Summary

Creator: Russo, Vito

Title: Vito Russo papers

Date: 1969-1990

Size: 13.19 linear feet (36 boxes); 1.41 Megabytes (249 computer files); 230 audio files, 19 video files


Abstract: The papers reflect Russo's personal life and career as a writer, lecturer, film historian, and gay rights and AIDS activist. They include correspondence, journals, appointment books, writings by and about Russo, electronic records, photographs, sound and video recordings, ephemera, and posthumous material.

Access: Advance notice required.

Conditions Governing Access: Under the terms of Russo's will, most correspondence is closed until November 7, 2015.

Preferred citation: Vito Russo papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Beth Kleber, Maurita Baldock, and Susan Malsbury, 2009 and 2014. The floppy disks that comprise the Electronic Records were forensically imaged for preservation.

Creator History
Vito Russo (1946-1990), a film historian, writer, and gay rights and AIDS activist, was born on July 11, 1946 in New York City, the son of Angelo and Angelina Russo. He was raised in New York City and completed his undergraduate work at Fairleigh Dickinson University. He received a master's degree in cinema from New York University in 1971 and worked as a film distributor for the Museum of Modern Art from 1971 to 1973 and Cinema 5 Limited from 1973 to 1975.
Russo became active in gay politics in 1970 when he joined New York’s Gay Activist’s Alliance (GAA). During the 1980s, Russo co-founded and became a frequent speaker at meetings, demonstrations, and fundraisers for the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP). In 1985, Russo became one of the founding members of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), an organization which sought to counteract the negative effects of the media on gays, lesbians, and people with AIDS.

A freelance writer for most of his career, Russo was one of the first critics to bring a gay liberationist’s view to popular culture, particularly film. In the mid-1970s, Russo and Village Voice columnist Arthur Bell co-wrote a column for Gaysweek that consisted primarily of transcripts of phone conversations between the two writers. He later wrote a regular column for The Advocate called “Russo on Film.” Russo’s essays, interviews, and reviews appeared in the gay and mainstream press, including Rolling Stone, New York, Outweek, The Village Voice, and Esquire. He also wrote material for several performers, including Lily Tomlin. He was granted awards by many foundations, including The Human Rights Campaign Fund, The Stonewall Foundation, The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, The Alliance of Gay Artists in the Entertainment Industry, The Hetrick-Martin Institute, and the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation. In 1983, Russo wrote, produced, and co-hosted a series focusing on the gay community called “Our Time” for WNYC-TV and in 1985 he was the national publicity director for the Academy Award-winning documentary, The Times of Harvey Milk. He achieved prominence on-screen as one of the subjects of Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt, which won the 1990 Academy Award for best documentary. The film focused on Russo’s loss of his lover, Jeffrey Sevcik, to AIDS in 1986.

Russo began giving film and lecture presentations in the mid-1970s about the treatment of gay characters in film. This ever-changing program called “The Celluloid Closet,” which he presented at universities, museums and film festivals all over the United States, Europe, and Australia, eventually evolved into a book of the same name. The Celluloid Closet was published by Harper and Row in 1981 and revised in 1987. During the spring 1990 semester, Russo taught two courses at the University of California at Santa Cruz: “The Celluloid Closet” and “Documenting Gay Activism.”

Russo learned he had AIDS in 1985 but was determined to continue his demanding speaking and teaching schedule despite his declining health. He persisted in fighting for increased AIDS research, access to new medications, and an end to discrimination against people with AIDS. He died of AIDS-related complications on November 7, 1990 at the age of forty-four.

Custodial History
The Vito Russo papers were donated to the Library by Arnie Kantrowitz, Russo’s close friend, and additions were contributed by Russo’s literary agent, Jed Mattes and by Telling Pictures (Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, producers of the film The Celluloid Closet). Kantrowitz supplemented the collection with photocopies of correspondence received from Russo and files of posthumous material pertaining to Russo’s life and career.

Scope and Content Note
The Vito Russo papers document Russo’s life and career as a writer, lecturer, film historian, and gay rights and AIDS activist. His papers consist of correspondence, journals, appointment books, writings by and about Russo, electronic records, photographs, sound and video recordings, ephemera, and posthumous material. These materials also document the gay rights movement from the late 1970s
through 1990 and narrate how the AIDS epidemic mobilized and yet devastated the gay community.

The correspondence in the collection is both personal and professional. Although it is mostly incoming, the collection does include a number of outgoing letters of which Russo kept copies, as well as photocopies of correspondence to Arnie Kantrowitz (one of the collection's donors), which were added by Kantrowitz. Russo's personal journals chronicle his work, relationships, and fight against AIDS. The posthumous material was added by Arnie Kantrowitz and contains obituaries, articles remembering Russo, and programs for his memorial services.

The items relating to Russo's professional life include his writings, lectures, and notes for presentations. His writings consist mainly of articles on film and the gay rights movement. His lectures and speeches are from his "Celluloid Closet" presentations, his teaching at University of California Santa Cruz, and various gay events. Many of the electronic records also related to his professional life. The gay and lesbian ephemera consists of items such as buttons, handbills, and flyers that demand gay rights or celebrate anniversaries of the Stonewall riots. It also includes a large number of programs from gay and lesbian film festivals from the 1980s.

Sound and video recordings account for a large percentage of the collection and include recordings of Russo's interviews, gay events, and his "Celluloid Closet" lectures. Most of the photographs in the collection are snapshots or contact sheets of friends and various gay marches and events.

**Key Terms**

**Subjects**
- AIDS (Disease)
- AIDS (Disease) and the arts
- AIDS activists
- Film criticism
- Film critics
- Gay activists
- Gay and lesbian studies
- Gay critics
- Gay liberation movement
- Gay men -- United States
- Gay men's writings, American
- Gay rights
- Gays -- United States
- Gays in popular culture
- Gays' writings, American
- Homosexuality in motion pictures
- Motion pictures -- United States -- History
- NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt

**Occupations**
- Authors
- Lecturers

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**
- Correspondence
- Diaries
Floppy disks
Sound recordings
Video recordings

Names
Allen, Bruce Hampton
Allen, Jay Presson, 1922-2006
Almadóver, Pedro
Almendros, Nestor
Anger, Kenneth
Ballard, Kaye
Bell, Arthur, 1933-1984
Bowie, David
Bradbury, Ray, 1920-2012
Brown, Rita Mae
Bumbalo, Victor
Burroughs, William S., 1914-1997
Cassidy, David, 1950-
Charisse, Cyd
Duane, Tom
Dyer, Richard, 1945-
Fellini, Federico
Frears, Stephen
Goldberg, Whoopi, 1955-
Hines, Grainger
Jiménez-Leal, Orlando, 1941
Kantrowitz, Arnie, 1940-
Katz, Jonathan, 1938-
Kellerman, Sally
Koch, Ed, 1924-2013
Laurents, Arthur
Midler, Bette
Russo, Vito
Tomlin, Lily
Waters, John, 1946-
Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983
Container List

Series I. Correspondence 1969-1990 (6 boxes)
The bulk of the correspondence is organized chronologically and covers both personal and professional matters. The material spans 1969 to 1990, but largely dates from 1980 to 1990. The correspondence is with personal friends, organizations requesting him to speak (or thanking him for speaking), activists in the gay liberation movement, politicians, researchers and writers working on topics related to The Celluloid Closet, and fans praising/responding to The Celluloid Closet, Common Threads, his lectures, or articles.


The medical and legal file consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence pertaining to Russo's AIDS treatment, as well as paperwork related to the medical and public assistance he received near the end of his life. The file also includes a letter notifying Russo of a sum of money left to him in Arthur Bell's will, as well as several letters regarding Bette Midler's attempt to stop Russo from showing rare footage of her performing at the Continental Baths in 1971.

The family file contains correspondence from Russo's parents, his brother Charles, and various aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The Jeffrey Sevcik folder contains intimate correspondence from Sevcik, Russo's lover who died of AIDS in 1986.

The University of California at Santa Cruz folder contains correspondence pertaining to Russo's two week lectureship during the 1988-89 academic year, and the two courses he taught from January to March 1990, "The Celluloid Closet: Lesbians/Gay Men in Film" and "Documenting Gay Activism." The file contains paperwork confirming Russo's appointment but most of the material is from Russo's students, who continued to keep in touch with him after he left the campus.

The Russo outgoing folders contain both personal and professional correspondence, including letters to friends, thank you notes, responses to letters received, and letters to the editors of various papers in which he responded to articles promoting misconceptions about gays and lesbians and/or people with AIDS.

The Celluloid Closet folders contain incoming and outgoing materials pertaining to the research for and publication of the book (both the original and revised edition). Correspondents include screenwriters Nancy Dowd, Bryan Forbes, Michael Gordon, Gavin Lambert, Edmund Morris, Edmund H. North, Tom Rickman, Stewart Stern, Daniel Taradash, and Gore Vidal; actors Paul Newman and Christopher Reeve; and others in the film industry including Lindsay Anderson, Edward Dmytryk, Richard Levinson, and Michael Winner. Also included is correspondence from Jed Mattes, Russo's literary agent, and Russo's editors at Harper and Row, as well as material pertaining to requests for movie stills and permissions to reprint them.

The Arnie Kantrowitz correspondence spans from the early 1970s to the late 1980s. It consists of outgoing letters printed from computer files in 1996, correspondence between Russo and Arnie Kantrowitz added to the collection by Kantrowitz following Russo's death (Kantrowitz added photocopies of correspondence received from Russo), and one letter from Russo contributed by the recipient in 1996. Many of the items are addressed to "Sunny" or "Cher," Russo and Kantrowitz's nicknames for each other, respectively. The letters are largely anecdotal and include many letters and postcards to and from Russo as he traveled through the United States, Australia, and Europe.

In accordance with the terms of Russo's will, most correspondence (Boxes 1-5) is closed until November 7, 2015.

b. 1 f. 1-11 1969, 1972-1980
b. 2 f. 1-12 1981-1986
Series I. Correspondence (cont.)

b. 3 f. 1-11  1987-1990
b. 4 f. 1-5  Undated
  b. 4 f. 6  Medical and Legal Correspondence
b. 5 f. 1  Family Correspondence
b. 5 f. 2  Jeffrey Sevcik Correspondence
b. 5 f. 3  University of California- Santa Cruz Correspondence
b. 5 f. 4-5  Vito Russo Outgoing Correspondence
b. 5 f. 6-10  *The Celluloid Closet* Correspondence
b. 5A f. 1-4  Arnie Kantrowitz Correspondence 1972-1990

Series II. Journals 1978-1990 (2 boxes)
The journals, arranged chronologically, span the years 1978 to 1990 and offer a chronicle of the New York gay community as it faced the outbreak of the AIDS epidemic. Russo discusses his personal life and relationships; his work on *The Celluloid Closet*; his travels through the United States, Europe, and Australia; his feelings about gay liberation and AIDS activism; and his struggle with the AIDS virus. Most of the journals contain ticket stubs, photographs, and clippings glued inside.

The 12/14/78 - 9/25/80 journal contains entries pertaining to Russo's research for *The Celluloid Closet* as well as details of his personal life. During this period he traveled to, among other places, London, Amsterdam, Dublin, Stockholm, and Athens.

The 9/26/80 - 3/29/85 journal includes continued travel to Yugoslavia, Italy, France, Wales, London, and Berlin. It also chronicles his relationship with his longtime lover, Jeffrey Sevcik. Russo writes about how the publication of his book has thrust him into the public eye.

The 3/30/85 - 11/13/87 journal chronicles Jeffrey Sevcik's struggle with and death from AIDS, as well as Russo's own diagnosis. He travels to Australia, London, and Amsterdam.

The 11/14/87 - 6/2/89 journal chronicles Russo's continued struggle against AIDS and his difficulties coping with his family once they know of his illness. Russo also writes about his involvement with ACT UP. He travels to Australia and California.

The 6/3/89 - 8/22/90 journal shows Russo battling serious depression and loneliness. The journal covers his time at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Russo expresses his frustration with the lack of new gay activism as well as his disappointment with the medical profession, which he felt had not taken an activist role in fighting the AIDS virus.

An undated journal contains a short entry regarding Russo's continued disillusionment with the medical profession. A yellow pad labeled "Vito Russo's final week in hospital" contains illegible writing presumably by Russo, as well as notes made by others.

Russo's final journal (8/90 - 11/90) chronicles his last days.

b. 6  1978 Dec 14 - 1980 Sep 25
b. 6  1980 Sep 29 - 1985 Mar 29
b. 6  1985 Mar 30 - 1987 Nov 13
b. 6  1987 Nov 14 - 1989 Jun 2
b. 6  1989 Jun 3 - 1990 Aug 22
b. 7  1990 Aug 23 - 1990 Nov 4
b. 7  Undated Journal ca. 1990
b. 7  "Vito Russo's final week in hospital" (notepad)
Series III. Personal Miscellaneous 1977-1990 (1 box, 4 folders)
This series contains appointment calendars, biographical information, and a folder of miscellaneous items. The calendars are arranged chronologically and span the years 1977 through 1990. They contain personal and professional appointments, and many list phone numbers in the back. The folder of biographical information includes brief summaries of Russo’s life and career, his curriculum vitae, and professional references. The miscellaneous folder contains Russo’s daily medication list, a removal permit for the cremated remains of Jeffrey Sevcik, a list of films, and numerous phone number lists.

b. 8  Appointment calendars 1977-1986
b. 9 f. 1-2  Appointment calendars 1987-1990
b. 9 f. 3  Biographical information
b. 9 f. 4  Miscellaneous
b. 9 f. 5-8  Series IV. Posthumous Material 1990 (3 folders)
Added to the collection by Arnie Kantrowitz, the posthumous material contains obituaries for Russo and articles recounting his life and career. A program from his funeral service and invitations and programs from his memorial services in New York and San Francisco are also included.

Series IV. Posthumous Material 1990 (3 folders)
Added to the collection by Arnie Kantrowitz, the posthumous material contains obituaries for Russo and articles recounting his life and career. A program from his funeral service and invitations and programs from his memorial services in New York and San Francisco are also included.

Series V. Electronic Records 1987-1990 (1.41 Megabytes (249 computer files), 1 box)
The electronic records consists of professional and personal correspondence, writings, speeches, teaching materials from the University of Santa Cruz, and a small amount of personal documents. The bulk of the correspondence documents Russo’s efforts to secure permission to screen film clips for his Celluloid Closet lectures. Other correspondence reflects his travels; his work as an activist; and his medical care, including his navigation of the Medicaid system. Writings and speeches consists of front matter and addendum drafts for the Celluloid Closet revision; drafts of articles, including Russo’s columns for The Advocate; and interview transcripts. Personal documents contain various lists such as his videotape collection, medications and vitamins, and a guest list for a party. The computer files as a whole document Russo’s interest in how AIDS was reported in the press. They contain letters to editors commenting on specific articles or topics, as well as notes regarding a 1988 meeting with The New York Times to discuss The Times’ coverage of drug and treatment issues.

Subseries V. B. Contains paper copies of the computer files that were printed at The New York Public Library in May and June, 1996, using a borrowed Kaypro 2X computer.

V. A. Computer Files
  Correspondence 1987-1990
er.1 (294.2 Kilobytes (113 computer files))
  Writings and Speeches circa 1986-1990
er.2 (897 Kilobytes (80 computer files))
  Teaching Materials 1989-1990
er.3 (162.7 Kilobytes (35 computer files))
  Personal Documents 1985-1990
er.4 (99.11 Kilobytes (21 computer files))

V. B. Files Printed from Disks
b. 11  Correspondence 1987-1990
  Celluloid Closet revisions
  Columns, Articles and Speeches
  Course Notes and Related Material: “Celluloid Closet” and “Documenting Gay Activism”
  Film Notes
  Personal and financial documents
Series VI. Professional Materials 1975-1990 (7 boxes)

The items relating to Russo's professional life are teaching materials, speeches and lectures, writings, research information, and various awards. The teaching materials are from his two 1990 courses at University of California, Santa Cruz. They include class lectures, syllabi, lists of films for class, student papers, and articles for course reading. The series also contains Russo's public lectures and presentations. The speeches that are identified are from his “Celluloid Closet” lectures, AIDS rallies, film festivals, and various panel discussions. Writings are articles written about Russo as well as his own pieces in gay publications, such as The Advocate, and in more mainstream periodicals, such as Moviewgoer. His writings discuss the gay rights movement, gays and lesbian portrayals in film, and the film industry in general. Included in the writings are several columns of the “Russo/Bell Connection” from the New York Native that chronicled the daily phone conversations of Russo and Arthur Bell. Two folders also contain several drafts of Russo's writings.

The series also holds information that Russo presumably used as background material for his writings, teaching, and lectures. Files consist of clippings of articles regarding gay rights and gays in film, notebooks, lists of films, interviews and writings by others, the proposal for The Celluloid Closet to be made into a documentary, and permission requests to use film clips. The awards in the collection are certificates, plaques and statues. The awards do not provide much information on the honors other than the name of the award and the presenting organization.

VI. A. Teaching

b. 12 f. 1-4 Lectures and court material
b. 12 f. 5-6 Student papers
b. 12 f. 7-8 Course reading material for “The Celluloid Closet,” at University of California, Santa Cruz, Vol. I & II, Winter 1990

VI. B. Public Appearances and Lectures

b. 13 f. 3 Announcements for Russo lectures
b. 13 f. 4-5 Lectures and speeches

VI. C. Writings

b. 14 f. 1 Articles about Russo
b. 14 f. 2-3 Russo articles from various publications
b. 14 f. 4-7 The Advocate
b. 14 f. 8 Film Comment
b. 14 f. 9 London Gay News
b. 14 f. 10 Moviewgoer
b. 14 f. 11 The New York Native
b. 14 f. 12 “The Russo/Bell Connections” from The New York Native
b. 14 f. 13 Newsday
b. 14 f. 14 Soho Weekly News
b. 14 f. 15 The Village Voice
b. 15 f. 1-2 Drafts
b. 15 f. 3 Signed copy of the book, The Celluloid Closet

VI. D. Research and Background Materials

b. 15 f. 4 Research notes in notebooks
b. 15 f. 5-9 Articles of gay and lesbian rights from various productions
b. 16 f. 1 Articles and reviews of gay and lesbian films
b. 16 f. 2 Articles and reviews on films of general interest
Series VI. Professional Materials (cont.)
  VI. D. Research and Background Materials (cont.)
  b. 16 f. 3  Lists of films used for writings and lectures
  b. 16 f. 4  Lists of films of 1980s with portrayals of gays and lesbians
  b. 16 f. 5  Book cover for The Celluloid Closet
  b. 16 f. 6  Proposal for documentary film, The Celluloid Closet
  b. 16 f. 7  Correspondence regarding permission to use film clips
  b. 16 f. 8  Letter to Russo explaining Production Code
  b. 16 f. 9  Professional Contacts
  b. 16 f. 10  Agenda for meeting with New York Times
  b. 16 f. 11  Letters and materials claiming “cures” for AIDS
  b. 16 f. 12  Script for movie The Silence of the Lambs
  b. 16 f. 13  Letter to Outweek by Patrick Merla
  b. 16 f. 14  Paper by Patrick Horrigan on Barbra Streisand and her gay audience
  b. 16 f. 15  Story by Arnie Kantrowitz and interview with Arnie Kantrowitz
  b. 16 f. 16  Copied pages from Publicity is Power: A Media Handbook for Energy Activists by Diane MacEachern

Series VI. E. Honors and Awards
  b. 17  Alliance for Gay Artists in the Entertainment Industry
  Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
  Frameline Award, for outstanding contribution to lesbian and gay media arts 1986
  Fairpac Media Award 1990
  Emery S. Hetrick Award for providing an outstanding role model for gay and lesbian youth 1988
  1984 Arthur Bell Arts and Humanitarian Award
  Unmarked award with Lambda symbol
  b. 18  Gay Advocacy Award from Gay Friends and Neighbors, Ltd., Brooklyn 1986
  Bobby Campbell Public Awareness Award by National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation 1986

Series VII. Gay and Lesbian Ephemera 1971-1990 (3 boxes)
This series consists of ephemera relating to gay and lesbian rights and interests. These include pins and buttons, notices and flyers for protests and events, programs for gay and lesbian film festivals, the constitution and newsletter of the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), and information relating to the AIDS Quilt. Many of the handbills calling for political action are signed by “The Red Queen.” The series also has ephemera celebrating anniversaries of the Stonewall Riots of 1969. One booklet from 1979, entitled Stonewall Romances, includes personal accounts of the night of the riots. Other ephemera includes gay magazines, information about the media arts organization Frameline, and a program from Finocchio’s female impersonator club in San Francisco.

  b. 19  Buttons and pins
  b. 20 f. 1  Flyers and announcements
  b. 20 f. 2  Stonewall anniversary celebrations
  b. 20 f. 3  Gay Activists Alliance (GAA)
              Program, constitution, and publications
Series VII. Gay and Lesbian Ephemera (cont.)

b. 20 f. 4
AIDS Quilt

b. 20 f. 5-10
Gay and Lesbian Film Festival Programs 1980-1990

b. 21 f. 1
Gay magazines

b. 21 f. 2-3
Miscellaneous

The video recordings are arranged in alphabetical order and consist of interviews and lectures by Russo; broadcast productions; and film clips used in Russo’s “Celluloid Closet” lectures. There is also a recording of the Second Annual Media Awards Presentation for the Alliance for Gay Artists in the Entertainment Industry. Interviews and lectures consist of an interview of Russo by radio personality Zane Blaney and two versions of a “Celluloid Closet” lecture in Oregon. One version is the complete lecture while the other is a condensed edit of the lecture interspersed with film clips. The broadcast productions include episodes of Our Times, a topical television show that Russo hosted on a variety LGBT issues; segments of the Emerald City television show including interviews Russo did with John Waters and Larry Kramer; Vito’s Legacy; The Inaugural Display of the NAMES Project Quilt; and The Lavender Peacock/Hen: Gays and the Broadcast Media.

Celluloid Closet
Lecture in Oregon
211325.mp4 (video file (01:49:23))
Lecture in Oregon
211327.mp4 (video file (01:43:47))
With film clips.
Film Clips #1
215930.mp4 (video file (00:41:36))
Film Clips #2
215931.mp4 (video file (01:02:50))
Film Clips #3
215925.mp4 (video file (0:19:39))
Film Clips (Short Version)
211366.mp4 (video file (00:45:41))
Film Clips
211322.mp4 (video file (01:36:38))
Covers Silent Era; Pre-Code Era; and Gays as Alien.

Alliance for Gay Artists in the Entertainment Industry: Second Annual Media Awards Presentation
Part I
215928.mp4 (video file (00:57:46))
Part II
215929.mp4 (video file (00:49:49))

Emerald City 1978
211376.mp4 (video file (02:04:16))
Segments include footage of a gay cabarets, and interviews with John Waters and Larry Kramer.

Vito’s Legacy circa 1991
211329.mp4 (video file (00:59:39))
Produced by the Gay Cable Network.

The Inaugural Display of the NAMES Project Quilt circa 1987
211335.mp4 (video file (00:16:10))
Produced by David Thompson.
Series VIII. Video Recordings (cont.)

**Interview by Zane Blaney** 1989 Jun 17
211328.mp4 (video file (02:03:57))

*The Lavender Peacock/Hen: Gays and the Broadcast Media*
211352.mp4 (video file (00:51:07))

**Our Time** 1983
211368.mp4 (video file (03:55:20))
Contains episodes #1 Movement, #8 Writers, #9 Drag, and #10 Rita Mae Brown.

**Our Time** 1983
211344.mp4 (video file (03:55:42))
Contains episodes #4 AIDS, #5 Parents, #6 SAGE, and #7 Gay and Lesbian Youth of New York (GLYNY).

**Our Time** 1983
211343.mp4 (video file (01:57:03))
Contains episodes #11 Racism and #12 Third World.

**Our Time** 1983
211369.mp4 (video file (01:32:16))
Contains episode #13 Lily Tomlin, Harvey Fierstein, and the Chelsea Street Fair. Includes raw footage of Tomlin in Cleveland.

Series IX. Sound Recordings 1974-1989 (230 audio files)

The sound recordings consist of interviews by Russo; talks and appearances; protests, rallies, and events; and miscellaneous recordings. The interviews were conducted for the *Celluloid Closet* and for articles Russo was writing for gay and popular publications. There are *Celluloid Closet* interviews for both the initial publication (1981) and the revised edition (1987). Russo interviewed directors, actors and actresses, and screenwriters, as well as musicians, novelists, and other journalists. Notable interviewees include directors Robert Aldrich, Pedro Almodóvar, Kenneth Anger, Federico Fellini, and Stephen Frears; actors Spalding Grey, Ian McKellen, and Martin Sheen; actresses Whoopi Goldberg, Barbara Hershey, Jessica Lange, Bette Midler, and Lily Taylor; writers William S. Burroughs and Tennessee Williams; and musicians David Bowie and David Cassidy. Some of the audiotapes contained multiple interviews on a side. In these instances, all interviewees are listed.

There is a series of travel interviews (circa 1989) that appear to have been collected on a trip across the United States which include street preacher John 3:16 Cook and his wife Magickal Marissa in Las Vegas, a dance troop composed of senior citizens called the Arizona Pom Pom's, and an interview with gay soldiers in the military and the owner of a gay bar they frequented, among others.

Protests, rallies, and events consist of an ACT UP press conference regarding the FDA protest; the ACT UP demonstration on Wall Street; an anti-nuclear demonstration in Washington, D.C.; names being read out loud for the NAMES Memorial Quilt; a Human Rights Campaign Fund Dinner; and the Christopher Street Liberation Day, which Russo officiated.

Talks and appearances include Celluloid Closet lectures Russo presented at both gay community centers and academic institutions, including his last lecture at the Roxie Theater in San Francisco in 1990, and interviews Russo gave on the radio and to other journalists. There are multiple interviews of Russo by Zane Blaney which span from 1970 to 1989.

Other recordings consist of a panel discussion at the New York Lesbian and Gay International Film Festival, a telephone chat line that Russo was participating in, segments from the Gay Liberation Follies, the *Killing of Sister George* radio spots, and the cast album for the AIDS musical *Dirty Dreams of a Clean Cut Kid*. Recordings related to Arthur Bell include his memorial service and two phone conversations between Bell and Russo.

**Interviews**

Allen, Jay Presson; Grainger Hines
207835_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:30:09))
Allen, Peter 1977 May

Part 1
Side A
207837_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:45:54))
Side B
207837_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:45:45))

Part 2
Side A
207836_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:46:13))
Side B
207836_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:46:06))

Almendros, Nestor and Orlando Jiménez-Leal 1984 Apr 6

Side A
207851_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:46))
Side B
207851_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:22:46))

Almódovar, Pedro 1988

Side A
207844_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:15:09))
circa 1988
207849_f01.mp3 (audio file (01:01:08))

undated
Side A
207848_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:32))
Side B
207848_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:30:24))

Anger, Kenneth 1984 Oct 16

Side A
207842_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:43:02))
Side B
207842_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:24:53))

Aldrich, Robert 1978 Aug 3

Side A
207834_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:29))
Side B
207834_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:30))

Ballard, Kaye 1978 Oct 31

Part 1
207853_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:45:00))
Part 2
207854_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:40:27))
Includes interview with an unidentified female gay activist.

Blakley, Ronee 1975 Jul 10
207856_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:30:51))
Guide to the
Vito Russo papers

Series IX. Sound Recordings (cont.)
Interviews (cont.)
Blakley, Ronee (cont.)
  1975 Jul 10
    207857_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:30:39))

undated
  Side A
    207855_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:29:17))
  Side B
    207855_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:28))

Bowie, David
  1982 Nov 10
    Side A
      207862_f01.mp3 (audio file (01:00:39))
    Side B
      207862_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:44:12))

undated
  Side A
    216556_f01.mp3 (audio file (01:01:53))
  Side B
    216556_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:45:51))

Bumbalo, Victor; Bob Hoskins
  207866_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:44:21))

Carlino, Lewis John 1978 Aug 9
  207863_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:20))

Cassidy, David
  1975 Oct 28
    Side A
      207865_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:29:01))
    Side B
      207865_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:28:58))

  1976 Jan 22
    207864_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:04:31))

Coco, James; Sara Davidson
  207866_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:46:56))

Crowley, Mart 1978 Aug 2
  Side A
    207867_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:24))
  Side B
    207867_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:23))

Davies, Terence 1988 Oct
  Side A
    207929_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:46:54))
  Side B
    207929_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:46:53))

Dyer, Richard
  Side A
    207931_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:36))
Series IX. Sound Recordings (cont.)
Interviews (cont.)
Dyer, Richard (cont.)
   Side B
   207931_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:47:40))
   Side A
   207932_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:44:10))
   Side B
   207932_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:38:17))

Frears, Stephen
   1986 Aug 20
   Side A
   207935_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:59:14))
   Side B
   207935_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:03:58))
undated
   207937_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:27:57))
undated
   207938_f01.mp3 (audio file (01:02:21))

Garfien, Jack 1978 Oct 31
   207853_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:45:40))

Goldberg, Whoopi 1985 Sep 24
   Side A
   207939_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:59:06))
   Side B
   207939_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:34:14))

Goldberg, Whoopi; Bill Sherwood
   Side A
   207940_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:45:31))
   Side B
   207940_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:35:44))

Gotham 1976 Jan 22
   207864_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:29:14))
   Gay male vocal trio.

Grey, Spalding
   216553_f02.mp3 (audio file (01:02:18))

Harper, Valerie
   207944_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:17:12))

Hermosilo, Jaime
   Side A
   207946_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:25))
   Side B
   207946_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:28))

Hershey, Barbara circa 1988
   207849_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:13:55))

Kellerman, Sally
   1975 Jul 10
   207856_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:18:16))
undated
   207944_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:28:57))
undated
207945_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:30:32))

King, Perry
Side A
207950_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:46:57))
Side B
207950_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:11:11))

Kinski, Nastassja 1982 Jun 13
207875_f02.mp3 (audio file (01:00:46))

Lambert, Gavin 1978 Aug 9
207863_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:28:23))

Lange, Jessica circa 1982
Side A
216572_f01.mp3 (audio file (01:00:39))
Side B
216572_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:59:06))
Includes a partial interview with an unidentified member of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus.

Lansbury, Angela 1983
207951_f01.mp3 (audio file (01:02:18))

Laurents, Arthur 1978 Aug 15
Side A
207952_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:18))
Side B
207952_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:18))
Side A
207953_f01.mp3 (audio file (01:01:14))
Also includes interview with Paul Aaron.

Lewis, Charlotte Aug 19
Side A
207954_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:56:33))
Side B
207954_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:21:21))

McKellan, Ian circa 1989
Both sides include names being read out loud for the NAMES Memorial Quilt.

McKellan, Ian
Side A
207957_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:05))
Side B
207957_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:46:37))

Midler, Bette
207958_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:28:55))

Multiple Interviews 1987
Side A
207845_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:00))
Pedro Almodovar
Side B
207845_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:38:25))
Pedro Almodovar continued, Anne Carlisle, and James Kirkwood, Jr.

Multiple Interviews
207951_f02.mp3 (audio file (01:01:05))
Nastassja Kinski, and William S. Burroughs and James Grauerholz.

Multiple Interviews
207874_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:59:12))
Helen Shaver, Penelope Spheeris, James Kirkwood Jr., Rusty Lemorande, and Steve Barron.

Multiple Interviews

Side A
207933_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:42:00))
Federico Fellini, Lily Tomlin, Jane Wagner, and Lilia Skala.

Side B
207933_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:47:12))
Federico Fellini continued.

Musto, Michael 1989 Aug
Side A
207868_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:12))

Side B
207868_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:15:21))

Oliveira, Dona
Side A
216557_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:56:27))
Tape begins with recording of unidentified awards show.

Side B
216557_f02.mp3 (audio file (01:01:41))

Side B
207938_f02.mp3 (audio file (01:02:22))

Reynolds, Debbie
Side A
207869_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:44:52))

Side B
207869_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:28:54))

Scolero, Michael
Side A
207876_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:30:56))

Side B
207876_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:30:59))

Sheen, Martin
1975 Jul 10
207857_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:14:37))

207945_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:30:31))
Series IX. Sound Recordings (cont.)
Interviews (cont.)

Stanley, Kim 1982 Jun
207875_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:19:45))

Stein, Joseph; Charles Strouse 1986
207874_f02.mp3 (audio file (01:02:44))

Stuart?
207955_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:22))
On journalists coverage of AIDS.

Terkel, Studs
216554_f01.mp3 (audio file (01:03:01))

Thomas, Richard
216553_f01.mp3 (audio file (01:02:24))

Williams, Tennessee 1977 Mar 3
207871_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:46:14))

Wright, Suzanne 1988 Jan 7
Side A
216555_f01.mp3 (audio file (01:01:51))

Side B
216555_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:20:31))

Travel Interviews circa 1989
In a casino
207858_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:06:52))

In a restaurant in Memphis
Side A
207901_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:40:03))

Side B
207901_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:14:42))

In a women's clothing store
207916_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:16:33))

Gay marines
207861_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:12:32))

Gay marines and owner of gay bar
207890_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:27))

John 3:16 Cook and Magickal Marissa in Las Vegas
Side A
207881_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:46:58))

Side B
207881_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:18:42))

On a train leaving New Orleans
207896_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:20:35))
First part of interview is on Part III of the "Celluloid Closet" lecture at the Roxie Theater (file 207896_f01.mp3).

People talking about Elvis
207860_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:47:45))

Arizona Pom Poms
207884_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:37:16))
Man discussing the rise in male consciousness 1977 Mar 3
207871_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:46:14))

Man discussing gay and lesbian film festival undated
207955_f02.mp3 (00:47:29)

Women discussing lesbian and gay films
207918_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:00))

Protests, Rallies, and Events

Anti-Nuclear Demonstration in Washington, D.C 1979
207854_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:46:14))

ACT UP Demonstration on Wall St 1983 Mar 14
207906_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:16:27))
Radio program. Live coverage by WBAI.

ACT UP FDA Demonstration 1988 Oct 11
207912_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:25:24))

Christopher Street Gay Liberation Stonewall Rally

Side A
207919_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:27:52))

Side B
207919_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:46))

WBAI coverage
Radio program. Live coverage of the rally including interviews with rally participants.

Part I

Side A
207925_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:55))

Side B
207925_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:39))

Part II

Side A
207926_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:46))

Side B
207926_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:45))

Part III
207920_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:28:04))

Council Hearings 1975 Sep
207904_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:47:26))

Human Rights Campaign Fund Dinner 1989 Nov 5
207905_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:46:51))

NAMES Memorial Quilt 1989
See: Interviews--McKellan, Ian.

Talks and Appearances

Celluloid Closet Lectures
Castro Theatre 1981

Side A
207907_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:19))
Guide to the Vito Russo papers

Series IX. Sound Recordings (cont.)
Talks and Appearances (cont.)
Celluloid Closet Lectures (cont.)
Castro Theatre (cont.)

Side B
207907_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:47:11))

Roxie Theater
1978 Dec 12
Side A
207913_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:48:17))
Side B
207913_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:22:17))

1990 Mar
Part I
Side A
207895_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:41))
Side B
207895_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:47:56))
Part III
207896_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:24))

Yale University 1989
207839_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:27))

Oregon
Part I and II
Side A
207889_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:12))
Side B
207889_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:46:35))
Part III
207890_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:17:59))

Film Clips
Side A
207914_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:10))
Side B
207914_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:41:01))
Side A
207915_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:46:48))
Side B
207915_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:46:50))
Side A
207916_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:46:51))
Also includes recording of people at the beach.

The David Brudnoy Show
207886_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:08))

Excerpts From Queersville
Side A
207882_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:23:44))
Side B
207882_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:25:40))
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series/Event</th>
<th>Side</th>
<th>Audio File ID</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<td><strong>Fruit Punch</strong></td>
<td>Side A</td>
<td>207878_f01.mp3</td>
<td>(00:46:39)</td>
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<td>Side B</td>
<td>207878_f02.mp3</td>
<td>(00:46:38)</td>
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<td><strong>GMHC Movie Concert</strong></td>
<td>Side A</td>
<td>207903_f01.mp3</td>
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<td>Side B</td>
<td>207903_f02.mp3</td>
<td>(00:33:31)</td>
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<td><strong>History Panel Camp</strong></td>
<td>Part I</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Side B</td>
<td>207893_f02.mp3</td>
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<td>Part II</td>
<td>Side A</td>
<td>207898_f01.mp3</td>
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<td>Side B</td>
<td>207898_f02.mp3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interview by T. P 1988 Jun 27</strong></td>
<td>Side A</td>
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<td>Side B</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interview by Alan Farley circa 1987</strong></td>
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<td>207892_f01.mp3</td>
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<td><strong>Interviews by Zane Blaney</strong></td>
<td>1982 Feb 9-- Part 1</td>
<td>Side A</td>
<td>207858_f01.mp3</td>
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<td>1982 Feb 9-- Part 2</td>
<td>Side A</td>
<td>207859_f01.mp3</td>
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<td>1989 Jun 17</td>
<td>Side A</td>
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<td><strong>Keynote Address 1981 Oct 9</strong></td>
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<td>207887_f01.mp3</td>
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Series IX. Sound Recordings (cont.)
Talks and Appearances (cont.)

The Vito Russo Tapes
On K108 FM The Public Affair Show.

1970
207861_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:28:39))
1975 Oct 6
207891_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:20))
Includes clips featuring Lily Tomlin and others.

Arthur Bell Memorial Service
Side A
207902_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:29:27))
Side B
207902_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:26:14))

Dirty Dreams of a Clean Cut Kid Cast Album 1990
Side A
207922_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:25:41))
Side B
207922_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:27:20))

The Gay Liberation Follies circa 1974
207904_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:39:24))

The Gay Liberation Follies 1974 Apr 17
207910_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:07:43))

The Killing of Sister George Radio Spots
207921_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:01:52))

Memories of people who died of AIDS
207892_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:47:35))
Edited recording. Russo remembers Jeffrey Sevcik.

New York Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival 1988
Panel discussion with Su Friedrich, Tom Chomont, Abigail Child, Jim Hubbard, and Barbara Hammer.

Part I
Side A
207923_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:29:52))
Side B
207923_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:08))

Part II
Side A
207924_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:10))
Side B
207924_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:16:33))

Russo Bell Connection
207909_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:20:02))

Russo Bell Connection
216554_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:15:42))

Telephone Chat Line
Series IX. Sound Recordings (cont.)
Telephone Chat Line (cont.)

Side A
207948_f01.mp3 (audio file (00:31:15))

Side B
207948_f02.mp3 (audio file (00:31:15))

Series X. Photographs 1960s-1990 (2 boxes)
The photographs consist of snapshots, contact sheets, and negatives of friends and gay and lesbian events. Included are gay marches, street fairs, vacations, stills from movies used in *The Celluloid Closet*, and portraits of famous women. Many of the events and people are unidentified.

b. 38 f. 1  “First Gay Demonstration” - protests in Washington D.C. (1965) and in Philadelphia
b. 38 f. 2  Promotional photographs from films in 1990 New York International Festival of Lesbian and Gay Film
b. 38 f. 3-4  Contact sheets and negatives from *The Celluloid Closet*
b. 38 f. 5  Contact sheets and/or negatives of Fire Island, 1979 March on Washington, 1979 Chelsea Street Fair, 1981 Gay Press Conference, and 1980 Stockholm Rally
b. 38 f. 6  Contact sheets and/or negatives of vacation and friends 1979-1980
b. 38 f. 7  Portrait of Russo and contact sheet and/or negatives of unidentified friends
b. 38 f. 8  Contact sheets and/or negatives of vacation to Key West
b. 38 f. 9  Portraits of Marlene Dietrich, Bette Midler, and Judy Garland
b. 39  Snapshot photographs and negatives from gay cruises, Fire Island, Stockholm Gay Pride Day, and other unidentified events and people