

McLean County Museum of History

“Hank and Rita” Film Project Collection

Processed by
JoAnna Mink
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	2015-2025
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

After driving to Minneapolis, MN, in October 2015, to see a performance of “Hank and Rita: A Barroom Operetta,” starring Joe Tougas and Ann Rosenquist Fee, and being impressed with the show, Terri Ryburn and Kathi Davis had the idea of making a short film of the act. Fee was known to Ryburn through their interaction at Illinois State University in Normal. Although Ryburn and Davis had no background or expertise in filmmaking, they enthusiastically began the project. They arranged for Tougas and Fee to perform at the local Eagles Club on January 29 and 30, 2016, which was filmed.

Ryburn and Davis formed a production company, “Two Pals Productions,” and the business plan for H&R, LLC. They entered the 16:55 short film in the various film festivals, and in 2017 won awards of Honorable Mention at the Santa Monica Independent Film Festival (SaMo) and Best Drama at the Frozen Film Festival. Ann Rosenquist Fee received Best Actor at the Filmstock Film Festival. Ryburn and Davis decided to expand the short film into a feature film, which never came to fruition. After six years of work, they decided to end the project in 2021 for lack of investment.

Scope

The “Hank and Rita” Film Project Collection includes emails between the producers and various people who worked on the entire project from the beginning. Entries and awards from film festivals, correspondence on legal issues and contracts, the various emendations of the scripts, and ephemera are included, tracing the “Hank and Rita” film project from its inception.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Origin of Project

Note: Names of persons referred to: Kathi Davis, Ann Fee, Terri Ryburn, Joe Tougas

- 1.1 Timeline of the Hank and Rita Film Project by Kathi Davis, 5pp.
- 1.2 Script for presentation at Route 66 Miles of Possibility Conference, Joliet, Fall 2017, 8pp.
- 1.3 “How We Almost Made a Movie,” Longfellow Club Presentation, May 23, 2023, 4pp.
- 1.4 Email exchange Ryburn/Tougas to set up conference calls, with cold pitch sent by Tougas to various venues, blurb sheet, press release, August 4-5, 2015, 7pp.
- 1.5 Ticket confirmation for performance of stage show, October 11, 2015, 2pp.
- 1.6 Email exchange Tougas/Ryburn regarding forthcoming meeting, August 16-18, 2015, 7pp.
- 1.7 Emails Ryburn/Fee regarding possible venues for stage show, September 29-October 10, 2015, 4pp.
- 1.8 Emails with arrangements for Bloomington show at Eagle’s Club, November 7-8, 4pp.
- 1.9 Emails between Ryburn and John Jo. Painter regarding his filming the Bloomington performance, November 12-December 20, 2015, 7pp.
- 1.10 Email Davis to Fee regarding costumes, December 3, 2015, 2pp.
- 1.11 Emails Ryburn/Fee regarding plans for Bloomington event, December 7, 2015, 3pp.
- 1.12 Email Ryburn to Fee, December 13, 2015.
- 1.13 Email Tougas to Fee, December 15, 2015.

- 1.14 Editor's Note by Emily McCall of interview with Hank and Rita, incorporating the Backstory by Tougas, 3pp.
- 1.15 Letter from Rita to Hank.
- 1.16 Table notes of Hank and Rita's backstory for Bloomington performance in form of Fan Club Newsletter, 2pp.
- 1.17 Emails Ryburn/Tougas regarding adding a song, December 19-21, 2015, 2pp.
- 1.18 Email Ryburn/Painter regarding fee for filming, December 21, 2015.
- 1.19 Email Ryburn/Tougas regarding finances for trip to Bloomington, December 29, 2015.

Folder 2: Planning 2016

- 2.1 Emails regarding request to license photograph for fake album cover, January 1-2, 2016, 3pp.
- 2.2 Copy of fake album cover Hank and Rita: Rainbows in the Oil Slick.
- 2.3 Emails Ryburn/Fee about album cover and songs for Bloomington performance, December 29, 2015-January 1, 2016.
- 2.4 Email regarding photo credit, January 4, 2016.
- 2.5 Email exchange Ryburn/Fee regarding various details, December 29, 2015-January 6, 2016.
- 2.6 Emails Ryburn/Painter regarding sound, January 9, 2016, 2pp.
- 2.7 Email exchange regarding phone calls, interviews, and newspaper features, January 13-17, 2016, 9pp.
- 2.8 Emails regarding details, January 28, 2016, 2pp.
- 2.9 Shooting Schedule, January 2016.
- 2.10 Dance steps for "Another Mile."
- 2.11 Release Agreement.
- 2.12 Eagles #527 Rental Contract, January 1, 2015.
- 2.13 Newsletter The Eagle Eye, December 2015/January 2016.
- 2.14 News release Terri Ryburn presents two events: A Night of Comedy and The Best of Hank and Rita: A Barroom Operetta at the Eagles Club.
- 2.15 Poster, The Best of Hank and Rita.
- 2.16 Emails Ryburn/Painter, January 26-28, 2016, 2pp.
- 2.17 Ticket order.
- 2.18 Emcee script for fundraiser for "The Best of Hank and Rita"
- 2.19 Script for Ryburn/Davis at performance.
- 2.20 Thank you for coming and ways to support.
- 2.21 Note of thanks.
- 2.22 Email regarding details to be completed, January 31, 2016, 2pp.
- 2.23 Financial reports for event at The Eagles Club, 9pp.
- 2.24 Note of congratulation, January 31, 2016.
- 2.25 Email exchange Painter/Ryburn regarding editing, March 8-April 6, 2016, 6pp.
- 2.26 Email from Painter that video is done, April 8, 2016.

Folder 3: Film Festivals

- 3.1 Publicity postcard for Hank and Rita, Produced by H&R, LLC.
- 3.2 Notification of acceptance at Route 66 Film Festival, undated.

- 3.3 Acknowledgement of submission at Austin Film Festival (not accepted), August 29, 2016.
- 3.4 Official Entry Form for 52nd Chicago International Film Festival, October 13-17, 2016., 2pp.
- 3.5 Program for 15th Route 66 Film Festival, Springfield, Illinois, November 4-5, 2016, “Hank and Rita” Special Selection to be screened later.
- 3.6 Email notification of receiving Honorable Mention at SaMo Indie 2016, September 15, 2016, 2pp.
- 3.7 Print of SaMo Indie Honorable Mention 2016.
- 3.8 Email notification of acceptance at World Arts Film Festival, Jacksonville, Florida, October 3, 2016, 2pp.
- 3.9 Program for Filmstock Film Festival, Tempe, Arizona, December 2-4, 2016. “Hank and Rita” screened last evening.
- 3.10 Pass for Filmstock Film Festival.
- 3.11 Certificate for Best Actor Ann Rosenquist Fee at Filmstock Film Festival, December 4, 2016.
- 3.12 Flyer for Filmstock Film Festival, December 2-4, 2016.
- 3.13 Program for Frozen Film Festival, Westmont Park District, February 18, 2017.
- 3.14 Certificate for Best Drama at Frozen Film Festival, 2017.

Folder 4: Film Festival Fees

- 4.1 Lists of various film festivals, alphabetically by location, by notification date, by festival date, by festival date, and by submission date, 24pp.
- 4.2 List of Expenses: submission fees by date and by splitting of fees, 7pp.
- 4.3 Copy of submission fees paid, June 7-August 2, 2016, 10pp.

Folder 5: Legal Documents

- 5.1 Email Tougas/Ryburn regarding legal rights and fees, March 3, 2016.
- 5.2 Engagement Agreement from Thomas Leavens to Ryburn, March 6, 2016, 2pp.
- 5.3 Email from Leavens to Ryburn and Davis regarding engagement agreement, March 12-14, 2016, 2pp.
- 5.4 Engagement of Leavens, Strand & Glover, LLC, March 14, 2016, 4pp.
- 5.5 Emails Tougas/Ryburn regarding attorney’s advice, April 6, 2016, 3pp.
- 5.6 Leavens to Ryburn/David covering production agreement, April 7, 2016.
- 5.7 Articles of Organization of H&R, LLC, April 22, 2016, with letter of acceptance from Office of the Secretary of State, 3pp.
- 5.8 Notes from Tougas regarding LLC, undated, 2pp.
- 5.9 Emails from Leavens to Ryburn/Davis regarding two contracts, May 7, 2016, 3pp.
- 5.10 Agreement between H&R, LLC and John Painter, 3pp and attached notes 5pp.
- 5.11 Draft of agreement between H&R, LLC and Painter.
- 5.12 Bill from Leavens, May 4, 2016, 3pp.
- 5.13 Agreement between H&R, LLC, and Tougas and Fee, undated, 6pp.
- 5.14 Amendment to agreement, June 4, 2018.
- 5.15 Bill from Leavens with envelope, June 6, 2016, 2pp.
- 5.16 Assignment of Copyright, June __, 2016.

- 5.17 Letter from Joseph Voss to Ryburn and Davis with comments on business plan, May 5, 2016, 2pp.
- 5.18 Bill from Mandell Menkes for legal services, June 18, 2020, 2pp.
- 5.19 Amended and Restated Operating Agreement of H&R, LLC, 26pp.
- 5.20 Subscription Agreement, H&R, LLC, 10pp.

Folder 6: Feature Film Budget – 2017-2019

- 6.1 Tentative Budget, May 2017, 2pp.
- 6.2 Seven-day shoot, October 2017, 3pp.
- 6.3 Budget Draft March 20, 2019, 12pp.
- 6.4 Covering letter for hard copy of feature film budget from Phillip Koch to Ryburn, April 24, 2019.
- 6.5 Email from Ryburn to Phillip Koch with list of extras needed, April 29, 2019, 2pp.
- 6.6 List of songs to be recorded, with notes, email from Ryburn to Koch, April 29, 2019, 2pp.
- 6.7 Koch's reply, May 2, 2019.
- 6.8 Costs by category, May 2, 2019, 12pp.
- 6.9 Email from Ryburn to Phillip Koch with adjustments to budget, May 13, 2019.
- 6.10 Questions for Phil.
- 6.11 Budget, May 14, 2019, 13pp.
- 6.12 Budget, May 16, 2019, 13pp.
- 6.13 Budget pages, undated, 2pp.
- 6.14 Budget, August 29, 2019, 13pp.
- 6.15 Questions for Unit Publicist candidate, undated, 2pp.
- 6.16 Letter to Phillip Koch from Terry Ryburn, to hire him as director and producer for film, July 17, 2019, his reply with questions regarding budget and his bio, 3pp.

Folder 7: Feature Film Budget – 2020

- 7.1 Budget, February 14, 2020, 13pp.
- 7.2 Budget Adjustments, April 13, 2020, 2pp.
- 7.3 Budget adjustments, April 13, 2020, 5pp.
- 7.4 Budget by category, April 16, 2020, 15pp, with business card from Phillip Koch, Producer/Director.
- 7.5 List of questions regarding budget with responses, undated, author not provided, 2pp.
- 7.6 List of questions and responses by category with full list of locations, 4pp.
- 7.7 Budget, April 21, 2020, 13pp.

Folder 8: Investors

- 8.1 Film Comp Analysis: Hank and Rita, Nash Information Services, 2020, 6pp.
- 8.2 Slated.com Reader Ratings Draft #1, 9pp.
- 8.3 Slated.com Reader Ratings Draft #2, undated, 10pp.
- 8.4 Letter of introduction from Kathi Davis to Ted, undated.
- 8.5 Email to Mark Glasgow from Davis, undated.
- 8.6 Prospectus (?) for Hank and Rita, undated, 8pp.
- 8.7 Subscription Agreement, 5pp.
- 8.8 Investment Opportunity for Hank and Rita, Frequently Asked Questions, 5pp.

8.9 Flyer, Fundraiser for the Motion Picture Hank and Rita, Eagles Club, September 13, 2019.

Folder 9: Screenplay Development

- 9.1 Responses to aspects of the draft, 6pp.
- 9.2 Responses to scripts.
- 9.3 Summary of action by act (7 pp.), and comments.
- 9.4 Various responses and email exchanges on treatments.
- 9.5 Location Summary and description of actions, two versions.

Folder 10: Versions of Scripts - 1

This folder contains copies of twelve versions of the scripts, which represent the metamorphosis of the project, 101pp.

Folder 11: Versions of Scripts - 2

This folder continues the twelve versions of the scripts, which represent the metamorphosis of the project, 103pp.

Folder 12: Critiques of Screenplay

- 12.1 Structure Map.
- 12.2 First critique by Mary Ruth Clarke, 18pp.
- 12.3 Second critique by Mary Ruth Clarke, 13pp.

Folder 13: Penultimate Revision of Screenplay

This folder contains the revision of the screenplay after the critique by Mary Ruth Clarke, 87pp.

Folder 14: Final Revision of Screenplay

This folder contains the final revision of the screenplay, with proofreading changes indicated, 103pp.

Folder 15: Miscellaneous

- 15.1 Gift Agreement from Kathi Davis and Terri Ryburn, August 7, 2025, 2pp.
- 15.2 Letters sent to agents regarding their client appearing in the film, 2pp.
- 15.3 Emails regarding songs, March 26-April 1, 2019.
- 15.4 Lyrics for “Your Magic Touch” by Kathi Davis.
- 15.5 CD, Hank and Rita Short film, 16:55.
- 15.6 CD of photos by Ralph Weisheit, January 30, 2016.
- 15.7 CD “The Best of Hank and Rita: A Barroom Operetta” by Joe Tougas, autographed.
- 15.8 Thumb drive including scripts, short film, trailer, sizzle reel, and pitch deck for Hank and Rita.
- 15.9 Spiralbound booklet: Hank and Rita: A Motion Picture Produced by H&R, LLC and Two Pals Productions, 34pp.
- 15.10 8 x 10” color photo of Joe Tougas and Ann Fee, one is autographed, in envelope.
- 15.11 Poster for The Best of Hank and Rita, signed by Tougas, Fee, Davis, and Ryburn.