

Guide to the Ntozake Shange Papers

BC20.29

Finding aid prepared by Charlotte Kostelic and Shannon O'Neill

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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3009 Broadway

New York, New York, 10027

212.854.4079

archives@barnard.edu

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Summary Information

Repository	Barnard Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Shange, Ntozake
Title	Ntozake Shange Papers
Date [inclusive]	1966-2016
Extent	31.0 Linear feet ; 24 document boxes, 14 banker's boxes, 1 clamshell box, 3 oversized folders, 1 box of digital media including CD-Rs, DVD-Rs, DVD-RWs, 3.5 inch floppy disks, and a MiniDV tape (20 GB)
Physical Location	This collection is located in the Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library. To use this collection, please contact the Barnard Archives and Special Collections at 212.854.4079 or archives@barnard.edu.
Language	English
Abstract	Ntozake Shange (1948-), is an American poet. The contents of the Ntozake Shange Papers include literary manuscripts in typescript, computer printout, and handwritten forms; diaries and agendas; correspondence; teaching documents; personal and professional photographs; flyers, clippings, and posters; highlights from her library; personal objects including collectables and artwork; and digital materials.

Preferred Citation

Ntozake Shange Papers, 1966-2016; Box and Folder; Barnard Archives and Special Collections, Barnard Library, Barnard College.

Biography

Ntozake Shange is a poet. She was born Paulette Williams on October 18, 1948, in Trenton, New Jersey. She spent several, formative years of her childhood in St. Louis before her family returned to Trenton where she attended high school. In 1966, she entered Barnard College where she received a bachelor's degree in American Studies. Following Barnard, she attended University of Southern California where she earned her master's, also in American Studies. While living in Southern California, she took the names Ntozake, translated from Xhosa as "she who comes into her own things," and Shange meaning "she who walks like a lion."

Among Shange's best known works is the 1975 piece, first published as a chapbook by Shameless Hussy Press, *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*, a mix of music, dance, drama, and poetry conceptualized by Shange as a choreopoem. It was produced as an Off-Broadway theatre production, but quickly moved to the Booth Theater on Broadway and was the recipient of numerous awards including the Obie Award and the Outer Critics Circle Award. In 1977, *for colored girls* was re-published by MacMillan and, in 2010, it was adapted into the film *For Colored Girls*.

The cross- and inter-disciplinary body of Shange's work is prolific and includes, but is certainly not limited to, theater works: *A Photograph: Lovers in Motion* (1977), *Boogie Woogie Landscapes* (1979), *Spell #7* (1979), *Mother Courage and Her Children* (1980, winner of a 1981 Obie Award), *Bocas* (1982), *Whitewash* (1994, adapted for a television special starring Rubie Dee); works of poetry such as: *Nappy Edges* (1978), *A Daughter's Geography* (1983), *From Okra to Greens* (1984), *Ridin' the Moon in Texas: Word Paintings* (1987), *The Sweet Breath of Life: A Poetic Narrative of the African American Family* (2004, with photography by Frank Stewart and Kamoinge, Inc.), *People of Watts* (1993, first published in *VIBE Magazine*); and numerous novels: *Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo* (1982), *Betsey Brown* (1985), *Liliane* (1994), *Some Sing, Some Cry* (2010, with Shange's sister Ifa Bayeza). Additionally, Shange authored several children's books and wrote the forward to Robert Mapplethorpe's book of photography, *The Black Book* (1986).

Shange has dedicated much of her life to educating, directing, and performing. She has been a visiting artist, an artist in residence, a scholar in residence, and/or taught courses in Women's Studies, Gender Studies, Africana Studies, and Literature at institutions including: Douglass College, University of Houston, Brown, City College of New York, Yale University, Howard University, New York University, and Barnard College. She has danced with the Third World Collective, Raymond Sawyer's Afro-American Dance Company, and the West Coast Dance Works. As a dancer she has worked extensively with the choreographer and dancer Dianne McIntyre, having once been a student in McIntyre's Harlem dance studio. The collaborative relationship between Ntozake Shange and Dianne McIntyre has resulted in a number of works including the choreopoem *Why I Had to Dance* written by Shange and choreographed and directed by McIntyre. Shange has appeared in numerous Broadway and Off-Broadway productions including *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*; she has directed works for the New York Shakespeare Festival and the Houston Equinox Theatre; and she has acted in several plays including *Where the Mississippi Meets the Amazon* (1977) and *Mouths* (1981).

Collection Scope and Content Summary

The Ntozake Shange Papers include partial manuscripts, typescripts, and computer printouts for works such as *Betsy Brown*, *From Okra to Greens*, *The Lizard Series*, *Nomathemba*, *Lost in Language & Sound: A Choreoessay*; *Some Sing, Some Cry*, and *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf*. The earliest piece of writing in the collection is a 1966 poem titled "They Are Safe for Now" from a high school literary magazine.

The collection contains personal correspondence from family members, friends, and collaborators, and business correspondence including royalty statements from numerous literary agents, contracts with literary agents, editorial letters, and contracts and agreements related to the film adaptation of *for colored girls*. Also included are Shange's diaries and agendas with known entries ranging from 1981-2010; teaching materials from the University of Florida and Prairie View A&M University; numerous awards including the Barnard Medal of Honor, an honorary degree from Oberlin College, a certificate of Special Congressional Recognition, and several City Proclamations in honor of her work.

Photographic materials in the collection are often unlabeled and are printed in a variety of formats including both color and black and white prints. Some photographic negatives also exist within the collection. Among the photographs in the collection is an album of photographic prints *The Sweet Breath of Life*. Shange saved a number of press clippings, flyers, and promotional materials related to her work, performances, and appearances. Additionally, there are several works of art given to and/or collected by Shange, and works of art produced by Shange, most notably art inspired by her *Lizard Series*. A variety of ephemera and collectables exist within the collection including a marionette, rosary beads, Kama Sutra cards, jewelry made by Shange, Shange's magnifying glass, and her writing pen.

To complement the aforementioned materials, selections from Shange's Library - chosen in concert with Barnard College Professor Kim F. Hall - are included within this collection. Many of the books - which speak directly to Ntozake Shange's interests and influences - are heavily annotated. In cases where notes, scraps of paper, receipts, book marks, etc. were in the texts, the archivists have made the decision to leave said markers.

The collection also includes approximately 2GB of born digital materials on CD-Rs, DVD-Rs, DVD-RWs, 3.5 inch floppy disks, and on a MiniDV. Accessible documents within these digital materials include photographs, a video of Shange performing "Dangling Participles and Shady Syllables," a video of Shange receiving the 2009 Otto Rene Castillo Award for Political Theater, and a copy of chapter three of a document titled "Sparkle." A number of documents, including files titled "Lulu," "Sparkle," "Zaki Writing '1995'," "1. Josephine Rebecca Carroll's Intro = RC-BE," "2. Poems=Thoughts=Pen," "1st Love," "Eloise," "Invocation," "Real News," "Lizard Series," and "Nomathemba 1994 Crossroads," are in Clarisworks format and are currently inaccessible.

Collection Arrangement

The collection is physically in the original order in which it was received. The archivists have made the decision to rearrange some documents in order to improve access to the collection. The records are arranged into twelve series, two of which are further arranged into subseries. The series and subseries arrangement of the records is as follows:

Series 1, Works by Shange

Series 2, Correspondence

Subseries 2.1, Personal

Subseries 2.2, Business

Series 3, Journals and Agendas

Series 4, Notes

Series 5, Clippings, Flyers, Programs, and Posters

Series 6, Teaching Documents

Series 7, Photographs

Series 8, Artwork

Subseries 8.1, Created by Shange

Subseries 8.2, Collected by Shange

Series 9, Adaptations and Works Inspired by Shange

Series 10, Awards

Series 11, Collectables

Series 12, Selections from Shange's Library

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Barnard Archives and Special Collections © 2016

Access

This collection is open for research with the following exception: the Deed of Gift agreement between Barnard and Ntozake Shange permits that Ntozake Shange may, from time to time, remove materials from the collection - on the basis of a loan - for her to use in her artistic practice. Prior to visiting, researchers should contact the archivist to ensure that the records they wish to utilize are currently on-site and available.

Publication Rights

All rights of copyright will remain with Ntozake Shange and/or Ntozake Shange's estate. Ntozake Shange and/or Ntozake Shange's estate grant advanced permission for the Barnard Archives to permit individuals to quote from the materials. Individuals utilizing the materials who wish to publish and/or profit monetarily from the materials must obtain permissions from Ntozake Shange and/or Ntozake Shange's estate.

Reproductions Restrictions

Photocopies or scans may be made for scholarly, research purposes only.

Accruals

Accruals are expected.

Acquisition Information

Acquired, 2013-2016.

Processing History

This collection was processed and the finding aid written by Shannon O'Neill in October 2015. This finding aid was updated by Charlotte Kostelic in March, 2016; extensive edits and inventorying provided by Vani Natarajan, 2016; inventorying and additional processing by Dinah Handel and Heather Lember, 2015.

Appraisal Note

Materials related to Shange's health, medical history, and finances have been removed and destroyed. Personal information related to Shange's former students' academic history have also been removed and destroyed.

Related Materials

Related Collections

Betsko-Koenig Women Playwrights Collection, 1955-1990, Smith College, http://asteria.fivecolleges.edu/findaids/sophiasmith/mnsss325_main.html

Nuyorican Poets Cafe Ephemera, 1975-2000, Billy Rose Theatre Division, NYPL, <http://archives.nypl.org/the/21692>

Guide to the Shameless Hussy Press records, 1968-1989, Univeristy of California Santa Cruz, <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf396nb2dv/>

Anthony Barboza Papers, Ca. 1970-1999, Cornell University, <http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/EAD/xml/dlxs/RMM06839.xml>

Jessica Tarahata Hagedorn Papers, 1974-2006, University of California Berkeley <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt2v19q7k9/>

Papers of June Jordan, 1936-2002, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute http://oasis.lib.harvard.edu/oasis/deliver/deepLink?_collection=oasis&uniqueId=sch00345

Pedro Pietri Papers, Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, Hunter College http://centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/sites/default/files/faids/pdf/Pietri_Pedro.pdf

Thulani Davis Collection, 1967-1997, Emory University <https://findingaids.library.emory.edu/documents/davis914/printable/>

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Correspondence
- Ephemera
- Letters
- Manuscripts
- Notebooks
- Photograph albums
- Photographs
- Programs (documents)

Personal Name(s)

- Shange, Ntozake

Subject(s)

- African American authors
- African American choreographers
- African American dancers
- African American poets
- African American women
- African American women authors
- African American women poets
- African diaspora in literature
- Barnard College--Alumni and alumnae
- Dance
- Dramatic works
- Experimental theatre
- Performing arts
- Poetry

Works by Shange,

Collection Inventory

Series 1, Works by Shange, 1966-2012		
	Box	Folder
Photocopies of handwritten notes for "The Lizard Series;" part of computer printout of "Betsey Brown;" part of computer printout of "from okra to greens," part of computer printout of scripts of "Lavender Lizards and Lilac Landmines: Layla's Dream" including Ntozake's handwritten notes, part of faxed copy of "Some Sing, Some Cry, undated, 1997	1	1
Photocopy of original manuscript of, "ole ole ah kalalou" Version B, 1978	1	2
Typescript for "Spell #7" version D, 1979	1	3
Photocopied typescript for "A Weekend in Austin/A poet, the people & the KKK," with handwritten notes from Shange, 1983	1	4
Computer printout for "Followin the North Star" with edits in the form of document track changes, 2011	1	5
Two computer printout drafts of "lost in language & sound: a choreoessay," 2011	1	6
Typed copy of Ntozake's poem titled "They Are Safe For Now" published in "The Phoenix" her high school literary magazine; photocopies from books of assorted published works, 1966, undated	1	7

Works by Shange,

Draft of "Nomathemba Hope" by Ntozake Shange, Joseph Shabalala, and Eric Simonson revised 5/10/1995, 1995	1	8
Assorted poems, some photocopied from books; portions of "Some Sing, Some Cry," undated	1	9
Notepad that reads "Walter and Zaki 2nd Meeting" and contains notes; file copy of "Liliane: Resurrection of the Daughter"; a second notepad with more notes, 1993-1996	2	1
Printout of the cover of "If I can Cook I know God Can"; computer printout of "On your own/working independently," computer printout and photocopy of article titled "Bang On!," computer print out of transcription from Brad Morrow; computer print out of "Whitewash (Revision #3);" photocopy for Shange of "Star of Fear, Star of Hope" children's book, 1996-1997	2	2
Script of "for colored girls" with notes in margins, undated	2	3
Computer printout of "Some Sing Some Cry" with editor's notes and letter written to Shange and Bisa (sister); handwritten note, 2008	2	4
"A poet looks at African American Dance: Part I," submitted by Ntozake Shange 11/4/2003, 2003	2	6
Draft of "Some Sing, Some Cry;" untitled poem, undated	2	7
Shange and Ifa Bayeza (sister) dialogue from "Some Sing, Some Cry," undated	3	1

Works by Shange,

Photocopy of handwritten poem, "Beneath the necessity of talkin," 3/7/1998	3	2
Bound script of "Betsey Brown," undated	3	3
Copy of "Daddy Says," with editor's notes and letter from David Gale, editor at Simon and Schuster, 2000	3	4
Chapbook of "for colored girls who have considered suicide/ when the rainbow is enuf," undated	4	1
Drafts of "Float Like a Butterfly;" includes feedback from editors and multiple hand- and typewritten drafts, 1999	4	2
Notes and schedule for "Pasaporte" a multimedia performance with monologue by Shange; outline of tribute to Joe Papp titled, "Joe Papp in Six Acts," 1998-2000	4	3
Script of "Sassafrass, Cypress, & Indigo," includes notes for stage production, mark-ups in highlighter, and notes from Shange, 1999	4	4
Manuscript and computer printout for essay, including bibliography, that begins "The prodigal son, as we understand his story..."; manuscript and print out review of CD by Olu Dara titled "In the World," undated, 1997	4	5
Photocopy of handwritten manuscript of "Ali the Greatest," 1999	4	6
Letter from Adál Maldonado about Shange's writing role in "Tropicorama," 2000	5	1

Works by Shange,

Copies, printouts, and handwritten works by Shange including essays: "Porque tu no M'entiendes? What do you mean you can't understand me?," "The Dark Room," "The Couch -- Dark Rooms," "Borders Essay," photocopy of handwritten essay beginning "Before we can hastily address multi-culturalism, we must address the issue of language....," and "Ellie, who is my mother;" correspondence with Claudia Schaab of Conari Press about Shange's contribution of "Ellie, who is my mother" to "The Source of Spring: Mothers Through the Eyes of Women Writers;" fax to Joe Regal about psychoanalysis piece, 1997-1998	5	2
List of works to be included in "Preliminary Text: Shange Retrospective 'Hydraulics Phat Like Mean'" includes printouts and typed versions of the works in the list such as "Mood Indigo," "Love's Fire," "Mother Courage," "Liliane," "Lulu en Habana," "Daddy Says," and others, 1999	5	3
Original manuscript for Shange's edited book "The Beacon Best of 1999"; includes correspondence with Alex Ethridge, Tisha Hooks, Edna Chiang, 1997	5	4
Loose and bound copies of "Some Sing, Some Cry," pages numbered and signed by Shange, 1997	6	1
Drafts of portions of "Some Sing, Some Cry," some drafts contain handwritten notes; additions to "Some Sing, Some Cry" in sealed envelope; fax transmittal from Shange to Tisha Hooks at Beacon Press, circa 1997	6	2
Drafts of "Some Sing, Some Cry;" envelope containing Chapter 3 of "Some Sing, Some Cry," Chapter 2 of "Some Sing, Some Cry" by Ifa Bayeza, 1998	6	3

Works by Shange,

Copies of "Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo" and "The Love Space Demands," with notes and highlighting, undated	6	4
Script of "Hydraulics Phat Like Mean;" program from "Love's Fire, Fresh Numbers by Seven American Playwrights," for which "Hydraulics Phat Like Mean" was written, 1998	7	1
Typed copy of "Birthday in Brixton;" Chapter 2 of "if i can cook you know god can" titled "Dreamin of a proper meal/chattel to consumer;" uncorrected proof of "I Live in Music (A Work in Progress)," 1997	7	2
Excerpt from "Some Sing, Some Cry," pages 1-98, undated	7	3
Script of unnamed play with notes; unclear if play is one of Shange's, undated	7	4
First draft of "Nomathemba/A Song of Hope," by Ntozake Shange, Joseph Shabalala, and Eric Simonson, circa 1995	7	5
Proofs of "We Troubled the Waters," 2008	7	6
First edition of, "We Troubled the Waters", 2009	8	1
Bound and unbound copies of "Coretta Scott," 2008	8	2
Two paperback copies of "Betsy Brown," each has a different cover, 1985	8	3

Works by Shange,

Three copies of "Nappy Edges," one with an errata slip inserted; and one copy of "from okra to greens" with message written inside, "To Desiree from Ms. Jordan 1988," 1980-1991	8	4
Copies of: "Daddy Says" (reviewer copy), "The Lizard Series," "Selected Works by Ntozake Shange and Ifa Beyeza," and "The Love Space Demands," 1991-2007	8	5
1 DVD "Finding the Future," Ntozake Shange + Campo Santo; 1 CD Ntozake Shange and David Murray, circa 2006	9	1
Early manuscripts and typescript works, including portions of "for colored girls," 1970-1972	9	2
"Phat Mama," volume 1, n. 1.; includes submitted typescripts and manuscripts and original hand drawn advertising flyer, 1970	9	3
1 VHS tape, "Dreamed Dwelling," 28 minute run time, rough cut, undated		
	Box	Folder
First draft of "if i can cook," 1997	10	1
First draft of "Nomathemba/A Song of Hope," undated	10	2
Drafts of "Nomathemba," undated	10	3
Revisions of "Nomathemba," 1996	10	4

Works by Shange,

Scene blocking and notes for "Nomathemba," 1994	10	5
Correspondence and agreements for production of "Nomathemba," 1994	10	6
Crossroads Theatre Production of "Nomathemba," 1996	10	7
Notes for, "Liliane: Resurrection of the Daughter," produced by Rites & Reason Theatre, Brown University, RI, 1998	10	8
Unidentified manuscripts; notes; sheet music to "This is Our House," undated	10	9
Second copy of "Nomathemba/A Song of Hope" first draft, undated	10	10
Chapter 4 of "Some Sing, Some Cry," undated	11	1
Two copies of "Lulu en Habana. Adapted from The LuluPlays by Frank Wedekind," 1998	11	2
Manuscript beginning "i want to see my people. The live ones & the ones living in spirit...;" earlier drafts of Lulu en Habana, undated	11	3
Typescript of "A Narrative of 'Daddy Says,'" undated	13	6
Preface to text beginning "The impulse to depict is ancient...;" includes letters to Shange about editing and compiling book from Tisha Hooks and Shange comments on pages faxed from Beacon Press, 1999	14	6

Correspondence,

Typescript of poem beginning "somebody almost walked off wid alla my stuff....," undated	15	7
		Box
Photographs in album from "The Sweet Breath of Life....," undated		28
		Oversize
Artwork in pen and paint, collage, undated		Flat File 41
	Disk	Box
1 .pdf file Chapter 1 of "Some Sing, Some Cry," includes edits, September 8, 2000	BC20_29_07	39
		Box
1 DVD of Ntozake Shange performing "Dangling Participles and Shady Syllables" as part of the Nu-Arts Series at the Metropolitan Gallery in St. Louis, April 4, 2009		39
2 CDs, discs 2 and 4 of "Lost in Language and Sound: Or, How I Found My Way to the Arts" narrated by Allyson Johnson, 2012		39
Series 2, Correspondence, 1977-2016		
Subseries 2.1, Personal, 1977-2016 0.834 Linear feet ; 2 document boxes		
	Box	Folder
Letters; holiday and greeting cards to Eloise (mother) and Bisa to Ntozake, 1981-2006	12	1

Business,

Letters to Eloise and Bisa from Ntozake, 1981-2006	12	2
Letters from Eloise and Bisa to Ntozake, 1977-1999	12	3
Notes and drawings from Savannah (daughter) to her grandparents, undated	12	4
Postcards; invitations; birthday, holiday and greeting cards; letters, 1991-2012	12	5
Greeting and birthday cards; letters; postcards, 1996	12	6
Notes and letters to Shange, 1994	12	7
Letter from Ashley Smiley, 2015	12	8
Get-well and birthday cards; letters to Shange, 2005-2009	12	9
Holiday, thank you, and birthday cards, 2002-2012	13	1
Invitations; greeting and birthday cards; postcards; letters, 1996-2012	13	2
Greeting and birthday cards; invitations; letters, 1987-2013	13	3
Subseries 2.2, Business, 1990-2012		
	Box	Folder

Business,

Correspondence from Tisha Hooks, with edits for "if i can cook..." and Beacon Press' Author's Guide for submitting manuscripts, 1997	2	5
Correspondence to Tisha Hooks from Shange, 1997	5	2
Correspondence from Karen Allen Baxter of Rites & Reason Theatre, Brown University commissioning work about black cowboys and cowgirls in Texas, 1997	5	2
Letter from Florentine Films' Associate Producer Natalie Bullock, about participate in Ken Burns' "Jazz" film series, 1998	11	2
Letter from Jennie Dunham from Russel & Volkening, Inc. (literary agents) about artwork for , "Float Like a Butterfly," 2000	12	10
Letters from Mississippi Valley Review; Barnard College; Russel & Volkening; Simon & Schuster; Defunkt Music; Program Corporation of America; Hyperion, 1990-1999	13	4
Note from Eileen with enclosed script to "Dancing on Moonlight," 2000	13	5
Letter to Ifa about Dora May, 1998	13	6
From Page to Stage, 2006	13	7
Letters from Grey Wolf Press asking and thanking Shange for review of Elizabeth Alexander's "Antebellum Dream Book, 2001	14	1

Business,

Correspondence from literary agents and Nuyorican Press/Cafe; contracts with LA Theatre Works and New Federal Theatre; invitations to participate in St. Louis Walk of Fame; requests for attendance at performances, 2005-2012	14	2
Correspondence and contracts with literary and theatre agencies, contact sheet and guest list for "for colored girls....," 1990-2011	14	3
Correspondence and contracts, with Lionsgate and literary agents, 2008-2012	14	4
The Links - Port City Chapter, 2000-2001	14	5
Voices of America feature on "for colored girls," 2000	14	7
Contracts; Russell & Volkening correspondence; support from the Authors League Fund; speaking tour memoranda, schedules, and riders: correspondence from Diane Stiles from the Castillo Theater about "Dangling Participles and Shady Syllables" including projected production costs, 1996-2012	15	1
Payment for speaking engagements; royalty statements for "Some Sing, Some Cry," "A Daughter's Geography," "Betsey Brown," 2008-2012	15	2
1996 West Coast speaking engagement hotel and location itinerary; Poetry Alive! inventory; reading of Fresh Numbers: boarding passes; hotel bills; Shange performance notes (Sun-Ra), 1996-1997	15	3

Journals and Agendas,

Publicity materials and personal card to Shange from Eleo Pomare Dance Company; 1996 Tour itinerary from Birdsong Productions; trip itineraries to California, New York, and Texas, 1996	15	4
Correspondence with literary agent; thank you letter from Shange to Edel Rodriguez for "Float Like a Butterfly" illustrations; communication from University of Mississippi including trip itinerary, 2002-2011	15	6
Recommendation letter copies about Shange; letters from literary agents; performance contracts; itineraries, 1997-2003	15	7
Series 3, Journals and Agendas, 1981-2009		
	Box	Folder
One perfect bound journal containing personal notes and daily entries, 1981, 2009	9	5
One leather bound notebook containing a few daily entries, 2003-2005	11	9
One perfect bound journal containing notes, 1996	11	10
One leather bound notebook containing daily entries, 2001-2005	12	11
Two spiral bound notebooks containing personal notes and notes from "Nomathemba," 1994	16	1
One notebook with tie containing daily entries and dreams, 1996	16	2

Journals and Agendas,

One agenda, 1994	16	3
Two notebooks: one spiral bound, containing personal notes, dreams, and lists; one perfect bound containing daily entries and dreams, 1994-1995	16	4
One spiral bound notebook containing notes, 1996	16	5
One notebook containing daily entries and pressed flowers, 2000	17	1
One spiral bound notebook containing daily entries, 2001	17	2
One spiral bound agenda, 2004	17	3
Two notebooks: one titled, "My Life 2005 Oakland Base & Beyond" containing photographs; one with magnetic cover containing personal notes, 2005, 2008	17	4
Two agendas, 2002-2003, 2009	17	5
One agenda, 2010	18	1
Three journals containing personal notes, undated, 1995	18	2
Two journals containing personal notes, undated	18	3
One agenda, undated	18	4

Notes,

One journal containing sketches from rehearsal for "A Sense of Breath," 1991	18	5
One journal containing daily entries, 1995	18	6
Series 4, Notes, 1972-2010		
	Box	Folder
List, "Ntozakes Essays 6-22-98," 1998	4	6
Hand-sketched blueprint of home including dance space, undated	5	2
New Careers Institute Family Day Care Training Program materials, 1972	11	4
Notes to self, undated	11	5
Notes to self; staging notes; itineraries for trips, 1997-2011	11	6
Shange's Resonant Field Imaging Results from Atlantis Healthy Vibes Emporium, undated	19	1
Series 5, Clippings, Flyers, Programs, and Posters, 1981-2015		
	Box	Folder
Newspaper clipping of Oscar Brown obituary, undated	1	

Clippings, Flyers, Programs, and Posters,

Programs from Henry Street Settlement Abrons Arts Center Jamboree and Newark Symphony Hall Celebrate Amiri performance, 2015	12	8
Programs from events Ntozake attended as a presenter, honoree, or award recipient, 2005-2011	15	5
Clippings related to 25th anniversary of "for colored girls;" profile of Ntozake in "Our Time Press;" flyers and programs from events and memorials; "why i had to dance" premier programs, 2000-2015	19	1
Programs for performances of Shange's works including: "for colored girls," "The Love Space Demands," "Black Girl," "from okra to greens," and "lost in language & sound;" programs for presentations by Shange; dust jackets for "Liliane," "Daddy Says," and "Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo;" 1995-2015	19	2
Bound book of reviews and articles on Shange's performances; clippings, mailings, and organizational papers relating to actions to free Mumia Abu-Jamal; programs for performances and speaking engagements, 1981-2013	19	3
Printed articles and reviews of Shange's publications and performances; various programs for performances of Shange's work and the work of others, 1985-2004	19	4
Newspaper clippings on Shange's speeches and performances; other clippings sent to Shange or collected by Shange, 2009-2010	19	5
Printed news articles about political prisoners, 1995	19	6

Teaching Documents,

Postcards; Ntozake Shange retrospective program; Otto Awards; 2007-2008	19	7
Various playbills, programs, and brochures, 1991-2009	20	1
Various clippings and articles about Shange and events or conferences in which she participated, 1994-1998	20	2
Programs for performances of Shange's work and the works of others; 2008-2011	20	3
Flyers for "Ntozake Shange Poetess" at Experience II-Nu's Black Coffee House in Boston, undated	20	4
Photocopies of newspaper articles relating to violence in Algeria, 1997	20	5
Speak Out - Action for Democratic Education materials, undated	20	6
Travel itinerary and information for Niger and All Stars Project Inc., undated	20	7
		Oversize
"for colored girls..." poster for production at The Public Theatre; signed book jacket for "Liliane;" promotional poster for "Sassafrass, Cypress, & Indigo," undated		Flat File 34
Promotional posters for "Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo" and "Corretta Scott," undated		Flat File 41
Series 6, Teaching Documents, 1997-2003		

Photographs,

	Box	Folder
Handwritten and typed notes of Shange's teaching history and timeline; multiple iterations of Shange's professional bio; program from participation in the National Black Theatre Summit "On Golden Pond," 1998-2000	11	7
Materials from Prairie View A&M University; "Black Faculty and A&P Staff Directory" 2002-2003 University of Florida; letter welcoming Shange to Brown University, 1997-2003	11	8
Letter from fellow professor at University of Florida; University of Florida business card proofs; Correspondence with various faculty members at University of Florida; book order list for University of Florida, 2002-2003	15	6
University of Florida notes, syllabi, invitations, memorandum, meeting minutes, correspondence, 2003	15	7
Series 7, Photographs, circa 1980s-2011		
	Box	Folder
2 computer printouts of candid photographs of Shange and friends, undated	5	2
Candid photographs of Shange, friends, and family; plastic holder reads, "Bonelelex x Shange," undated	21	1
Candid photographs of friends, family, and Ntozake at events; lampslides stored in plastic coverings with "AARP 1995" written on side; one photo	21	2

Photographs,

from 2000 reads "June 3, 2000 Barnard's Woman of the Year 2000 and my birthday (no age!)," 1995-2007		
Photographs of family, friends, and Shange at events; also contains photographs of Shange recording with musicians and performing, undated	21	3
Candid photographs of Shange, family, and friends, 1998, 2005, undated	21	4
Leather and cloth booklet of photographs including photos of a performance of "Nomathembra" in Chicago, undated	22	1
Candid photos of family and friends; photos taken by Ntozake as well as professional photographer prints; Ektachrome slides of W. Johnson artwork, 1981, undated	22	2
Photographs of family celebrations and children, undated	22	3
Photographs of family holiday celebrations; family photos, 1992-2005	22	4
Photographs of Shange, family and friends, undated	23	1
Photographs of family and friends, undated	23	2
Photographs of Shange, Savannah, and unidentified individuals; Ntozake pictured with an award in one photo, undated	23	3
		Box
3 personal photo albums; album from Houston Area Women's Center, undated		28

Oversize

Adaptations and Works Inspired by Shange,

Flat File
38, Flat
File 41

Oversized photographic prints of Shange, undated

Disk Box

139 .jpg files in folder "July 28, 2005" on CD labeled "Family History Pictures 2005 Reunion", 2005	BC20_29_01_0	39
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221 .jpg files in folder "Reunion 2005" on CD labeled "2005 Reunion," 2005	BC20_29_01_0	39
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99 .jpg files in folder "Ntozake2005_0413" on CD labeled "Ntozake Photos by: Dorothy Shi," 2005	BC20_29_04	39
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100 .jpg files in folder "Jan_2011 Access Writers Workshop with Ms. Shange," 132 .jpg files in folder "Jan_2011 Ms. Shange CMR Program," and 85 .jpg files in folder "Jan_2011 writer's coffee with Ms. Shange" on CD labeled "Photos of Ms. Shange Programs Jan. 2011," 2011	BC20_29_08	39
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Series 8, Adaptations and Works Inspired by Shange, 1995-2012

Box Folder

Letter from Mark Anthony Hines containing request for Shange to write blurb for his book; Letter contains book synopsis, first two chapters, newspaper clippings, 1999	23	4
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"Colored Girl Stories: A Letter to my FAMU self;" "Tear the Roof off the Sucka!": A Compilation of Works from the Artists-in-Residence Program -	23	5
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Awards,

Atlantic Center for the Arts;" press release for documentary, "Ntozake and Loose Tongues," 1996-2011

Screenplay of "For Colored Girls" by Nzingha Stewart; "La Donna in Viola" by Aaron Zigman; sheet music for "for colored girls," undated	23	6
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Envelope containing three writing submissions by Denea Stewart, 1999

"How to Marry a Black Man," a TV pilot proposal that credits Shange as Spiritual Advisor, 2012	23	8
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Fax exchange with Jeff Silberman about the script for "Sassafrass, Cypress, & Indigo," includes his mark-ups and treatment of the book, 1995-1998

Series 9, Awards, 1987-2011

	Box	Folder
City Proclamations, undated	12	8

Oversize

City Proclamations, undated

Flat file 34,
Flat File 41

Box

Variety of awards and plaques; graduation regalia, 1987, 2000, 2002, 2006, 2010		25
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Barnard Medal of Honor; Oberlin College degree; Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition; other awards, 1988, 2000, 2011, undated

27

Collectables,

1 DVD of Shange receiving the 2009 Otto Rene Castillo Award for Political Theater, with introduction given by Woodie King; includes letter from Diane Stiles requesting 2010 nominations for the award, 2009-2010 39

Series 10, Collectables, undated

Box

Marionette; historical documents purchased from James H. Cohen including "slave document," "Texas \$5 note;" "CSA \$100 note;" and "VA \$5 note," undated 26

Jewelry made by Shange; flower writing pen; Kama Sutra cards; rosary beads; buttons; small rock; Obama Inaugural coin collection; "for colored girls" promotional bracelet; magnifying glass, buttons, "nipple duster," undated 28

Series 11, Works by other artists collected by Ntozake Shange, 1992-1998

	Box	Folder
Poetry and essay by Savannah, undated	5	2
Copy of libretto/vocal book for "Once on this Island" book and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, music by Stephen Flaherty, undated	13	6
Typed and handwritten poetry, unknown author, undated	19	7
Copies of Black Mesa Poems, undated	24	1
Copy of Ifa Bayeza's script of "Amistad Voices," 1998	24	2

Works by other artists collected by Ntozake Shange,

Copy of "Legacy," and essay by Robert Bacon, Jr., undated	24	3
Bound copy of play titled, "Love is Blind," by Lynn Manning, 1996-1998	24	4
Fela NYC DVD; CDs including Hector, Andromeda Turre, The Soultrotta Series Vol 1, and Melba Moore; Paper titled "The Caribbean as Crossroads" by Clinton Turner Davis; handwritten poem by Deborah L Williams, undated	24	5
Poem by Bill Katz to Ntozake Shange (An Evening of Beardens Book-Signing and Passion), 1992	24	6
Works by Keith Mason, 1994-1996	24	7
Essay by James Baldwin, "whose Harlem is this, anyway?;" poems by James Berry, Sarah Holbrook, and unidentified authors, 1987-1991	24	8
		Box
Ntozake's El Passoport El Spirit Republic de Puerto Rico as part of Adál Maldonado's project El Puerto Rican Embassy, undated		28
		Oversize
Drawing of Ntozake (artist unknown), undated		Flat File 41
	Disk	Box
1 .m4a music file, artist unknown, 1 track on CD labeled "COND #146"	BC20_29_02	39
1 .m4a music file, "01 Track 01.m4a," artist unknown, 1 track on CD labeled "COND #135," undated	BC20_29_03	39

Selections from Shange's Library

41 .m4a music files, artists unknown, on 3 unlabeled CD-Rs, undated BC20_29_12 39

Box

2 DVDs, one labeled "34 seconds Avedon Photo Hirschfeld Drawing Voices of Aku Kadogo Paula Moss Ntozake Shange Poetry Queen and Her World Luciana Polney, Dir.", the second labeled "In the Beginning Willie Colon and Hector Lavoe," undated 39

7 CDs from John Ulatowski, Willie Atkins, and Freddie Washington, Daniel Hendrick, and "Madwoman: A Contemporary Opera," 2008-2010 39

2 CDs, labeled "Ken Kesey Memorial December 5, 2001," 2001 39

Box

Series 12, Selections from Shange's Library 29-38

Scope and Content Summary

For a full list of the selections from Shange's library, please contact the archivist.