

## LENNY BRUCE FURTHER STUDY

### Description:

Performing from the late 40's up to his death in 1966, Lenny has left behind a collection of work that goes beyond what we could cover in the available class time. A deeper look at Lenny Bruce can be seen in his albums, movies, books and TV appearances, as well as in the documentary tributes and biopics on him.

The following are some links and resources for further study. Note: The material in the Amazon.com links listed here, in many also be obtained from your local library or other sources.

### Materials:

#### Lenny Bruce Albums

If you only listen to one Lenny Bruce album, "Bits I Got Busted For" or the "Carnegie Hall" are recommended. Of course, all are recommended, they all have value and enrich the Lenny experience. Click on the blue links below to see the Amazon.com writeups of each album. Most of these albums are also available at your local library.



| Year | Title   | Label                           | Format  | Notes  |
|------|---|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 1958 | <i>Interviews of Our Times</i>                  |                                 | LP / LP 1969 / CD 1991 / download                             | 2 tracks feature <a href="#">Henry Jacobs</a> & Woody Leifer, liner notes by Horace Sprott III & <a href="#">Sleepy John Estes</a> |
| 1959 | <i>The Sick Humor of Lenny Bruce</i>            | <a href="#">Fantasy Records</a> | LP / LP / 8-track 1984 / CD 1991, 2012 & 2017 / download 2010 |  |
| 1960 | <i>I Am Not a Nut, Elect Me! (Togetherness)</i> |                                 | LP / CD 1991 / download                                       | Liner notes by <a href="#">Ralph J. Gleason</a>  |
| 1961 | <i>American</i>                                 |                                 | LP / CD 1991, 2013 & 2016 / download                          |  |
| 1964 | <i>Lenny Bruce Is Out Again</i>                 | Lenny Bruce                     | LP / download 2004  | Self-published live recordings from 1958–1963  |

|      |                                 |                                 |  |   |
|------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| 1966 | <i>Lenny Bruce Is Out Again</i> | <a href="#">Philles Records</a> |  | Totally different version PHLP-4010, produced by <a href="#">Phil Spector</a> |
|------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|

### Posthumous releases

| Year | Title                                      | Label   | Format  | Notes   |
|------|--|---|---|---|
| 1966 | <i>Why Did Lenny Bruce Die?</i>            | <a href="#">Capitol Records</a>                 | LP / LP 1974 / download 2014  | Interviews and recordings by <a href="#">Lawrence Schiller</a> , Lionel Olay and Richard Warren Lewis |
| 1967 | <i>Lenny Bruce</i>                         | <a href="#">United Artists Records</a>          | LP / LP 1986  | Recorded February 4, 1961, edited, reissued as <i>In Concert At Carnegie Hall</i>                     |
| 1968 | <i>The Essential Lenny Bruce Politics</i>  | <a href="#">Douglas Records</a>                 | LP / download 2007  | Clips edited together with archival audio for historical context                                      |
| 1969 | <i>The Berkeley Concert</i>                | <a href="#">Bizarre Records/Reprise Records</a> | 2×LP / 2×LP 1971 / cassette 1991 / CD 1989, 2004 & 2017 / download 2005 | Recorded December 12, 1965, produced by John Judnich and <a href="#">Frank Zappa</a>                  |
| 1970 | <i>To Is A Preposition; Come Is A Verb</i> | Douglas Records                                 | LP / LP 1971, 1975 & 2004 / CD 2000 & 2002 / download 2005 & 2007       | Recorded 1961–1964, LP reissues titled <i>What I Was Arrested For</i>                                 |
| 1971 | <i>Live at the Curran Theater</i>          | Fantasy Records                                 | 3×LP / 2×CD 1999 & 2017 / download 2006                                 | Recorded November 19, 1961  |
| 1972 | <i>Carnegie Hall</i>                       | United Artists Records                          | 3×LP / 2×CD 1995 / download 2015  | Recorded February 4, 1961, unabridged   |

|      |  |  |                           |   |
|------|--|--|---------------------------|---|
| 1974 | <i>The Law, Language And Lenny Bruce</i> | <a href="#">Warner-Spector Records</a> | LP / cassette             | Produced by Phil Spector  |
| 1992 | <i>Lenny Bruce</i>                       | <a href="#">Rhino Entertainment</a>    | CD / CD 2005              | Soundtrack From "The Lenny Bruce Performance Film" and reissued as <i>Live in San Francisco 1966</i>  |
| 1995 | <i>Live 1962: Busted!</i>                | Viper's Nest Records                   | CD / download 2010 & 2018 | Recorded December 4, 1962 at Chicago <a href="#">Gate of Horn</a> , reissued as <i>Dirty Words – Live 1962 &amp; The Man That Shocked Britain: Gate of Horn, Chicago, December 1962</i> |
| 2004 | <i>Let the Buyer Beware</i>              | <a href="#">Shout! Factory</a>         | 6×CD / book               | Previously unreleased material, produced by <a href="#">Hal Willner</a>   |

## Compilations

The later compilations are released in the European Union under various oldies labels, as the content used is public domain in the EU.

| Year | Title   | Label           | Format                       | Notes   |
|------|---|-----------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1962 | <i>The Best Of Lenny Bruce</i>                | Fantasy Records | LP / cassette 1990 / LP 1995 |   |
| 1972 | <i>Thank You Masked Man</i>                   |                 | LP / CD 2004 & 2005          | Enhanced CD with <i>Thank You Masked Man</i> short film |
| 1975 | <i>The Real Lenny Bruce</i>                   |                 | 2×LP                         | Gatefold with inserts and poster                        |
| 1982 | <i>Unexpurgated : The Best Of Lenny Bruce</i> |                 | LP                           |   |

|      |  |                 |   |                                    |
|------|--|-----------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1991 | <i>The Lenny Bruce Originals Volume 1</i>              |                 | CD / CD 1992 & 1997 / download 2006 / CD 2013 | Reissue of first and second albums |
|      | <i>The Lenny Bruce Originals Volume 2</i>              |                 |   | Reissue of third and fourth albums |
| 2011 | <i>Classic Album Collection</i>                        | Golden Stars    | 3×CD 2012                                     | First 4 albums with 4 bonus tracks |
| 2013 | <i>Great Audio Moments, Vol. 33: Lenny Bruce</i>       | Global Journey  | download                                      | 22 tracks, 105 minutes             |
|      | <i>Great Audio Moments, Vol. 33: Lenny Bruce Pt. 1</i> |                 |   | 9 tracks, 39 minutes               |
|      | <i>Great Audio Moments, Vol. 33: Lenny Bruce Pt. 2</i> |                 |   | 9 tracks, 43 minutes               |
| 2016 | <i>Four Classic Albums Plus Bonus Tracks</i>           | Real Gone Music | 4×CD  | First 4 albums with bonus tracks   |

### Lenny Bruce Books

- Bruce, Lenny. *Stamp Help Out!* (Self-published pamphlet, 1962)
- Bruce, Lenny. [\*How to Talk Dirty and Influence People\*](#) (Playboy Publishing, 1967)
  - Autobiography, released posthumously

## Lenny Bruce DVDs and Films

If you just see one of these films, make it “The Lenny Bruce Performance Film”. If you see just two, try “Lenny Bruce Without Tears”. The latter one, I guarantee, will bring tears. If you see three, add in the animated “Thank You Masked Man”.

- [Dirtymouth](#), a 1970 biographical film about Bruce

## Filmography

| Year | Title  | Role             | Notes   |
|------|--|------------------|---|
| 1953 | <a href="#"><u>Walking My Baby Back Home</u></a> | Writer           | Uncredited  |
|      | <a href="#"><u>Dance Hall Racket</u></a>         | Vincent          | Directed by <a href="#"><u>Phil Tucker</u></a>  |
| 1954 | <i>Dream Follies</i>                             |                  |   |
|      | <a href="#"><u>The Rocket Man</u></a>            | Screenplay       | Directed by <a href="#"><u>Oscar Rudolph</u></a>  |
| 1955 | <i>The Leather Jacket</i>                        | Actor / writer   | 20 minutes of a feature film project that lost funding and was never completed                    |
| 1959 | <i>One Night Stand: The World of Lenny Bruce</i> | Himself / writer | TV special  |
| 1967 | <i>The Lenny Bruce Performance Film</i>          | Himself / writer | Filmed in San Francisco 1966, includes <i>Thank You Mask Man</i> , VHS 1992 / DVD 2005 / download |

|      |   |  |   |
|------|---|--|---|
| 1971 | <a href="#"><u>Thank You Mask Man</u></a>                   | Voice of 'The Lone Ranger' / writer / director   | Animated short film by John Magnuson Associates   |
|      | <a href="#"><u>Dynamite Chicken</u></a>                     | Himself  | Sketch comedy film starring <a href="#"><u>Richard Pryor</u></a>  |
| 1972 | <i>Lenny Bruce Without Tears</i>                            | Himself  | Documentary directed by <a href="#"><u>Fred Baker</u></a> , VHS 1992 / DVD 2005 / download 2013   |
| 1974 | <a href="#"><u>Lenny</u></a>                                | Biography directed by <a href="#"><u>Bob Fosse</u></a> and starring <a href="#"><u>Dustin Hoffman</u></a> as Lenny | Hoffman was nominated for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academy award for Best Actor</li> <li>• BAFTA award for Best Actor in a Leading Role</li> <li>• Golden Globe award for Best Actor – Motion Picture Drama</li> </ul>   |
| 1984 | <i>A Toast to Lenny Bruce</i>                               | Himself  | TV tribute available on LaserDisc / VHS   |
| 1998 | <a href="#"><u>Lenny Bruce: Swear to Tell the Truth</u></a> | Himself  | Academy award nominated documentary directed by <a href="#"><u>Robert B. Weide</u></a> , narrated by <a href="#"><u>Robert De Niro</u></a>  |
| 2011 | <i>Looking for Lenny</i>                                    | Himself  | Documentary featuring interviews with <a href="#"><u>Mort Sahl</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Phyllis Diller</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Lewis Black</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Richard Lewis</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Sandra Bernhard</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Jonathan Winters</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Robert Klein</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Shelley Berman</u></a> and others, North American Premiere <a href="#"><u>Toronto Jewish Film Festival</u></a> May 2011, screened at Paris Beat Generation Days April 2011 |

### Lenny Bruce (Free!) Web Links

Here is a way to acquaint yourself with Lenny Bruce materials for free right from your browser. YouTube has a treasure trove of Lenny Bruce, and below are both the titles and hyperlinks to get you there.

- Steve Allen Show/Airplane Glue: April 5, 1959
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvQpbhaiQao>
- Censorship on the Steve Allen Show/Jews With Tattoos
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WT7vknG6Eso>
- Album/ Father Flotski's Triumph (Ya-da Ya-da warden!):
  - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYAcCcpJ4No>
- Lenny Bruce Live Performance at Basin Street West 1965 [full performance!]
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wuNKs1\\_gC8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wuNKs1_gC8)
- Lenny Bruce - The difference between men & women
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFNvqBQ3b6w>

- Lenny Bruce Discussing Fake News (1959 World of Lenny Bruce special)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHW51JGtzS4>
- Lenny Bruce on Southerners, Religion, Racism, Obscenity, Law, Police, Politics (1966)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjBpbCceQjg>
- Lenny Bruce TV Documentary pt 1
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUNlrP-AtzY>
- Lenny Bruce - The Meaning Of Obscenity
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDkoCtMOFOq>
- Lenny - Lenny Bruce hard words [Dustin Hoffman]
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SOmkv76rNL4>
- The Very Best of Lenny Bruce | The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel (4 min clip) [With Luke Kirby as Lenny Bruce]
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImVZLsJ4IIY>
- The Berkeley Concert
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Klrml3tl29E>

### Articles about Lenny Bruce

- *AP obituary of Lenny:(August 4, 1966). "Obituary". New York Times. Archived from the original on October 15, 2001.*
- *Obit of Honey Bruce Friedman, the former Mrs. Lenny Bruce. An obit is a good way to get to know someone, and the AP obit listed below is a good start. August, Melissa (September 5, 2005). "Died". Time.*
- *"Let There Be Laughter – Jewish Humor Around the World". Beit Hatutsot.*
- *Kifner, John (December 24, 2003). "No Joke! 37 Years After Death Lenny Bruce Receives Pardon". The New York Times. ISSN 0362-4331.*
- *Mentions of Lenny Bruce in George Carlin's obit: Weber, Bruce (June 24, 2008). "George Carlin, Comic Who Chafed at Society and Its Constraints, Dies at 71". The New York Times.*
- *The 50 Best Stand-up Comics of All Time. Rollingstone.com*
- *Albert Goldman; Lawrence Schiller (1991). Ladies and Gentlemen: Lenny Bruce!!. Penguin Books. p. 107. ISBN 978-0140133622.*
- *Thomas, William Karl (December 1, 1989). Lenny Bruce: the making of a prophet. Archon Books. p. 47. ISBN 978-0208022370.*
- *"Lenny Bruce's Gay Naval Ruse: Unearthed documents detail comedian's discharge", TheSmokingGun.com, August 31, 2010*
- *Schwartz, Ben. "The Comedy Behind the Tragedy". Chicago Reader.*
- *The Candy Butcher (2016) p. 152.*
- *Lenny Bruce: The Making of a Prophet (1989)*
- *"The Museum of Television & Radio Presents Two Five-Letter Words: Lenny Bruce". The Paley Center for Media.*
- *Live From Carnegie Hall: Lenny Bruce – Carnegie Hall.*
- *Goldman, Albert (1974). "Ladies and gentlemen - Lenny Bruce!!". archive.org. p. 349.*
- *Kottler, Jeffrey A., Divine Madness: Ten Stories of Creative Struggle (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006), 221.*
- *"Chronology – The 50s". The Official Lenny Bruce Site. Mystic Liquid. Archived from the original on November 13, 2011.*
- *A.H. Goldman. Ladies and Gentlemen: Lenny Bruce!! (New York: Random House, 1971),*



- H. Bruce, D. Benenson. *Honey: The Life and Loves of Lenny's Shady Lady* (Mayflower, 1977)
- Gavin, James (October 3, 1993). "[A Free-Spirited Survivor Lands on Her Feet](#)". *The New York Times*.
- "[Lenny Bruce – Chronology](#)". Archived from [the original](#) on June 13, 2007.
- Bruce, Lenny. "To is a Preposition, Come is a Verb". *The Trials of Lenny Bruce*. University of Missouri – Kansas City.
- "[Comedians in Courthouses Getting Cuffed: Lenny Bruce and George Carlin, December 1962](#)". *The Critic's Comic*.
- "[Chronology – The 60's | The Official Lenny Bruce Website](#)". *Lennybruceofficial.com*.
- Linder, Doug. "[The Trials of Lenny Bruce](#)". *Famous Trials: The Lenny Bruce Trial 1964*.
- [Excerpts from the Lenny Bruce Trial \(Cafe Au Go Go\) Archived](#) June 28, 2010, at the [Wayback Machine](#).
- *People v. Solomon*, 26 N.Y.2d. 621.
- Richard Neville (1995). *Hippie Hippie Shake*. Australia: William Heinemann. pp. 21–22. [ISBN 0855615230](#).
- Derek Strahan. "[When I opened for Lenny Bruce in Australia](#)"(PDF). *revolve.com*.
- "[Lenny Bruce's visit to Sydney 1962](#)". *dictionaryofsydney.org*.
- Michael Adams. "[When Lenny Met Sydney](#)" (PDF). *michaeladamswrites wordpress site*.
- "[Lenny Bruce and his ill-fated Sydney tour](#)". April 18, 2013.
- Graham, Bill; Greenfield, Robert (2004). *Bill Graham Presents: My Life Inside Rock and Out*. Da Capo Press. p. 156. [ISBN 978-0306813498](#).
- Zappa, Frank; Occhiogrosso, Peter (1989). *The Real Frank Zappa Book*. Simon and Schuster. p. 69. [ISBN 978-0671705725](#).
- Watts, Steven (2009). *Mr Playboy: Hugh Hefner and the American dream*. John Wiley & Sons. p. 190. [ISBN 978-0470501375](#).
- "[The Realist Archive Project](#)". Issues 15, 41, 48, 54.
- Collins, Ronald; Skover, David (2002). *The Trials of Lenny Bruce: The Fall and Rise of an American Icon*. Sourcebooks Mediafusion. p. 340. [ISBN 978-1-57071-986-8](#).
- Fox, Margalit (September 20, 2005). "[Honey Bruce Friedman, 78, Entertainer and 'Lenny's Shady Lady'](#)". *New York Times*. p. A27.
- O'Malley, Ryan. "[Lenny Bruce's daughter reaching out: Pittston resident Kitty Bruce hopes to help women in recovery with 'Lenny's House'](#)". *Pittston Dispatch*. [Pittston, Pennsylvania](#). Archived from [the original](#) on November 23, 2011.
- Minnis, Glenn "[Lenny Bruce Pardoned](#)", [CBS News/Associated Press](#), December 23, 2003.
- Conan, Neal (December 23, 2003). "[Lenny Bruce Pardoned: Interview with Nat Hentoff \(with audio link\)](#)". *Talk of the Nation*. [National Public Radio](#).
- "[List of Comedy Central's 100 Greatest Stand-Ups of All Time](#)". *listology.com*.
- "[Pryor: I Owe It All To Lenny Bruce](#)". *Contactmusic.com*. May 21, 2004.
- "[Profanity](#)". *Penn & Teller: Bullshit!*. Season 2. Episode 10. August 12, 2004. [Showtime](#).
- "[Grace Slick - Original Lyrics to her 1965 Lenny Bruce Tribute, 'Father Bruce' \(Recorded by the Great Society, her Pre-Jefferson Airplane Group\)](#)".

## Tributes to Lenny Bruce



- In 1966, [Grace Slick](#) co-wrote and sang the [Great Society](#) song "Father Bruce."<sup>[69]</sup>
- Bruce is pictured in the top row of the cover of the Beatles 1967 album [Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band](#).
- The clip of a news broadcast featured in "[7 O'Clock News/Silent Night](#)" by [Simon & Garfunkel](#) carries the ostensible newscast audio of Lenny Bruce's death. In another track on the album [Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme](#), "[A Simple Desultory Philippic \(or How I Was Robert McNamara'd into Submission\)](#)," [Paul Simon](#) sings, "... I learned the truth from Lenny Bruce, that all my wealth won't buy me health."
- [Tim Hardin](#)'s fourth album [Tim Hardin 3 Live in Concert](#), released in 1968, includes his song [Lenny's Tune](#) written about his friend Lenny Bruce.
- [Nico](#)'s 1967 album [Chelsea Girl](#) includes a track entitled "Eulogy to Lenny Bruce," which was "Lenny's Tune" by Tim Hardin, with the lyrics slightly altered.
- Bob Dylan's 1981 song "Lenny Bruce" from his [Shot of Love](#) album describes a brief taxi ride shared by the two men. In the last line of the song, Dylan recalls: "Lenny Bruce was bad, he was the brother that you never had."
- [Phil Ochs](#) wrote a song eulogizing the late comedian, titled "Doesn't Lenny Live Here Anymore?" The song is featured on his 1969 album [Rehearsals for Retirement](#).<sup>[70]</sup>
- Australian group [Paul Kelly And The Dots](#)' 1982 album [Manila](#) features a track named "Lenny (To Live Is to Burn)", which includes a couple clips of Lenny Bruce performing.
- [R.E.M.](#)'s 1987 song "[It's the End of the World as We Know It \(And I Feel Fine\)](#)" includes references to a quartet of famous people all sharing the initials L.B. with Lenny Bruce being one of them (the others being [Leonard Bernstein](#), [Leonid Brezhnev](#) and [Lester Bangs](#)). The opening line of the song mentioning Bruce goes, "... That's great, it starts with an earthquake, birds and snakes, an aeroplane, and Lenny Bruce is not afraid."<sup>[71]</sup>
- The 1990 cult comedy-drama film [Pump Up the Volume](#) starring [Christian Slater](#), featured Lenny Bruce's autobiography entitled: "How to Talk Dirty and Influence People" as the contributing factor behind the vulgarity of the protagonist pirate radio DJ character
- "[La Vie Boheme](#)," a song from the 1994 Broadway musical [RENT](#), mentions Lenny Bruce in its lyrics. The characters hold a toast to bohemianism and shout out what and who inspires them. "[Ginsberg](#), [Dylan](#), [Cunningham](#), and [Cage](#), Lenny Bruce, [Langston Hughes](#)...to the stage!"
- In the 1996 remake "Nutty Professor", Eddie Murphy says to comedian Dave Chappelle, "You the next Lenny Bruce." (Nutty Professor 1996)
- Lenny Bruce appears as a character in [Don DeLillo](#)'s 1997 novel [Underworld](#). In the novel, Bruce does a stand-up routine about the [Cuban Missile Crisis](#).
- [Genesis](#)' 1974 song "Broadway Melody of 1974" depicts a dystopic New York where "Lenny Bruce declares a truce and plays his other hand, Marshall McLuhan, casual viewin', head buried in the sand" and "Groucho, with his movies trailing, stands alone with his punchline failing."
- [Joy Zipper](#)'s 2005 album [The Heartlight Set](#) features a track "For Lenny's Own Pleasure."
- [Nada Surf](#)'s song "Imaginary Friends" (from their 2005 album [The Weight Is a Gift](#)) references Lenny Bruce in its lyrics: "Lenny Bruce's bug eyes stare from an LP, asking me just what kind of fight I've got in me."
- [Shmaltz Brewing Company](#) brews a year-round beer called Bittersweet Lenny's R.I.P.A. and the tagline is "Brewed with an obscene amount of hops."
- A fictionalized version of the comedian is played by [Luke Kirby](#) as a recurring character in the [Amazon](#) series [The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel](#), in which he is portrayed as a friend and champion of the titular character. Kirby won an Emmy for his portrayal in 2019.<sup>[83]</sup>