



The Wittliff Collections

Guide to the Robert Benton Additions.

1938-2010

Collection UPWC-15075

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Benton, Robert
Title:	Guide to the Robert Benton Additions.
Dates:	1938-2010
Abstract:	Materials related to the career of filmmaker, Robert Benton
Identification:	UPWC-15075
Extent:	28 boxes
Language:	English
Repository:	The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

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Biographical / Historical

Writer and director Robert Douglass Benton was born on September 29, 1932, in Waxahachie, Texas. He is the son of Ellery Douglass and Dorothy (Spaulding) Benton. Benton attended The University of Texas at Austin and received a BFA in 1953. His classmates included Jayne Mansfield and Rip Torn, an actor he would direct in the 1987 film *Nadine*. While serving in the U.S. Army from 1954-1956, Benton painted dioramas at Fort Bliss. He was discharged with the rank of corporal. He enrolled at Columbia University to study Art History but dropped out after one semester. Benton would then begin his professional career as a freelance writer and artistic associate at *Esquire*.

Benton remained with *Esquire* for several years where he worked in various editorial capacities. Here he would meet future collaborator David Newman. The pair published *Extremism: A Non-Book* (1959) and wrote the libretto for the Broadway musical *It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman* (1966). Benton's first film industry success was with *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967), a screenplay he co-wrote with Newman. Starring Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty, the film was critically acclaimed and Benton and Newman received an Oscar nomination for best story and screenplay. His other early writing credits include *There Was a Crooked Man* (1970), *What's Up Doc* (1972), and *Oh! Calcutta!* (1972).

Paramount president Stanley Jaffe encouraged Benton to move into directing. He made his directorial debut in 1972 with *Bad Company*, a wild west adaptation of Dickens' *Oliver Twist* starring Jeff Bridges, Barry Brown, and David Huddleston. Benton directed *The Late Show* in 1977 and wrote the screenplay for *Superman* (with Mario Puzo and David and Leslie Newman) in 1978. His next directorial role was with the 1979 film *Kramer vs. Kramer*. A box office hit and critical success, the film won the Oscar for Best Picture while Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep also won Oscars for their performances. Benton won Oscars for Best Director and Best Screenplay.

1982's *Still of the Night* saw Benton direct Meryl Streep again in a starring role. Benton directed and wrote the screenplay for *Places in the Heart* (1984), a semi-autobiographical film starring Sally Field. The film was honored with two Oscars; Benton won Best Screenplay while Field won Best Actress. He wrote and directed *Nadine* in 1987 and directed *Billy Bathgate*, an

adaptation of an E.L. Doctorow novel, in 1991. It was the first film that Benton directed but did not write. Benton directed Paul Newman in the 1994 adaptation of Richard Russo's *Nobody's Fool*. A friendship was forged and Benton and Newman worked together again on *Twilight* (1998). Benton directed the 2003 adaptation of Phillip Roth's *The Human Stain*. His most recent work as a director is the 2007 film *Feast of Love*. Benton is currently working on the screenplay for *North of Cheyenne*, slated for a 2011 release.

Scope and Contents

This addition to the Benton archives includes drafts of several screenplays in partnership with David Newton (including *Bad Company*, *Places In The Heart*, *Lovesick Blues*, *War in the Val D'orcia*, *Stolen*, *Places in Samarra*) photographs of movie sets and actors, and original movie posters. Artifacts include Benton's awards and Bachelor's degree.

Administrative Information

Physical Location

Materials may be stored off-site. Advance notice is required for use: .
<https://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/research/makearesearchappointment.html>.

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Robert Benton, 2015.

Preferred Citation

Robert Benton Additions, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Authors, American
- Screenwriters -- United States

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Accession 2015-075

Box	Folder	
2028	1	Old Scripts—Finished Copy “Bad Company” by David Newman and Robert Benton-Jaffilms, Inc, August 2, 1971
2028	2	Old Scripts—Final Copy-“Choice Cuts” by David Newman and Robert Benton, undated
2028	3	Old Scripts—Revised Screenplay-“STAB” by David Newman and Robert Benton, February 27, 1981
2028	4	Old Scripts—Collection of French Articles on “Places in the Heart”, 1984-1985
2028	5	Old Scripts—Papa and the Movies” by Claude Berri, undated
2028	6	Old Scripts—Revised 2nd Draft- “Kramer Versus Kramer” based on novel by Avery Corman, February 15, 1978
2028	7	Old Scripts—Second Draft-“Bad Company” by David Newman and Robert Benton, December 1970
2028	8	Old Scripts—“For Mr. Benton, original copy of Superman script”-Revisions, 1977
2028	9	Old Scripts—Final Revised-“Money’s Tight” by David Newman and Robert Benton, August 1971
2028	10	Old Scripts—Revised Screenplay-“Money’s Tight” by David Newman and Robert Benton, June 1971
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2028	12	Old Scripts—Final Copy-“Florena” by David Newman and Robert Benton, undated
2028	13	Old Scripts—The Terror” by Benton and Newman, undated
2028	14	Old Scripts—Kill the Dutchman!: The Story of Dutch Schultz by Paul Sann, undated
2028	15	Old Scripts—Third Draft-“Billy Bathgate” by Tom Stoppard-Director: Benton, June 15, 1990
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2029	5	Old Scripts—“Bad Company”-Annotated, undated
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		Megan Uebelacker, October 21, 1997
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2029	13	Old Scripts—“Emmaus II”-Annotated, April 20, 1988-March 8, 1995
2029	14	Old Scripts—“Emmaus”-Annotated, November 28, 1988
2029	15	Old Scripts—First Draft-“Emmaus” by Gerald Sheppard and Benton, April 20, 1988
2029	16	Old Scripts—Script Pages of “Emmaus”-Notes, undated
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2030	5	Old Scripts—Marriage Movie Notes and Research, undated
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2030	10	Old Scripts—“Emmaus” Scenes, undated
2030	11	Old Scripts—Two Notebooks Containing “Emmaus” Notes, undated
2030	12	Old Scripts—First Draft-“Emmaus” by Sheppard and Benton, December 11, 1987
2030	13	Old Scripts—“Emmaus” Notes, undated
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2030	17	Old Scripts—Notebook Containing “Emmaus” Notes, undated
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2030	20	Old Scripts—Notes on the Keaton Movie, update
2030	21	Old Scripts—“Jack the Ripper” Notes, undated
2030	22	Old Scripts—Notes for the Tutor Movie, undated
2030	23	Old Scripts—“Jack the Ripper” Notes and Outline, undated

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2030	25	Old Scripts—"Val Dorcia" Notes and Untitled Screenplay, undated
2030	26	Old Scripts—"The Woman Next Door", undated
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2030	31	Old Scripts—"Ghost Story" Notes, October 1972
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2031	2	Old Scripts—First Revised Draft-"Lovesick Blues" by Benton, October 7, 1998
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2031	4	Old Scripts—"Gangsters"-Annotated, March 21
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2031	11	Old Scripts—1970s Screen Treatments, undated
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32	2	Old Scripts—First Draft-"Lovesick Blues" by Benton, September 19, 1997
32	3-4	Old Scripts—"Lovesick Blues", undated
32	5	Old Scripts—First Draft-"Lovesick Blues" by Benton, October 20, 1997

32	6	Old Scripts—"Lovesick Blues" Outline-Includes Notes, undated
32	7	Old Scripts—First Draft—"Lovesick Blues" by Benton, October 20, 1997
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32	13	Old Scripts—First Draft—"Lovesick Blues" by Benton, January 22, 1996
32	14	Old Scripts—First Draft—"Lovesick Blues" by Benton, March 2, 1996
32	15	Old Scripts—First Draft—"Lovesick Blues" by Benton, August 18, 1996
32	16	Old Scripts—First Draft—"Lovesick Blues" by Benton, August 27, 1996
32	17	Old Scripts—"Lovesick Blues"-Annotated, undated
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33	6	"Emmaus"-Annotated-Includes Notes, March 8, 1995
33	7	First Draft-"Emmaus" by Gerald Sheppard and Benton, March 15, 1988
33	8	Second Draft—"War in the Val D'orcica" by Benton-Annotated, February 24, 1990
33	9	First Draft—"War in the Val D'orcica" by Benton, March 18, 1989
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33	11	"War in the Val D'orcica" Outline, undated
33	12	First Draft—"War in the Val D'orcica" by Benton-Annotated, February 9, 1989
33	13	Second Draft—"War in the Val D'orcica" by Benton, February 9, 1990
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40	3	Old Scripts—“Superman II” by Mario Puzo, David and Leslie Newman, and Benton, June 14, 1977
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40	8	Old Scripts—“Superman” by Mario Puzo, David and Leslie Newman and Benton, June 14, 1977
40	9	Old Scripts—Final Draft-“Money’s Tight” by David Newman and Benton, January 1972
40	10	Old Scripts—First Draft-“Texas Picture” by Benton, January 31, 1983
40	11	Old Scripts—Episode 1 of The Ryans-“The Brothers”, undated
40	12	Old Scripts-Longer Version of Episode 1 of The Ryans-“The Brothers”, undated
40	13	Old Scripts—Second Draft-“What’s Up, Doc?” by David Newman, Benton, and Peter Bogdanovich-Annotated, May 1971
40	14	Old Scripts—“You and Me” by Walter Betnstein-Annotated, December 3, 1989
40	15	Old Scripts—First Draft-“War in the Val D’orcía” by Benton, August 29, 1989
40	16	Old Scripts—“The Anxious Ash”-Includes Notes, undated
40	17	Old Scripts—Part 1 Revision-“The Tin Lizzie Troof” by David Newman and Benton-Annotated, November 1975
40	18	Old Scripts—“Kill the Dutchman: The Story of Dutch Schultz” by Paul Sann, undated
40	19	Old Scripts—Third Draft-“War in the Val D’orcía” by Margaret Shultz, February 17, 1994
40	20	Old Scripts—“The Crazy American Girl” by David and Leslie Newman, undated
40	21	Old Scripts—“Bad Company” by David Newman and Benton, June 1970
41	1	Movie Files—Film Festival Pamphlets-“Cabiers du Cinema”, 1966-1967
41	2	Movie Files—Film Festival Pamphlets-“New York Film Festival”, 1966-1972

41	3	Movie Files—Film Festival Pamphlets-“NY Film Bulletin”, 1964
41	4	Movie Files—“The Ice Harvest” by Benton and Richard Russo, April 2, 2004
41	5	Movie Files—“Ice Harvest”-Development, 2004
41	6	Movie Files—First Draft-“Brother, Sister” by Benton, May 2, 2000
41	7	Movie Files—“The Ice Harvest” by Benton and Richard Russo, February 23, 2004
41	8	Movie Files—“Nobody’s Fool”-Cost Report #37, January 6, 1995
41	9	Movie Files—“Nobody’s Fool”-Budget #3, January 8, 1993
41	10	Movie Files—“Nobody’s Fool”-Schedules, November 19, 1993
41	11	Movie Files—“Nobody’s Fool”-Budget, May 12, 1993
41	12	Movie Files—“Nobody’s Fool”-Production Information and Audience Survey, July 6, 1994
41	13	Movie Files—“Nobody’s Fool”-Production Information, 1994
41	14	Movie Files—“Nobody’s Fool”-Photography Stills, 1994-1995
41	15-17	Movie Files—“Nobody’s Fool”-Photography Stills, 1994
41	18	Movie Files—Photographs from “Nobody’s Fool” by Kerry Hayes, undated
41	19-20	Movie Files—Untitled Photography Stills, undated
41	21	Movie Files—Photography Strips for Film Haus Inc.-Includes Correspondence from Jennifer D. Kunishima to Benton, February 23, 1995
41	22	Movie Files—“Nobody’s Fool”-News Clippings, undated
41	23	Movie Files—“Ice Harvest”-Annotated,, undated
41	24	Movie Files—Photography Stills of Benton for a New York Times piece- Includes correspondence from Riki Arnold to Benton, December 12, 1994
41	25	Movie Files—“Nobody’s Fool”-Photography Stills, 1994
41	26	Movie Files—“Nobody’s Fool”-Cast Photography Stills, 1993-1994
41	27	Movie Files—“Nobody’s Fool”-Photography Stills, 1994
41	28	Movie Files—“Places in the Heart”-Photography StillsIncludes publicity materials, undated
41	29	Movie Files—“Places in the Heart”-Photography Stills of Sally Field, 1984
41	30	Movie Files—“Kramer Versus Kramer”-Photography Stills, undated
41	31	Movie Files—“The Late Show”-Photography Stills, undated
41	32	Movie Files—“Billy Bathgate”-Press Kit Photography Stills, undated
41	33	Movie Files—“Billy Bathgate”-Photos of Movie Posters, undated
41	34	Movie Files—“Billy Bathgate”-Staff and Cast List, September 10, 1990
42	1	Movie Files—“Billy Bathgate”-Photography Stills, undated
42	2	Movie Files—“Bad Company”-Photography Stills, undated
42	3	Movie Files—Sight and Sound Magazines, 1963-1968
42	4	Movie Files—First Draft-“Untitled Screen Play” by Leslie Bohem and Benton- Annotated, March 19, 1999
42	5	Movie Files—Research for “North of Cheyenne”, 1998
42	6	Movie Files—Sight and Sound Magazines, Summer 1964-Summer 1969
42	7	Movie Files—Sight and Sound Magazine, Autumn 1969-Autumn 1970
42	8	Movie Files—New York Film Festival-Lincoln Center, 1967-1973
42	9	Movie Files—Film Festival Pamphlets-Cabiers du Cinema, 1966-1967

42	10	Movie Files—Film Festival Pamphlets-Film Quarterly, Spring 1968-Winter 1972
42	11	Movie Files—Film Festival Pamphlets-Movie Tone News, 1973-1974
42	12	Movie Files—Miscellaneous Memorabilia, 1945-1975
42	13	Movie Files—The Worry Book by Robert Benton and Harvey Schmidt, 1961-1962
42	14	Movie Files—Dime Detective Magazine, 1949
42	15	Movie Files—Roberto Rossellini, 1970
42	16	Movie Files—The Reality of Terror-by Joel E. Siegel, 1973
42	17	Movie Files—Movies You Must See by Joe Leydon, 2004
42	18	Movie Files—Miscellaneous Photography Stills, undated
42	19	Movie Files—“Still of the Night”-Photography Stills, undated
42	20	Movie Files—Photography Stills of Check for First Bale of Cotton in Ellis County, 1924
42	21	Movie Files—Production Negatives for “STAR”, undated
42	22	Movie Files—Photography Stills of Locations for Untitled Film, undated