

Yale University Library  
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

# Guide to the Sarah Ruhl Papers

YCAL MSS 1139



by Susan Brady

May 2018

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

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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:** YCAL MSS 1139

**CREATOR:** Ruhl, Sarah, 1974-

**TITLE:** Sarah Ruhl papers

**DATES:** 1990–2017

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 8.84 linear feet (10 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** In English; one script in Korean.

**SUMMARY:** The papers include writings, teaching files, and other materials documenting Ruhl's career as a playwright and essayist and teacher of poetry, playwriting, and modern drama.

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

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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.ruhl>.

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 Sarah Ruhl on the Adele Gutman Nathan Theatrical Collection Fund, 2017.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Box 9: (laptop): Restricted material. May not be seen without the permission of the appropriate curator.

Box 10: (hard disk and external hard drive): Restricted until January 1, 2068. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The The Sarah Ruhl 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.

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## Preferred Citation

Sarah Ruhl Papers. 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 [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. Material received in three-ring binders has been removed from binders and placed in folders in original order.

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 and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## Sarah Ruhl (1974- )

Sarah Ruhl, born in Wilmette, Illinois in 1974, is an American writer of plays, poetry, and essays. Her plays include *The Clean Room* (2004), *Passion Play* (2005), *In the Next Room, or the Vibrator Play* (2009), and *Scenes from Court Life* (2016). Her plays have been produced on and off Broadway in New York City, in regional theaters throughout the United States, and internationally. Her book, *100 Essays I Don't Have Time to Write* was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in 2014. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree (1997) and a Master's degree in playwriting (2001) from Brown University. She has taught drama and playwriting at Brown University and Wheaton College.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers include writings, teaching files, and other materials documenting Ruhl's career as a playwright and essayist and teacher of poetry, playwriting, and modern drama.

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## Arrangement

Arranged by type of material.

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## Collection Contents

### Writings, 1997–2017

6 linear feet (6 boxes)

#### Plays

Each play is represented by printouts of draft scripts with and/or without autograph annotations. May be accompanied by production-related material including cast lists, rehearsal schedules, etc.

b. 1	<i>The Clean House</i> 7 folders	2002–2017
b. 1	<i>Dead Man's Cell Phone</i> 8 folders	2003–2007
b. 1	<i>Eurydice</i> 7 folders Includes script with autograph annotations by "Les," and a Korean translation of script by an unidentified translator	2003, undated
b. 2	<i>For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday</i> 5 folders	
b. 2	<i>How to Transcend a Happy Marriage</i> 8 folders	2015–2017
b. 2	<i>In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play</i> 5 folders	2007–2008 June
b. 3	<i>In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play</i> 3 folders	2008 December, undated
b. 3	<i>Late, a Cowboy Song</i> 4 folders	2002–2003, undated
b. 3	<i>Melancholy Play</i> 7 folders Includes printed piano and vocal score "cues" by Jeffrey Weeter	2003–2005, undated
b. 3	<i>The Oldest Boy</i> 6 folders Includes cast and personnel list and other material from workshop production at Lincoln Center	2014
b. 4	<i>Orlando</i> 2 folders	undated
b. 4	<i>Passion Play</i> 11 folders	1997–2008, undated
b. 4	<i>Scenes from Court Life</i> 5 folders	2015–2016
b. 5	<i>Stage Kiss</i> 6 folders	2009–2013

## Plays (continued)

b. 5	<i>The Three Sisters</i> 6 folders by Anton Chekhov; "English version by Sarah Ruhl"	2009
Musical production		
b. 5	<i>A Face in the Crowd</i> 6 folders Music and lyrics by Elvis Costello; book by Sarah Ruhl; based on the short story and play for the screen by Bud Schulberg	2016–2017
Poetry Autograph manuscript and typed printouts of poetry		
b. 5	"1st Drafts--poems"	undated
b. 5	"Death in Another Country" Typescript printout of volume of poetry	undated
b. 5	"Peggy Poems" Includes typescript printout short story, "Sorrow and Joy" by Peggy Munson	undated
Short stories		
b. 5	"The Yellow Room," "Poor Deborah," "The Swim Club," and untitled Includes printouts, annotated	2000, undated
Book		
b. 6	<i>100 Essays I Don't Have Time to Write</i> 9 folders Published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux in 2014  Includes printouts of manuscript and proofs with autograph corrections and annotations in an unidentified hand; printout of introduction to a reading of selected essays from the book	2014, undated

**Teaching Files, 1990–2002**

1.42 linear feet (2 boxes)

## Brown University--Playwriting

## Course packet

b.7	Introductory Playwriting <i>2 folders</i> Includes syllabi; reading lists; questions; and photocopies of essays on playwriting	
b.7	Student work	2001
b.7	Student instructor evaluations <i>2 folders</i>	2000–2001
b.7	Clippings for playwriting	undated

## Wheaton College--Modern Drama

## Teaching notes

b.7	Bogart, Ann	
b.7	Brecht, Bertolt	
b.7	Beckett, Samuel	
b.7	Chekhov, Anton	
b.7	Fornes, Maria Irene	
b.7	Grimke, Angelina	
b.7	Ibsen, Henrik	
b.7	Kennedy, Adrienne	
b.7	Mamet, David	
b.7	Miller, Arthur	
b.7	O'Neill, Eugene	
b.7	Odets, Clifford	
b.7	Parks, Suzan-Lori	
b.7	Stein, Gertrude	
b.7	Strindberg, August	
b.7	Synge, J. M.	
b.7	Vogel, Paula	
b.7	Wellman, Mac	
b.7	Wilde, Oscar	

## Wheaton College--Modern Drama &gt; Teaching notes (continued)

b. 7	Williams, Tennessee	
b. 7	Yeats/Noh Drama	
b. 7	Photocopies of articles on playwriting and plays <i>2 folders</i>	
b. 7	[Anna Keepsakes?]	
b. 7	Berlitz	
b. 7	The Real/Mimesis	
b. 7	Other syllabi	1990, 2001
b. 7	Timeline	undated
b. 7	Student list, questions/papers	2001
b. 7	Paper topics/guidelines	
b. 7	Student instructor evaluations <i>2 folders</i>	2000–2001
b. 7	Course packet--plays <i>5 folders</i>	
b. 7	Scene work--Piven materials	2002
b. 7	Student work	1998–2002
b. 8	Teaching poetry Includes photocopies of published articles and poetry	undated
Teachers and Writers		
b. 8	Printed volumes of student poetry Includes Blackstone Valley Industries Writer's group and Sophia Academy	1998–2002
b. 8	Poems by school children <i>3 folders</i>	undated
b. 8	PS 111--Project Read typescript journal	undated
b. 8	Arts-in-Ed--other organizations	1993-1998, undated
b. 8	Sophia Academy Includes teaching syllabus and Ruhl's resume	
Miscellaneous		
b. 8	Business card for spa	



## Computer media

*1.0 linear feet (1 box)*

Restricted material. May not be seen without the permission of the appropriate curator.

b. 9

Macintosh PowerBook G3 Series laptop  
*1 Laptop Computer*

circa 1999

The laptop's internal hard disk has been removed and stored in Box 10.

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## Restricted Material

*0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

External hard drive and hard disk from laptop are restricted until January 1, 2068. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

### External hard drive

b. 10

[no label information]  
2018-ycal-0033-0002  
*1 External Hard Drive*

Electronic files are restricted and may not be consulted before January 1, 2068.

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### Hard disk from laptop

b. 10

[no label information]  
2018-ycal-0033-0001  
*1 Internal Hard Drive*

Electronic files are restricted and may not be consulted before January 1, 2068.

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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**

American drama -- 20th Century  
American drama -- 21st century  
Authors, American -- 20th Century  
Authors, American -- 21st century  
Dramatists, American -- 20th Century  
Dramatists, American -- 21st century  
Theater -- United States

### **Occupations**

Authors -- United States -- 20th Century  
Authors -- United States -- 21st century  
Dramatists -- United States -- 20th Century  
Dramatists -- United States -- 21st century

### **Names**

Ruhl, Sarah, 1974-