

Bradbury donates plays to library

From University Relations

Author and screenwriter Ray Bradbury, while making an appearance recently in the Shoals Area, gave autographed copies of his stage plays to the George Lindsey Television and Film Collection at the University of North Alabama.

Bradbury came to the Shoals at the request of his friend Terry Pace, of the TimesDaily, who was co-directing a Segue community theatre production of the East Coast premiere of the unpublished *The World of Ray Bradbury* at the Ritz Theatre in Sheffield.

Pace, who is the president of Segue, Inc., said, "In addition to his classic novels and short stories, Mr. Bradbury has also been a prolific writer in film and television. In honor of his recent visit to the Shoals, Segue and Mr. Bradbury agreed that it would be fitting to contribute copies of his stage plays and screenplays to the Collier Library archives. We look forward to a continuing relationship with Mr. Bradbury and hope to produce more of his stage work in the future."

Bradbury noted, "I could not afford to go to college. So when I finished high school, I continued my education in the library. I graduated from the library. *Fahrenheit 451* was written in the typing room in the basement of the UCLA library. I have been in love with books and with libraries my whole life. I hope

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Bradbury donates scripts to Collier Library's Lindsey Television and Film Collection

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that these scripts will help instruct and inspire young actors, playwrights and screenwriters for many years to come."

Segue donated signed copies of the stage plays *The Veldt*, *Kaleidoscope*, *The Martian Chronicles*, *The Day It Rained Forever*, *To The Chicago Abyss*, *Dandelion Wine*, *Fahrenheit 451* and *A Device Out Of Time*. The author also autographed the Segue manuscript for *The World of Ray Bradbury*, a seven-piece collection of plays based on his tales of science fiction, fantasy and horror, which Bradbury presented to Dr. Garry Warren, the UNA dean of information technologies, during the lecture, "Yesterday and Beyond," in Norton Auditorium.

"Ray's archivist, Don Albright, of Westfield, NJ, has also agreed to gather together copies of Ray's movie and television scripts (some photocopies, but mostly originals) and have him sign those for the Collier archives as well. This will happen during Don's visit to Ray in October," said Pace, who has been a friend of Bradbury's for the past seven years.

Pace said Bradbury plans to return to the Shoals in 2002 for another production of his plays.

"We are honored that Mr. Bradbury chose Collier Library to give autographed copies of his plays. These gifts emphasize the importance of the wealth and availability of information found in libraries. As Mr. Bradbury has indicated, libraries can and do make a positive difference in lives. Without the past stimuli of a good library, would the world today know of the imagination of Ray Bradbury?" said Dr. Warren.

Dr. George Lindsey, an alumnus of UNA now living in Nashville, Tennessee, began the collection of scripts and memorabilia several years ago when he gave Library all his scripts from *The Andy Griffith Show* and the many

other Hollywood productions in which he had roles, including the TV shows *Gunsmoke*, *Love American Style*, *Rifleman* and *Twilight Zone* and the movies *Ensign Pulver*, *The Aristocats*, *Robin Hood*, *Take This Job and Shove It* and *Cannonball Run II*.

Also among them are the episode of "The Jar" which Bradbury wrote for *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and which won an Emmy. Since then, Lindsey's close friend Ernest Borgnine has given a leatherbound collection of the movie scripts from his career thus far to the Lindsey Collection. News Radio director Tom Cherones, of Hollywood, and NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw, of New York City, are among others who have contributed scripts to the collection.

Born Ray Douglas Bradbury in Waukegan, Illinois, on August 22, 1920, the novelist, short-story writer, essayist, playwright, screenwriter and poet began writing in 1931 stories on butcher paper. Three years later, the Bradbury family moved to Los Angeles, California where the youngster graduated from high school in 1938.

He then spent his nights in the library and his days at the typewriter. He supported himself by selling newspapers on Los Angeles street corners from 1938 to 1942. Bradbury's first story to be published was "Hollerbochen's Dilemma," printed in 1938 in *Imagination!*, an amateur fan magazine. He was first paid for a story, "Pendulum," which he sold in 1941 to *Super Science Stories*. By 1943 he had begun writing full-time. In 1945 his short story "The Big Black and White Game" was selected for Best American Short Stories.

In 1947 Bradbury married Marguerite McClure. Also that year, he published *Dark Carnival*, his first short story collection. He established himself as a leading science fiction

writer with *The Martian Chronicles* in 1950. The novel *Fahrenheit 451* was published in 1953.

He has been awarded the O. Henry Memorial Award, the Benjamin Franklin Award in 1954, the Aviation-Space Writers Association Award for best space article in an American magazine in 1967, the World Fantasy Award for lifetime achievement and the Grand Master Award from the Science Fiction Writers of America. His teleplay of *The Halloween Tree* won an Emmy.

Bradbury currently lives in California and is still actively writing and lecturing.

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