

Thomas Meloncon Papers, 1973-2009

By Gary Chaffee

Collection Overview

[\[Contact us about this collection\]](#)

Title: Thomas Meloncon Papers, 1973-2009

Creator: Thomas Meloncon (1948-)

Extent: 1.0 Boxes. [More info below.](#)

Arrangement: Materials are arranged alphabetically by folder, then chronologically within the folders.

Date Acquired: 00/00/2000

Languages: [English](#)

Abstract

This is a collection of papers belonging to Texas Southern University professor and playwright Thomas Meloncon (1948-). Materials includes play scripts, press clippings, programs, and a biographical sketch.

Thomas Meloncon (also known as Muntu Mwaminifu) was born January 11, 1948 in Houston, Texas. He attended Atheron Elementary, E.O. Smith Junior High School and graduated from Kashmere Senior High School in 1967. Meloncon began writing and performing original poetry in high school, and was a member of the school's drama club. In addition to writing and performing, Meloncon was also a member of the basketball team, winning a basketball scholarship to South Texas Junior College.

While at South Texas, Meloncon wrote poems and articles for the college's newspaper. He graduated in 1971 with an Associate Arts degree, and later received Bachelor of Arts and Master's degrees from Texas Southern University in 1983 and 1998, respectively.

In 1970 Meloncon co-founded Sudan Arts Southwest, a community-based "guerilla" theatre group. He married Barbara Jackson in 1971 and started a family. Meloncon wrote his first play "Just a Dream" in 1972, which was performed at the SHAPE Community Center in Houston's Third Ward. During the 1970s, Meloncon became active in the Houston Black Arts movement, and from 1973 to 1980 he performed his poetry and plays through the United States. During this period, Meloncon took an interest in folk music. He taught himself to play acoustical guitar, writing and performing social protest songs at various colleges and community centers. Meloncon also wrote anti-drug abuse commercials for local television and radio stations.

Meloncon has written many plays that have toured nationally, including "The Diary of Black Men (1978)," "Whatever Happened to Black Love," "Where Were you in '65?" "If Beds Could Talk" and "Jump the Broom." Other productions include "The Drums of Sweetwater," "Johnny B.

Goode” and “The Man Who Saved New Orleans.” Meloncon has published three books of poetry: How Do You Love a Black Woman, How Do You Love a Black Man, and Poetry in E Minor.

Meloncon has received numerous awards including two Congressional Recognition Awards, the Salute to Texas Playwrights Award from The Ensemble Theatre, Distinguished Alumnus Award 2006 from Texas Southern University, the Houston Area Women’s Center Community Service Award, the Julia C. Hester Trailblazer Award, Outstanding Texan Award from the Texas Legislative Black Caucus, the Excellence in Community Health Education Award from the Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center at Baylor College of Medicine, and the Creative Writing Award from The Houston Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists. Mr. Meloncon also wrote and directed a radio drama series, “The Robeson Family Chronicles,” and hosted and co-produced of Houston Community College television program, “Expressions.” Mr. Meloncon is the Director of the Theatre Program at Texas Southern University and continues to write and direct plays.

Scope and Contents of the Materials

Materials dating between 1973 and 2009 detailing the theatrical and poetry activities of an African American playwright and scholar based in Houston.

Administrative Information

Alternate Extent Statement: 2 boxes

Access Restrictions: Robert J. Terry Library, Texas Southern University, 3100 Cleburne Avenue, Houston, TX 77004. First floor.

Use Restrictions: Copyrights held by the author.

Acquisition Source: Thomas Meloncon

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item], Thomas Meloncon Papers, 2014RJT002, Special Collections, Texas Southern University.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Folder 1: Biographical Information

Folder 2: Press Clippings, 1973-2009

Folder 3: Productions and Programs, ca. 1979-1992

Folder 4: Publications, ca. 1979-2004

Folder 5: Scripts, 1991-1993

The Black National Anthem/Lift Every Voice and Sing/Poem: Black History; The Rites of Passages [2 copies]

Folder 6: Scripts, 1993

The Color of God; The Colored Section

Box 2

Folder 1: Scripts, 1994-1995

Frenchtown, Texas; Johnnie B. Goode

Folder 2: Scripts, 1997-2000

The Melting Pot; Young Mandela; Let Yesterday Go

Folder 3: Scripts, 2002-2008

You Don't Miss Your Water Until Your Well Runs Dry; The Grass Ain't Always Greener;
Legacy Now: From Lanier to Rudley

Folder 4: Scripts, undated

The Careers' Day Program