

Collection #  
SC 3618  
OM 0745

**MARTIN LANDAU AND JAMES DEAN  
COLLECTION, 1953-1956**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 manuscript folder; 1 oversized folder

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1953-1956

**PROVENANCE:** Profiles in History, Calabasas, California, October, 2019

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2019.0318

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Martin Landau and James Dean became close friends in the early 1950s when both were studying at the Actor's Studio and spent a good amount of time hanging around with each other. They along with others such as Marlon Brando and Steve McQueen competed for roles in movies and television during the era of Lee Strassberg.

**Martin Landau** (1928-2017) was born in New York City and began his career as a political cartoonist for the New York *Daily News*. In 1955 he switched careers and was admitted to the Actor's Studio along with Steve McQueen. Although probably best known as Rollin Hand in the television series *Mission Impossible*, Landau starred in many movies including *North by Northwest*, *Tucker—the Man and His Dream*, and *Crimes and Misdemeanors*. In 1994 he won the Academy Award for his role as Bela Lugosi in *Ed Wood*. Landau was also a drama coach at the Actor's Studio and coached Jack Nicholson and Anjelica Huston.

**James Dean** (1931-1955) was born in Marion, Indiana and was raised by his aunt and uncle in Fairmount, Indiana. After graduation from high school he moved to New York City where he received rave reviews in the theatrical production of the *Immoralist*. His work earned him a trip to Hollywood where he played small supporting roles in several movies in the early 1950s before achieving fame in *Rebel Without a Cause* in 1955. Dean went on to win acclaim in two more films, *East of Eden* and *Giant* before his death in an auto accident.

Sources:

*Vanity Fair* HWD (<https://www.vanityfair.com/hollywood/2017/07/martin-landau-marilyn-monroe>) accessed 11 February 2020.

*Wikipedia* ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin\\_Landau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Landau)) accessed 11 February 2020.

*IMBd* (<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000015/>) accessed 11 February 2020

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains a variety of materials mostly dealing with James Dean's death in 1955. Included is a rough draft of a letter of condolence written by Martin Landau to Dean's aunt and uncle and father, 1955; a thank you note from the Marcus and Ortense Winslow to Landau, 30 November 1955; two copies of the Fairmount *News*, 7 and 13 October 1955; ASPCA flier with Dean's address and phone number on the back, n.d.; James Dean Foundation letter with Landau's doodles on the back, ca. 1956; *East of Eden Program*, 1955; and a fan letter from Barbara Trojan, 17 April 1953.

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James Dean Related Materials, 1953-1956

Fairmont *News*, 7 and 13 October 1955

### CONTAINER

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