

**The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

Tony Davis ACT UP Records
1988-1996
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Thomas Lannon
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Summary

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Main entry: | Davis, Tony |
| Title: | Tony Davis ACT UP Records, 1988-1996 (bulk 1989-1994) |
| Size: | 13 linear feet (29 boxes) |
| Source: | Gift of Tony Davis, 2001 |
| Abstract: | <p>The Tony Davis ACT UP records contain files collected and maintained by Tony Davis, an active member of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) from 1989 to 1996. Davis had a leading role in ACT UP's Treatment and Data Committee, attended demonstrations and conferences on the subject of AIDS activism and testified before Congress about the illness in 1990. The collection includes administrative files, minutes, correspondence, records of demonstrations, financial and legal documents, subject files, conference notes and programs, published and near-print material, fliers and handbills, photographs, and artifacts documenting ACT UP's efforts.</p> |
| Access: | Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division. |
| Copyright information: | Advance notice required. Apply at < http://www.nypl.org/mssref > |
| Preferred citation: | Tony Davis ACT UP Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library. |
| Special formats | Artifacts, ephemera, photographs |

Related materials note

ACT UP New York Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

ACT UP Oral History Project Videotapes, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

AIDS Activist Videotape Collection, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

AIDS and Adolescents Network of New York Records, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Biographical note

Tony Davis was one-time chair of the Treatment and Data Committee of ACT UP, and a contributing member of the Barbara McClintock Project to Cure AIDS (later named the AIDS Cure Project).

Scope and content note

The Tony Davis ACT UP records augment the ACT UP New York records also housed in the Manuscripts and Archives Division. The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) was founded in March 1987 at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center in New York City's Greenwich Village as an organization devoted to direct action (demonstrations and civil disobedience) to call the attention of government officials, scientists, drug companies, other corporations, and the general public to the severity of the AIDS crisis and its impact on the lives of individuals. Davis' ACT UP collection includes material generated by committees and working groups internal to the ACT UP organization including the Treatment and Data Committee, the Media Committee, and the Congressional working group. ACT UP New York was at its peak of activity during the early 1990s. Much of ACT UP's efforts concerned the fight to find a cure for AIDS. Documentation of demonstrations designed to bring attention to the AIDS health crisis, international AIDS conferences, and efforts to fund AIDS research and to reform the Centers for Disease Control and National Institutes of Health is also included.

Arrangement note

The Tony Davis ACT UP Records are organized in the following series:

- Series I. Subject files, 1988-1996
- Series II. Treatment and Data Committee, 1989-1994
- Series III. Press clippings, 1988-1995
- Series IV. Artifacts, 1988

Series descriptions and container list

Series I. Subject files, 1988-1996

Subject files are arranged alphabetically and include materials collected by Tony Davis regarding activities of the ACT UP organization. General documentation of ACT UP is included along with documentation of the group's efforts to find a cure for AIDS by means of community outreach, direct action demonstrations, fundraising, and testimony before the United States government.

The files on the Barbara McClintock Project to Cure AIDS grew out of extensive research performed by working groups that maintained that AIDS was curable. The project's goal was to find a cure for AIDS using any and all approaches which would ensure a well-functioning immune system and a normal life span with a reasonable quality of life. ACT UP presented the project's detailed plan for a research effort to find a cure for AIDS in March 1993.

The AIDS Cure Project evolved out of the previous work of the McClintock project. In May 1994, ACT UP and U. S. Representative Jerry Nadler introduced the AIDS Cure Act, a bill to establish the AIDS Cure Project, H.R. 4730.

ACT UP organizational records, 1988-1996

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Fol</u> | |
|------------|------------|--|
| 1 | 1 | AIDS Action Council, 1994 |
| | 2-3 | AIDS Activism, 1988-1993 |
| | 4 | AIDS Awareness Day, 1992, Feb |
| | 5-6 | AIDS CD 4 testing, 1993 |
| | 7 | AIDS Drug Development, 1994-1995 (re fair pricing) |
| 2 | 1-2 | AIDS Treatment Activist Conference, 1990 Nov |
| | 3 | Centers for Disease Control Working Group, 1991 |
| | 4 | Contact sheets, 1992 |
| | 5 | Drag party, 1993 Oct |
| | 6 | Emergency meeting, 1994 Feb |
| | 7-8 | Fundraising, 1989-1990, n.d. |
| | 9 | Network, 1993-1995 |
| | 10 | Office of AIDS Research, 1995-1996 |
| 3 | 1 | Press kits, 1989-1991 |
| | 2 | Spanish Communications Community Forum, 1990-1991 |
| | 3 | Test and Disclosure Working Group, 1993 |
| | 4-8 | AIDS Cure Project, 1994 |
| 4 | 1-3 | AIDS Cure Project, 1994 |
| | 4-10 | Barbara McClintock Project to Cure AIDS, 1993 |
| 5 | 1-3 | Barbara McClintock Project to Cure AIDS, 1993 |
| | | Congressional activity, 1990-1993 |
| | 4-5 | ACT UP Congressional Working Group, 1993 |
| | 6 | Correspondence with Rep. Ted Weiss, 1990-1991 |
| | 7 | Documents, 1991 |
| | 8 | Testimony, 1990 (Includes statement by Tony Davis) |
| 6 | 1-2 | DADA: Direct Anger Demands Action (re: America Responds to AIDS, 1989) |
| | | Demonstrations, 1989-1996 |
| | 3-4 | Albany, NY, 1990 Mar. |
| | 5-7 | City Hall, New York, NY, 1989 Mar |
| | 8 | Civil disobedience legal information, 1992-1993 |
| | 9 | Hoffman LaRoche, 1993 |

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| 7 | 1 | Kennebunkport, ME, 1991 Sep |
| | 2 | Madison Square Garden, 1991 Dec |
| | 3-4 | Miscellaneous, 1992-1996 |
| | 5 | National Institutes of Health, 1990 May |
| | 6 | Presidential Campaign, 1992 |
| | 7 | Sheridan Square, 1994 Jun |
| | 8 | St. Patrick's Cathedral, 1989 Dec |
| | 9 | Trump Tower, 1989 |
| 8 | 1 | HIV and health care workers, 1991-1992 |
| | | International AIDS conferences |
| | 2 | Amsterdam, 1992 Jul |
| | 3 | Florence, Italy, 1991 Jun |
| | 4 | Montreal, 1989 Jun |
| | 5-6 | San Francisco, 1991 May |
| | 7 | Lasagna report, 1990 |
| 9 | 1 | New York State Health Care Reform, 1992 |
| | 2 | People with AIDS Coalition, 1988 |
| | 3 | TITA: Tell it to ACT UP, 1992-1993 |
| | 4-5 | Women's Treatment Issues, 1991-1993 |

Series II. Treatment and Data Committee, 1989-1994

The Treatment and Data Committee formed within ACT UP in 1988. Its goal was the dissemination of information about AIDS treatment to the rest of the ACT UP community. The committee met with success from its beginning. It published a weekly digest, conducted teach-ins, petitioned for drug trials and broader research in AIDS treatment, helped alleviate the cost for drugs and disseminated information about treatment within the ACT UP community.

Over the course of ACT UP's existence, internal divisions developed regarding the organization's political tactics and relationship to both the AIDS and gay and lesbian movements. Some members of the Treatment and Data left ACT UP to form the Treatment Action Group (TAG) in 1992.

Research files include publications and flyers created by the Treatment and Data Committee and TAG, as well as newsclippings, announcements about drugs, and other activities spearheaded by the AIDS activists working with the treatment groups.

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Fol</u> | |
|------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 10 | 1 | T & D Digest Nos. 1-5, 1989-1990 |
| | 2-7 | Research files, 1989-1991 |
| 11 | 1-8 | Research files, 1989-1991 |
| 12 | 1-5 | Research files, 1989-1991 |
| 13 | 1-6 | Research files, 1989-1991 |
| 14 | 1-4 | Research files, 1989-1991 |
| 15 | 1-7 | Research files, 1992 |

Series III. Press clippings, 1988-1995

The press clippings are organized chronologically and contain information relevant to and about the ACT UP organization. The series includes press releases, news clippings, faxes, and memos and documents concerning demonstrations, medical advancement in the fight to cure AIDS, the passing of prominent individuals within the AIDS activist community, and the political struggles to raise awareness about AIDS. ACT UP's many committees and working groups generated ephemera such as flyers, handouts, and mailings included in this series.

Among the materials in this series are press kits generated by the ACT UP Media Committee. From 1992, the Media Committee created and disseminated formal press packets containing public information for ACT UP's membership. These press kits contained photocopies of magazines, newspapers, journals and news of special events taking place each week.

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Fol</u> | |
|------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 16 | 1 | 1988 |
| | 2-8 | 1989 |
| 17 | 1-6 | 1990 |
| 18 | 1-6 | 1990 |
| 19 | 1-5 | 1990 |
| 20 | 1-7 | 1991 |
| 21 | 1-6 | 1991 |
| 22 | 1-5 | 1992 |
| | 6-10 | Media Committee press kits, 1992 |
| 23 | 1-6 | Media Committee press kits, 1993 |
| 24 | 1-6 | 1993 |
| 25 | 1-5 | 1994 |
| | 6 | 1995 |
| 26 | | Scrapbook, 1988-1989 |
| 27 | | Scrapbook, 1988-1989 |

Series IV. Artifacts

| <u>Box</u> | |
|------------|--|
| 28 | T-shirts and hat (13 T-shirts, 1 hat) |
| 29 | FDA demonstration gear (lab coats, toy stethoscopes, toy handcuffs, toy headlamps, whistles) |