

**Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann
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Collection List No. 138

Neil Jordan Papers

(MS 44,789-44,805)

(Accession No. 4761)

A collection of Neil Jordan's scripts, drafts and notes related to the films *Angel*, *Mona Lisa*, *High Spirits*, *We're No Angels*, *The Miracle*, and *The Crying Game*, covering the years 1980-1992.

Compiled by Luke Kirwan, 2008

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Introduction

Biography

Neil Jordan was born in County Sligo in 1950. He was educated at St. Pauls College, Raheny and went on to study Irish history and English literature at University College Dublin. In 1974, after graduating from UCD, he co-founded the Irish Writers Co-operative, along with Peter Sheridan, Fred Johnston, Ronan Sheehan and Desmond Hogan. In 1976 he published a collection of his short stories *Night in Tunisia* through the co-operative. This collection went on to win the *Guardian* Fiction prize in 1978. Jordan has gone on to publish three more novels since then.

In 1982 Jordan wrote and directed his first feature film, *Angel*, which won the London Evening Standards Most Promising Newcomer Award. He went on to release four more films during the 1980s, to a variety of critical acclaim, winning awards for *The Company of Wolves* (1984) and *Mona Lisa* (1986). In 1992 Jordan wrote and directed *The Crying Game*, a film which was widely celebrated and won him an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay, as well as numerous other awards.

Following the success of *The Crying Game*, Jordan went on to release several film adaptations of novels, including *Interview with the Vampire* (1994), *The Butcher Boy* (1997), and *The End of the Affair* (1999). Jordan also wrote and directed the films *Michael Collins* (1996), *The Good Thief* (2002), and *Breakfast on Pluto* (2005). To date Jordan has won over 30 awards in his various capacities as writer, director and producer. In 2003 he was given the IFTA Lifetime Achievement Award, and was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Literature by UCD in 2004.

The Collection

The collection was donated to the National Library of Ireland by Neil Jordan in 1993. It mainly comprises draft scripts and screenplays in typescript, together with handwritten production notes. There are also some miscellaneous film and play treatments. Contained in seven boxes and in good condition, it covers most of Neil Jordan's films released between 1980 – 1992.

Arrangement

The Collection has been arranged into seven sections. The first six sections are a chronologically ordered list of the films. The final section contains miscellaneous treatments and outlines. Apart from two sections, they have all been sub-divided into 'Scripts and Screenplays' and 'Production Notes'. The 'High Spirits' section has an additional sub-division containing background information regarding the film.

Unless otherwise stated, all scripts, treatments and notes are by Neil Jordan, and refer to the film under whose category they fall.

I. Angel (1982)

The film *Angel* also went under the working title of *Brute Music* in the following documents. These texts have been marked (*BM*).

- MS 44,789/ 1** Jun. 1980
TS, (*BM*) first draft treatment; 32pp
- MS 44,789/ 2** Jun. 1980
TS, (*BM*) treatment, incomplete; 12pp
- MS 44,789/ 3** [Jun. 1980]
TS by [Neil Jordan]. [*Angel*] treatment, incomplete; 6pp
- MS 44,789/ 4** [c. Jun. 1980]
TS (*BM*) film outline; 20pp
- MS 44,789/ 5** [c. Jun. 1980]
TS by [Neil Jordan]. (*BM*) Treatment, incomplete; 14pp
- MS 44,789/ 6** [c. Jun./Jul. 1980]
TS, (*BM*) film outline; 11pp
- MS 44,789/ 7** [c. Jun./Jul. 1980]
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Overview of [*Angel*]; 16pp
- MS 44,789/ 8** [c. Jul. 1980]
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Overview of [*Angel*]; 29pp
- MS 44,789/ 9** Undated
TS, script, copy, contains notes regarding cut scenes, sound effects and dialogue additions; 75pp
- MS 44,789/ 10** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Overview of [*Angel*]; 19pp
- MS 44,789/ 11** Undated
TS by (?). Timing breakdown for each scene; 2pp

II. Mona Lisa (1986)

This section has been sub-divided into scripts and screenplays, and notes.

II.i. Scripts and Screenplays

- MS 44,790/ 1** Jan. 1985
TS, script; 81pp
- MS 44,790/ 2** Jan. 1985
TS, script; 79pp
- MS 44,790/ 3** Jan. 1985
TS, script; 81pp
- MS 44,790/ 4** 8 Feb. 1985
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Script, handwritten names on title page; 115pp
- MS 44,790/ 5** Mar. 1985
TS, script; 107pp
- MS 44,790/ 6** 3 Apr. 1985
TS, script, contains some handwritten dialogue notes; 112pp
- MS 44,790/ 7** 2 May 1985
TS, script; 113pp
- MS 44,790/ 8** 1986
TS by Neil Jordan and David Leland. Screenplay, introduction by Neil Jordan, copy from book, includes black and white pictures from film; 46pp
- MS 44,790/ 9** 1986
TS, screenplay and introduction; 2 items
- MS 44,790/ 10** [c. Mar. 1985]
TS by [Neil Jordan]. [*Mona Lisa*] script; 107pp
- MS 44,790/ 11** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Script; 70pp
- MS 44,790/ 12** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. [*Mona Lisa*] script fragment; 32pp

MS 44,790/ 13 Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. [*Mona Lisa*] partial script; 23pp

II.ii. Notes

MS 44,791/ 1 Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Sketch idea for *Mona Lisa* and what appears to be an early idea for *The Miracle*; 1pp

MS 44,791/ 2 Undated
Handwritten notes by [Neil Jordan]. [*Mona Lisa*] story outline; 2pp

MS 44,791/ 3 Undated
Handwritten notes by [Neil Jordan]. Script outline for opening scenes of [*Mona Lisa*]; 12pp

MS 44,791/ 4 Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Film outline; 6pp

III. High Spirits (1988)

This section has been divided into three sections: scripts and screenplays; production notes; and background and source material. Scripts and screenplays have been sub-divided into three categories: working drafts; final drafts; and incomplete fragments. Production notes have been sub-divided into three categories: storyboards; set plans; and film outlines and development.

The film *High Spirits* also went under the working titles of *Hotel D'Esprit* and *Ghost Tours*. These texts have been marked (*HD*) and (*GT*) respectively.

III.i. Scripts and Screenplays

III.i.(1). Working drafts

MS 44,792/ 1 11 Sept. 1986
TS by Neil Jordan and Michael McDowell. (*GT*) original script, handwritten note by Michael McDowell; 138pp
See MS 44,797/ 1

MS 44,792/ 2 17 Sept. 1986
TS by Neil Jordan and Michael McDowell. (*GT*) screenplay, first draft; 146pp

- MS 44,792/ 3** 21 Oct. 1986, 31 Oct. 1986
TS by Neil Jordan and Michael McDowell. Second draft, 2 versions;
2 items
- MS 44,792/ 4-6** 1 Apr. 1987, 2 Apr. 1987, 9 Apr. 1987
TS, rewrites, 3 versions, one rewrite contains some handwritten notes,
some sections are copies; 3 folders
- MS 44,792/ 7** [Sept. 1986]
TS by [Neil Jordan and Michael McDowell]. (*GT*), first draft, includes
alternative opening scenes; 2 items
- MS 44,792/ 8** [mid-1986]
TS. (*HD*) revision, contains some notes for cuts, end of script is
missing; 79pp
See MS 44,797/ 6
- MS 44,792/ 9** [1986]
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Script; 127pp
- MS 44,792/ 10** [1986]
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Script (copy); 125pp
- MS 44,792/ 11** [1986]
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Script; 134pp
- MS 44,792/ 12** [1986]
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Script (copy); 116pp
- MS 44,792/ 13** [1986]
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Revised script, in several places it dictates the
insertion of previously written pages; c.120pp

III.i.(2). Final Drafts

- MS 44,793/ 1** 9 Sept. 1987, 5-7 Oct. 1987, 19 Oct. 1987, 17 Dec. 1987, 21 Jan. 1988
TS script dated 9 Sept. 1987, includes handwritten shot-lists and
possible rewrites within the text, later additions to the typescript are
on pink and blue pages; c.120pp
- MS 44,793/ 2** 9 Sept. 1987, 5-7 Oct. 1987, 19 Oct. 1987
TS script, includes handwritten shot-list, rewrite list and dialogue
additions, later additions are on pink and blue pages, some cut scenes
included (from folder labelled 'High Spirits, Brenda [Rawn, PA to

Neil Jordan)]; c.120pp

MS 44,793/ 3-4 1987
TS script, 2 versions, one includes handwritten notes for scene shots;
2 folders

III.i.(3). Incomplete Fragments

MS 44,794/ 1 5 Oct. 1987, 7 Oct. 1987
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Loose script rewrite pages; 5pp

MS 44,794/ 2 19 Oct. 1987
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Script sections marked 'before revision'; 38pp

MS 44,794/ 3 [c. Aug. 1986-c. 1987]
TS by Neil Jordan and Michael McDowell. Various rewrites and alternative versions of the opening scenes. One of the items from Michael McDowell contains post-script notes regarding the scripts construction (refer to letter dated 30 Aug. 1986 from McDowell to Jordan); 8 items

MS 44,794/ 4 [1986?]
TS by Neil Jordan and Michael McDowell. Early miscellaneous draft sections; 2 items

MS 44,794/ 5 Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Alternative versions of closing sections, one item is a copy; 3 items

III.ii. Production Notes

III.ii.(1). Storyboards

MS 44,795/ 1-3 Undated
Storyboard by (?), scenes 56-171 (sequence 4) copy, assorted sequences for scenes 22 and 39-47, copy; 3 folders

MS 44,795/ 4 Undated
Storyboards by Pat Clayton (First Assistant Director), [Scene 41-47?]; 21pp

MS 44,795/ 5 Undated

Storyboards by (?). Various sketched storyboards; 30pp

III.ii.(2). Set Plans

- MS 44,796/ 1** Undated
Blueprint by (?), external castle projector rig; 1pp
- MS 44,796/ 2** Undated
Set plans by (?). 2 floor plans for castle set; 2 items

III.ii.(3). Film Outlines and Development

- MS 44,797/ 1** 30 Aug. 1986, 11 Sept. 1986, 26 Sept. 1986
2 Letters and a telex from Michael McDowell to Neil Jordan, letter from 30 Aug. 1986 refers to a forwarded draft script with rewrites (see transcripts of alternative opening scenes), letter from 11 Sept. 1986 refers to changes in (*GT*) draft, telex [possibly from McDowell] discusses character development, script length and development; 3 items
- MS 44,797/ 2** 15 Mar. 1987
TS. Notes to outline and copy of first 2 pages; 12pp
See MS 44,797/ 8
- MS 44,797/ 3** 30 Mar. 1987
Office memo from Sylvia [?] to Neil Jordan. Script revisions. Pages 10 and 11 are missing; 9pp
- MS 44,797/ 4** 1 Apr. 1987
Telecopy from Katy McGuinness to Neil Jordan. [Contains scene 80 of *High Spirits?*]; 3pp
- MS 44,797/ 5** [c. Aug 1986]
TS by Neil Jordan and Michael McDowell. Outline, (*GT*) script and publicity blurb for the films production; 2 items
- MS 44,797/ 6** [mid-1986]
TS. (*HD*)– a treatment and a copy of the story outline; 4pp
See MS 44,792/ 8
- MS 44,797/ 7** [c. Aug 1986-c. Sept. 1987]
Notebook containing handwritten production notes. Includes list of

potential cast choices, script amendments. Many unsorted loose pages;
56pp

- MS 44,797/ 8** [c. 14 Mar. 1987]
TS, scene outline, attached alternative scene outline; 31pp
See MS 44,797/ 2
- MS 44,797/ 9** [1986/1987]
Exercise book by [Carl?] labelled '*Ghost Tours/High Spirits*',
containing handwritten production, character and script notes; 23pp
- MS 44,797/ 10** Undated
TS by Michael McDowell. Notes on scene outline, attached outline
and 2 page copy; 12pp
- MS 44,797/ 11** Undated
Handwritten notes by (?). Miscellaneous production notes for a scene
shot and production notes for pages 79-129 of script; 3pp

III.iii. Background and Source material

- MS 44,798/ 1** [1986]
Leaflet by Irish Country House Tours. Lists haunted and spooky
graveyards in Ireland, and brochure for 'Ghostly Weekends' by Irish
Country House Tours, details of 'Ghostly Weekend' package; 2 items
- MS 44,798/ 2** [1986]
Typescript by (?) entitled 'Irish Project', lists various supernatural
beings and Irish character stereotypes. Typescript entitled 'Irish
Project-Ghosts and Spirits (1)', discusses various Irish supernatural
beasts and tales; 2 items
- MS 44,798/ 3** Undated
TS. Explanatory note, discusses the evolution of the films premise and
his desire to incorporate the surrealism of Irish literature into the film;
4pp

IV. We're No Angels (1989)

This section has been divided into 2 categories, scripts and screenplays; and production notes. All typescripts are by David Manet unless otherwise stated.

IV.i. Scripts and Screenplays

- MS 44, 799/ 1** Dec. 1987
TS, first draft; 133pp
- MS 44, 799/ 2** Dec. 1987, 11 Sept. 1988
TS, first draft with later additions, handwritten notes regarding camera shots and changes to script; 119pp
- MS 44, 799/ 3** Dec. 1987, 31 Oct. 1988, 9 Nov. 1988
TS, first draft with later additions on blue pages; 119pp

IV.ii. Production notes

- MS 44,800/ 1** [c. 3 Jan. 1989]
Handwritten notebook containing production notes for *We're No Angels* and *High Spirits* by [Neil Jordan]. Contains potential cast lists, scene re-writes, character descriptions and shot descriptions for *We're No Angels* and a draft scene for *High Spirits*. Also contains a poem criticising the prioritising of money before art by film executives; 64pp
- MS 44,800/ 2** Undated
Storyboards by (?) for *We're No Angels*; 26pp
- MS 44,800/ 3** Undated
TS by (?). List of cast and set requirements for each scene of *We're No Angels* and estimated duration for each scene; 13pp
- MS 44,800/ 4** Undated
Handwritten notes for camera shots and sets; 8pp

V. The Miracle (1991)

This section has been divided into two categories: scripts and screenplays; and production notes. The film *The Miracle* also went under the working titles of *Stardust* and *Acapello*. These texts has been marked (S) and (A) respectively. *Destry Rides Again* was a play within the film, and the sections referring to this play are marked (DRA).

V.i. Scripts and Screenplays

- MS 44,801/ 1** 5 Feb. 1990, 9 Apr. 1990, 27 Apr. 1990, 18 May 1990
TS, final draft, additions on yellow and blue pages; 108pp
- MS 44,801/ 2** 27 Apr. 1990
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Various scenes from script, copy; 15pp
- MS 44,801/ 3-8** [c. Feb. 1990]
TS, Screenplay, 5 copies, 1 was Beverley D'Angelo's working copy, 1 was Brenda's (Rawn) working copy, 3 contain later additions to the script and 3 contain handwritten notes regarding dialogue, camera angles, and cut scenes; 6 folders
- MS 44,801/ 9** [c.7 May 1990]
TS by [Neil Jordan]. (DRA) stage version re-writes and various sections of the closing scenes of *The Miracle*; 72pp
- MS 44,801/ 10** Undated
TS, (DRA) stage version; 14pp
- MS 44,801/ 11** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. (A) screenplay; 110pp
- MS 44,801/ 12** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. (S) screenplay, second draft; 102pp
- MS 44,801/ 13** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. (S) screenplay; 77pp
- MS 44,801/ 14** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. (S) screenplay, incomplete first draft, some handwritten notes; 70pp

V.ii. Production Notes

- MS 44,802/ 1** 23 Apr. 1990

Draft Cast List and 'Possible Punky Types'; 2 items
NFC-Contains addresses and phone numbers

- MS 44,802/ 2** 7 Jun. 1990
Schedule no. 3, shooting schedule for June and July 1990, scene shooting order for train scenes; 2pp
- MS 44,802/ 3** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. (S) overview; 4pp
- MS 44,802/ 4** Undated
Storyboards by Hugh Lenaghan, assorted scenes; 36pp
- MS 44,802/ 5** Undated
Handwritten dialogue between the characters Sam and Renee by [Neil Jordan]; 4pp
- MS 44,802/ 6** Undated
Map of Bray Head area by (?) , various areas relating to the film are marked, copy; 1pp

VI. The Crying Game (1992)

This section has been divided into 2 categories, scripts and screenplays; and production notes. The film *The Crying Game* also went under the working titles, *The Soldiers Wife* and *Soldier Boys*. These texts have been marked (TSW) and (SB) respectively.

VI.i. Scripts and screenplays

- MS 44,803/ 1** 9 Jun. 1991
TS, (TSW) script; 129pp
- MS 44,803/ 2** 11 Jun. 1991
TS, (TSW), script 2nd draft; 100pp
- MS 44,803/ 3** 24 Sept. 1991
TS, (TSW) script, 2nd draft, some handwritten script notes; c.120pp
- MS 44,803/ 4** 24 Sept. 1991, 30 Oct. 1991
TS, (TSW) script, 2nd draft entitled 'Neils Working Copy', missing ending, includes handwritten shot notes, dialogue additions and script notes. Later additions on pink pages; c.150pp
- MS 44,803/ 5** 24 Sept. 1991, 30 Oct. 1991, 21 Jan. 1992

- TS, (*TSW*), full script as shot, later additions on pink pages; 116pp
- MS 44,803/ 6** 1991
TS by [Neil Jordan]. (*TSW*) draft and notes, contains alternative scenes, character notes, a breakdown of the second part of the film and notes regarding the story development; 52pp
- MS 44,803/ 7** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. [*The Crying Game*] partial script; 64pp
- MS 44,803/ 8** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. (*TSW*) script rewrite (incomplete), includes 1 handwritten page regarding scene shots; 57pp
- MS 44,803/ 9** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. [*The Soldiers Wife*] script fragment; 18pp
- MS 44,803/ 10** Undated
Typescript by [Neil Jordan]. [*The Soldiers Wife/The Crying Game*] various script fragments; 11 items

VI.ii. Production Notes

- MS 44,804/ 1** 20 Mar. 1991, 12 Aug. 1991, 20 Jan. 1992, 21 Jan. 1992
Faxes from Neil Jordan to Stephen Woolley and Polli Withers. 4 faxes containing script sections. 1 fax has a handwritten note from Brenda (Rawn) to Stephen Woolley congratulating him over the birth of a child; 4 items
- MS 44,804/ 2** 20 Sept. 1991
Fax from Neil Jordan and Brenda (Rawn) to Stephen Woolley-Polly. Alternative ending for [*The Crying Game*]; 35pp
- MS 44,804/ 3** 2 Oct. 1991
TS by (?).(*TSW*) outline shooting schedule; 7pp
- MS 44,804/ 4** Undated
Handwritten notebook by [Neil Jordan]. Notes for the 1st draft of (*TSW*), discusses cast choices, films symbolism and story development, many loose pages; 67pp
- MS 44,804/ 5** Undated
TS. *America* outline, 5 different versions (appears to be early idea for *The Crying Game*); 5 items

- MS 44,804/ 6** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. (*TSW*) treatment, 3 versions and copy of 1; 4 items
- MS 44,804/ 7** Undated
Handwritten notes by [Neil Jordan]. (*TSW*) treatment, includes division of script into 5 acts; 40pp
- MS 44,804/ 8** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Early film outline for *Lewis* (working title for *The Crying Game*), partial film overview and possible plot directions; 5pp
- MS 44,804/ 9** Undated
Handwritten notes by [Neil Jordan]. Overview of (*SB*), includes discussion of script development; 45pp
- MS 44,804/ 10** Undated
Handwritten notes by [Neil Jordan]. Overview of (*TSW*); 28pp
- MS 44,804/ 11** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. (*TSW*), overview; 5pp
- MS 44,804/ 12** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. (*TSW*), final outline; 1pp
- MS 44,804/ 13** Undated
TS by (?). Camera directions for opening scenes of [*The Crying Game*], contains some handwritten notes; 5pp
- MS 44,804/ 14** Undated
TS by [Neil Jordan]. Narrative from perspective of the character of Fergus in [*The Crying Game*]; 2pp

VII. Miscellaneous film treatments and outlines

- MS 44,805/ 1** 12 July 1989
TS by (?). Script fragment of *Pacific Heights* revision. Character of Ann Miller portrayed by Beverley D'Angelo (un-credited), who appeared in several Neil Jordan films; 6pp
- MS 44,805/ 2** Undated
Typescript by Neil Jordan. Treatment of a play entitled *Rikki's Hands*, copy; 2pp

MS 44,805/ 3

Undated

Typescript by [Neil Jordan]. *The Old-Fashioned Lift* outline (adapted from Neil Jordan's short story of the same name published in *Paddy No More*, Longship press, 1978); 4pp

MS 44,805/ 4

Undated

Typescript by [Neil Jordan]. *Travellers* outline; 5pp