

# Guide to the Lynn Nottage Papers

JWJ MSS 382



by Elise Riley

February 2024

P. O. Box 208330  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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**CALL NUMBER:** JWJ MSS 382

**CREATOR:** Nottage, Lynn , author

**TITLE:** Lynn Nottage papers

**DATES:** 1942-2023

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 32.42 linear feet (61 boxes) + 1 broadside

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Lynn Nottage papers consist of correspondence, writings, production files, journals, family papers, printed material, photographs, electronic files, and other papers documenting Lynn Nottage's (Yale Drama 1989) personal and professional life.

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

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## 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.nottage>.

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](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.        box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Granary Books, Inc. on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, Theatre Guild Fund, Sinclair Lewis Fund, and the Adele Gutman Nathan Theatrical Collection Fund, 2023.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Boxes 13, 14, and 62 (research and production files): Restricted. Not to be consulted before January 1, 2034.

Box 55 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Box 56 (born digital): Restricted fragile. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Box 60 (financial, student and personal records): Restricted until 2080.

Email: A portion of email is restricted and not to be consulted before January 1, 2034.

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## Preferred Citation

Lynn Nottage Papers. James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## 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, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

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## Lynn Nottage (1964-)

Lynn Nottage (1964-) is an award-winning Black American playwright and screenwriter. She is the first woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Drama twice. Her plays, which have been produced in the United States and abroad, center the working-class and the under-represented. She has won two Obie awards, a Tony award, a MacArthur Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship, among many other honors.

Nottage was born in Brooklyn, New York. She was raised by her mother Ruby, a schoolteacher and principal, and her father Wallace, a child psychologist. Ruby and Wallace Nottage participated in local politics, activism, art, and community. Her parents were involved in projects including Harlem Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Freedom Schools during the Civil Rights Movement, the Brooklyn YWCA, the Martin Luther Commission, and the Coalitions for Black Parents. Nottage attended the Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and completed her undergraduate degree at Brown University in 1986, followed by her MFA in Drama at Yale University in 1989. She worked as a press officer at Amnesty International for four years before becoming a playwright full-time.

In high school Nottage wrote her first play, *The Dark Side of Verona*, which won her a spot in a writing workshop lead by Stephen Sondheim. Her first staged production, entitled *Rhinestones and Paste*, was put on at Yale University in 1988. Her next play, *Poof!*, was presented at the Actors Theatre of Louisville in 1993 during the Humana Festival of New American Plays. *Por'Knockers* premiered off-Broadway at the Vineyard Theatre in 1995. Nottage premiered two plays in 1996, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* at South Coast Repertory and *Mud, River, Stone* at The Acting Company.

During the 21st century, Nottage's plays reached wider audiences and she began winning grants and prestigious awards. Her works from this period included: *Las Meninas* (2002), *Intimate Apparel* (2003), *Fabulation, Or the Re-Education of Udine* (2004), *Ruined* (2007), *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* (2011), *Sweat* (2015), *Mlima's Tale* (2018), and *Floyd's* (later renamed, *Clyde's*, 2019).

The production of *Intimate Apparel* in 2003 led to the biggest shift in Nottage's career thus far. It was her first collaboration with director Kate Whoriskey, who would become a long-time collaborator. Whoriskey directed many of Nottage's plays including *Ruined* and *Sweat* for which Nottage won a Pulitzer Prize each.

She wrote the book for the stage production of *The Secret Life of Bees* in 2019. Nottage won a Tony for Best Book of a Musical for *MJ the Musical* in 2022.

In addition to playwriting, Nottage writes and produces for television, film, and opera. She teaches at Columbia University.

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## Scope and Contents

The Lynn Nottage papers includes correspondence, drafts, production binders, notebooks, family papers, print material, photographs, electronic files dating, and ephemera by or relating to Lynn Nottage's (Yale Drama 1989) personal and professional life. These papers document Nottage's career as a playwright and screenwriter, her creative and research processes, professional relationships with other playwrights and creators in the entertainment industry, as well as her personal life and family history. The bulk of the materials date from the 1980s to present.

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged in eight series: I. Correspondence, 1972-2022. II. Drafts, 1981-2023. III. Research and production files, 1979-2022. IV. Professional papers, 1972-2023. V. Family papers, 1942-2021. VI. Works by others, 1981-2022. VII. Audiovisual materials, 1968-2004. VIII. Computer media, 1997-2022.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1979–2022

0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

This series contains correspondence to, by, or related to Lynn Nottage.

Email: Restricted. A portion of email is not to be consulted before January 1, 2034.

Box 60 (financial, student and personal records): Restricted until 2080.

This series is arranged chronologically by the materials' date of creation.

b. 1	Correspondence pre-1990s	1979–1989
b. 1	Correspondence: outgoing	1983-1989, 2021
b. 2	<i>A... My Name is Still Alice</i> contracts and correspondence	1992–1993
b. 2	Personal correspondence	1992–2022
b. 2	Correspondence, Notable	1992–2022
b. 1	Correspondence: Business/Other	1993–2017
b. 1	Correspondence: Solicitations	1994–2017
b. 1	Correspondence regarding Awards/Honors	1994–2022
b. 2	Correspondence: small notes	1994–2022
b. 1	Correspondence: Yale University	2001–2005
b. 60 (Restricted)	Correspondence regarding <i>Ruined</i> (financial records): Restricted until 2039.	2004–2010
b. 1	Correspondence, general	2004–2017
b. 1	Correspondence regarding plays	2004–2022
b. 1	Correspondence: Columbia University	2009–2019
b. 1	Correspondence with Victor Bout for documentary	2012–2014
b. 1	Tenure letter, Columbia University	2018 March 28
	Email	
	Restricted: A portion of email is not to be consulted before January 1, 2034.	

**Series II: Drafts, 1981–2023***7.09 linear feet (17 boxes)*

This series contains drafts of plays, screenplays, and other works by Lynn Nottage. Some drafts include research and press related to that work.

Boxes 13-14: Restricted. Not to be consulted before January 1, 2034.

Materials in this series are listed alphabetically by title of work but maintain original physical arrangement.

b. 6	<i>The Belle of New Orleans</i> shooting script and <i>By the Way, Meet Vera Stark</i> draft	2011
b. 5	<i>Black Orpheus</i> draft	2017
b. 4	<i>Black Orpheus</i> book and lyrics draft	2020
b. 4	<i>Brooklyn After the Glow</i> drafts	2000
b. 5	<i>By the Way, Meet Vera Stark</i> rehearsal script	2008
b. 6	<i>By the Way, Meet Vera Stark</i> draft	2010–2011
b. 5	<i>By the Way, Meet Vera Stark</i> documentary binder	2012
b. 5	<i>By the Way, Meet Vera Stark</i> production binder script	2018
b. 5	<i>By the Way, Meet Vera Stark</i> draft	undated
b. 18	<i>Canteen Porch</i> early draft	undated
b. 6	<i>Clyde's</i> draft	2018
b. 6	<i>Floyd's</i> [ <i>Clyde's</i> ] rehearsal scripts	2019
b. 7	<i>Clyde's</i> draft	undated
b. 4	<i>Crumbs from the Table of Joy</i> and <i>Welcoming Gerte</i> drafts	1994–1996
b. 3	<i>Crumbs from the Table of Joy</i> draft	1994–2002
b. 3	<i>Crumbs from the Table of Joy</i> draft	1995
b. 3	<i>Crumbs from the Table of Joy</i> rehearsal script	1995–1996
b. 3	<i>Crumbs from the Table of Joy</i> script and publicity	1995–2006
b. 17	Autograph notes/ <i>Crumbs from the Table of Joy</i>	2018–2022
b. 18	<i>The Darker Side of Verona</i> script	undated
b. 18	Early writings by Nottage	undated
b. 18	Amazon Studios/ <i>Everlasting Yea!</i> draft notes	2019 May
b. 5	<i>Fabulation or, the Re-Education of Undine</i> script and publicity	2003–2019
b. 6	<i>Fabulation or, the Re-Education of Undine</i> rehearsal script	2018
b. 18	<i>Ferry Tales</i> drafts	2000

b. 19	High School Works	1981–1982
b. 7	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> script	2004
b. 7	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> drafts	2004–2019
b. 8	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> score and libretto	2016
b. 8	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> libretto	2017
b. 9	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> 12/14/2017 script and 11/16/2016 script	2016–2017
b. 8	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> score	2019 January
b. 8	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> workshop libretto	2019 January
b. 7	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> opera rehearsal script	2019
b. 7	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> draft and comment cards	undated
b. 17	<i>Invisible City</i> draft	2013
b. 18	<i>Maria Rodriguez and the Hare Krishnas</i> script	1995
b. 11	<i>MJ</i> draft	2018 June
b. 10	<i>MJ</i> draft and script changes	2018 October
b. 11	<i>MJ</i> draft	2019 January
b. 11	<i>MJ</i> draft	2019 January
b. 12	<i>MJ</i> draft	2019 September - November
b. 10	<i>MJ</i> script changes	2019–2022
b. 11	<i>MJ</i> rehearsal draft	2021 October
b. 7	<i>Mlima's Tale</i> draft	2015
b. 9	<i>Mud, River, Stone</i> draft	1995
b. 9	<i>Mud, River, Stone</i> draft	1996 May
b. 9	<i>Mud, River, Stone</i> draft, research, and theater information	1996
b. 9	<i>Mud, River, Stone</i> draft	1997 October
b. 9	<i>Mud, River, Stone</i> script	1997
b. 10	<i>One Night Stand</i> score	undated
b. 18	<i>Pilgrims</i> draft	undated
b. 10	<i>Poof!</i> drafts and press	1992–1993
b. 10	<i>Poof!</i> draft and press	1993–2000
b. 10	<i>Por'Knockers</i> drafts	1995

b. 18	<i>Rainbow Lounge</i> draft	1985
b. 19	<i>Rhinestones and Paste</i> drafts and press	1988–1989
b. 12	<i>Ruined</i> draft and notes	2007–2009
b. 12	<i>Ruined</i> drafts	2008 October - December
b. 19	<i>Ruined</i> research and rehearsal draft	2008
b. 19	Music - Lokua Kanza and Toyebi Te undated 2023-jwj-0032_033 1 CD-R 36891164 bytes (36.89 Megabytes.)	
b. 12	<i>Ruined</i> , Hindi adaptation	2019–2020
b. 14 (Restricted), 13 (Restricted)	Restricted materials 4 Folders 7 Folders (Box 13, 4 folders) (Box 14, 7 folders) Restricted: Not to be consulted before January 1, 2034.	
b. 17	<i>She's Gotta Have It</i> , episode 103 draft	2016 July
b. 18	<i>Side Streets</i> draft	1997–2000
b. 18	<i>Snapshot: a dramatic anthology</i> proofs	2002
b. 17	<i>Snapshot: a dramatic anthology</i>	undated
	Speeches	
b. 19	Commencement speeches	2008–2018
b. 19	Speeches (fragments)	2016–2018
b. 19	Speech draft	circa 2017
b. 19	Hansberry unveiling ceremony speech script	2022
b. 19	Draft of speech	undated
b. 17	<i>Sweat</i> draft	2014 October
b. 12	<i>Sweat</i> rehearsal draft	2015 May
b. 15	<i>Sweat</i> draft and research	2015 June
b. 15	<i>Sweat</i> rehearsal draft	2015 August
b. 12	<i>Sweat</i> draft	2016 July
b. 15	<i>Sweat</i> rehearsal draft	2016 September
b. 16	<i>Sweet Billy and the Zooloos</i> draft	2006 July
b. 16	<i>Sweet Billy and the Zooloos</i> draft	2006 July–2006 December
b. 17	<i>Sweet Billy and the Zooloos</i> draft	2008 April

b. 16	<i>Sweet Billy and the Zooloos</i> draft	2008
b. 16	<i>Sweet Billy and the Zooloos</i> music	undated
b. 16	Recordings from <i>Sweet Billy and the Zooloos</i> - "The Opening", "Sorry Papa", and "I Wanna Be Mean" undated 2023-jwj-0032_034 1 CD-R 146125100 bytes (146.13 Megabytes.)	
b. 18	<i>Southern Justice</i> , early manuscript	undated
b. 17	<i>Unchained Memories</i> draft	2007 July–2007 August
b. 18	<i>Waiting on an Angel</i> draft	undated
b. 18	Freedom Theatre / Anansi Project / <i>A Walk Through Time</i> script	1999–2002
b. 18	<i>Why'd Fergie Kill His In-Laws</i> script	1992
b. 19	Yale University and Brown University works	1986–1993
b. 18	Poster for Miss Dominicana competition draft	undated

**Series III: Research and production files, 1979–2022****3.55 linear feet (9 boxes)**

This series contains research files, production binders, and notebooks generated by Lynn Nottage during her creative process. Nottage incorporates historically accurate details, sometimes from her family's history, in her plays and relies on extensive research for authenticity. The production binders may include drafts and press related to the work.

Box 62: Restricted. Not to be consulted before January 1, 2034.

Materials in this series are arranged alphabetically by title of work.

b. 20	<i>Belle of New Orleans</i> and <i>By the Way, Meet Vera Stark</i> film production materials	2011
b. 20	<i>By the Way, Meet Vera Stark</i> storyboard and film agreement	2011
b. 20	<i>By the Way, Meet Vera Stark</i> research and publicity	2011–2014
b. 20	Clyde's production binders	2021
b. 28	<i>Crumbs from the Table of Joy</i> Costume / research notes	1998–2000
b. 25	Disney Imagineer files	undated
b. 21	<i>Fabulation or, the Re-Education of Undine</i> production binder	2004
b. 25	February research and speaking notes	2008–2022
b. 22	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> research and publicity	1987–2003
b. 23	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> research, draft, and publicity	2001–2004
b. 23	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> production binder	2003
b. 23	Draft of <i>Intimate Apparel</i> 2002-02-13 2023-jwj-0032_035 13.5_floppy_disk 1474560 bytes (1.47 Megabytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.)	
b. 22	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> production binder	2004
b. 23	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> research files (white box)	2004
b. 23	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> costumes (white box)	undated
b. 25	Journal pages	undated
b. 21	<i>Las Meninas</i> project file	1993–2010
b. 21	<i>Las Meninas</i> publicity, script, and research	1997–2001
b. 20	<i>Las Meninas</i> publicity and research	1997–2010
b. 22	<i>Las Meninas</i> production binder	2002
b. 22	<i>Mlima's Tale</i> production binder	2018
b. 22	<i>Mlima's Tale</i> production binder	undated

b. 23	<i>Mud, River, Stone</i> research	1996–2000
b. 24	New Dramatists, Composer-Librettist studio binder	2007 April
b. 26–27	Notebooks	2002–2022
b. 62 (Restricted)	Restricted materials Restricted: Not to be consulted before January 1, 2034.	
b. 24	<i>One More River to Cross</i> narratives	2007
b. 23	<i>One More River to Cross</i> research: ads, auctions/runaway bills of sale	2007
b. 23	<i>One More River to Cross</i> research	2007
b. 24	<i>One More River to Cross</i> songs	2007
b. 27	Research: Angelique Kidjo	undated
b. 25	Research clippings	1979–2019
b. 27	Research files - Panama Canal	2001–2004
b. 27	Research files	undated
b. 25	San Bernadisa project file	1985–1989
b. 25	<i>Side Streets</i> project file	1999–2003
b. 23	<i>Sweat</i> production binder	2018 January
b. 24	United States Embassy files	2006–2011

**Series IV: Professional papers, 1972–2023***9.92 linear feet (17 boxes)*

This series contains photographs, ephemera, awards, and publicity related to Lynn Nottage's professional career. Digital photographs can be found in the Computer Media series.

Box 60 (financial, student and personal records): Restricted until 2080.

Materials in this series maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 29	Sundance Film Festival photographs	undated
b. 29	Pacific Playwrights Festival photographs	undated
b. 29	<i>Crumbs from the Table of Joy</i> , Arizona photographs	undated
b. 29	Women in Theatre photographs	undated
b. 29	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> , Viola Davis/Russel Hornsby photographs	undated
b. 29	Play, c.1992 photographs	1992 June
b. 29	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> , South Coast Rep photographs	undated
b. 29	New York State Senate, Montgomery photographs	2009
b. 29	Tony Gerber photographs	undated
b. 29	Japan trip photographs	1998
b. 29	Party, undated photographs	undated
b. 29	Group photos	1997–2016
b. 29	Polaroids	undated
b. 29	Photographs, Dittmar	2017
b. 29	Cinque Gallery	undated
b. 29	Venice / <i>Side Streets</i>	1998
b. 29	<i>Fabulation or, the Re-Education of Undine</i> , 2004 Photograph	2004
b. 29	November 1994 Photographs	1994 November
b. 29	Irene Kubota Neves Photographs	undated
b. 29	Photographs, Long Island University	2010
b. 29	Charles McGregor Photograph	undated
b. 29	Cast and production photographs	2007-2021, undated
b. 29	<i>Clyde's</i> casting and ephemera	2021–2022
b. 29	Speech with excerpts from <i>Clyde's</i>	undated
b. 29	<i>Crumbs from the Table of Joy</i> publicity	1995–2000

b. 30	<i>Crumbs from the Table of Joy</i> playbills	1995–2010
b. 30	<i>Mlima's Tale</i> publicity	2014–2018
b. 30	Mlima's Tale - music by Justin Hicks, opening night at The Public Theater 2018-04-15 2023-jwj-0032_036 1 CD-R 23284844 bytes (23.28 Megabytes.)	
b. 30	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> press and script	2003–2004
b. 30	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> press and ephemera	2002–2022
b. 30	Casting	1995–2016
b. 31	Casting	1995–2016
b. 31	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> ephemera	2002–2022
b. 31	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> production notes and awards	2002–2018
b. 31	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> American Academy of Arts and Letters	2018
b. 31	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> press binder by Nottage	2002–2005
b. 32	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> press	2002–2010
b. 32	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> press, playbills, and awards	2004–2006
b. 32	<i>Intimate Apparel</i> press	2003–2006
b. 32	<i>Mud, River, Stone</i> press and playbills	1996–2000
b. 33	<i>Mud, River, Stone</i> publicity	1996–1997
b. 33	<i>Poof!</i> Press, Humana Festival	1993
b. 33	<i>Por'Knockers</i> press	1995–2003
b. 33	<i>Poof!</i> press and director's breakdown	1992–2002
b. 33	<i>Ruined</i> press	2008–2011
b. 60 (Restricted)	<i>Sweat</i> tour packet, script, and playbill Korean; English (financial records) Restricted until 2039. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	2018–2021
b. 34	<i>Sweat</i> playbills and awards	2014–2019
b. 34	<i>Ruined</i> photos, Tony Gerber [some exhibited]	undated
b. 34	<i>Ruined</i> ephemera, clippings, reviews, press packets	2008–2016
b. 34	Voice and Vision / fundraising	2001
b. 34	Voice and Vision	1996–2004
b. 35	Illinois State University, guest artist visit	2014 November

b. 35	Montblanc 24 Hour Plays	2011 November
b. 35	Nottage projects, ephemera and notes, mentee plays, workshops, talks	1994–2022
b. 35	<i>This is Reading</i>	2016
b. 35	Nottage cards	2017
b. 35	Home Box Office [HBO] New Writers Project Workshop	1994 July
b. 35	Antigone Project	2003–2004
b. 35	McCarter Theatre Center	2014
b. 35	Project packets / folders	1998–2012
b. 35	Sweat press	2017–2022
b. 35	Ephemera and notes, small Nottage plays	2002–2022
b. 35	<i>Brave New World</i> press	2002
b. 35	<i>A... My Name is Still Alice</i> press	1992
b. 35	Theatre 1989–1995	1989–1995
b. 36	<i>Women in the Kitchen</i> program, Nottage's first NYC production	1995
b. 36	Brown Professor, Nottage Quote in The Brown Daily Herald	1986 May 8
b. 60 (Restricted)	Yale final exam (student records) Restricted until 2062. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	1987
b. 60 (Restricted)	Yale School of Drama (student records) Restricted until 2078. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	2001–2003
b. 36	Van Lier Playwriting Fellowship	1993
b. 36	Marion McClinton recommendation letter	undated
b. 60 (Restricted)	Yale University commencement and orientation (student records) Restricted until 2080. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	1987–2005
b. 36	Resumes / curriculum vitae	2001–2004
b. 36	Awards	1994–2022
b. 36	Awards	2005–2019
b. 60 (Restricted)	Music score / end term report Student records: Restricted. Not to be consulted before 2055.	1980 January 7
b. 60 (Restricted)	Classroom self-evaluation Student records: Restricted. Not to be consulted before 2055.	circa 1980

b. 36	Amnesty International Book on Women and Human Rights	1990
b. 36	Awards	1999–2021
b. 37	Awards	2000–2022
b. 37	American Academy of Arts and Sciences	2017
b. 37	American Academy of Arts and Letters	2016–2018
b. 37	MacArthur Award	2007
b. 37	Tony Awards	2017–2022
b. 37	Award Certificates	2003–2017
b. 38	Pulitzer Prizes	2009–2017
b. 38	Tony Gerber Awards	2017
b. 38	<i>Rent</i> ticket, first production	1996 February 13
b. 38	Honorary degrees	2010–2018
b. 38	Ephemera without Nottage mention	1986–2022
b. 39	<i>Glory Days</i> - One Night Only playbill	2008
b. 39	Miniature Set Dims	undated
b. 39	Business Cards	undated
b. 39	<i>QM - I Think I Call Her QM</i>	1997
b. 39	Publicity / reviews	1995–1998
b. 39	Publicity / reviews	1988–2003
b. 39	Publicity / reviews	1988–1999
b. 39	Mandela	1990–2001
b. 39	Press I	1985–2022
b. 40	Press I	1985–2022
b. 40	Ephemera	1984–2008
b. 40	American Theatre Critics/Steinberg New Play Award	2004
b. 40	New Yorkers for Culture & Arts Artist Advocate Award	2022
b. 40	The PEN/Laura Pels Foundation Award for an American Playwright in Mid-Career	2004 May 24
b. 40	Name tags and press passes	2016–2020
b. 40	<i>By the Way, Meet Vera Stark</i> paperweight	undated
b. 41	Early ephemera	1987–2007

b. 41	Clippings and press	2004–2009
b. 41	Print Ephemera and Projects (recent)	2020–2023
b. 41	Stockton University speech	2022 October
b. 42	Photography contact sheet	undated
b. 42	Photographs	undated
Serials featuring Lynn Nottage		
b. 43	<i>American Theatre</i>	2004–2015
b. 43	<i>Ebony</i>	1997–2009
b. 43	<i>Elle</i>	2004–2018
b. 43	<i>Entertainment Weekly</i>	2005–2009
b. 43	<i>Essence</i>	1988–2011
b. 44	<i>New Dramatists</i>	2003–2006
b. 44	<i>New York Magazine</i>	2004–2019
b. 44	<i>The New York Times Style Magazine</i>	2019–2021
b. 44	<i>The New Yorker</i>	2004–2017
b. 44	General	1972–2021
b. 41	General	1972–2021
b. 45	<i>Variety</i>	1998–2022
b. 45	<i>The Village Voice</i>	2011–2017
b. 54	New York State Senate and New York City Council proclamations	2017
b. 54	Posters for <i>Intimate Apparel</i> and <i>Las Meninas</i> , University of Massachusetts Lowell Common Text Program, Rhinestones and Paste, and Ruined	2002–2009, undated
b. 54	Posters	2006–2009
b. 54	Posters for <i>Ruined</i> , <i>Crumbs from the Table of Joy</i> , <i>Mud, River, Stone</i> , <i>Sweat</i> , <i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>	2006–2019
b. 54	The Council of the City of New York proclamation	2009 August 11
b. 54	Posters for <i>Sweat</i> and <i>Intimate Apparel</i>	2008–2016
b. 61 (Broadside)	Humana Festival for New American Plays Poster	2002

**Series V: Family papers, 1942–2021****3.34 linear feet (8 boxes)**

Ruby and Wallace Nottage were the parents of playwright Lynn Nottage--they were significant figures in the communities in which Nottage came of age. Their political, artistic, and educational activism had an early influence on Nottage's own worldviews.

Ruby Nottage, after three decades of service in public schools, was elected Democratic District Leader of the 57th Assembly District. She also served on the Martin Luther King Commission, the board of the Brooklyn YMCA, and the Community Advisory Board for Medgar Evers College.

Wallace Nottage was a child psychologist, who later became director of Youth House and its Short Term Adolescent Resident Training program. As a former Harlem gang member who was expelled from high school, he became a powerful and relatable force for community education. Mr. Nottage was also notably involved with Kenneth Clark's HarYou program.

Both parents were involved in the Coalition for Black Parents and other grassroots educational initiatives that stemmed from the Civil Rights Movement.

The Nottages were friends with a wide range of people, especially artists. Their friend circle included Norman Lewis, Ernest Crichlow, and Romare Bearden, all of whom are represented in the Nottage's art collection. Part of this art collection was auctioned at Sotheby's and displayed at the Brooklyn YMCA. The Nottages' friends also included Richard Trent--the first president of Medgar Evers College--whose inscribed photo the Nottages kept; and actress/activist Vinnie Burrows.

This series contains correspondence, records, photographs, and ephemera related to Lynn Nottage's family members, most notably her parents, Ruby and Wallace Nottage, and her grandmother, Dorothy Nottage. Also included is a personal collection of playbills compiled by Lynn Nottage and her mother-in-law, Edith Gerber.

Materials in this series are arranged alphabetically by folder title.

b. 46	Autograph notes and miscellaneous	1995
b. 46	Dorothy Nottage certificate - National Council of Senior Citizens, inc.	1981
	<p>The Edith Gerber and Gerber/Nottage collection of playbills</p> <p>Lynn Nottage, her husband Tony Gerber, and her mother-in-law, Edith Gerber assembled this collection of playbills from Broadway productions dating back to 1942.</p> <p>Notably present in this collection are playbills for works by playwrights including Eugene O'Neill, Jean Cocteau, William Carlos Williams, Albert Camus, Anton Chekhov, and Tennessee Williams. Productions span the gamut, from well-known productions such as <i>Rent</i>, <i>Guys and Dolls</i>, <i>Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf</i>, <i>H.M.S. Pinafore</i>, to smaller local productions by organizations like the Dramatic Workshop of the New School.</p> <p>Many playbills have been inscribed with the date of attendance by Edith Gerber. Of particular interest are earlier works like <i>Othello</i> from the Sam S. Shubert Theatre (November 1943), as well as a performance by Marian Anderson at Brooklyn Academy of Music (1959). There are also several playbills from the 1990s, including productions at Yale University and smaller venues in New York City and Brooklyn.</p> <p>Materials maintain order found at time of acquisition.</p>	
b. 47	Programs and playbills	1942–2009

## The Edith Gerber and Gerber/Nottage collection of playbills (continued)

b. 48	Programs and playbills	1942–2009
b. 49	Programs and playbills	1942–2009
b. 50	Playbill cards	2006
b. 51	Programs and playbills	1942–2009
b. 52	Programs and playbills	1942–2009
b. 53	Programs and playbills	1942–2009
b. 46	Family files	1939–1997
b. 46	Family files	1953–2011
b. 46	Family files	1961–2007
b. 46	Family files, clippings, and ephemera	1963–2021
b. 46	Nottage family portraits	1997–2021
b. 46	Richard and Cynthia to Wally and Ruby, photograph	1967
b. 46	Wedding invitation	1994
b. 46	Wedding--Nottage and Gerber family	1994–2003

**Series VI: Works by others, 1981–2022***1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)*

This series contains works by others, primarily printed typescripts of play drafts from others in Lynn Nottage's playwriting community. Of particular note in this series are works by Spike Lee, including a 1984 draft of *She's Gotta Have It*, a copy of the holograph screenplay for Lee's first film, as well as a thirty-page photocopied typescript for *Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads* (1981), a short film proposed for Lee's thesis project at New York University.

Also included is an early work by Kenneth Lonergan, whose Young Playwrights Festival contribution, *By Far, the Heaviest Thing of All Time*, was written when he was a teenager. Other writers whose works are included are Ayad Akhtar, Annie Baker, David Lindsay-Abaire, Frowin Paul Nyoni, Herman Wouk, Jim Lewis and Bill T. Jones, John Guare, Jonathan Lethem, Kia Corthron, Kristoffer Diaz, Lars von Trier, Lee Breuer, Martin McDonagh, Naomi Iizuka, Ruby Aiyo Gerber, Tony Gerber, Stew Rodewald, Jessica Blank, April Yvette Thompson, Lonnie Carter, Loy Arcenas, Marshall Brickman, and Rick Elice. Some materials are inscribed to Nottage, or were otherwise retained because of Nottage's relationship with the playwright.

Box 60 (financial, student and personal records): Restricted until 2080.

Materials in this series maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 57	<i>Rabbit Hole</i> by David Lindsay-Abaire	2006
b. 57	<i>Fela!</i> By Jim Lewis and Bill T. Jones	undated
b. 57	<i>A Case for the Existence of Gods</i> by Samuel D. Hunter	undated
b. 57	<i>Corsicana</i> by Will Arbery	2022 June 9
b. 57	<i>The Vagrant Trilogy</i> by Jonathan Mills	2022 January
b. 57	<i>Fat Ham</i> by James Ijames	2022 April
b. 57	Naked Rights plays	1991
b. 57	TG [Tony Gerber] speech draft	1997
b. 57	<i>Building the Master's House</i> script	undated
b. 57	<i>Mabour Mines: an Epidog</i>	1996
b. 57	<i>The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity</i> scripts	2010
b. 58	First draft photocopy, <i>She's Gotta Have It</i> by Spike Lee	1984
b. 58	<i>A Free Man of Color</i> by John Guare script	2010
b. 58	<i>The Invisible Hand</i> by Ayad Akhtar draft	2014
b. 58	<i>The Romance of Magno Rubio</i> by Lonnie Carter	2003
b. 58	<i>Manderlay</i> by Jonathan Sydenham draft	2004
b. 58	<i>36 Views</i> by Naomi Iizuka draft	2000
b. 58	<i>Jersey Boys</i> draft	2005
b. 58	<i>The Aliens</i> by Annie Baker	undated

b. 58	<i>A Vigil at My Mother's Bedside</i> by Frown Paul Nyoni	undated
b. 59	<i>Liberty City</i> by Jessica Blank and April Yvette Thompson	2005
b. 59	<i>Moot the Messenger</i> by Kia Corthron	2004
b. 59	<i>The Caine Muting Court-Martial</i> by Herman Wonk	undated
b. 59	<i>The Lieutenant of Inishmore</i> by Martin McDonagh rehearsal script	2006
b. 59	Young Playwrights Festival contact sheet and <i>By Far, the Heaviest Thing of All Time</i> by Kenneth Lonergan	1982
b. 59	<i>Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: we cut heads</i> script by Spike Lee Original resume removed to folder titled: Spike Lee resume.	1981
b. 60 (Restricted)	Spike Lee resume (personal records): Restricted until 2067.	1981
b. 59	<i>Speak, Hoyt-Schermerhorn</i> by Jonathan Lethem	2004
b. 59	<i>Passing Strange</i> master script	2008

**Series VII: Audiovisual materials, 1968–2004***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

This series contains audiovisual material relating to Lynn Nottage's life and work.

Box 55 (audiovisual material): Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Materials in this series maintain order found at time of acquisition.

b. 55	Little Lynn's Birthday <i>1 Videocassette (VHS)</i>  Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1968
b. 55	Refugee Interviews - Kampala Tape 2 of 4 <i>1 Videocassette (VHS)</i>  Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	2004 June 24
b. 55	Women in Theatre III <i>1 Videocassette (VHS)</i>  Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	2004 December 17
b. 55	First Day of School <i>1 Audiocassette</i>  Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 55	Lynn Nottage - Voice Tape <i>1 Audiotape Reel</i>  Audiovisual material: Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated

**Series VIII: Computer media, 1997–2022***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

This series contains digital materials relating to Lynn Nottage's life and work, including email correspondence and photographs.

Email correspondence can be found in the Correspondence series.

Box 56 (born digital): Restricted fragile. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 56

b. 56	Email 2023-jwj-0032_001 <i>1 External Hard Drive 17172652367 bytes (17.17 Gigabytes)</i>
b. 56	Drafts, photographs, press, and email 2023-jwj-0032_002 <i>1 External Hard Drive 60565219753 bytes (60.57 Gigabytes.)</i>
b. 56	Photographs - Montgomery 3/31/09 2023-jwj-0032_003 <i>1 CD-R 21806621 bytes (21.81 Megabytes.)</i>
b. 56	Songs From Ruined 11/11/09 2023-jwj-0032_004 <i>1 CD-R 285274124 bytes (285.27 Megabytes.)</i>
b. 56	Songs From Ruined Audio 11/11/09 2023-jwj-0032_005 <i>1 CD-R 285274124 bytes (285.27 Megabytes.)</i>
b. 56	Moulin Rouge music undated 2023-jwj-0032_006 <i>1 CD-R 739932188 bytes (739.93 Megabytes)</i>
b. 56	Ruined auditions (1 of 2) 2010-04-19 2023-jwj-0032_007 <i>1 DVD-R 2637887654 bytes (2.64 Gigabytes.)</i>
b. 56	Ruined auditions (2 of 2) 2010-04 2023-jwj-0032_008 <i>1 DVD-R 2465410968 bytes (2.46 Gigabytes.)</i>
b. 56	Video clips for The Belle of New Orleans 2011-06-10 2023-jwj-0032_009 <i>1 DVD-R 313559040 bytes (313.56 Megabytes.)</i>
b. 56	Ruined production photos and press 2008-11-08 to 2008-12-14 2023-jwj-0032_010 <i>1 DVD-R 3200761015 bytes (3.20 Gigabytes.)</i>
b. 56	Sweat - songs that inspired the play 2016-01 2023-jwj-0032_011 <i>1 CD-R 821680652 bytes (821.68 Megabytes)</i>
b. 56	Photographs - Intimate Apparel at Notre Dame FTT [Film, Television, and Theatre] 2013-06-05 2023-jwj-0032_012 <i>1 DVD-R 2185849776 bytes (2.19 Megabytes)</i>

b. 56	Ruined - Opening Night Manhattan Theatre Club, Orchestre Baka Gbine and Gati Bongon (music that inspired the play) 2009-02-10 2023-jwj-0032_013 1 CD-R 835985516 bytes (835.99 Megabytes.)
b. 56	Second Stage Theatre Film: Time Warner Commissioning Program 2005-01-17 2023-jwj-0032_014 1 DVD-R 185264128 bytes (185.26 Megabytes.)
b. 56	Ruined - "Mondo Soukous" a celebration CD dance music from Zaire (DRC) from opening night at Goodman Theatre Chicago 2008-11-17 2023-jwj-0032_015 1 CD-R 721513676 bytes (721.51 Megabytes)
b. 56	Ruined rehearsal recordings undated 2023-jwj-0032_016 1 CD-RW 340096892 bytes (340.10 Megabytes)
b. 56	Reading footage from Doug Graybill 6/11/2013 2023-jwj-0032_017 1 DVD-R 232902656 bytes (232.90 Megabytes)
b. 56	Recording of Fabulation or the Re-Education of Undine (1 of 2) undated 2023-jwj-0032_018 1 DVD-R 624785324 bytes (624.79 Megabytes)
b. 56	Recording of Fabulation or the Re-Education of Undine (2 of 2) undated 2023-jwj-0032_019 1 DVD-R 552778844 bytes (552.78 Megabytes)
b. 56	Works by others - drafts of plays, Serbian Days 2005-2006 2023-jwj-0032_020 1 CD-R 1328640 bytes (1.33 Megabytes.)
b. 56	Research - African American history and formerly enslaved narratives/ interviews 2003 2023-jwj-0032_021 1 CD-R 442895712 bytes (442.9 Megabytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.)
b. 56	Music 2006-2010 2023-jwj-0032_022 1 CD-R 79579130 bytes (79.58 Megabytes)
b. 56	Video - Kenya, The Village of Women from TV5Monde undated french 2023-jwj-0032_023 1 CD-R 1851748352 bytes (1.85 Gigabytes.)
b. 56	Kristen / Bubbly Black Girl undated 2023-jwj-0032_024 1 CD-RW 39562940 bytes (39.56 Megabytes.)
b. 56	Lynn Nottage website files 2006 2023-jwj-0032_025 1 CD-R 39562940 bytes (39.56 Megabytes.)
b. 56	Ruined reviews and features 2009 2023-jwj-0032_026 1 CD-R 7152978 bytes (7.15 Megabytes.)

b. 56	The History Makers interview 2005-12-05 2023-jwj-0032_027 <i>1 DVD-R 2678206464 bytes (2.68 Gigabytes)</i>
b. 56	Recording of New York Theatre Critics Award 2004 2023-jwj-0032_028 <i>1 CD-R 218093948 bytes (218.09 Megabytes.)</i>
b. 56	Recording of New York Theatre Critics Award 2004 2023-jwj-0032_029 <i>1 CD-R 218093948 bytes (218.09 Megabytes.)</i>
b. 56	Ruined press kit 2009 2023-jwj-0032_030 <i>1 CD-R 45612001 bytes (45.61 Megabytes.)</i>
b. 56	Drafts of Crumbs at the Table of Joy, Maria Rodriguez and the Hare Krishnas, Por' Knockers, and more 1995 2023-jwj-0032_031 <i>1 3.5_floppy_disk 1474560 bytes (1.47 Megabytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.)</i>
b. 56	Side Streets draft 4.1 1997-07-14 2023-jwj-0032_032 <i>1 3.5_floppy_disk 1474560 bytes (1.47 Megabytes. This reflects the size of the carrier media, but may not accurately reflect the extent of digital files available for research.)</i>

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## 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.

### Subjects

Actors -- United States  
Actresses -- United States  
African American dramatists  
African Americans -- Drama  
African Americans in the motion picture industry  
African American women  
American drama -- 21st century  
HARYOU (Organization)  
Pulitzer Prizes  
Theater -- Production and direction  
Theater -- Reviews  
Theatrical posters, American  
Yale University. Alumni

### Occupations

African American civil rights workers -- New York (State) -- New York  
African American civil rights workers -- United States -- 20th Century  
Dramatists, American -- 21st century  
Playwrights  
Screenwriters -- United States -- 20th Century

### Geographic Names

Harlem (New York, N.Y.)

### Names

Nottage, Lynn