

University of Victoria Special Collections

Bell, Allen

SC036

Title

Allen Bell fonds

Dates

1985-1995

Extent

30 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch

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 6 books of poetry and has published an interview with Noam Chomsky. 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The fonds consists of typescripts of an unpublished novel "The Harmless Snake"; 3 published books of poetry: , "Thy Harry's Company"(1999), "The Simon Poems"(2001) "A Motley to the View"(2002); typescript copies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 and there are reviews of his book "Canada" (2009).

Finding Aids

Inventory available.

Title Source

Title based on the contents of the fonds.

ALLEN BELL FONDS

FAMILY VIEWING (released 1987)

1/ 1/ 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.

1/ 2/ 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.

1/ 3/ Photocopy of typed script in yellow paper covers held with metal fasteners -- "Third Draft" on title page. Some revisions in pencil written over photocopy.

SPEAKING PARTS (released 1989)

2/ 1/ 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.

2/ 2/ 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.

2/ 3/ 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.

2/ 4/ 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)

2/ 5/ 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.

2/ 6/ Published copy of Speaking Parts (Couch House Press, Toronto, 1993) with holo. inscription: "To Allen - with love and thanks, Atom -- April 21 1993".

THE ADJUSTER (released 1991)

3/ 1/ 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.

EXOTICA (released 1995)

4/ 1/ 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.

THE SWEET HEREAFTER (released 1997)

5/ 1/ 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.

5/ 2/ 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".

5/ 3/ 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.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPT MATERIAL

6/ 1/ 37pages/ 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.

6/ 2/ 15.2 X 22.8 cm. notebook with work re: scripts and comments directed to Egoyan with ink writing on 29 pages/ 25 leaves.

CORRESPONDENCE

7/ 1/ 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.

7/ 2 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.

LITERARY WORKS

8/ 1 Photocopy of poetry MS by Allen Bell: The Simon Poems.

9/ 1 Photocopy of poetry MS by Allen Bell: Thy Harry's Company.

10/ 1 Photocopy of poetry MS by Allen Bell: A Motley to the View.

11/ 1 Photocopy of novel by Allen Bell: The Harmless Snake

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Acc No: 2010-049
1 File

File 1:

"Canada" Review

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