

University of Victoria Special Collections and University Archives

Finding Aid - Allen Bell fonds (SC036)

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University of Victoria Special Collections and University Archives
Special Collections and University Archives

University of Victoria
PO Box 1800 STN CSC

Victoria
BC

Canada
V8W 3H5

Telephone: 250-721-8257

Fax: 250-721-8215

Email: archives@uvic.ca

<https://www.uvic.ca/library/locations/home/archives/>

<https://uvic2.coppul.archivematica.org//index.php/allen-bell-fonds>

Allen Bell fonds

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Summary information

Repository: University of Victoria Special Collections and University Archives

Title: Allen Bell fonds

ID: SC036

Date: 2009 (date of creation)

Date: 1996 (date of creation)

Date: 1985 - 1995 (date of creation)

Physical description: 30 cm of textual records

Note [generalNote]: Atom Egoyan has given his personal papers to the Film Reference Library, a division of the Toronto International Festival group.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Allen Bell was born in Edmonton Alberta. He taught in the English Departments of the University of Saskatoon, the University of British Columbia, and Selkirk College. He has written 3 novels and 4 poetry manuscripts. Since 1985 he has worked with Atom Egoyan on the screenplays of most of the director's feature films, including the 1997 Cannes winner, *The Sweet Hereafter*. He currently resides in Victoria, B.C.

Scope and content

The fonds consists of typescripts of an unpublished novel "The Harmless Snake"; 3 unpublished books of poetry: "The Simon Poems", "Thy Harry's Company", "A Motley to the View"; typescript copies of five Egoyan screenplays (reworked by Bell) including: "Family Viewing" (1987) in 3 drafts; "Speaking Parts" (1989) in 5 drafts; *The Adjuster* (1991) 1 draft, "Exotica" (1995) 1 draft (not reworked by Bell) and "The Sweet Hereafter" (1997) in 3 drafts; some additional holograph notes and a notebook regarding the scripts and correspondence from Atom Egoyan to Bell 1985-1995 regarding the films. Additionally, there is correspondence from Irving Layton and others.

Notes

Title notes

Restrictions on access

Poetry mss. and novel ms. by Mr. Bell to be used only with Mr. Bell's permission. Unrestricted access to copies of the screenplays, but photocopies of screenplays subject to Mr. Bell's approval.

Finding aids

Inventory available.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Description identifier:** allen-bell-fonds-2

Access points

- Egoyan, Atom, 1960- (subject)
- Layton, Irving, 1912-2006 (subject)
- Adjuster (Motion picture) (subject)
- Exotica (Motion picture) (subject)
- Family viewing (Motion picture) (subject)
- Literature (subject)
- Motion picture plays (subject)
- Motion pictures (subject)
- Screenwriters (subject)
- Speaking parts (Motion picture) (subject)
- Sweet Hereafter (Motion picture) (subject)

Collection holdings

Series: SC036-1997-163 - Typescripts

Title: Typescripts

ID: SC036-1997-163

Date: 1985-1995 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The accrual consists of typescripts of an unpublished novel "The Harmless Snake"; 3 unpublished books of poetry: "The Simon Poems", "Thy Harry's Company", "A Motley to the View"; typescript copies of five Egoyan screenplays (reworked by Bell) including: "Family Viewing" (1987) in 3 drafts; "Speaking Parts" (1989) in 5 drafts; The Adjuster (1991) 1 draft, "Exotica" (1995) 1 draft (not reworked by Bell); some additional holograph notes and a notebook regarding the scripts and correspondence from Atom Egoyan to Bell 1985 - 1995 regarding the films. Additionally, there is correspondence from Irving Layton and others.

Physical description: 2 docs, 1 box.

Note [generalNote]:

Photocopies of this and other material are available.

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: SC036-1997-163-1 - "Family Viewing"

Title: "Family Viewing"

ID: SC036-1997-163-1

Date: 1987 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: SC036-1997-163-1-1.1 - Photocopy of typed script

Title: Photocopy of typed script

ID: SC036-1997-163-1-1.1

Date: 1985 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Photocopy of typed script in beige paper covers in plastic binding titled: "'Family Viewing" by Atom Egoyan copyright 1985". "First Draft" on title page. Some revision by Atom Egoyan, and

extensive holographic revision by Allen Bell in photocopy, and ink; extensive additional work by Bell on structure, theme and dialogue.

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1997-163-1-1.2 - Photocopy of typed script

Title: Photocopy of typed script

ID: SC036-1997-163-1-1.2

Scope and content:

Photocopy of typed script in beige paper covers in plastic binding -- "Second Draft" on title page. Text revisions and extensive work by Bell on theme, structure and dialogue; enclosure of 2 additional pages of unbound work.

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1997-163-1-1.3 - Photocopy of typed script

Title: Photocopy of typed script

ID: SC036-1997-163-1-1.3

Scope and content:

Photocopy of typed script in yellow paper covers held with metal fasteners -- "Third Draft" on title page. Some revisions in pencil written over photocopy.

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: SC036-1997-163-2 - "Speaking Parts"

Title: "Speaking Parts"

ID: SC036-1997-163-2

Date: 1989 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: SC036-1997-163-2-2.1 - Photocopy of typed script

Title: Photocopy of typed script

ID: SC036-1997-163-2-2.1

Date: 1988 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Photocopy of typed script in beige paper covers with plastic binding titled: ""Speaking Parts" a film by Atom Egoyan copyright 1988". "First Draft" on title page. Extensive holograph text revision and additional work by Allen Bell in black ink over the photocopy.

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1997-163-2-2.2 - Photocopy of typed script

Title: Photocopy of typed script

ID: SC036-1997-163-2-2.2

Scope and content:

Photocopy of typed script in beige paper covers with plastic binding -- "First Draft" on title page. Extensive text revision and additional work by Allen Bell in black ink, xeroxed on draft-- differs substantially from 2/1 entry.

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1997-163-2-2.3 - Photocopy of typed script

Title: Photocopy of typed script

ID: SC036-1997-163-2-2.3

Scope and content:

Photocopy of typed script in beige paper covers with plastic binding -- "Second Draft" on title page. Extensive holograph revision and additional work written over photocopy (and covers) by Allen Bell in black and blue ink.

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1997-163-2-2.4 - Photocopy of typed script

Title: Photocopy of typed script

ID: SC036-1997-163-2-2.4

Scope and content:

Photocopy of typed script with beige paper cover on back and plastic cover on front, with plastic binding "Second Draft" on title page. Extensive holographic text revision and additional work by Allen Bell in black, photocopied. (Revisions differ from previous 2/3 entry)

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1997-163-2-2.5 - Photocopy of typed script

Title: Photocopy of typed script

ID: SC036-1997-163-2-2.5

Scope and content:

Photocopy of typed script with beige paper cover on back and plastic cover on front, in plastic binding "Third Draft" on title page. Some revisions in black ink over photocopy.

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1997-163-2-2.6 - Published copy of Speaking Parts

Title: Published copy of Speaking Parts

ID: SC036-1997-163-2-2.6

Scope and content:

Published copy of Speaking Parts (Couch House Press, Toronto, 1993) with holo. inscription:
"To Allen - with love and thanks, Atom -- April 21 1993".

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: SC036-1997-163-3 - "The Adjuster"

Title: "The Adjuster"

ID: SC036-1997-163-3

Date: 1991 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: SC036-1997-163-3-3.1 - Photocopy of typed script

Title: Photocopy of typed script

ID: SC036-1997-163-3-3.1

Date: 1990 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Photocopy of typed script in beige paper covers with plastic binding. On title page: "THE ADJUSTER a film by Atom Egoyan copyright 1990". "#19" appears on tp. Text revision and additional work by Allen Bell in black ink, photocopy on draft with 8 unbound pages of holo. additional work.

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: SC036-1997-163-4 - "Exotica"

Title: "Exotica"

ID: SC036-1997-163-4

Date: 1995 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: SC036-1997-163-4-4.1 - Unbound photocopied typed script

Title: Unbound photocopied typed script

ID: SC036-1997-163-4-4.1

Date: 1993 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Unbound photocopied typed script in brown envelope addressed to Allen Bell. Enclosure: 1 page hls. dated March 9, 1993 from Atom Egoyan beginning: "Dear Allen, Please do not start any work on this script until we have talked.... Script titled: "EXOTICA a film by Atom Egoyan copyright 1993". "First Draft" on title page with "COPY NUMBER 2" with 2 written in ink. No editing on typescript.

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: SC036-1997-163-6 - Additional Script Material

Title: Additional Script Material

ID: SC036-1997-163-6

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: SC036-1997-163-6-6.1 - Notes regarding scripts

Title: Notes regarding scripts

ID: SC036-1997-163-6-6.1

Scope and content:

37 pages/29 leaves of draft holo. notes regarding scripts, in blue ink by Bell. Includes draft comments to Egoyan and partial draft of typed letter to Egoyan.

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1997-163-6-6.2 - Notebook

Title: Notebook

ID: SC036-1997-163-6-6.2

Scope and content:

15.2 X 22.8 cm. notebook with work re: scripts and comments directed to Egoyan with ink writing on 29 pages/25 leaves.

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: SC036-1997-163-7 - Correspondence

Title: Correspondence

ID: SC036-1997-163-7

Date: 1983-1995 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: SC036-1997-163-7-7.1 - From Atom Egoyan to Allen Bell

Title: From Atom Egoyan to Allen Bell

ID: SC036-1997-163-7-7.1

Date: 1985-1995 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

9 letters/16 pages (HLS. and TLS.) 1985-1995 from Atom Egoyan to Allen Bell re: family, scripts, payment and creative and contractual matters. 3 enclosed photocopies of reviews.

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1997-163-7-7.2 - Photocopies of Correspondence

Title: Photocopies of Correspondence

ID: SC036-1997-163-7-7.2

Date: 1983-1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Photocopies of 3 TLS (3 pages) from Irvine Layton to Bell from 1984-1986.
Photocopy of HLS (2 pages) from Saul Bellow to Bell dated April 4, 1983.
Photocopy of TLS from Al Purdy to Bell, July 7, 1987.
Photocopy of TLS from Ann Yates (Sono Nis Press) to Bell, Nov. 12, 1985.
2 TLS from the Colbert Agency (literary agent) to Bell.
Photocopy of a one page TLS (Sept. 3 1994) by Bell to a publisher re: his novel A Harmless Snake lists his own work and his work with Atom Egoyan.

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: SC036-1997-163-8 - Literary Works

Title: Literary Works

ID: SC036-1997-163-8

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: SC036-1997-163-8-8.1 - The Simon Poems

Title: The Simon Poems

ID: SC036-1997-163-8-8.1

Scope and content:

Photocopy of poetry MS by Allen Bell: The Simon Poems.

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1997-163-8-9.1 - Thy Harry's Company

Title: Thy Harry's Company

ID: SC036-1997-163-8-9.1

Scope and content:

Photocopy of poetry MS by Allen Bell: Thy Harry's Company.

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1997-163-8-10.1 - A Motley to the View

Title: A Motley to the View

ID: SC036-1997-163-8-10.1

Scope and content:

Photocopy of poetry MS by Allen Bell: A Motley to the View.

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1997-163-8-11.1 - The Harmless Snake

Title: The Harmless Snake

ID: SC036-1997-163-8-11.1

Scope and content:

Photocopy of novel by Allen Bell: The Harmless Snake.

Publication status:

Published

Series: SC036-1998-032 - Screenplays

Title: Screenplays

ID: SC036-1998-032

Date: 1996 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The accrual consists of a final revised draft of "The Sweet Hereafter".

Physical description: 2 docs, 1 box.

Note [generalNote]:

Merged with Accession 1997-163. Photocopies of this and other material are available.

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: SC036-1998-032-5 - "The Sweet Hereafter"

Title: "The Sweet Hereafter"

ID: SC036-1998-032-5

Date: 1997 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
-

File: SC036-1998-032-5-5.1 - Photocopy of typed script

Title: Photocopy of typed script

ID: SC036-1998-032-5-5.1

Date: 1995 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Photocopy of typed script in beige paper covers with plastic binding. Title page: "THE SWEET HEREAFTER by Atom Egoyan based on the novel by Russell Banks." On title page: "May, 1995, First Draft" and "#19" in felt pen. Extensive holo. revision and additional work by Allen Bell including an suggestion for an alternate ending and rational for same.

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1998-032-5-5.2 - Photocopy of typed script

Title: Photocopy of typed script

ID: SC036-1998-032-5-5.2

Scope and content:

Black ring binder containing another photocopy of 5/1 but with revisions written more clearly and additional work including more rational and details of the alternate ending by Bell. Page 40 with Egoyan's comment: "I don't know what I was thinking".

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-1998-032-5-5.3 - Photocopy of typed script

Title: Photocopy of typed script

ID: SC036-1998-032-5-5.3

Date: 1995 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Photocopy of another typed script of THE SWEET HEREAFTER held by two split metal pins. On title page: "August, 1995, FIRST DRAFT" (sic). No editing of this draft but it differs substantially from earlier drafts and includes many changes from previous editing.

Publication status:

Published

Series: SC036-2010-049 - Canada Review

Title: Canada Review

ID: SC036-2010-049

Date: 2009 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

The accrual consists of a review of Bell's "Canada" by J. H. Alexander.

Physical description: 1 file.

Publication status:

Published

File: SC036-2010-049-1.1 - Review of Bell's "Canada" (Victoria, BC: flash, 2009) by J. H. Alexander, 4 l.

Title: Review of Bell's "Canada" (Victoria, BC: flash, 2009) by J. H. Alexander, 4 l.

ID: SC036-2010-049-1.1

Date: 2009 (date of creation)

Publication status:

Published
