



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Before Stonewall production files

1900s, 1920s-1987 [bulk 1982-1984]

MssCol 4825

Compiled by Heather Halliday, 2015

Summary

Title: Before Stonewall production files

Date: 1900s, 1920s-1987 [bulk 1982-1984]

Size: 2.5 linear feet (6 boxes)

Source: Donated by Unknown, 1995

Abstract: The Before Stonewall production files date primarily from 1982 to 1984 and contain files relating to the making of the documentary film, *Before Stonewall*, which explored, through personal stories, historical footage and photographs, the history of the gay and lesbian rights movement in the United States prior to 1969.

Preferred citation: Before Stonewall production files, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Heather Halliday, 2015

Creator History

The award-winning documentary film, *Before Stonewall*, which was released theatrically and broadcast on PBS television in 1984, explored the history of the lesbian and gay rights movement in the United States prior to 1969. The film combined personal interviews, snapshots and home movies, together with historical footage. It was one of the first documentaries of its kind, conceiving of the lesbian and gay rights movement from an historical perspective. The film was produced and directed by John Scagliotti, Robert Rosenberg, and Greta Schiller.

Custodial History

This collection was loaned to or given to the New York Public Library (NYPL) in 1994 so that items from the collection could be included in the library's "Becoming Visible" exhibition that year. They have remained with NYPL ever since. Correspondence from the mid-1990s indicates that at least one of the filmmakers intended to donate the collection to NYPL.

Scope and Content Note

Production files for this film encompass contributors' personal collections; the filmmakers' research process; the film's funding and budget information; general correspondence; contracts; releases; and scripts. In the course of producing this documentary, the filmmakers solicited personal narratives and supporting visual material for these stories from members of the lesbian and gay community around the United States, including home movies, personal photographs, and other visual materials that told the story of what it was like to be lesbian or gay in the U.S. prior to the Stonewall Uprising. Folders in the "Personal Collections" section contain photocopies, photographs, and other visual materials. The filmmakers kept good records of their interactions with contributors and interview subjects, which can be found in folders with titles such as, "Leads" and "Logs." The filmmakers also conducted extensive historical research, obtaining archival film footage and photographs from newsreels, the U.S. military, broadcast television, libraries, publications, professional photographers, and other sources, which is well documented in the Research section. Photographs documenting the production of interview segments and theatrical premieres are also included. No film or video media elements are included in these files.

Key Terms

Titles

Before Stonewall -- (Motion picture)

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence
Photographs
Scripts

Occupations

Gay activists
Lesbian activists

Subjects

Gay liberation movement
Gay rights
Gays
Lesbians
Motion pictures

Geographic Names

United States

Names

Anger, Kenneth
Bannon, Ann
Ginsberg, Allen, 1926-1997
Gittings, Barbara, 1932-2007
Grier, Barbara, 1933-2011
Hay, Harry
Kameny, Frank, 1925-2011
Lane, Bettye, 1930-2012

Lorde, Audre
Rosenberg, Robert
Scagliotti, John
Schiller, Greta
Wicker, Randy

Container List

Series I: Administrative 1982-1985

- b. 1 f. 1 Blank Forms 1982-1984
- b. 1 f. 2 Budget 1982-1984
- b. 1 f. 3 Contracts 1983-1985
- Correspondence
- b. 1 f. 4 1982-1984
- b. 1 f. 5 Greta Schiller 1982-1985
- b. 1 f. 6 Life Stories 1983
- b. 1 f. 7 Responses to Archive Inquiries 1982-1983
- b. 1 f. 8 Rights 1983
- b. 1 f. 9 Support Letters 1982-1983
- b. 1 f. 10 Fundraising and Grants 1982-1983
- b. 1 f. 11 Media Donations 1984

Indicates where some original footage shot for the film was donated after production.

Photographs

- b. 1 f. 12 Fundraising Benefit 1982
- b. 1 f. 13 Premieres and Screenings 1984
- b. 1 f. 14-15 Production Stills 1983
- b. 1 f. 14 Contact sheets and Negatives 1983
- b. 1 f. 15 Contact sheets and Negatives -- San Francisco 1983
- b. 2 f. 1 Prints 1983
- b. 2 f. 2 Prints and Negatives 1983
- b. 2 f. 3 Slides 1983
- b. 2 f. 4 Planning 1982-1983
- b. 2 f. 5 Release Rejects 1983-1984
- b. 2 f. 6 Rights, Printing 1983-1984
- Scripts
- b. 2 f. 7 1982-1984
- b. 2 f. 8-9 Drafts and Notes 1982-1984
- b. 2 f. 10 Staff Memos 1982-1983

Series II: Personal Collections 1900s, 1920s-1985

- b. 3 f. 1 Forms and Form Letters 1982-1983
- b. 3 f. 2 Home Movies 1982

Leads

- b. 3 f. 3 1982-1983
- b. 3 f. 4 Chicago 1983
- b. 3 f. 5 Los Angeles 1983
- b. 3 f. 6 New York City 1982-1983
- b. 3 f. 7 San Francisco 1982-1983
- b. 3 f. 8 Seattle 1982-1983

Series II: Personal Collections (cont.)

Leads (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 9 Other Cities 1982-1983
- b. 3 f. 10 Notes and Memos 1983
- Photographs
- b. 3 f. 11 Chicago 1940s-1983
- b. 3 f. 12 Chicago -- Jim Wickcliff 1948-1983
- b. 3 f. 13 Los Angeles 1930s-1983
- b. 3 f. 14 Los Angeles -- Bunny McCulloh 1950s-1983
- b. 3 f. 15 New York City 1900s, 1940s-1983
- b. 4 f. 1 Philadelphia and Washington, D.C 1960s
- b. 4 f. 2-3 San Francisco 1950s-1983
- b. 4 f. 4 Seattle 1960s, 1983
- b. 4 f. 5 West Virginia -- Brik Miller 1920s, 1983
- b. 4 f. 6 Miscellaneous 1950-1983
- b. 4 f. 7 Printed Materials 1960s-1960s
- b. 4 f. 8 Releases, Signed 1983-1985

Series III: Research 1920s-1987

- b. 4 f. 8 Correspondence 1983
- Films
- b. 5 f. 9 1983
- b. 5 f. 10 20th Century Fox 1983
- b. 5 f. 11 Newsreels 1980-1983
- b. 4 f. 12 Gay Gerontology 1969-1981
- b. 4 f. 13 Gay and Lesbian Latino Her/History Project 1982-1983

Institutional Archives

- b. 4 f. 14 International Gay Archives 1982-1984
- b. 5 f. 1 Kinsey Institute 1982-1984
- b. 5 f. 2 Lesbian Herstory Archives 1980-1984
- b. 5 f. 3 Library of Congress 1983-1984
- b. 5 f. 4 Naiad Press 1982-1984
- b. 5 f. 5 National Archives and Records Administration 1982-1984
- b. 5 f. 6 National Gay Archives 1983
- b. 5 f. 7-8 New York Public Library 1983
Includes Schomberg Center.
- b. 5 f. 9 Miscellaneous 1982-1984

Leads

- b. 5 f. 10 1982-1984
- b. 5 f. 11 Address Lists 1982-1983
- b. 5 f. 12 Logs 1983
- b. 5 f. 13 Music 1983-1987
- b. 5 f. 14 Notes 1983
- b. 5 f. 15 Orders 1982-1984

Series III: Research (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 16 Pamphlets and Handbills 1960s
- b. 5 f. 17 Professional Photographers 1982-1984
- Publications
- b. 5 f. 18 Articles from Books 1940s
- b. 5 f. 19 Black Cat Cafe 1940s-1980s
- b. 6 f. 1 Black Renaissance 1920s-1930s
- b. 6 f. 2 Gay Publications 1966-1970s
- b. 6 f. 3 Gay Publications -- Homophile Movement 1967-1970s
- b. 6 f. 4-7 Non-Gay Publications 1940s-1980s
- b. 6 f. 8 Ordered 1949-1984
- b. 6 f. 9 Post-Stonewall 1980s
- b. 6 f. 10 Radio 1960s
- b. 6 f. 11 Scandals 1950s, 1983
- b. 6 f. 12 Television 1981-1984