

# Guide to the Ntozake Shange Papers BC20.29

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on December 12, 2017.

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Barnard Archives and Special Collections
<b>Creator:</b>	Shange, Ntozake
<b>Title:</b>	Ntozake Shange Papers
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1966-2017
<b>Physical Description:</b>	35.587 Linear Feet 35 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)
<b>Physical Location:</b>	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.
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	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.

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## Biography

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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), *Betsy 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).

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## Collection Scope and Content Summary

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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.

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## Collection Arrangement

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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

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Barnard Archives and Special Collections

### **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.

## Acquisition Information

Acquired, 2013-2016.

## Accruals

Accruals are expected.

## 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. Edits, inventorying, and additional processing done by Julia Sukhu, 2017.

## 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.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Collections

Betsko-Koenig Women Playwrights Collection, 1955-1990, Smith College, [http://asteria.fivecolleges.edu/findaids/sophiasmith/mnsss325\\_main.html](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://rnc.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](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](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/>

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- African American women
- Experimental theatre
- Performing arts
- Programs (documents)
- Letters
- Photograph albums
- Manuscripts
- Photographs
- Barnard College -- Alumni and alumnae
- Notebooks
- Poetry
- Ephemera
- Correspondence
- African diaspora in literature
- African American authors
- African American choreographers
- African American dancers
- African American poets
- African American women authors
- African American women poets
- Dramatic works
- Dance
- Shange, Ntozake

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## Collection Inventory

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### Works by Shange, 1966-2017



Title/Description	Instances	
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	box 1	folder 1
Photocopy of original manuscript of, "ole ole ah kalalou" Version B, 1978	box 1	folder 2
Typescript for "Spell #7" version D, 1979	box 1	folder 3
Photocopied typescript for "A Weekend in Austin/A poet, the people & the KKK," with handwritten notes from Shange, 1983	box 1	folder 4
Computer printout for "Followin the North Star" with edits in the form of document track changes, 2011	box 1	folder 5
Two computer printout drafts of "lost in language & sound: a choreoessay", 2011	box 1	folder 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	box 1	folder 7
Draft of "Nomathemba Hope" by Ntozake Shange, Joseph Shabalala, and Eric Simonson revised 5/10/1995, 1995	box 1	folder 8
Assorted poems, some photocopied from books; portions of "Some Sing, Some Cry," undated	box 1	folder 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	box 2	folder 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	box 2	folder 2
Script of "for colored girls" with notes in margins, undated	box 2	folder 3
Computer printout of "Some Sing Some Cry" with editor's notes and letter written to Shange and Bisa (sister); handwritten note, 2008	box 2	folder 4
"A poet looks at African American Dance: Part I," submitted by Ntozake Shange 11/4/2003, 2003	box 2	folder 6
Draft of "Some Sing, Some Cry;" untitled poem, undated	box 2	folder 7
Shange and Ifa Bayeza (sister) dialogue from "Some Sing, Some Cry", undated	box 3	folder 1

Photocopy of handwritten poem, "Beneath the necessity of talkin'", 3/7/1998	box 3	folder 2
Bound script of "Betsey Brown", undated	box 3	folder 3
Copy of "Daddy Says," with editor's notes and letter from David Gale, editor at Simon and Schuster, 2000	box 3	folder 4
Chapbook of "for colored girls who have considered suicide/ when the rainbow is enuf", undated	box 4	folder 1
Drafts of "Float Like a Butterfly;" includes feedback from editors and multiple hand- and typewritten drafts, 1999	box 4	folder 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	box 4	folder 3
Script of "Sassafrass, Cypress, & Indigo," includes notes for stage production, mark-ups in highlighter, and notes from Shange, 1999	box 4	folder 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	box 4	folder 5
Photocopy of handwritten manuscript of "Ali the Greatest", 1999	box 4	folder 6
Letter from Adal Maldonado about Shange's writing role in "Tropicorama", 2000	box 5	folder 1
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	box 5	folder 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	box 5	folder 3
Original manuscript for Shange's edited book "The Beacon Best of 1999"; includes correspondence with Alex Ethridge, Tisha Hooks, Edna Chiang, 1997	box 5	folder 4
Loose and bound copies of "Some Sing, Some Cry," pages numbered and signed by Shange, 1997	box 6	folder 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	box 6	folder 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	box 6	folder 3
Copies of "Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo" and "The Love Space Demands," with notes and highlighting, undated	box 6	folder 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	box 7	folder 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	box 7	folder 2
Excerpt from "Some Sing, Some Cry," pages 1-98, undated	box 7	folder 3
Script of unnamed play with notes; unclear if play is one of Shange's, undated	box 7	folder 4
First draft of "Nomathemba/A Song of Hope," by Ntozake Shange, Joseph Shabalala, and Eric Simonson, circa 1995	box 7	folder 5
Proofs of "We Troubled the Waters", 2008	box 7	folder 6
First edition of,"We Troubled the Waters", 2009	box 8	folder 1
Bound and unbound copies of "Coretta Scott", 2008	box 8	folder 2
Two paperback copies of "Betsey Brown," each has a different cover, 1985	box 8	folder 3
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	box 8	folder 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	box 8	folder 5
1 DVD "Finding the Future," Ntozake Shange + Campo Santo; 1 CD Ntozake Shange and David Murray, circa 2006	box 9	folder 1
Early manuscripts and typescript works, including portions of "for colored girls", 1970-1972	box 9	folder 2
"Phat Mama," volume 1, n. 1.; includes submitted typescripts and manuscripts and original hand drawn advertising flyer, 1970	box 9	folder 3
1 VHS tape, "Dreamed Dwelling," 28 minute run time, rough cut, undated	box 9	folder 4
First draft of "if i can cook", 1997	box 10	folder 1
First draft of "Nomathemba/A Song of Hope", undated	box 10	folder 2
Drafts of "Nomathemba", undated	box 10	folder 3
Revisions of "Nomathemba", 1996	box 10	folder 4

Scene blocking and notes for "Nomathemba", 1994	box 10	folder 5
Correspondence and agreements for production of "Nomathemba", 1994	box 10	folder 6
Crossroads Theatre Production of "Nomathemba", 1996	box 10	folder 7
Notes for, "Liliane: Resurrection of the Daughter," produced by Rites & Reason Theatre, Brown University, RI, 1998	box 10	folder 8
Unidentified manuscripts; notes; sheet music to "This is Our House", undated	box 10	folder 9
Second copy of "Nomathemba/A Song of Hope" first draft, undated	box 10	folder 10
Chapter 4 of "Some Sing, Some Cry", undated	box 11	folder 1
Two copies of "Lulu en Habana. Adapted from The LuluPlays by Frank Wedekind", 1998	box 11	folder 2
Manuscript beginning "i want to see my people. The live ones & the ones living in spirit...;" earlier drafts of Lulu en Habana, undated	box 11	folder 3
Typescript of "A Narrative of 'Daddy Says'", undated	box 13	folder 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	box 14	folder 6
Typescript of poem beginning "somebody almost walked off wid alla my stuff...", undated	box 15	folder 7
Photographs in album from "The Sweet Breath of Life...", undated	box 28	
Artwork in pen and paint, collage, undated	oversize Flat File 41	
1 .pdf file Chapter 1 of "Some Sing, Some Cry," includes edits, September 8, 2000	disk BC20_29_07	box 39
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	box 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	box 39	

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## Correspondence, 1977-2016

### Personal, 1977-2016

Physical Description: 0.834 Linear Feet 2 document boxes

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Letters; holiday and greeting cards to Eloise (mother) and Bisa to Ntozake, 1981-2006	box 12	folder 1
Letters to Eloise and Bisa from Ntozake, 1981-2006	box 12	folder 2
Letters from Eloise and Bisa to Ntozake, 1977-1999	box 12	folder 3
Notes and drawings from Savannah (daughter) to her grandparents, undated	box 12	folder 4
Postcards; invitations; birthday, holiday and greeting cards; letters, 1991-2012	box 12	folder 5
Greeting and birthday cards; letters; postcards, 1996	box 12	folder 6
Notes and letters to Shange, 1994	box 12	folder 7
Letter from Ashley Smiley, 2015	box 12	folder 8
Get-well and birthday cards; letters to Shange, 2005-2009	box 12	folder 9
Holiday, thank you, and birthday cards, 2002-2012	box 13	folder 1
Invitations; greeting and birthday cards; postcards; letters, 1996-2012	box 13	folder 2
Greeting and birthday cards; invitations; letters, 1987-2013	box 13	folder 3

## **Business, 1990-2012**

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

From Page to Stage, 2006	box 13	folder 7
Letters from Grey Wolf Press asking and thanking Shange for review of Elizabeth Alexander's "Antebellum Dream Book, 2001	box 14	folder 1
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	box 14	folder 2
Correspondence and contracts with literary and theater agencies, contact sheet and guest list for "for colored girls...", 1990-2011	box 14	folder 3
Correspondence and contracts, with Lionsgate and literary agents, 2008-2012	box 14	folder 4
The Links - Port City Chapter, 2000-2001	box 14	folder 5
Voices of America feature on "for colored girls", 2000	box 14	folder 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	box 15	folder 1
Payment for speaking engagements; royalty statements for "Some Sing, Some Cry," "A Daughter's Geography," "Betsey Brown", 2008-2012	box 15	folder 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	box 15	folder 3
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	box 15	folder 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	box 15	folder 6
Recommendation letter copies about Shange; letters from literary agents; performance contracts; itineraries, 1997-2003	box 15	folder 7

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## Journals and Agendas, 1981-2009

Title/Description	Instances	
One perfect bound journal containing personal notes and daily entries, 1981, 2009	box 9	folder 5

One leather bound notebook containing a few daily entries, 2003-2005	box 11	folder 9
One perfect bound journal containing notes, 1996	box 11	folder 10
One leather bound notebook containing daily entries, 2001-2005	box 12	folder 11
Two spiral bound notebooks containing personal notes and notes from "Nomathemba", 1994	box 16	folder 1
One notebook with tie containing daily entries and dreams, 1996	box 16	folder 2
One agenda, 1994	box 16	folder 3
Two notebooks: one spiral bound, containing personal notes, dreams, and lists; one perfect bound containing daily entries and dreams, 1994-1995	box 16	folder 4
One spiral bound notebook containing notes, 1996	box 16	folder 5
One notebook containing daily entries and pressed flowers, 2000	box 17	folder 1
One spiral bound notebook containing daily entries, 2001	box 17	folder 2
One spiral bound agenda, 2004	box 17	folder 3
Two notebooks: one titled, "My Life 2005 Oakland Base & Beyond" containing photographs; one with magnetic cover containing personal notes, 2005, 2008	box 17	folder 4
Two agendas, 2002-2003, 2009	box 17	folder 5
One agenda, 2010	box 18	folder 1
Three journals containing personal notes, undated, 1995	box 18	folder 2
Two journals containing personal notes, undated	box 18	folder 3
One agenda, undated	box 18	folder 4
One journal containing sketches from rehearsal for "A Sense of Breath", 1991	box 18	folder 5
One journal containing daily entries, 1995	box 18	folder 6

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## Notes, 1972-2010

Title/Description	Instances	
List, "Ntozakes Essays 6-22-98", 1998	box 4	folder 6
Hand-sketched blueprint of home including dance space, undated	box 5	folder 2
New Careers Institute Family Day Care Training Program materials, 1972	box 11	folder 4
Notes to self, undated	box 11	folder 5

Notes to self; staging notes; itineraries for trips, 1997-2011	box 11	folder 6
Shange's Resonant Field Imaging Results from Atlantis Healthy Vibes Emporium, undated	box 19	folder 1

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## Clippings, Flyers, Programs, and Posters, 1981-2017

Title/Description	Instances	
Newspaper clipping of Oscar Brown obituary, undated	box 1	folder 1
Programs from Henry Street Settlement Abrons Arts Center Jamboree and Newark Symphony Hall Celebrate Amiri performance, 2015	box 12	folder 8
Programs from events Ntozake attended as a presenter, honoree, or award recipient, 2005-2011	box 15	folder 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	box 19	folder 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	box 19	folder 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	box 19	folder 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	box 19	folder 4
Newspaper clippings on Shange's speeches and performances; other clippings sent to Shange or collected by Shange, 2009-2010	box 19	folder 5
Printed news articles about political prisoners, 1995	box 19	folder 6
Postcards; Ntozake Shange retrospective program; Otto Awards, 2007-2008	box 19	folder 7
Various playbills, programs, and brochures, 1991-2009	box 20	folder 1
Various clippings and articles about Shange and events or conferences in which she participated, 1994-1998	box 20	folder 2
Programs for performances of Shange's work and the works of others, 2008-2011	box 20	folder 3
Flyers for "Ntozake Shange Poetess" at Experience II-Nu's Black Coffee House in Boston, undated	box 20	folder 4



Photocopies of newspaper articles relating to violence in Algeria, 1997	box 20	folder 5
Speak Out - Action for Democratic Education materials, undated	box 20	folder 6
Travel itinerary and information for Niger and All Stars Project Inc., undated	box 20	folder 7
"for colored girls..." poster for production at The Public Theatre; signed book jacket for "Liliane"; promotional poster for "Sassafrass, Cypress, & Indigo"; "What do you believe a poem should do" MTA poster; "Journey to Memory Falls" Spellmen performance poster, undated, 2015, 2016	oversize Flat	File 34
Promotional posters for "Sassafrass, Cypress & Indigo" and "Corretta Scott", undated	oversize Flat	File 41

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## Teaching Documents, 1997-2003

Title/Description	Instances	
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	box 11	folder 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	box 11	folder 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	box 15	folder 6
University of Florida notes, syllabi, invitations, memorandum, meeting minutes, correspondence, 2003	box 15	folder 7

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## Photographs, circa 1980s-2011

Title/Description	Instances	
2 computer printouts of candid photographs of Shange and friends, undated	box 5	folder 2
Candid photographs of Shange, friends, and family; plastic holder reads, "Bonelelex x Shange", undated	box 21	folder 1
Candid photographs of friends, family, and Ntozake at events; lampslides stored in plastic coverings with "AARP 1995" written	box 21	folder 2

on side; one photo 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	box 21	folder 3
Candid photographs of Shange, family, and friends, 1998, 2005, undated	box 21	folder 4
Leather and cloth booklet of photographs including photos of a performance of "Nomathembra" in Chicago, undated	box 22	folder 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	box 22	folder 2
Photographs of family celebrations and children, undated	box 22	folder 3
Photographs of family holiday celebrations; family photos, 1992-2005	box 22	folder 4
Photographs of Shange, family and friends, undated	box 23	folder 1
Photographs of family and friends, undated	box 23	folder 2
Photographs of Shange, Savannah, and unidentified individuals; Ntozake pictured with an award in one photo, undated	box 23	folder 3
3 personal photo albums; album from Houston Area Women's Center, undated	box 28	
Oversized photographic prints of Shange, undated	oversize Flat File 38, Flat File 41	
139 .jpg files in folder "July 28, 2005" on CD labeled "Family History Pictures 2005 Reunion", 2005	disk BC20_29_01_01	box 39
221 .jpg files in folder "Reunion 2005" on CD labeled "2005 Reunion", 2005	disk BC20_29_01_02	box 39
99 .jpg files in folder "Ntozake2005_0413" on CD labeled "Ntozake Photos by: Dorothy Shi", 2005	disk BC20_29_04	box 39
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	disk BC20_29_08	box 39

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## Adaptations and Works Inspired by Shange, 1995-2012

Title/Description	Instances
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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	box 23	folder 4
"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 - Atlantic Center for the Arts;" press release for documentary, "Ntozake and Loose Tongues", 1996-2011	box 23	folder 5
Screenplay of "For Colored Girls" by Nzingha Stewart; "La Donna in Viola" by Aaron Zigman; sheet music for "for colored girls", undated	box 23	folder 6
Envelope containing three writing submissions by Denea Stewart, 1999	box 23	folder 7
"How to Marry a Black Man," a TV pilot proposal that credits Shange as Spiritual Advisor, 2012	box 23	folder 8
Fax exchange with Jeff Silberman about the script for "Sassafrass, Cypress, & Indigo," includes his mark-ups and treatment of the book, 1995-1998	box 23	folder 9

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## Awards, 1987-2011

Title/Description	Instances
City Proclamations, undated	box 12 folder 8
City Proclamations, undated	oversize Flat file 34, Flat File 41
Variety of awards and plaques; graduation regalia, 1987, 2000, 2002, 2006, 2010	box 25
Barnard Medal of Honor; Oberlin College degree; Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition; other awards; Atlanta City Council Proclamation , 1988, 2000, 2011, undated, 2016	box 27
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	box 39

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## Collectables, undated

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

box 28

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## Works by other artists collected by Ntozake Shange, 1992-1998

Title/Description	Instances	
Poetry and essay by Savannah, undated	box 5	folder 2
Copy of libretto/vocal book for "Once on this Island" book and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, music by Stephen Flaherty, undated	box 13	folder 6
Typed and handwritten poetry, unknown author, undated	box 19	folder 7
Copies of Black Mesa Poems, undated	box 24	folder 1
Copy of Ifa Bayeza's script of "Amistad Voices", 1998	box 24	folder 2
Copy of "Legacy," and essay by Robert Bacon, Jr., undated	box 24	folder 3
Bound copy of play titled, "Love is Blind," by Lynn Manning, 1996-1998	box 24	folder 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	box 24	folder 5
Poem by Bill Katz to Ntozake Shange (An Evening of Beardens Book-Signing and Passion), 1992	box 24	folder 6
Works by Keith Mason, 1994-1996	box 24	folder 7
Essay by James Baldwin, "whose Harlem is this, anyway?;" poems by James Berry, Sarah Holbrook, and unidentified authors, 1987-1991	box 24	folder 8
Ntozake's El Passoport El Spirit Republic de Puerto Rico as part of Adál Maldonado's project El Puerto Rican Embassy, undated	box 28	
Drawing of Ntozake (artist unknown), undated	oversize Flat File 41	
1 .m4a music file, artist unknown, 1 track on CD labeled "COND #146"	disk BC20_29_02	box 39
1 .m4a music file, "01 Track 01.m4a," artist unknown, 1 track on CD labeled "COND #135", undated	disk BC20_29_03	box 39
41 .m4a music files, artists unknown, on 3 unlabeled CD-Rs, undated	disk BC20_29_12	box 39
2 DVDs, one labeled "34 seconds, Avedon Photo, Hirschfeld Drawing, Voices of Aku Kadogo and Paula Moss, Ntozake	box 39	

Shange Poetry Queen and Her World, Luciana Polney, Dir.",  
the second labeled "In the Beginning Willie Colon and Hector  
Lavoe", undated

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

box 39

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

box 39

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Handmade book of Henri Meschonnic's El Tiempo de las Piedras/  
Le temps des Pierres made by Adrian Milian, undated

box 58

folder 3

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## **Selections from Shange's Library**

box 29-38

### **Scope and Content Summary**

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

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