

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Sid Caesar Papers

YCAL MSS 1245



by Caderyn Owen Jones, Leigh Golden, and Michael Rush

October 2020

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: YCAL MSS 1245

CREATOR: Caesar, Sid, 1922-2014

TITLE: Sid Caesar papers

DATES: circa 1950-1969

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 25.33 linear feet (27 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The bulk of this collection consists of Sid Caesar's copies of scripts from his many television programs and appearances, including Your Show of Shows, Caesar's Hour, Sid Caesar Invites You, The Sid Caesar Show, and others. It also includes related correspondence, screenplays, subject files, and reference materials, as well as recordings of Your Show of Shows and other programs related to Caesar.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.caesar>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.caesar>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Karen Caesar, 2018, 2020.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Boxes 24-27 (audiovisual materials): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Conditions Governing Use

The Sid Caesar Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Sid Caesar Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection or revisions in arrangement and description.

Sid Caesar

Sid Caesar (1922-2014), American comic actor and writer.

Content Description

The bulk of this collection consists of Sid Caesar's copies of scripts from his many television programs and appearances, including *Your Show of Shows*, *Caesar's Hour*, *Sid Caesar Invites You*, *The Sid Caesar Show*, and others. It also includes related correspondence, screenplays, subject files, and reference materials, as well as recordings of *Your Show of Shows* and other programs related to Caesar.

Arrangement

Organized into two groupings: January 2018 acquisition; and March 2020 acquisition.

Collection Contents

January 2018 acquisition

This acquisition consists of Sid Caesar's copies of scripts from his many television programs and appearances, including *Your Show of Shows*, *Caesar's Hour*, *Sid Caesar Invites You*, *The Sid Caesar Show*, and others. It also includes related correspondence, screenplays, subject files, and reference materials.

Gift of Karen Caesar, 2018.

Arranged by program title in rough chronological order.

| | | |
|-------|--|-----------------|
| b. 1 | Your Show of Shows, scripts 1 through 36 Scripts 2, 3, 6, 11, 14, 15, and 22 through 28 are not present. | 1950–1951 |
| b. 2 | Your Show of Shows, scripts 43 through 78 Script 46 is not present. | 1951–1952 |
| b. 3 | Your Show of Shows, scripts 79 through 128 Scripts 85 through 91, 104, 111, 114, 115, 119, and 127 are not present. | 1952–1953 |
| b. 4 | Your Show of Shows, scripts 133 through 160 Scripts 135 through 139, 141, 142, 144, 148, 150, 151, 153, and 158 are not present. | 1953–1954 |
| b. 5 | Your Show of Shows episode running orders, cast lists, correspondence, and other papers | circa 1950-1954 |
| b. 6 | Caesar's Hour, scripts 9 through 70 Scripts 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 through 32, 35, 39 through 42, 47, 50, 51, 55, 60, and 62 are not present. | 1954–1956 |
| b. 7 | Caesar's Hour, scripts 72 through 88 Scripts 78 and 82 through 85 are not present. | 1956–1957 |
| b. 8 | Caesar's Hour correspondence and other papers This box contains correspondence and other papers, including a cast list, related to Caesar's Hour. | circa 1954-1957 |
| b. 9 | Sid Caesar Invites You, scripts 1 through 8 | circa 1958 |
| b. 10 | Sid Caesar Invites You, scripts 9 through 18 | circa 1958 |
| b. 11 | As Caesar Sees It, scripts 1 through 9 Also includes related correspondence. | circa 1962 |
| b. 12 | Sid Caesar Show, scripts 1 through 13 | circa 1963-1964 |
| b. 13 | Sid Caesar Show, scripts and other papers This box contains unnumbered scripts for the Sid Caesar Show, correspondence, running orders, and other papers. | circa 1963-1964 |
| b. 14 | Sid Caesar Show, scripts and other papers This box contains unnumbered scripts for the Sid Caesar Show, correspondence, running orders, and other papers. | circa 1963-1964 |

| | | |
|-------|---|-----------------|
| b. 15 | Caesar Presents, scripts 1 through 6 | |
| b. 16 | Caesar Presents, scripts 6 through 9 | |
| b. 17 | Caesar's On, script 6 This box contains forty-seven duplicate scripts for Caesar's On, 6: "The Anniversary Present." | |
| b. 18 | Caesar's On, script 11 This box contains thirty-seven duplicate scripts for Caesar's On, 11: "Maggi's Birthday Party." | |
| b. 19 | Scripts for special and appearances This box includes scripts for television episodes and specials featuring Sid Caesar, including The Ed Sullivan Show, The Andy Williams Show, and The Dean Martin Show. Also includes scripts, correspondence, photographs, and clippings related to club appearances in Las Vegas and elsewhere. | circa 1960-1966 |
| b. 20 | The Diplomat, scripts This box contains twenty-seven scripts for "The Diplomat" and related correspondence. | |
| b. 21 | Screenplays This box includes screenplays for "It's A Living" and "So These Are Our Times...?" and several untitled screenplays. | |
| b. 22 | Miscellaneous scripts This box contains various scripts for shows and sketches, most of them unnamed. Includes scripts for the sketches "The Underground Gourmet" and "The Wily Wilby." | |
| b. 23 | Files and reference material This box contains various files and reference material, including Sid Caesar's biography, information on animals and animation, and episode lists for Caesar's Hour and Your Show of Shows. | |

March 2020 acquisition

This acquisition consists of recordings of Your Show of Shows and other programs related to Sid Caesar.

Gift of Karen Caesar, 2020.

| | | |
|-------|--|-----------------|
| b. 24 | The Best of Your Show of Shows, #559 "Late TV Movies", Ziv International, 1" Edited Master <i>1 Videoreel</i> | circa 1985 |
| | Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. | |
| b. 24 | The Best of Your Show of Shows (Episode #62), Late T.V. Movies R/868262, Lormar Prod. <i>1 Videoreel</i> | circa 1985 |
| | Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. | |
| b. 24 | Best of Your Show of Shows, #560 "Life Begins at 7:45", Ziv International, 10/22/85, 1985 October 22 1" Edited Master <i>1 Videoreel</i> | |
| | Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. | |
| b. 25 | Ziv International Inc., "The Best of Your Show of Shows" (Film Xfer), Master Reel #50 <i>1 Videoreel</i> | circa 1985 |
| | Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. | |
| b. 25 | The Best of Your Show of Shows, Reel 31, Ziv Int, Film Xfer, 6/4/85 <i>1 Videoreel</i> | 1985 June 4 |
| | Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. | |
| b. 26 | Creative Light Entertainment, "Impact of Sid", Vol. 1 <i>1 Videocassette (Betacam)</i> | 2003 October 21 |
| | Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. | |
| b. 26 | Creative Light Entertainment, "Legend of Sid", Vol. 2 <i>1 Videocassette (Betacam)</i> | 2003 October 21 |
| | Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. | |
| b. 26 | Creative Light Entertainment, "Shining Stars", Vol. 3 <i>1 Videocassette (Betacam)</i> | 2003 October 21 |
| | Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. | |
| b. 26 | Sid Caesar Buried Treasures, Bonus Tape, "The Seventh Wail", "The Poker Game", 11/03/03 <i>1 Videocassette (Betacam)</i> | 2003 November 3 |
| | Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information. | |

b. 27 (Oversize) Show of Shows Opening
1 Film Reel (35mm)

undated

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Preferred Titles

Caesar's hour (Television program)

Your show of shows (Television program)

Subjects

Sketch comedy television programs

Television comedies

Variety shows (Television programs)

Genres / Formats

Audiovisual materials

Names

Caesar, Sid, 1922-2014