

UQFL550

Steve J Spears Collection

Size	4 boxes
Contents	Screenplays, scripts, photographs, correspondence
Date range	1975 to 1996
Biography	<p>Once described as one of the most iconoclastic, acerbic, empathetic, brutal writers that the New Wave threw up in the early '70s, Steve J. Spears was raised in Mile End, an inner suburb of Adelaide, South Australia. After completing his secondary education, he studied law at the University of Adelaide and became involved in several university revues. In addition to performing, he also wrote scripts, and for a time collaborated with fellow student and later playwright Rob George. Spears later abandoned his law degree in order to work in the theatre. Over the years, the latter has toured Australia and been performed in London and San Francisco, on off-Broadway, and in South America. Spears eventually moved to Sydney and continued to write plays for the theatre and radio and documentaries. He acted in films and on stage and was a founding member of the Balmain Boys cabaret troupe. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, he also wrote scripts for television series, including soap operas, dramas, young-adult television, and sit-coms. After becoming disillusioned with writing for television, Spears began writing crime fiction in the early 2000s. He died in 2007. -- excerpted from AustLit</p>
Notes	Open access

Box 1

Folder 1

The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin, Screenplay Drafts:

- Nov 1981, first draft
- Feb 1983, first draft

Folder 2

The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin, Screenplay Drafts:

- Mar 1983, second draft **[3 copies]**

Folder 3

The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin, Screenplay Drafts:

- Jul 1983, third draft
- Oct 1983, final draft **[2 copies]**

Folder 4

The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin, Screenplay Drafts:

- Feb 1984, revised **[2 copies]**

Box 2

Folder 1

The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin, Screenplay Drafts:

- *The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin* – Play, Oct 1975 **[2 copies]**
- 1982/1983 French translation
- *The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin*, Nov 1983, additional material by Rob George
- Notes for first draft - Oct 1987

Folder 2

Flight of the Bumbldrump

Namatjira Park - The a cappella musical

Mr Fix outline

The Theatre- brief outline for a proposed play in two acts

The Toyman of Oz - Apr 6 1988, first draft

Glynn Nicholas - Jan 25 1988, Unpublished

The Greatest Tune on Earth - Nov 1988

The Greatest Tune on Earth - outlines for episodes 2, 3 & 4

49 Darlinghurst Rd - for the Good Weekend series 'Series on Important Places That Have Disappeared'

The OBC Project

Colonel Gaddafi

Synopsis of Proposed Idea For 4-6 part Mini series

My Mummy's Dead

Mick, Linda and Love - A personal view of 'Crocodile Dundee 1 and 2'

Martin - outline for a TV series, Jul 1984

Narda's People - outline for a 24min TV sitcom

Fat Henry's The Joy of Smoking
The First Year - outline for a 90min TV special
A Night at the Opera
Mr Edgar- outline for a TV play
Christopher's Faerie - outline
The Ballad of the Savages - outline
The Pits
Lyrics from *Africa: A Savage Musical*
Notes and transcript of a play – no title

Folder 3

Press cuttings, 1977 to 1989

Folder 4

Steve Spears cuttings. 1982 to 1987

Box 3

VHS Show reel

VHS, *The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin* 12 Sep 1995

Cassette Rough Dub: Beam Some Down on Me, Island, It's Over and Give Me a Kiss, 9 Mar 1978

Folder 1

Young Mo: newspaper cuttings and Theatre Australia, vol 1, no 7, Feb/Mar 1977

Benjamin: newspaper cuttings, reviews and *Theatre Australia*, vol 1, no 2, Sep/Oct 1976 and vol 1, no 8, Mar/Apr 1977

Folder 2

Steve J Spears 1977: newspaper cuttings and articles

Spears Franklin: newspaper cuttings

Folder 3

Les Difficultes d'elocution de Benjamin Franklin: folder containing program, pictures of the play and correspondence.

The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin, Mayfair Theatre notices: newspaper cuttings and reviews

Folder 4

Steve Spears, professional photos with negatives

Box 4

CD: Steve Spears files, letters, photos and writing works etc

Folder 1

London: correspondence

1. Quarrendon St, 15 Jan 1978, Jamie H's ideas
2. Redcliffe Rd, 22 Feb 1978, Ben has opened
3. Redcliffe Rd, 22 Feb 1978, Comments on my request on Giants
4. Redcliffe Rd, 10 Feb, comic letter re telegrams

-: correspondence

1. First page missing, comments on Twist and The Gift, late 1977
2. Glory submission letter, [relates to a stage ? initiative] 1980?
3. Comic legal letter re Glory – refers to 30 Aug 1984. Maybe date of letter and also year of [21 above]?
4. Rusty comments from Macleay street – refers Lets Twist – would have been the playreading early 1977
5. c/- M&L, Long letter – reveals depression, can't make opening night of Errol [in Melb. I suspect, Aug 1979]

New York: correspondence

1. From M & L pre NY season, mentions film Dear Departed, 1979?
2. From NY re Giants casting so 1977?

Later letters: correspondence

1. He can't do second 'Follies' late 1981 or early 1982
2. Billyard Ave, re script of Errol for Jamie H, 1978?
3. Ithaca Rd, re Ben movie, more like mid 1980's
4. Grave danger in Prospec, would be from Ithaca Rd, 1983 or 1984
5. Apology re Benjamin, not sure what that was about – rights?

:- correspondence

1. Macleay Street, Garry McDonald Show, buying unit
2. M&L, Young Mo, 1976?
3. Jersey Road, mentions lofty, Garry McDonald show, early 1977?
4. M&L, Trevor Farrant [first mention of Garry McD?]

Beatty Ave: correspondence

1. Africa
2. Eliza Q
3. Les? Comments
4. Here's Young Mo
5. Missing page 1 but refers to getting Les? on Darling St, Balmain – Newcastle experience

Avalon: correspondence

1. Young the tour
2. Get better director, mentions 'concert'
3. Darwin, 17 Jul 1976? – Ben draws closer

Gourlay Street: correspondence

1. Thanks re George, [death of George Klaus]
2. How to be a critic – no address

Newspaper cutting, *The News*, Fri 21 Mar 1980 'Recipe for Laughs'

5 Post cards and a brief card of affection or condolence from 'Marcene' [Spears mother]

Letter to Robert re script

Letter to Robbie re 'Ben the movie' and 'Hercula'

Letter to Rob George, Clifton Street, re congratulations

Letter to Rob, c/o M&L, re congratulations and rewrite of 'Giants'

M & L formal stuff: correspondence, 2 May and 30 Jun 1975

Folder 2

16 page typescript of the earliest dramatic collaboration between George and Spears, *The Last Two Men on Earth*, plus pages of written notes.

Three typed letters from Michael Lynch at M&L Management, dealing with matters of rights and royalty administration for Spears' *People keep giving me things*, and the *Death of George Reeves*.
4 Sep 1978 to 27 Feb 1979,

Attendant material to do with *Follies – the late night supper revue*

Copy of article, *Why I smoke* by Steve J Spears

Page from *The Australian Women's Weekly*

Spears and George, chapter 1, the revues

4 sheets with drawings

Two pages of typed song lyrics

SJS revue scripts:

- Geronimo
- Disco
- Stuffed into corridors
- Bibi at the tennis
- The Arab
- Stuntman
- There's no business like show [Shah, O] business
- The son of Hannah the ewe
- Moores on the square
- Tell me a story
- This is your life: Arthur Bond
- Kanga Fu
- Tarzan

Miscellaneous written notes

Folder 3

The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin, screenplay, Steve J Spears, based on his play, Dec 1995

Steve J Spears, CV, Hilary Linstead & Assoc Mar 1996

Richard Wherrett [AM], CV, Hilary Linstead & Assoc Mar 1996

Four sheets with a copy of a photo

Correspondence, to Rob George from various, 10 Aug 1995 to 27 Jun 1996

Correspondence, from Rob George to various, 26 Jul 1995 to 28 Nov 1995

Miscellaneous correspondence, 7 Aug 1995 to 26 Sep 1995

The elocution of Benjamin Franklin by Steve J Spears, typed notes x 2

Australian Writers Guild, feature film agreement form

Written notes

Hercula [working title] 1 sheet of typed notes

The elocution of Benjamin Franklin, 1st draft budget