

## Finding Aid to the *Fields of Play* Film Series Collection, 1981-2012

### Summary Information

**Title:** *Fields of Play* film series collection

**Creator:** Michael Dibb (director/producer)

**ID:** 111.1046

**Date:** 1981-1982, 2010-2012

**Extent:** 0.25 linear feet

**Language:** The materials in this collection are in English.

**Abstract:** The *Fields of Play* film series collection is a compilation of the five original programs produced by Michael Dibb for the BBC in 1981-1982, along with supplementary materials assembled by staff members at The Strong between 2010 and 2012.

**Repository:**

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

One Manhattan Square

Rochester, New York 14607

585.263.2700

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### Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Use:** This collection is open for research use by staff of The Strong and by users of its library and archives. Though the donor has not transferred intellectual property rights (including, but not limited to any copyright, trademark, and associated rights therein) to The Strong, he has given permission for The Strong to make copies in all media for museum, educational, and research purposes. The museum also has the right to screen and use the films for research, archival, and non-paying educational and cultural purposes only.

**Custodial History:** The *Fields of Play* film series was donated to The Strong in July 2010 as a gift from Michael Dibb. The films were received in DVD format and were accessioned by The Strong under Object ID 111.1046.

**Preferred citation for publication:** *Fields of Play* film series collection, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

**Processed by:** Duplicates of the original DVDs received from Michael Dibb were made in February 2011. This collection was previously inventoried by James Leach in February 2012. Revised processing and finding aid were completed by Julia Novakovic in September 2013.

### Controlled Access Terms

**Personal Names**

- Dibb, Michael
- Sutton-Smith, Brian

**Corporate Names**

- BBC Television
- Dibb Directions, Ltd.

**Subjects**

- Gambling
- Games of strategy
- Play
- Play--History
- Play--Psychological aspects
- Play--Sociological aspects
- Sports--Social aspects
- Work

**Titles (in Series)**

- *Plays of Meaning*
- *Playing the Odds*
- *Work and Play*
- *Playing Ball*
- *Playing for Real*

**Historical Note**

Michael (“Mike”) Dibb, a prominent British television documentarian, was an early advocate of the film essay genre. In the late 1970s, Dibb collaborated with Brian Sutton-Smith and other play scholars on a five-program series for the BBC entitled *Fields of Play*. These documentaries explored play in conjunction with learning, working, sports, gambling, and other aspects of everyday life. Sutton-Smith served as a consultant for the series and was the central commentator of the first segment, *Plays of Meaning*. Each 60-minute program, recorded in both the United Kingdom and the United States, focused on a different theme and provided a glimpse into why and how people play. The series aired on BBC Two in 1982.

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

The *Fields of Play* film series collection contains DVDs of the five programs which constitute the series. The programs (*Plays of Meaning*, *Playing the Odds*, *Work and Play*, *Playing Ball*, and *Playing for Real*) aired in the U.K. on BBC Two in 1982. Along with the original DVDs provided by Michael Dibb, there are two copies of the programs: one for preservation and one for access. Supplementary material compiled by staff at The Strong rounds out this collection. Additional scope and content information is provided in the “Contents List” section of this finding aid.

The *Fields of Play* film series collection is arranged into two series. The materials are housed in one archival document box.

**Related Materials**

See also the Brian Sutton-Smith papers for scripts, correspondence, notes, and more. The Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play also holds a complete set of the *Field of Play* DVDs, which are available for interlibrary loan.

**System of Arrangement**

Series I: *Fields of Play* film series DVDs, 1981-1982

Series II: Ancillary materials, 2010-2012

**Contents List**

**Series I: *Fields of Play* film series DVDs, 1981-1982**

**Scope and Content Note:** This series holds original, access, and preservation copies of the DVDs for each program in the *Fields of Play* series. Michael Dibb, producer and director of the series, provided the original DVDs to The Strong in 2010. (Dibb possesses the original films, and the BBC maintains the copyright for this series.)

**Box 1**

- Folder 1 *Fields of Play* film series, programs 1-5, 1981-1982 - access copies
- Folder 2 *Fields of Play* film series, programs 1-5, 1981-1982 - preservation copies
- Folder 3 *Fields of Play* film series, programs 1-5, 1981-1982 - original DVDs from Michael Dibb

**Series II: Ancillary materials, 2010-2012**

**Scope and Content Note:** This series contains supplementary information collected by members of The Strong, including correspondence with Michael Dibb and the BBC.

**Box 1**

- Folder 4 Supporting documentation, 2010-2011
- Folder 5 Correspondence, Michael Dibb/The BBC and The Strong, 2010-2012