

Guide to the Richard Pryor Collection

JWJ MSS 179



by Molly Wheeler

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: JWJ MSS 179

CREATOR: Pryor, Richard, 1940-2005

TITLE: Richard Pryor collection

DATES: 1971-1991

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.84 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection contains film scripts, promotional photographs taken on film sets, press kits, and a storyboard relating to the acting career of Richard Pryor. The collection spans 1971 to 1991.

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

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.pryor>.

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
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Walter Reuben, Inc. on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2015.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Access

The Richard Pryor Collection 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.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Richard Pryor Collection. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Biographical / Historical

Richard Pryor (1940-2005), American stand-up comedian, social critic, and actor.

Scope and Contents

The collection contains film scripts, promotional photographs taken on film sets, press kits, and a storyboard relating to the acting career of Richard Pryor. The collection spans 1971 to 1991.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into four series: Scripts, Photographs, Press Kits, and Storyboard.

Collection Contents

Series I: Scripts, 1971-1983

b. 1, f. 1	The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings	1975 June 17
b. 1, f. 2	Brewster's Millions, first draft	1983 March
b. 1, f. 3	Family Dream, first draft	1979 June 29
b. 1, f. 4	Family Dream, final draft	1979 September 21
b. 1, f. 5	Greased Lightning, revised draft Includes staff and crew list	1979 June 30- September 1
b. 1, f. 6	Lady Sings the Blues, final shooting script	1971 November 22
b. 2, f. 7	Some Kind of Hero, revised draft Includes shooting schedule	1971 April 10
b. 2, f. 8	Uptown Saturday Night, revised final draft	1973 September 13
b. 2, f. 9	Which Way is Up, revised final draft	1977 January 10

Series II: Photographs, 1976–1988

b. 2, f. 10	The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings, seven black and white photographs	1976
b. 2, f. 11	Blue Collar, three black and white photographs	undated
b. 2, f. 12	Bustin' Loose, eight color photographs	1981
b. 2, f. 13	Car Wash, one black and white photograph	undated
b. 2, f. 14	California Suite, two black and white photographs	1978
b. 2, f. 15	The Comedy Store 15th Year Class Reunion, one black and white photograph	1988 September 2
b. 2, f. 16	Greased Lightning, two black and white photographs	undated
b. 2, f. 17	The Mack, four color photographs	undated
b. 2, f. 18	Richard Pryor: Here and Now, two color photographs	1983
b. 2, f. 19	Silver Streak, one black and white photograph	1976
b. 2, f. 20	Superman III, two black and white photographs	1983
b. 2, f. 21	Wattstax, one black and white photograph	1973

Series III: Press kits, 1979–1991

b. 2, f. 22	Another You Includes six black and white photographs	1991
b. 2, f. 23	Critical Condition Includes twelve black and white photographs	1987
b. 2, f. 24	Harlem Nights Includes nine black and white photographs	1989
b. 2, f. 25	Live on the Sunset Strip Includes three black and white photographs and two color posters	1982
b. 2, f. 26	Richard Pryor: Live in Concert Five black and white photographs	1979
b. 2, f. 27	Some Kind of Hero Includes seven black and white photographs	1982

Series IV: Storyboard, 1986

b. 2, f. 28

Jo Jo Dancer, Your Life is Calling

1986

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 -- Archives
African American actors -- Archives
Comedians -- United States -- Archives

Genres / Formats

Photographic prints
Screenplays -- United States -- 20th Century
Scripts (Motion pictures) -- United States --
20th Century

Occupations

Actors -- United States -- 20th Century
Comedians -- United States -- 20th Century

Names

Pryor, Richard, 1940-2005