

Finding Aid for LEGEND Papers

Collection Processed by:

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OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Origination/Creator: Unknown
Title of Collection: LEGEND Papers
Date of Collection: 1983–1985
Physical Description: 2 boxes; 0.57 linear feet
Identification: Special Collection #14
Repository: American Film Institute
AFI Archives
2021 N. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA

RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS

Access Restrictions: Collection is open for research.
Copyright: The copyright interests in this collection remain with the creator. For more information, contact the AFI Archives.
Acquisition Method: Donated by George McKamy (June 1986).

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORY NOTE

During production on *THE DUELLISTS* in 1977, director Ridley Scott began toying with the idea of making a fantasy film. Scott came upon the fantasy novels of William Hjortsberg, known for the novel *Falling Angel*. The two men met, bonding over the 1946 Jean Cocteau *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*. Before starting shooting for *BLADE RUNNER* in January of 1981, Scott and Hjortsberg began work on developing a fairy tale. After going through fifteen draft revisions, the final draft was completed in April of 1983. Tom Cruise was cast in the role of Jack O’The Green, Mia Sara as the princess, and Tim Curry as Darkness. Rob Bottin, who had just completed work on John Carpenter’s *THE THING*, was hired to do the makeup for most of the cast, particularly the prosthetic makeup for Darkness.

Principal photography of *LEGEND* began on March 26, 1984, at Pinewood Studios. In June of 1984, sixteen weeks into production, a fire destroyed Scott’s enormous \$10 million forest set at Pinewood Studios, losing three days of production.

Universal scheduled the film to be released on November 8, 1984, but changed their mind after an unsatisfactory audience preview in Orange County. Scott and Universal reduced the film from 125 minutes to 89 minutes. Tangerine Dream, the band who had scored the Tom Cruise film *RISKY BUSINESS* the year before, replaced Jerry Goldsmith's original score. Scott and Universal allowed the European prints of *LEGEND* to retain the Goldsmith score.

The film was originally released in Great Britain by 20th Century Fox in 1985; and in 1986 was released in the United States by Universal Pictures. The film premiered in New York and Los Angeles on April 18, 1986. It only earned \$15 million on a \$24.5 million budget. Despite this setback, critics praised the film for the unique makeup and Curry's performance. *LEGEND* would go on to be hailed as a cult classic.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The *LEGEND* Papers span 1983–1985. The collection contains preproduction material, such as scripts, correspondence, schedules, breakdowns, budgets, storyboards, and press clippings.

The collection is composed of one series: production. It is arranged by subject and organized chronologically therein.

CONTAINER LIST

Series 1: Production

Box 1

- f. 1 Scripts, [second draft, annotated, revised, 150 p.], Hjortsberg, William, 1983
- f. 2 Scripts, [second draft (final), 165 p.], Hjortsberg, William, 1983
- f. 3 Scripts, re: timing [second draft], 1983
- f. 4 Scripts, re: breakdown [20 p.], 1983
- f. 5 Scripts, re: breakdown [second draft, 210 p.], Gmuer, Leonhard (assistant to producer), 1983
- f. 6 Correspondence, 1983
- f. 7 Schedule, re: preproduction [annotated], 1983
- f. 8 Schedule, re: tentative shooting [first draft], 1983

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- f. 9 Breakdown, re: Rob Bottin's creature effects, 1983
- f. 10 Breakdown, re: outline set / location / schedule [handwritten copy], 1983
- f. 11 Breakdown, re: outline set / location / schedule [typed copy], 1983
- f. 12 Breakdown, re: cast and schedule, 1983
- f. 13 Agreement, re: rental space, S.D. Herman Co., Inc., undated
- f. 14 Directions, re: Light Industrial Warehouse location, 1983
- f. 15 Lists, re: staff and crew, 1983
- f. 16 Callsheet, re: Interior Subterranean Bedchamber, 1983
- f. 17 Budgets, re: line budgets, undated
- f. 18 Storyboards [broken down by scene], undated [1 of 3]

Box 2

- f. 1-2 Storyboards [broken down by scene], undated [2 of 3]
- f. 3 Cast Credits, 1985
- f. 4 Press Clippings, re: reviews, 1985