THE CENTER FOR POPULAR MUSIC, MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY, MURFREESBORG, TN

“RIDERS RADIO THEATER” COLLECTION 89-041 et. al.

Creator:
Nemerov, Bruce

Type of Material:
Scripts, Manuscripts Materials, Sound Recordings

Physical Description:
2.25 linear feet, including 26 audio cassettes (TCA 0126A/Z)

Languages:
English

Dates:
1988-1993

Abstract (Descriptive Summary):
This collection includes printed materials and scripts for most of the programs of the “Riders Radio Theater” taped by the musical group Riders in the Sky between April 1989 and March 1993 annotated by sound effects wrangler Big Zeno Clinker (Bruce Nemerov) and audio tapes of all programs aired between October 8, 1988 and September 30, 1989.

Repository:
Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132, (615) 898-2449

Access/Restrictions:
Audio tapes subject to copyright stipulations and permission by donor.

Preferred Citation: (Box Number, Folder Number/Name), “Riders Radio Theater” Collection 89-041, Center for Popular Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
Provenance and Acquisition Information:

Subjects/Index Terms:
Riders in the Sky
Radio scripts
Radio programs
Green, Douglas B.
LaBour, Fred.

Agency History/Biographical Sketch:
The (1993) Riders in the Sky musical and comedy act was formed in 1978 by Doug Green (Ranger Doug), Paul Chrisman (Woody Paul), and Fred LaBour (Too Slim). During the next decade the Riders performed at clubs, concerts, and festivals in the United States and Europe; recorded 11 albums on Rounder and MCA; appeared on public and commercial radio and television; hosted The Nashville Network series "Tumbleweed Theater," which was produced by Steve Arwood (Texas "Bix" Bender); and became permanent members of the Grand Ole Opry cast.

In September 1988 the group, along with announcer and co writer Steve Arwood, began taping a half hour radio series "Riders Radio Theater" for Nashville's public radio station WPLN. Accordionist Joey Miskulin (Joey the Cow Polka King) and sound effect wrangler Bruce Nemerov (Big Zeno Clinker) joined the show's cast after the fourth episode.

The program, aired by 80+ public radio stations its first year, won two Corporation for Public Broadcasting awards in May 1989. The show's contract was not renewed by WPLN, however, and in January 1990 “Riders Radio Theater” began taping in Cincinnati, Ohio, under the sponsorship of WXVU, the public radio station of Xavier University.

Scope and Content:
This collection includes two series: scripts for most of the programs taped between April 1989 and March 1993 annotated by sound effects wrangler Big Zeno Clinker and audio tapes of all programs aired between October 8, 1988 and September 30, 1989 (note that air dates are normally some weeks later than taping dates). Series I also includes scripts from several 1989 promo spots, 1989 and 1990 holiday specials, and a fund raising program taped in November of 1991, as well as other printed material related to Riders and/or the radio show.

Arrangement:
Arranged in 2 series: 1. Scripts for the regular series arranged first by year, then by
program number; other program scripts (e.g. Christmas special, fund raiser) are filed at the end of the year in which they were taped; the 1989 promotional scripts, the 1990 IABC script, and the 1990 and 1992 programs are filed at the beginning of the appropriate year. 2. Audio tapes arranged by format, then by tape number.

**Series Description:**

**Series I. Scripts**

This series consists primarily of “Riders Radio Theater” scripts annotated by sound effects wrangler Big Zeno Clinker, including episodes 34, 35, and 39-52 of the programs taped in 1989 in Nashville, Tennessee; all episodes of the programs taped January 1990 March 1993 in Cincinnati, Ohio; and the scripts of a 1989 Christmas special, a 1990 New Year’s special, and a 1991 fund raising show also taped in Cincinnati. There are multiple versions of some pages of some scripts and duplicate scripts of shows 39 and 40 of the 1989 season annotated by Woody Paul.

Also included are scripts for two promo spots for the 1989 season; the script for an animated audio visual for IABC 1990 Bronze Quill Awards, February 12, 1990; and programs for the 1990 and fall 1992 Riders Radio Theater tapings.

Scripts for the regular series are arranged first by year, then by program number. Other program scripts (e.g. Christmas special, fund raiser) are filed at the end of the year in which they were taped. The 1989 promotional scripts, the 1990 IABC script, and the 1990 and 1992 programs are filed at the beginning of the appropriate year.

**Series II. Audio tapes (TCA 0126A/Z)**

This series consists of copies of audio tapes of all of the programs broadcast over WPLN from October 8, 1988 and September 30, 1989. Information on most, but not all of the shows, including guests, sketches, and music performed, copied from the j cards on the original tapes is available in paper format in the Center's reading room. Please contact Center staff for more information.

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**Materials Cataloged Separately:**
Audio cassette tapes (TCA-0126A/Z)

**Location:**
Series I is filed by the original accession number (89 041) with other manuscript groups.
Series II is filed first by format, then by tape number in the audio visual archives.

**Related Materials:**
See also "Riders in the Sky" biographical vertical file and a photograph of an earlier incarnation of the group in the biographical iconographic file.

Processed by Ellen Garrison, May 1993
Revised by Rachel K. Morris, June 2011
Updated Olivia Beaudry, CA January 2024.