

Inscribed to the leading lady

Ira Levin (Marian Seldes)

Deathtrap Playscript and Inscribed First Edition

New York: Roger L. Stevens and Alfred de Liagre, Jr. / Random House 1977 / 1979

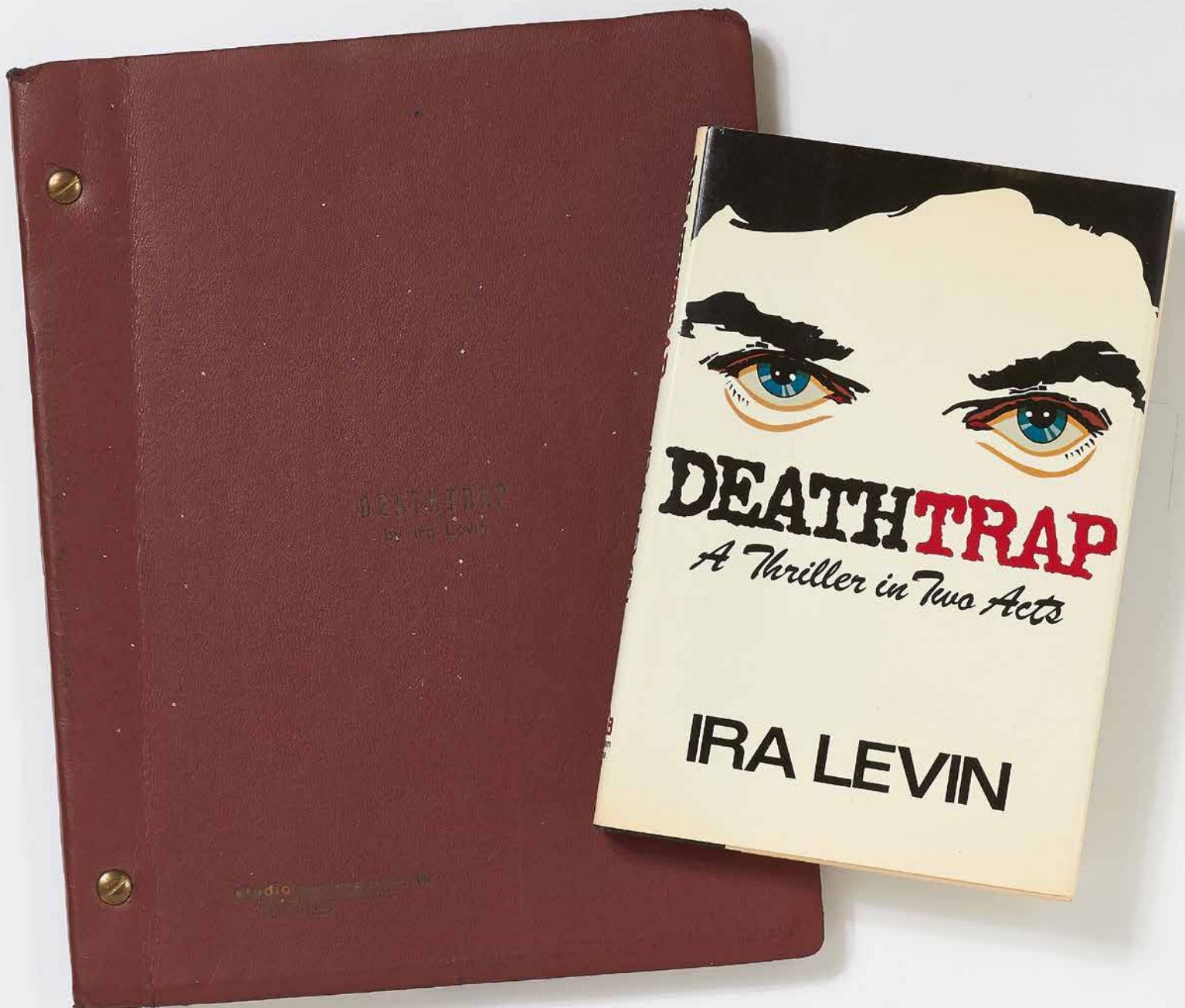
\$9500



Marian Seldes's copy of the playscript for *Deathtrap* by Ira Levin, along with an Inscribed first edition copy of the book. Final draft playscript. Quarto. 54 and 47pp. Bradbound in maroon studio duplicating wrappers with some glitter attached to the front wrapper. The script is unmarked but for a date on the back of the last page in Seldes's hand. Laid in are three staples sheets and one loose sheet, all marked "Completions of Interrupted Lines"; the stapled sheets have Seldes's penciled owner's name ("Marian S") at one corner. Very good with large tear to the rear wrap, top brad starting to pull through the front wrap, light edges wear and crease along the spine. First edition copy of the book. Some offsetting on the front fly from a postcard and clippings, else near fine in fine dustwrapper. Inscribed by Levin to Seldes: "9/25/79 Marian darling, I'll always be grateful to you. Love, Ira." Laid into the book is an postcard from *Deathtrap* actor Daren Kelly sent to the cast during his vacation in California in 1979. Also included are 28 gelatin silver publicity photos (with three duplicate images) and eight with captioned taped on back.

Deathtrap tells the story of a washed-up playwright, who upon reading his student's unproduced mystery, plots to murder him and take credit for his sure-fire hit play. The show debuted in February 1978 with Seldes, John Wood, and Victor Garber in the lead roles. The show proved an immediate smash hit running until June 1982. The lengthy production resulted in a changing cast that included, among others, Stacey Keach, Jack Cullen, Robert Reed, Farley Granger, and Darren Kelly. The accompanying publicity shots reflect the evolving cast with several near identical scenes from the play featuring different actors, with only Seldes as the constant. Seldes appeared in all 1,793 performances, a feat that earned her a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records as "most durable actress." She was also nominated for Best Featured Actress in the play, losing to Ann Wedgeworth in Neil Simon's play *Chapter Two*. Seldes did win a Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in 1967 for her appearance in Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*, as well as receiving four more nominations in acting categories and in 2010 a Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre.

OCLC locates three copies of this script also dated in 1977; one with this pagination. A superb theatrical association. [BTC#419885]



D E A T H T R A P

A Thriller in Two Acts

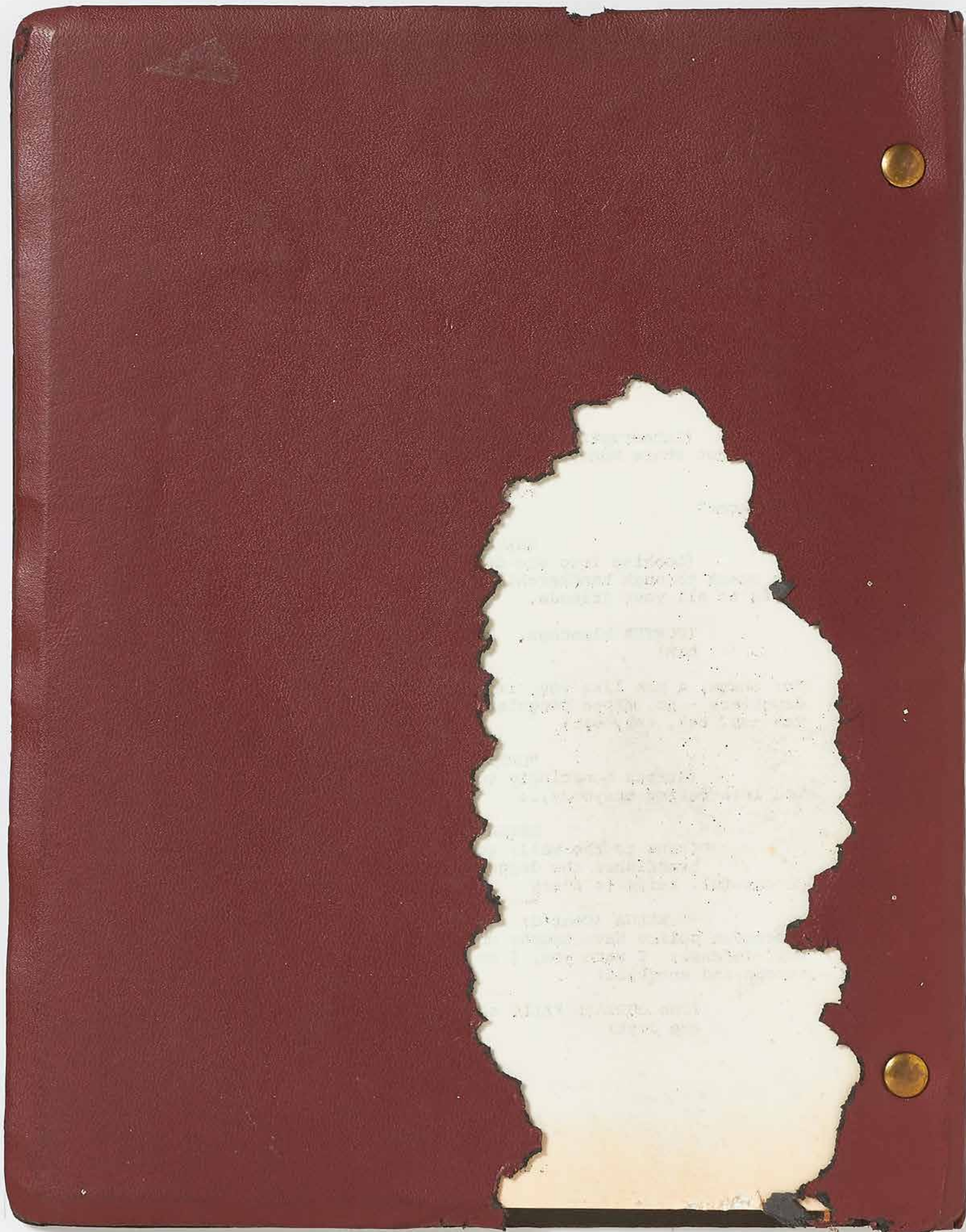
IRA LEVIN

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9/25/79

Marian Seldes,

I'll always be
grateful to you.

Love,

(AA)

DEATHTRAP was first presented on February 26, 1978, by
Alfred de Liagre, Jr., and Roger L. Stevens at The Music
Box Theater in New York City with the following cast:

(In order of appearance)

SIDNEY BRUHL

MYRA BRUHL

CLIFFORD ANDERSON

HELGA TEN DORP

PORTER MILGRIM

John Wood

Marian Seldes

Victor Garber

Marian Winters

Richard Woods

Directed by Robert Moore

Scenery by William Ritman

Costumes by Ruth Morley

Lighting by Marc B. Weiss



5
Muir

DEATHTRAP

Completions of Interrupted Lines

SIDNEY

- I-2-21 You don't have that problem with (your non-electric?)
- I-3-41 ...I'll tell them you (had a headache and went up to rest for a while.)
- I-3-42 In fact we were going to ask (him to introduce us to you.)
- II-1-22 I wonder if it's practical to the extent that paper (can be burned in it.)
- II-2-29 What a bore that (was.)
- II-2-30 ...so I asked my lawyer to do a (little checking on him.)
- II-2-44 How nice of you to know. His name was Cli(ffford Anderson. I just found out tonight that he had a criminal record of sorts, up in Hartford. Accused of stealing clothing and some appliances from a chap he'd been rooming with.)

...

In the event that the blank cartridge misfires (II-2-38), SIDNEY does not try again. CLIFFORD says, "Sorry about that anticlimactic click. I took the bullets out this morning. They fit very nicely into this gun. Sit down - dum-dum." And continues as in script.

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(left to right) JOHN CULLUM, MARIAN SELDES, and STEVE BASSETT drink a toast to "DEATHTRAP'S" third year on Broadway. Produced by Alfred de Liagre, Jr. and Roger L. Stevens, "DEATHTRAP" at the Music Box Theatre (239 West 45th St.) plays Tuesdays thru Saturdays at 8 pm with matinees on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2 pm and Sundays at 3 pm. For ticket information call the box office at (212) 246-4636

photo credit: Sy Freidman

For further information contact: Jeffrey Richards/Warren Knowlton