

**THE BILL DANA COLLECTION**

at

Emerson College

**Finding Aid prepared by  
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American Comedy Collections, Emerson College  
Boston, MA

2008

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**Finding Aid URL:** <http://www.emerson.edu/comedy/collection/upload/DANAFinding-Aid-final.pdf>

Latest revision: October 2, 2008

### **Collection Summary**

Title: The Bill Dana Collection

Span Dates: 1940s-2000s

ID no.: ACC-MSS 01

Extent: 12 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: American Comedy Collections, Emerson College Library, Boston MA

Access: Available by Appointment with the Archivist. Restrictions on use varies.

### **Abstract:**

Writer, Comedian, Producer Bill Dana donated his papers to Emerson College in 2005. This collection consists chiefly of annotated working scripts for “The Bill Dana Show” which Dana produced, wrote and starred in, and working scripts and related production materials for “The Steve Allen Show” in which Dana appeared with Steve Allen, Louis Nye, Pat Harrington, Tom Poston, and Don Knotts, and for which Dana was head writer and performer. Also included are letters, photographs, newspaper clippings and ephemera spanning his amateur and professional career (1940s- 2000s). There are also scrapbooks, personal letters, and an LP collection of much of his recorded work.

### **SELECTED SEARCH TERMS:**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Comedy

Stand-up comedy

Television Comedy writers

Comedians United States

Jewish comedians

Male comedians

Television- production and direction

Television scripts

### **Added Entries**

All in the Family (television program)

Steve Allen Show, The (television program)

Adams, Don

Allen, Steve

Berle, Milton

Bill Dana Show, The (television program)

Brooks, Mel, 1926-

Caesar, Sid, 1922-

Carpenter, Scott

Coca, Imogene

Dana, Bill

Gelbart, Larry

Jones, Spike

Kennedy, John F.  
Knotts, Don  
Lear, Norman  
Nabors, Jim  
Schirra, Wally  
Shepard, Alan  
Slayton, Deke  
Williams, Andy  
Wood, Gene

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **Provenance:**

In 2005 Bill Dana, Emerson Class of 1950 and prominent comedic personality, gave these papers chronicling his career to Emerson College Archives.

In 2006, additional materials were sent from his storage facility in Los Angeles by his wife Evelyn Shular Dana.

### **Copyright Status:**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Bill Dana is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C).

### **Preferred Citation:**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Bill Dana Collection, American Comedy Collections, Emerson College, Boston, MA.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born: October 5, 1924  
Career: Comedian, Writer, Producer, Performer, Recording Artist  
Education: Emerson College, Class of 1950  
Family: Wife, Evelyn Shular Dana

Most people know Bill Dana as “Jose Jimenez” a popular character he created on the Steve Allen Show in the 1950s and continued to perform throughout the 60s. Dana was also a writer, producer, recording artist, and comedian.

Dana graduated from Emerson College in Boston in 1950 on the GI Bill (having served in the 263<sup>rd</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> Infantry during WWII). After, Dana began his career as a page at NBC’s famous Studio 6B while performing comedy in nightclubs around New York with partner Gene Wood. In the 1950s he performed on the “Imogene Coca show”, “The Danny Thomas Show” and “The Martha Raye Show” and wrote for and produced the “Spike Jones Show.” His career took another major turn when he began writing stand-up routines for the young comedian Don Adams including the now-famous “Would you believe” jokes. From there, he was brought in as a writer for the “Steve Allen Show” (ABC). He starred in and produced “The Bill Dana Show” on NBC (1963-65). His comedy albums, as both Jose Jimenez and Bill Dana, were top-sellers in the 1960s. He helped launch the careers of comedic greats such as Don Adams, Jackie Mason, Don Knotts, and Jim Nabors. He was nominated for several Emmy awards for his comedy writing. He was one of the founders of A&M records and helped start the career of Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass. He has authored books (notably *The Laughter Prescription*. Ballantine Press, 1982 with Dr. Lawrence Peters) and ecology cartoons (*Ecolo-Jest*. Price-Stern-Sloan, 1972). He was a top executive at the California International Artists’ talent agency (CIA). He produced the new “Milton Berle Show.” Another career highlight was as writer of the top-rated episode of “All in the Family” featuring Sammy Davis Jr., consistently rated in the top ten of TV Guide’s “Top 100 Television Episodes of all time.” Dana was a featured guest-star on many television sitcoms including “The Golden Girls” as Uncle Angelo in the 1980s.

As “Jose” he was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. The first words from Earth to a man entering outer space were on May 5, 1961 from Deke Slayton to Alan Shepard in his Mercury –Redstone 3: “OK, Jose, you’re on your way!” which thereafter entered the national lexicon. The relationship between Jose and the US Space program was further immortalized in Tom Wolfe’s book and film “The Right Stuff.” Later Dana accepted the title of “The Eighth Mercury Astronaut” honorarily bestowed upon him at Cape Canaveral. Although Dana retired the character due in 1969 due to accusations that Jose portrayed a negative stereotype of Hispanics, he has always maintained that the intent was never to make a caricature. In fact, from the very first days Jose began appearing, Dana defended Jose as comedy “with dignity” and a character that was good at heart and full of innocence which he described as a “combination Robin Hood and Bilko.” He also never defined the character as Mexican or Spanish but a “neutral Latin” everyman who came to this country to improve his lot. Indeed, the character enjoyed great popularity among Mexicans, Latinos, and Puerto Ricans at the time. When the tide began to turn in the late 1960s, it was mostly from the Anglo-American critics who began

referring to the comedy as consisting of racial slurs rather than humorous portrayals of dialect distinction and clever use of malaprops.

Dana's father, Joseph Szathmary, immigrated to this country from Hungary and became a successful real-estate developer. His mother, Dena, worked in a millinery shop which she ran for 50 years. Dana is the youngest of six children. Most of his siblings were also involved in entertainment. His brother Irving was composer and musical director for Dickens-Fenster and also the *Bill Dana Show*. Brother Albert worked on a show as a right-hand man. His brother Sidney played first violin with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. His sister Fannie was the law librarian at UCLA. His brother Arthur was a professor of philosophy at Princeton University. And his brother Irving Szathmary was an accomplished composer and wrote the music for the television show "Get Smart" as well as "The Bill Dana Show."

#### HISTORICAL NOTE/ TIMELINE

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| October 5, 1924   | Born William Szathmary, Quincy, MA. Youngest of six siblings: Irving, Albert, Sidney, Arthur, and Fannie.   |
| 1930s             | Growing up in Quincy, meets Gene Wood (Quincy Jr. High 1937-39) (Quincy High School 1939-1942), his future comedy partner. His other main childhood buddy is Jerry Vincent. The two were his most influential comedy pals.  |
| 1942              | Graduated Quincy High School, Before Dana was 18, he signed voluntary enlistment papers into Navy. He had worked in Fore River Shipyard as a layout electrician helper. Took a job in Quincy, MA at Quincy Yacht Yard while waiting to turn 18 and begin service duty.  |
| 1943              | Dana wound up in the Army's 733 <sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery. Paris, TX is where he was stationed. Then Miami, then Gainseville, FL at the College Training facility as an aviation cadet. US Army Air Corps. Then to San Antonio aviation cadet center. Victory Field in Vernon, TX (1944). Assigned to Company A, 263 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry of the 66 <sup>th</sup> Black Panther Division. After training, got stationed in Bridport, England. |
| December 24, 1944 | Crossed the English Channel on the Cheshire, 263 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry. The Cheshire was the sister ship of the Leopoldville, which was sunk outside Cherbourg Harbor on the same trip.  |
| January, 1945     | VE Day. Shipped to St Nazaire area.   |
| February, 1945    | In 66 <sup>th</sup> Infantry Black Panthers outfit. In Brittany in Loire Valley. Later was sent to Dachau. Taught English in Martigues. Mareseille.<br>In 83 <sup>rd</sup> Infantry when he left the foreign theater to go home via Bremenhaven.  |
| 1945              | Discharged from service.  |
| 1946              | On the GI bill, entered Emerson College with childhood friend Gene Wood. Helped build the college's radio station WERS with Charles Dudley and Johnny Struckell.  |

- 1950  
August, 1950
- 1950-1951
- 1950-1951
- 1952
- 1953
- 1954
- 1954
- 1954
- 1957
- Summer, 1958
- November 23, 1959
- 1960
- 1960-69
- November, 1960
- Graduated, Emerson College with a major in Speech and Drama. Took a Trailways bus to Los Angeles right after graduation via Albuquerque, Texas, then to LA.
- Moved to New York City after getting a letter from Gene Wood telling him he could find work there in the entertainment field. The two worked as pages at NBC Studios, one of which was 6-B (Dana worked for Milton Berle's *Texaco Star Parade*, among others).
- Comedy team of Bill Szathmary and Gene Wood performed as *Szathmary and Wood*. Began getting appearances together as "Szathmary and Wood" on "The Kate Smith Show", and many nightclubs. Ed Herlihy saw the duo and booked them on "Date with Manhattan." Gene Wood would later become a writer on *The Captain Kangaroo Show*.
- Performed at *Starnight at the Astor* with Bill Stern. After this performance he changed his name to Bill Dana ("Dena" being his mother's name).
- "Dana and Wood" are booked at their first paying gig at The Enchanted Room in Queens, NY by their agent Roz Ross at GAC. Later appeared at the Ruban Bleu, Bon Soir, Number One Fifth Avenue. Others appearing there at this time were Jonathan Winters, Bea Arthur, and Imogene Coca.
- Dana appears on *The Imogene Coca Show*, with future fellow Steve Allen, co-host Don Knotts and others. Dana hired by the ***Martha Raye Show*** as a performer.
- Sidelined with a back injury, Dana began writing for the young comedian Don Adams. Meets Steve Allen through Don Adams' appearances on the show. Creates "Would you believe..?" a formula for a joke that would later reappear on Don's successful "Get Smart" television series.
- Hired as writer, *Steve Allen Show* alongside Herb Sargent and Stan Burns.
- First job as Head writer on *The Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme Summer Show* on NBC, produced by Nick Vanoff (replacement show for Steve Allen). Dana wrote their opening song theme.
- Character Jose Jimenez born on the *Steve Allen Show* in the form of an instructor at a school for Santa Clauses.
- Producer-performer of "*The Swinging Spiketaculars*" with Spike Jones.
- At the pinnacle of his career, Dana takes on roles as a writer, actor, performer, producer, director, businessman, advertising executive, and recording artist. Makes frequent guest appearances (usually as Jose Jimenez) on many popular television shows including *The Spike Jones Show*, *Bob Hope Presents the Chrysler Theater*, *Batman*, *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, *The Hollywood Palace*, *Love, American Style*, *Get Smart*, *The Courtship of Eddie's Father*, *Playboy After Dark*, *the Jackie Gleason Show*, *The Andy Williams Show*, etc.
- Receives honorary Master of Arts from Emerson College, Boston.

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1960               | Receives Emmy nomination as a writer for <i>The Steve Allen Show</i> .   |
| 1961               | Producer-Writer of <i>The Spike Jones Show</i> .   |
| June, 1961         | Hired as head writer on the <i>Steve Allen Show</i> , ABC.   |
| June, 1961         | “From the first man in space...Jose Jimenez, the Astronaut” album released on Kapp records by Mickey Kapp.   |
| Summer, 1961       | Bill goes to Mexico to discuss pilot for television show using only Mexican musical talent.  |
| October, 1961      | Pocketbooks releases “My Name...Jose Jimenez”, Bill’s first book. Guest-conductor at the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra   |
| November, 1961     | “Jose Jimenez in Orbit” released, Kapp Records. Bill performs at John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural Ball.   |
| 1961               | Jose makes numerous appearances on <i>The Danny Thomas Show</i> as an elevator operator.   |
| September, 1962    | Dana accepts “Eighth Mercury Astronaut Award” in Cape Canaveral.   |
| January, 1962      | Dana sues Roulette records for illegal release of comedy albums  |
| February, 1962     | Dana headlines 3-week stint at Mr. Kelly’s, Chicago.   |
| June, 1963         | Headlines the hungry I in San Francisco as a favor to his friend Dick Gregory who was marching in Jackson, MS for the Freedom Fighters.  |
| July 17, 1963      | First episode of “The Bill Dana Show” taped at Desilu- Cahuenga studios before a live audience. First show taped “You Gotta Have Heart.”   |
| August, 1963       | Comedy album “Jose Jimenez in Jollywood” (Kapp).   |
| September 22, 1963 | Premiere of “The Bill Dana Show” Sundays on NBC.   |
| September 18, 1964 | “Bill Dana Day” held in Quincy, MA.  |
| November, 1964     | Dana receives notice that <i>The Bill Dana Show</i> is cancelled. The show will continue to air all 42 episodes through early 1965.  |
| February, 1966     | Headlines at Harold’s Club in Las Vegas with the Andy Williams “Good Time Singers.”  |
| 1966               | Writes and appears in the animated cartoon “Alice In Wonderland or What’s a Nice Kid like you Doing in a Place like This?” a television special starring Sammy Davis, Jr., Zsa Zsa Gabor, Bill Dana, Howard Morris, Hedda Hopper, Mel Blanc, Harvey Korman.                  |
| 1967               | Appears in the film “The Busybody” as “Archie Brody” the film starred Sid Caesar, Jan Murray, Richard Pryor, Godfrey Cambridge, and George Jessel.   |
| 1967               | Appears in the film “Un Italiano in America.”  |
| October, 1968      | Project with Jack Carter in development in Jamaica. The film is never made, but Dana travels to Kingston a month before the Rodney Riots.  |
| 1960s              | Dana becomes part of LA CAUSA—a pro-Latino movement group along with other celebrities Vicki Carr, Anthony Quinn, and Ricardo Maltaban. Despite his receiving the IMAGE award, Dana’s reputation comes under fire as his Jose character is attacked by some Hispanic groups. |
| March, 1969        | A Look on the Light Side— a travel special starring Dana for NBC airs, showing ways Americans enjoy themselves outdoors.   |

- 1969 Co-writer and creator of Don Knotts' *Nice Clean Decent Wholesome hour*, a CBS special.
- 1969 Builds a home in Hana on Maui, Hawaii
- 1969 or 70 Dana "buries" Jose by reading his obituary at a Congress of Mexican- American Unity fete in Los Angeles.
- 1970-79 Dana is living in Maui and has for the most part disengaged from Hollywood, but does continue to work sporadically. Episodic writer for television (*All in the Family*, *Bridget Loves Bernie*, *Chico and the Ma*), and appears on television (*The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*, *The Mike Douglas Show*, *Toast of the Town*, *Playboy After Dark*).
- 1970 Bill Dana's "Brand New Old Traditional Hawaiian Revue" plays at the Tapa Room at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Hawaii.
- 1970 Ecolo-Jest, a series of environmental cartoons, begins appearing in *The Inquirer*.
- February, 1972 Writes "Sammy's Visit," and Emmy-award winning episode of "All in the Family" for Sammy Davis, Jr.
- 1972 Appears in the television show "*The Snoop Sisters-Female Instinct*," as "Melvin Kaplan" directed by Leonard Stern and starring Art Carney, Helen Hayes.
- October, 1972 *Ecolo-Jest*, the book is printed by Price-Stern-Sloan publishers.
- 1974 Appears in the film "The Harrad Summer" as "Jack Schacht."
- 1975 Stars in the film "I Wonder Who's Killing Her Now?"
- 1976 Appears in the film "Kill my Wife...Please!"
- 1978 Appears in the film "A Guide for the Married Woman" as "Ed Small," with Peter Marshall, Bonnie Franklin, Tom Poston, George Gobel, Cybill Sheperd.
- 1979 Co- writes (with Leonard Stern and Arne Sultan) and appears in the film "The Nude Bomb" starring Don Adams.
- 1980-1999 Appears in various television shows as a guest performer, such as *Murder in Texas*, *Fantasy Island*, *Too Close for Comfort* (with Pat Harrington), *No Soap*, *Radio*, *Zorro and Son*, *The Facts of Life*, *Sledge Hammer*, *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour*, *Empty Nest*) and eEpisodic writer for television (*Matlock*).
- 1981 Marries Evelyn Shular.
- 1981 Appears in the film "The Hungy i Reunion" about Enrico Banducci's famous San Francisco nightclub.
- 1981 Appears in the film "Murder in Texas" (cameo).
- 1982 Co-authors THE LAUGHTER PRESCRIPTION with Dr. Lawrence Peters of "peter principle" fame, published by Ballantine Books.
- 1983 Jose appears (uncredited) in the film about the Space Program, "*The Right Stuff*," based on the Tom Wolfe bestseller.
- 1984 Bill and Evelyn Dana move to Maui, fulltime.
- 1986-88 Appears on television show "St. Elsewhere" as "Mr. Fiscus" (Howie Mandel's father).
- 1990 Appears in the film "Lena's Holiday" as an Armenian cabbie.
- 1991 Appears as recurring character "Uncle Angelo" on *The Golden*

- Girls.*
- 1991 The Best of Jose Jimenez Yesterday & Today is released (Rhino, 1991).
- 2000 Bill Dana as Jose Jimenez...the greatest bits (Laugh.com) Box set.
- 2004 Bill Dana as Jose Jimenez...the greatest bits re-released (Laugh.com).
- 2004 Bill and Evelyn Dana move to Nashville, TN.
- January, 2005 Dana goes on the road with five other legends of comedy: Shelley Berman, Professor Irwin Corey, Dick Gregory, Mort Sahl, and emceed by Dick Cavett, billed simply as "The Comedians." The average age of the performers is 78.
- 2005 Dana conceives and founds The American Comedy Archives, at Emerson College.
- 2006 Appears on "TV Land's Top Ten" discussing his award-winning *All in the Family* episode, voted as one of the top television shows of all time on this special.
- January, 2006 Dana is given a lifetime achievement award by the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters in Los Angeles. On the dais: Shelley Berman, Hal Kanter, Jayne Meadows, Betty White, and Tom Poston.
- June, 2006 Dana has his first solo stand-up show in over a year, at Leisure World in Laguna, CA.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The papers of Bill Dana (1925- ) span the period (1940s- 2006) and focus primarily on his two most popular television series “The Steve Allen Show” and “The Bill Dana Show,” as well as material related to his most famous character, Jose Jimenez. The papers consist mostly of annotated scripts for the live programs which aired on NBC. Dana was both a writer and performer. The papers here also contain scripts for the numerous other television and film scripts Dana worked on, comedy routines from his solo act, and photographs and scrapbook material relating to his career.

The “Steve Allen Show” series contains scripts for iterations of this weekly variety/ talk show, produced by Johnny Sterns (later Bill Harbach), directed by Dwight Hemion and which was an early template for the late-night talk show. This show was television’s first talk show. It started on NBC-TV’s New York station (WNBT) in 1953, and fourteen months later it was added to the full network, moved to New York’s Hudson Theater at 44<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, and its title changed to “Tonight” (September 27, 1954- January 25, 1957). It ran five nights a week, one hour and 45 minutes each night. The stars of the program featured the comedic talents of some of the greatest performers of the period: Steve Allen, Dayton Allen, Jayne Meadows, Tom Poston, Don Knotts, Louis Nye, Pat Harrington and others. Among the popular regular features were the “Man in the Street” interviews, and “Crazy Shots.” Following Allen’s departure the show continued with Jack Paar, Johnny Carson, and Jay Leno as hosts. “The Steve Allen Show” ran during primetime from June 24, 1956- 1960 on Sunday nights on NBC (competing against the Ed Sullivan Show on CBS).

Dana worked both on the “Tonight” show, and Allen’s Sunday-night prime-time comedy program.

Dana was head writer of the “Tonight” show from (1961- 1962) and was responsible for many of the show’s classic jokes and routines, such as the “Question Man.” But it was Dana’s accidental turn as a performer in a sketch on an episode in 1959 that cemented his popularity among audiences. It was on November 23, 1959 that the character Jose Jimenez, an innocent malaprop-riddled figure of dubious ethnic origin (the original script described him as “of Cuban descent,” though for years Jose was thought to be Mexican), which propelled the young writer to a new level of national fame. The original script for this episode can be found in this collection (Box 2). This collection contains the complete run of scripts from the televised show during the time Dana was a writer (1957-1961).

The Jose character dominated the next decade of Dana’s career, and resulted in the advent of “The Bill Dana Show” and many comedy album releases and stand-up performances and guest-appearances on other television shows.

The “Bill Dana Show” (NBC, 1963-65) series contains program files for Dana’s minute weekly Sunday night television show, produced by Danny Thomas and Executively Produced by Sheldon Leonard. The show featured Dana as Jose Jimenez the bellman (Says Dana: a conscious decision was made to state he was a bellman, not a bellboy!) at the fictive *Park Central* hotel. It was directed by Howard Morris and writers included Don Hinckley. Co-stars included Jonathan Harris, Maggie Peterson, Gary Crosby, and Don Adams as the house detective *Byron Glick*, and for whose early standup comedy

routine Dana had been a writer. Adam's later achieved success on the show "Get Smart," co-created by Buck Henry and Mel Brooks, as the bumbling private detective Maxwell Smart. This collection includes complete scripts drafts and final copies for each of the forty-two episodes of the Bill Dana Show, which also include schedules, prop lists, guest stars, and some annotated notes.

Highlights:

- Official Publicity photos and memorabilia from John F. Kennedy's Inauguration in 1961 (box 10)
- Script when the character, Jose Jimenez, was first introduced on television (Box 2)
- Framed photograph of notable comedians gathered for Bob Hope Special in 1966 (including Milton Berle, Dick Martin, Jack Carter, Jimmy Durante, Bob Hope) (Box 5)
- Letter from Robert F. Kenney dated March, 1968, signed (Box 8)
- Letter from Alan Shepard, the NASA astronaut, with photo of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary coin that he took to the moon and back for Bill, signed (Box 10)

## **SERIES ARRANGEMENT:**

This collection is arranged in three series:

### Series 1: Scripts

- Steve Allen Show
- Bill Dana Show
- Other Television Shows

### Series 2: Audio-Visual Materials and Memorabilia

- Cassettes, LPs
- Photographic Images
- Contact Sheets
- Negatives
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks
- Newspaper clippings
- Plaques

### Series 3: Correspondence

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:**

### **Series 1:** Scripts

**Arrangement:** This series is in chronological order with the bound volumes first and then the unbound scripts.

**Dates:** 1957-1972, 1988

**Volume:** 3 linear feet

**Scope and content note:** This series includes the bound scripts from *The Steve Allen Show*, *The New Steve Allen Show*, *The Bill Dana Show*, *The Danny Thomas Show*, and *The Spike Jones Show*. Also, included here is a bulk of the unbound scripts of *The Bill Dana Show*. There are unbound scripts from various other shows that Bill Dana made a cameo appearance.

### **Series 2:** Audio- Visual Material and Memorabilia

**Arrangement:** This series is separated by format and then in chronological order.

**Dates:** 1940-2004, bulk dates 1950-1972

**Volume:** 8 linear feet

**Scope and content note:** This series includes cassettes and LP's of Bill Dana's routines mostly playing the character of Jose Jiminez; images documenting most of his professional and personal life including positives, negatives, and contact sheets; scrapbooks that are mostly newspaper clippings that document his career; and plaques and trophies for various rewards he has received during the years.

Preservation Note: Due to the condition of the scrapbooks, they have been photocopied.

### **Series 3:** Correspondence

**Arrangement:** This series is arranged chronologically.

**Dates:** 1964-2004

**Volume:** 1 linear foot

**Scope and content note:** This series includes correspondence addressed to Bill Dana, and includes fan mail and VIP correspondence.

## Box List

### Series 1: Scripts

#### Box 1: The Steve Allen Show (Bound Volumes)

- 1 Sunday, May 5, 1957- Sunday, November 10, 1957
- 2 Sunday, November 17, 1957- Sunday, March 2, 1958
- 3 Sunday, March 9, 1958- Sunday, June 29, 1958
- 4 Sunday, September 7, 1958- Sunday, February 15, 1959
- 5 Sunday, February 22, 1959- Sunday, June 7, 1959

#### Box 2: Steve Allen Plymouth Show Scripts, cont'd (Bound Volumes)

- 1 Monday, September 28, 1959- Monday, January 18, 1960
- 2 Monday, January 25, 1960- June 6, 1960

##### The New Steve Allen Show

- 3 Wednesday, September 27, 1961- Wednesday, November 8, 1961
- 4 November 15, 1961
- 5 Wednesday, November 15, 1961- Wednesday, December 27, 1961

##### The Danny Thomas Show featuring Bill as Jose Jimenez

- 6 September 4, 1962- January 30, 1963

##### The Spike Jones Show (Bill Dana, producer, writer, performer)

- 7 August 1, 1960- September 12, 1960

#### Box 3: The Bill Dana Show

| Folder # | Script                         | Date               |
|----------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1        | #1 "You Gotta Have Heart"      | April 11, 1963     |
| 2        | #(?) "The Bank Hold-up"        | June 10, 1963      |
| 3        | #3 "Jose the Playboy"          | July 30, 1963      |
| 4        | #4 "Jose, the Stockbroker"     | August 1, 1963     |
| 5        | #5 "The Bank Hold-up"          | August 6, 1963     |
| 6        | #5 "The Bank Hold-Up"          | August 9, 1963     |
| 7        | #6 "The Opera Singer"          | August 16, 1963    |
| 8        | #7 "Honeymoon Suite"           | August 20, 1963    |
| 9        | #8 "Jose, the Agent"           | August 29, 1963    |
| 10       | #9 "The Poker Game"            | September 6, 1963  |
| 11       | #10 "The Astronaut"            | September 12, 1963 |
| 12       | #11 "The Brat"                 | June 27, 1963      |
| 13       | #12 "The Beauty and the Baby"  | October 4, 1963    |
| 14       | #13 "Mr. Phillips' Watch"      | June 28, 1963      |
| 15       | #14 "Masquerade Party"         | October 25, 1963   |
| 16       | #15 "Jose's Dream Girl"        | October 31, 1963   |
| 17       | #16 "A Trip for Uncle Sam"     | November 11, 1963  |
| 18       | #17 "Eddie Gets Fired"         | November 14, 1963  |
| 19       | #18 "Jose's Four Amigos"       | November 26, 1963  |
| 20       | #19 "Speak For Yourself, Jose" | December 2, 1963   |
| 21       | #20 "Jose the Manager"         | December 6, 1963   |
| 22       | #21 "Party in Suite 16"        | November, 8, 1963  |
| 23       | #22 "Jose Resigns"             | December 31, 1963  |

| <b>Folder #</b> | <b>Script</b>  | <b>Date</b>          |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|
| 24              | #23 "Jose the Matchmaker"                                | January 9, 1964 blue |
| 25              | #24 "The Hiring of Jose"                                 | January 6, 1964      |
| 26              | #24 "The Hiring of Jose"                                 | January 16, 1964     |
| 27              | #25 "The Hot Dog Caper"                                  | January 24, 1964     |
| 28              | #26 "The Master of Disguise"                             | January 31, 1964     |
| 29              | #27 "Blood from Two Turnips"                             | Undated              |
| 30              | #28 "Jose the Flower Thief"                              | July, 14 1964        |
| 31              | #29 "The Laughing Gas"                                   | June 22, 1964        |
| 32              | #30 "What Elephant?"                                     | July 22, 1964        |
| 33              | #31 "The Suggestion Box"                                 | August 4, 1964       |
| 34              | #32 "Danny Thomas, I Love You"                           | Undated              |
| 35              | #33 "The Essay"  | June 26, 1964        |
| 36              | #34 "Jose on the Ledge"                                  | June 26, 1964        |
| 37              | #35 "Jose's Inheritance"                                 | July 6, 1964         |
| 38              | #36 "Phillips the Lover"                                 | August 3, 1964       |
| 39              | #37 "We'll Get You for This"                             | September 29, 1964   |
| 40              | #38 "Tonsils for Two"                                    | August 24, 1964      |
| 41              | #39 "Glick the Strong Man"                               | October 8, 1964      |
| 42              | #40 "Jose the Old Man"                                   | September 21, 1964   |
| 43              | #41 "Beauty and the Bellhop"                             | October 5, 1964      |
| 44              | #42 "The Court Jester"                                   | November 11, 1964    |
|                 | <b>Notebooks: Jose's Routines</b>                        | <b>Date</b>          |
| 45              | Astronaut  | Undated              |
| 46              | Bullfighter  | Undated              |
| 47              | CIA  | Undated              |
| 48              | Cleopatra  | Undated              |
| 49              | Dialogue Director  | Undated              |
| 50              | Jose on Etiquette  | Undated              |
| 51              | Flamenco Dancer, The                                     | Undated              |
| 52              | K 9 Corps, The   | Undated              |
| 53              | Karate   | Undated              |
| 54              | Politician, The  | Undated              |
| 55              | Sailor   | Undated              |
| 56              | Skin Diver, The  | Undated              |
| 57              | Submarine Officer  | Undated              |
| 58              | Surfer   | Undated              |
| 59              | Wild Animal  | Undated              |
| 60              | Mail Call: Jose in Orbit                                 | Undated              |
| 61              | Mail Call: Interview                                     | Undated              |
|                 | <b>Other scripts</b>                                     | <b>Date</b>          |
| 62              | 12 <sup>th</sup> Annual Emmy Awards                      | June 20, 1960        |
| 63              | All in the Family (drafts)                               | February 19, 1972    |
| 64              | Milton Berle Show  | January 6, 1967      |
| 65              | Hungarian Calypso  | Undated              |
| 66              | Don Knotts Special                                       | October 24, 1969     |
| 67              | Don Knotts Special: The Nice Clean Decent Wholesome Hour | September 29, 1970   |

| <b>Folder #</b> | <b>Script</b>        | <b>Date</b>       |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 68              | Matlock "The D.J."   | November 10, 1988 |
| 69              | Marine Land Carnival | 1962              |
| 70              | Garry Moore Show     | February 7, 1961  |
| 71              | Jim Nabors Hour      | December 3, 1969  |
| 72              | Psychiatrist Sketch  | Undated           |
| 73              | Serranol Playwright  | Undated           |
| 74              | Top of the List      | Undated           |

**Series 2: Audio- Visual Materials and Memorabilia**

**Box 4: Audio**

| <b>Item #</b> | <b>Name</b>   | <b>Date</b>    | <b>Released by:</b>       |
|---------------|---|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1             | Cassette: Steve Allen Songs   | September 1999 |                           |
| 2             | My Name... Jose Jimenez   |                | Signature                 |
| 3             | Pat Harrington, Jr. as Guido Panzini and Bill Dana as kookie as ever              |                | Signature                 |
| 4             | More... Jose Jimenez  | 1960           | Kapp                      |
| 5             | Jose Jimenez in Orbit, Bill Dana on Earth (signed)                                | 1961           | Kapp                      |
| 6             | Jose Jimenez in Orbit, Bill Dana on Earth   | 1961           | Kapp                      |
| 7             | Jose Jimenez The Astronaut/   |                |                           |
| 8             | Jose Jimenez at the Hungry I starring Bill Dana (second cover against brick wall) | 1961           | Kapp                      |
| 9             | Bill Dana in Las Vegas with special guest Jose Jimenez (signed)                   |                | Kapp                      |
| 10            | Jose Jimenez talks to Teenagers   | 1962           | Kapp                      |
| 11            | Jose Jimenez in Jollywood starring Bill Dana                                      | 1963           | Kapp                      |
| 12            | Schtick from Bill Dana's Hoo-Ha! (signed)   |                | Capitol                   |
| 13            | Cover only! Inside is another Signature "My name...Jose Jimenez"                  |                |                           |
| 14            | Bill Dana as Jose...Supersport (sealed)   |                | ITC/Puente                |
| 15            | (Bill Dana as) Jose Jimenez the Submarine Officer (sealed)                        | 1961           | Kapp                      |
| 16            | The Bill Dana Comedy Theater presents Joey Forman as The Mashuganishi Yogi        |                | A&M Records               |
| 17            | The Best of Jose Jimenez Starring Bill Dana                                       |                | 198 GNP/Crescendo Records |

*The following films are being housed under a special arrangement with the Harvard Film Archive at their location in Cambridge, MA.* Anyone interested in these film materials should contact Rebecca Meyers, the Harvard Film Archive coordinator at [rmeyers@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:rmeyers@fas.harvard.edu) or 617-496-6046.

- 16mm color copy of “What’s a Nice Kid...”
- 16mm reel from “Discover America with Jose Jimenez”
- 16mm reel from “A Look on the Lite Side” (NBC special presented by Bell)
- 16mm film Spike Jones CBS.

**Box 5: Photographs**

(Approximately 650 images)

| <b>Folder #</b> | <b>**All images are prints unless otherwise noted**</b>  | <b>Date</b> |
|-----------------|--|-------------|
| 1               | Photographs from the Steve Allen Era   | 1954-1962   |
| 2               | Photographs from the Steve Allen Era<br><i>**Highlight**</i> Picture of Comedians assembled for Bob Hope Special October 12, 1966; they are Milton Berle, Wally Cox, Soupy Sales, Dick Martin, Jack Carter, Bob Hope, Jimmy Durante, Dick Shawn, Dan Rowan, and Bill Dana. | 1954-1962   |
| 3               | Headshots (duplicates)   | 1960’s      |
| 4               | Vacation/ press tour in Mexico   | 1961        |
| 5               | Bill Dana  | 1950-1990   |
| 6               | Spike Jones Show   | 1960-1961   |
| 7               | Ella Fitzgerald’s Birthday   | 1962        |
| 8               | Universal film “The Nude Bomb” with Don Adams  | 1979        |
| 9               | Jose Jiminez in several costumes, 228 Images proof sheets  | Undated     |
| 10              | Jose conducts the Symphony, 90 images proof sheets   | 1961        |
| 11              | Bill Dana with Ballet Folklorico of Mexico   | 1965        |
| 12              | Personal Photographs,  | 1960-2004   |
| 13              | Emerson College/Early Career<br><i>**Highlight**</i> Graduation from Emerson College   | 1946-1950s  |
| 14              | Select Highlight Photographs,  |             |
|                 | 1 Photo of Dana with the NASA Mercury 7 Astronauts: Deke Slayton, Alan Sheperd, Bill Dana, Scott Carpenter, Wally Schirra, Gordon Cooper, and John Glenn   | 1982        |
|                 | 2 Photo of Dana with Milton Berle and Billy Harbach from when Dana was producing the Milton Berle Show   | 1967        |
|                 | 3 Dana with Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson and John Glenn at testimonial dinner  | 1966        |
|                 | 4 Dana performing (with Steve Allen and Pat Harrington)  | Undated     |
|                 | Framed Photographs, 3  | Undated     |
|                 | Framed News Article  | Undated     |

**Box 6: Memorabilia**

| Folder # | Emerson College / Early Career   | Date |
|----------|--|------|
| 1        | Diploma and invitation to Emerson Graduation   | 1950 |
| Item 1:  | Yearbook   | 1948 |
| Item 2:  | <i>Plaque with first "Would You Believe...?" routine written for Don Adams. (THIS ITEM IS BACK IN THE POSSESSION OF BILL DANA, TO BE RETURNED AT A LATER DATE)</i> |      |
| Item 3:  | Mickey Mouse Disney Award  | 1962 |

**Box 7: Memorabilia**

|   |   |                  |
|---|---|------------------|
| 1 | Hand-drawn caricature of Bill Dana by Piero, signed.  | Undated          |
| 2 | Copy of Animation Cell from film "What's a Nice Kid Like You Doing in a Place Like This?" (original in possession of Bill Dana).  | Undated          |
| 3 | John F. Kennedy Inaugural Materials<br>** Highlights** Official invite, Photographic program from day's events, bound photo album, and thank you from the President of the United States. | 1961             |
| 4 | Ecolo- jest, Proofs   | 1972             |
| 5 | Ecolo- jest, Final Copies   | 1972             |
| 6 | Letter from Alan Shepard, Jr. with photo of 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary coin that he took to the moon and back for Dana  | 1971             |
| 7 | Flyers  | Undated          |
| 8 | Press/ Invitations  | 1970,<br>undated |

**Box 8: Scrapbooks/Press Clippings 1960s**

|    |   |                     |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 1  | Press Pamphlet: The Steve Allen Show (NBC)  | June, 1958          |
| 2  | Bill Dana NBC Press Trips Scrapbook   | 1963                |
| 3  | Fleur De Lis Room, Adolphus Hotel, Dallas Texas Scrapbook   | January 11-23, 1966 |
| 4  | Scrapbook   | 1965-1966           |
| 5  | Scrapbook<br>**Highlights** High School Diploma from Quincy High School; telegram congratulating him on his Emmy nomination for the Steve Allen show dated 1959; Szathmary's school report card dated 1942. | 1940-1960           |
| 6  | Milton Berle Show Scrapbook   | 1966                |
| 7  | Scrapbook   | Various             |
| 8  | Scrapbook   | 1960                |
| 9  | Scrapbook   | 1961-1962           |
| 10 | Scrapbook   | 1962-1963           |

**Box 9: Plaques and Awards (oversize)**

|         |   |         |
|---------|---|---------|
| Item 1: | Parchment of all straight men that have played to Jose                | Undated |
| Item 2: | Boston Press Club Headliner Award                                     | 1962    |
| Item 3: | Jose Jimenez/Bill Dana/William Szathmary Day proclamation, Quincy, MA | 1964    |
| Item 4: | City of Los Angeles Award to Bill Dana                                | 1965    |

**Box 10: Plaques and Awards (oversize)**

|         |   |      |
|---------|---|------|
| Item 1: | ASCAP membership certificate September  | 1958 |
| Item 2: | Look Television Award for Outstanding Accomplishment in the Field of Television | 1958 |

**Series 3: Correspondence**

**Box 11: Correspondence**

| <b>Folder #</b> | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Date</b> |
|-----------------|--|-------------|
| 1               | Adams Dana Silverstein, Inc.                                 | 1964        |
| 2               | AGVA: Musician Union Recording Costs                         | 1971        |
| 3               | Aurora Plastics: Royalties                                   | 1966-1971   |
| 4               | Bill Dana Show: Cancellation, Congratulations                | 1964        |
| 5-9             | Business   | 1970-1999   |
| 10-11           | Celebrity Baseball Game                                      | 1967        |
| 12              | Davidson, Cecilia  | 1970        |
| 13              | Flag is Up Farms: Owner's report                             | 1968        |
| 14              | Fan Mail   | 1964-2004   |
| 15-16           | Great Impressions of 1968                                    | 1967-1968   |
| 17              | Jose Jiminez Discovers America                               | 1967        |
| 18              | IMAGE – Involvement of Mexican-Americans In Gainful Endeavor | 1968        |
| 19              | Meadowlane Enterprises, Inc.                                 | 1995        |
| 20              | McCrery, Bud and Roger Williams                              |             |
| 21              | NRB  | 1970        |
| 22              | Personal/Legal Correspondence – BD                           | 1967-1970   |
| 23              | Pitch 101 (includes drafts of scripts)                       | 1988        |
| 24              | Publicity  | 1961-1962   |
| 25              | TAPA Room  | 1970        |
| 26              | VIP correspondence:  | 1968-1999   |
|                 | Allen, Steve   |             |
|                 | Burnett, Carol   |             |
|                 | Cunningham, Walt   |             |
|                 | Danza, Tony  |             |
|                 | De Gaulle, General   |             |
|                 | Ferrare, Cristina  |             |
|                 | Gleason, Jackie  |             |
|                 | Glenn, John  |             |
|                 | Goodall, Jane  |             |
|                 | Hope, Bob  |             |
|                 | Heffner, Hugh  |             |
|                 | Henderson, Skitch  |             |
|                 | Humphrey, Hubert (2)   |             |
|                 | Kennedy, Ethel   |             |
|                 | Kennedy, Ted and Joan  |             |
|                 | Kennedy, Robert  |             |
|                 | Murchison, Clint   |             |
|                 | Robinson, James D.   |             |

Shatner, Bill  
Smothers, Tom  
Sullivan, Ed  
Williams, Andy  
Zmuda, Bob

| <b>Folder #</b> | <b>Title</b>          | <b>Date</b> |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 27-28           | William Morris Agency | 1964        |
| 29              | Would You Believe?    | 1967        |