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## Finding Aid for the Beth Henley Collection (MUM00228)

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### Recommended Citation

Beth Henley Collection, Archives and Special Collections, J.D. Williams Library, The University of Mississippi

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# Finding Aid for the Beth Henley Collection (MUM00228)

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The Beth Henley Collection is open for research.

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## Finding Aid for the Beth Henley Collection

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Beth Henley Collection
<b>Dates:</b>	1982-1989
<b>Creator:</b>	Henley, Beth
<b>Physical Extent:</b>	26 boxes (10.84 linear feet)
<b>Repository:</b>	University of Mississippi. Department of Archives and Special Collections. University, MS 38677, USA
<b>Identification:</b>	MUM00228
<b>Location:</b>	General Special Collections
<b>Language of Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The collection chiefly contains drafts and versions of screenplays written by Mississippi playwright and screenwriter Beth Henley.

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### Administrative Information

#### Processing Information

Collection processed by Archives and Special Collections staff. Finding aid encoded by Kathryn Michaelis, July 2012.

## Additions

No further additions are expected to this collection.

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## Subject Terms

Henley, Beth  
Dramatists, American -- 20th century  
Women dramatists, American

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## Formats

scripts (documents)

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## Biographical Note

Playwright and screenwriter Beth Henley was born in Jackson, Miss. in 1952. Many of her works are set in Mississippi and feature southern characters and themes. Perhaps her best-known play is *Crimes of the Heart*, for which she won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1981. *Crimes of the Heart* also earned Henley a Tony award nomination, and was adapted as a film of the same title in 1986. Her other works include *The Wake of Jamey Foster* (1983); *The Miss Firecracker Contest* (1985); *The Debutante Ball* (1991); *Family Week* (2000); *Ridiculous Fraud* (2006); and others.

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## Scope and Content Note

The collection chiefly contains drafts and versions of screenplays written by Mississippi playwright and screenwriter Beth Henley.

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## User Information

### Preferred Citation

Beth Henley Collection, Archives and Special Collections, J.D. Williams Library, The University of Mississippi

### Access Restrictions

The Beth Henley Collection is open for research.

### Copyright Restrictions

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## Related Material

### Resources at the University of Mississippi

[Beth Henley Small Manuscripts Collection](#), Archives and Special Collections, J.D. Williams Library

For more resources related to Mississippi authors, please see the Archives' [Literary Collections Subject Guide](#).

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## Arrangement

This collection is arranged at the box level. Each box contains materials related to a particular screenplay or screenplays, unless otherwise indicated.

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## Container List

Box Press kits for *True Stories* and *Crimes of the Heart*

1

Box *The Moonwatcher* notes

2

*Scope:* The title of *The Moonwatcher* was changed to *Nobody's Fool* and produced as a film under that name in 1986.

Box Notes on *Am I Blue* and *Rosemond*

3

Box *Miss Firecracker; Musical Parade; Sisters of the Winter Madrigal*

4

Box *Crimes of the Heart*

5

Box *The Moonwatcher*, various drafts, 1982-1984

6

Box *The Moonwatcher*, various drafts and script notes, 1985-1986

7

Box *The Moonwatcher*, handwritten notes

8

Box *The Moonwatcher*, various drafts, undated

9

Box *Crimes of the Heart*, various versions of screenplay, 1982-1985

10

Box *Crimes of the Heart*, various versions of screenplay, 1985-1986

11

Box *Crimes of the Heart*, handwritten notes, script pages

12

Box *The Lucky Spot*, various drafts of screenplay  
13

Box *The Lucky Spot*, handwritten notes and partial scripts  
14

Box *True Stories*, various drafts of screenplay  
15

Box *True Stories*, notes and source material  
16

Box *Am I Blue; Sisters of the Winter Madrigal; Hymn in the attic; The Miss Firecracker Contest*; Television survival guides  
17

Box *Crimes of the Heart* pre-production notebook; *The Moonwatcher* location photographs  
18

Box *Abundance*  
19

Box *Abundance*  
20

Box *The Debutante Ball; The Lucky Spot*  
21

Box  
22

- 22.1 *The Miss Firecracker Contest* holographic version, 10 June 1987; typescript photocopy, 10 June 1987
- 22.2 *The Miss Firecracker Contest* First Edition of Text, Manhattan Theatre Club Production
- 22.3 Twelve pages of Holographic Notes—"E Sits on the stairs"
- 22.4 *The Miss Firecracker Contest* typescript photocopies, first draft with holographic notes, 2 July 1987
- 22.5 *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, holographic version, 80 pp.
- 22.6 *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, holographic version p. 81-136; typescript photocopy first draft, 10 June 1987

Box  
23

- 23.1 *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, holographic change second draft, August 1987
- 23.2 *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, second draft, 4 September 1987
- 23.3 *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, holographic changes, third draft, 20 February 1988

Box *Crimes of the Heart* (three versions); *The Miss Firecracker Contest*  
24

Box *Crimes of the Heart*  
25

Box *Crimes of the Heart*  
26