater des Schizophrenen"	folder 4
Hans Joachim Held, "Das Thema der Isolation in den Dramen von James Saunders"	folder 5
Tesi di Laurea, "Il Teatro Inglese Contemporaneo: James Saunders"	folder 6

Series II. Correspondence (Incoming)

Spiel, Hilde	box 17 folder 1
Regarding <i>The Girl in Melanie Klein</i>	folder 2
Lear, Edward	folder 3
1967-70	folder 4-9
1971-77	box 18 folder 1-7
1978-83	box 19
1984-92	box 20 folder 1-9

Series III. Correspondence (Outgoing)

1970-1973	box 21 folder 1
1974-1978	folder 2
1979-1983	folder 3
1984	folder 4
undated	folder 5

Series IV. Printed Material

Clippings, reviews

box 22 folder 1-6

Programs, handbills, and announcements, etc. worldwide in scope, 1960-1992

**box
23-24**