

John Russo Papers A&M 4557

John Russo Papers
1960-2022



Title Statement

John Russo Papers A&M 4557

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Publication Statement

Publisher: West Virginia and Regional History Center

1549 University Ave.
P.O. Box 6069
Morgantown, WV 26506-6069
Business Number: 304-293-3536
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URL: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu>



2023/08/09

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-08-30 08:15:33 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 4557

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/6944

Unit Date

1960-2022

Language

English .

Creator

Russo, John, 1939-

source

Russo, John, 1939-

Extent

6.05 Linear Feet 11 document cases, 5 in. each; 1 document case, 2.5 in.; 1 record carton; 15 in.; 1 oversized folder, 0.1 in.

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu/>

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Russo, John, 2021-2022.

Preferred Citation

[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], John Russo Papers, A&M 4557, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Born in Clarion, Pennsylvania on September 2, 1939, John Russo is primarily a horror author and filmmaker that has been active for 50+ years in both novel and screenwriting. Having attended West Virginia University in the early 1960s, Russo is a self-taught writer and filmmaker, and was drafted into the US Army for two years. While attending WVU, Russo met George Romero, and the two would go on to co-author and film what would become known as *Night of the Living Dead* in January of 1967, with the film releasing in 1968. *Night of the Living Dead* popularized the presence of what we know today as "zombies" in popular culture due to its shocking, graphic nature at the time. It was also the first horror film to star an African-American man, Duane Jones, as the lead actor. After *Night of the Living Dead*, Russo went on to make more horror, suspense, and thriller films on his own, including *Midnight* (1982), and also wrote *Return of the Living Dead* (1985), a cult classic continuation of the zombie concept he originally wrote for *Night of the Living Dead* in 1968. Not only has Russo made and written films, but he has written novelizations for some of the films he has been involved in, like *Night of the Living Dead* in 1974, as well as *Return of the Living Dead* in 1977. Russo has also written several original horror novels over the years, as well as comics set in the *Night of the Living Dead* universe. Russo has continued to write, having worked on several projects and even acted in movies like *My Uncle John is a Zombie!* (2017).

Scope and Contents

This collection includes papers, articles, audiovisual materials, and published works relating to horror writer John Russo. John Russo helped to pioneer the popularization of the "zombie" subgenre of horror into popular culture alongside the late George Romero through writing *Night of the Living Dead* in 1968. Russo is a graduate of West Virginia University and was born in Clarion, Pennsylvania. This collection details his 50+ year career, as well as the impact of *Night of the Living Dead* upon not just Appalachian filmmaking and art made in the Pittsburgh area, but horror filmmaking. Alongside his content relating to *Night of the Living Dead*, the collection also includes some of his published and unpublished works, novels, and various films that he has taken part in. Some notable pieces of this collection are a facsimile of the original screenplay of *Night of the Living Dead*, Russo's very first typed novel manuscript for *Beer and Apathy*, which was written during Russo's time at WVU, and several articles bearing the signature of film director and co-creator of *Night of the Living Dead*, George Romero.

Keywords

Horror films

Horror tales

Zombies in popular culture

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. Published and Unpublished Works

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196332

Unit Date 1961, 1982-2022

Scope and Contents

This series includes John Russo's written works that have been published into printed media or have yet to be published. The two types of materials found within this series include typescripts for unpublished novels, as well as published novels and comics. Most materials are autographed by John Russo. A notable item included in this series is John Russo's first novel typescript that he wrote while attending West Virginia University in 1961, Beer and Apathy.

Movie Rites Novel Typescript (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196333

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 to 3 (Folder)

Channel 666 Novel Typescript (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196334

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 to 6 (Folder)

The Crown and the Citadel Novel Typescript (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196335

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 to 9 (Folder)

Justifiable Homicide Novel Typescript (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196336

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 to 12 (Folder)

Night of the Living Dead 1990: Illustrated History Book Typescript (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196337

Unit Date 2021 January 13

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 1 to 2 (Folder)

Beer and Apathy Unpublished Novel Typescript (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196338

Unit Date 1961

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Beer and Apathy Numbered Typescript (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196339

Unit Date 1961

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Duckworth Avenue Unpublished Novel Typescript (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196340

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Trumped Up! Digital Proofer Copy (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196341

Unit Date 2018 July 20

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

My Life With the Living Dead Autobiography Typescript (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196342

Unit Date 2017 June 12

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 7 to 8 (Folder)

Little Bigfoot Novel Typescript (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196343

Unit Date 2021

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Dead Lives Matter First Draft and First Part of Typescript, Materials, and Notes (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196344

Unit Date 2022

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Dead Lives Matter Novel Typescript (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196345

Unit Date 2022

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 3 to 4 (Folder)

Earthlings Novel Typescript (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196346

Unit Date 2021

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 5 to 6 (Folder)

Earthlings Novel Research Items

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196347

Unit Date 2021

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Hell's Creation Print Novel (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196348

Unit Date 1995

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Living Things Print Novel (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196349

Unit Date 1988

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Bloodsisters Print Novel (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196350

Unit Date 1982

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Inhuman Print Novel (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196351

Unit Date 1986

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Hell's Creation 2nd Edition Print Novel (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196352

Unit Date 1996

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Limb to Limb Print Novel (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196353

Unit Date 1996

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

The Awakening Print Novel (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196354

Unit Date 1997

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Day Care Print Novel (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196355

Unit Date 1997

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

The Sanity Ward Print Novel (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196356

Unit Date 1997

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Day Care Print Novel (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196357

Unit Date 1985

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Black Cat Print Novel (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196358

Unit Date 1982

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Voodoo Dawn Print Novel (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196359

Unit Date 1987

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

My Life With the Living Dead Autobiography by John Russo (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196360

Unit Date 2017

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Escape of the Living Dead #1 & Escape of the Living Dead: Airborne #1 Signed Comics

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196361

Unit Date 2006

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Night of the Living Dead Filmbook (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196362

Unit Date 1985

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Screenplays Written by John Russo (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196363

Unit Date 2007-2015

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 4 to 5 (Folder)

Night of the Living Dead 1990: Illustrated History Filmbook (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196364

Unit Date 2020

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Night of the Living Dead Live Script (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196365

Unit Date 2017

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

George Romero's Night of the Living Dead Comic Book Poster Ad (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196366

Unit Date 2006

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Night of the Living Dead Comics

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196367

Unit Date 2000s

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

The Death of Our Democracy Book (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196368

Unit Date 2012

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

The Zombie Kidz' Exercise and Coloring Book Coloring Book (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196369

Unit Date 2010

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Series 2. Original Screenplays

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196370

Unit Date 1968-2021

Scope and Contents

This series includes screenplays written by John Russo that are meant to be turned into feature films, or have been turned into feature films already. Includes typed screenplays and printed, published screenplays. Most materials are autographed by John Russo. Some notable items include copies of the screenplays of Night of the Living Dead (1968) and Return of the Living Dead (1985).

Night of the Living Dead Original Screenplay (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196371

Unit Date 1968

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Return of the Living Dead Original Screenplay (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196372

Unit Date 1979

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Midnight Original Screenplay (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196373

Unit Date 1978

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

The Awakening Original Screenplay (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196374

Unit Date 1988

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Hell's Creation/The Congregation Original Screenplay (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196375

Unit Date 1994

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Escape of the Living Dead Original Screenplay (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196376

Unit Date 2000

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Spawn of the Living Dead Original Screenplay (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196377

Unit Date 2019

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

The Red Tide Massacre Draft w/ Notes (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196378

Unit Date 2021 May 4-2021 May 11

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

The Hateful Dead Typed Screenplay (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196379

Unit Date 2021

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

American Murders: The Movie Star and the Soldier Typed Screenplay (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196380

Unit Date 2015

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Rufus Buck: A Western Horror Story Typed Screenplay (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196381

Unit Date 2020

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

The Red Tide Massacre Notes and Materials

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196382

Unit Date 2021

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

The Red Tide Massacre L.A. Version & Version 2

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196383

Unit Date 2021

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

The Red Tide Massacre Script/Screenplay

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196384

Unit Date 2021

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Zombie Kidz Typed Screen Treatment (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196385

Unit Date 2021

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Dirty Jokes Typed Screenplay (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196386

Unit Date 2019

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Little Bigfoot Typed Screenplay (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196387

Unit Date 2019

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Little Bigfoot Typed Screenplay and Research Materials

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196388

Unit Date 2019

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

The Hateful Dead Typed Screenplay (Signed) and Proposal Materials

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196389

Unit Date 2021

Mixed Materials 9 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Fried Brains Typed Screenplay (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196390

Unit Date 2021

Mixed Materials 9 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Dead Lives Matter Typed Screenplay

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196391

Unit Date 2021

Mixed Materials 9 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

The Hog Lady Typed Screenplay and Research Items

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196392

Unit Date 2021

Mixed Materials 9 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Potentially problematic due to portrayals of transgender individuals.

Series 3. Audiovisual Material

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196393

Unit Date 1985-2020

Scope and Contents

This series includes audiovisual materials that John Russo has had some part in, or has helped produced. Materials that can be found within the series include VHS cassette tapes, DVDs, a Blu Ray disc, and CDs. Many materials are autographed. Notable items within this series include a VHS copy of Night of the Living

Dead (1968), as well as several CDs produced by John Russo himself.

John Russo's Movie Making Program VHS Tapes (2 copies, Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196394

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 10 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Return of the Living Dead Recorded VHS Tape (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196395

Unit Date 1985

Mixed Materials 10 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Monster Makeup VHS Tape and Instruction Booklet (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196396

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 10 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Night of the Living Dead VHS Tape (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196397

Unit Date 1992

Mixed Materials 10 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Witches, Vampires, and Zombies VHS Tape (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196398

Unit Date 2008

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Horror Rock VHS Tape (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196399

Unit Date 1989

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Screen Scaries VHS Tape (Sealed and Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196400

Unit Date 1989

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Santa Claws VHS Tape Promotional Screener (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196401

Unit Date 1996

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Horror Effects: Hosted by Tom Savini VHS Tape (Sealed and Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196402

Unit Date 1990

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Reflections On the Living Dead Blu Ray (Sealed and Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196403

Unit Date 2005

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

My Uncle John is a Zombie! DVD (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196404

Unit Date 2017

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Midnight DVD (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196405

Unit Date 2020

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Slice Girls CD Produced by John Russo

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196406

Unit Date 1998

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

The Curtain Falls CD by Chuck Corby and Qulet Storm, Produced by John Russo

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196407

Unit Date 2001

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

John Russo's Movie Music CD

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196408

Unit Date 2012

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Chuck Corby Sings the Mob Hits! CD Produced by John Russo

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196409

Unit Date 2012

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Series 4. Scrapbooks

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196410

Unit Date 1960-2022

Scope and Contents

This series includes scrapbooks (in binders) filled with documents, articles, memorabilia, printed internet articles, and various other items detailing John Russo's life and work. Notable items within this series include original articles detailing the popular culture craze that was Night of the Living Dead when it first premiered in 1968, a scrapbook filled with materials relating to 1985's Return of the Living Dead, and a biographical scrapbook detailing Russo's 50+ year film career.

Horror Hall of Fame's John A. Russo Information Binder

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196411

Unit Date 2010-2020

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

"John Russo's Zombie Album" Binder

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196412

Unit Date 1967-2018

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Night of the Living Dead "They Won't Stay Dead!" Binder

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196413

Unit Date 1968-2018

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Night of the Living Dead 1990 Binder (Signed)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196414

Unit Date 1990

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

The Return of the Living Dead Binder

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196415

Unit Date 1984-1985

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

John Russo's Movie Making Program Binder

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196416

Unit Date 2010s

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

My Uncle John is a Zombie!: A Horror Comedy Binder

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196417

Unit Date 2014-2016

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

John Russo Film Career Scrapbook

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196418

Unit Date 1960-2022

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Series 5. Posters

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196419

Unit Date 1982

Scope and Contents

This series includes large cinema posters of John Russo's movie *Midnight* (1980). One is a classic-style hand drawn version of the poster, and the other features a photographic design.

Midnight Oversized Posters

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/196420

Unit Date 1982

Mixed Materials Oversize 1 (Folder)