



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Jewelle Gomez papers**

1968-2010

Sc MG 790

Processed by Steven G. Fullwood, July 2014.

## Summary

**Creator:** Gomez, Jewelle, 1948-

**Title:** Jewelle Gomez papers

**Date:** 1968-2010

**Size:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Gift of Jewelle Gomez, 2006.

**Abstract:** Jewelle Gomez is a self-identified "Black", "Native", lesbian feminist poet and playwright. She has published nine books, including three books of poetry, a novel, a play, an essay collection, and two books of collaboration. Gomez is best known for her double Lambda Award winning novel, *The Gilda Stories*, and its subsequent theater adaptation, *Bones and Ash: A Gilda Story*. Born in 1948, Gomez was raised in a poor, Black neighborhood in Boston, Massachusetts, by her great-grandmother Grace, to whom she dedicated her first book of poetry, *The Lipstick Papers* (1980). The Jewelle Gomez papers include manuscripts, interviews, reviews, articles, speeches, and essays. The collection contains a photocopy of the original self-published book of poetry *The Lipstick Papers*, and versions of her play, "Waiting for Giovanni", which is based on James Baldwin's life right before the publication of his second and controversial novel, *Giovanni's Room* in 1956.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. To request access to materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, please visit: [http://archives.nypl.org/divisions/scm/request\\_access](http://archives.nypl.org/divisions/scm/request_access)

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Jewelle Gomez papers, Sc MG 790, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Steven G. Fullwood, July 2014.

**Related Materials:**

In the Life Archive (ITLA) miscellaneous collections, Sc MG 736, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Jewelle Gomez Papers, James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library

## Creator History

Jewelle Gomez is a self-identified "Black", "Native", lesbian feminist poet and playwright. She has published nine books, including three books of poetry, a novel, a play, an essay collection, and two books of collaboration. Gomez is best known for her double Lambda Award winning novel, *The Gilda Stories*, and its subsequent theater adaptation, *Bones and Ash: A Gilda Story*. Born in 1948, Gomez was raised in a poor, Black neighborhood in Boston, Massachusetts, by her great-grandmother Grace, to whom she dedicated her first book of poetry, *The Lipstick Papers* (1980).

## Scope and Content Note

The Jewelle Gomez papers include manuscripts, interviews, reviews, articles, speeches, and essays. The collection contains a photocopy of the original self-published book of poetry *The Lipstick Papers*, and versions of her play, "Waiting for Giovanni", which is based on James Baldwin's life right before the publication of his second and controversial novel, *Giovanni's Room* in 1956.

**Arrangement:** Arranged into two series: I. Biographical and II. Writing.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

African American feminists  
African American women  
African American women authors  
African American women poets  
Authors, Black  
Lesbian authors  
Women -- Political activity

### Names

Gomez, Jewelle, 1948-  
Pratt, Minnie Bruce  
Saint, Assotto, 1957-1994  
Waters, Harry, Jr.

## Container List

### Biographical 1968-2010

This series contains papers on Gomez's published works (such as interviews and advertisements) and her personal life (such as her resume).

- b. 1 f. 1 Resume
- Interviews
- b. 1 f. 2 Gomez and Assotto Saint undated
- b. 1 f. 3 "Say Brother WGBH-TV" 1968-1971
- b. 1 f. 4 "Clippings about J.G." 1990s
- b. 1 f. 5 "Poets Live the Questions: Jewelle Gomez and Minnie Bruce Pratt" 1991
- b. 1 f. 6 Other
- b. 1 f. 7 Flyers
- b. 1 f. 8 "Kuumba: A Poetry Journal for Black People in the Life" 1997 Summer
- b. 1 f. 9 Journals and magazines 1997-1998

### Writing 1977-2010

The series contains manuscripts, transcripts of lectures, anthology excerpts, and article clippings for Gomez's poems, playscripts, anthologies, articles, critical essays, reviews, and speeches and lectures.

#### Poems

- b. 1 f. 10 Various 1977  
Includes "Golden Song", "Public Places: chinas y criollas", and "A First Affair", among others.
- b. 1 f. 11 *The Lipstick Papers* 1980

#### Playscripts

- b. 1 f. 12 *Bones and Ash: A Gilda*
- b. 1 f. 13-16 Unpublished 2000-2010  
Includes drafts of "Character" (2000) and "Waiting for Giovanni" (2000 and 2010).

#### Anthologies

- b. 1 f. 17 "Saint Louis 1990" 1998-1999  
Excerpt from *To Be Continued*.
- b. 1 f. 18 "Chicago 1927" 2000  
Published in *Dark Matter*.

#### Essays

The essays above have been anthologized in "Skin Deep", "At Midlife", "Home Girls", "Tender Headed", and "The Question of Equality." These have also been published in *Quarterly Photographic Magazine*, *New York Law School Review*, and *Zyzyva*.

- b. 1 f. 19 "Across the Glittering Sea" undated
- b. 1 f. 20 "In the Heat of Shadow" undated
- b. 1 f. 21 "Black Lesbians: Passing, Stereotypes and Transformation" 1998
- b. 1 f. 22 "Somebody Almost Walked Off Wid Alla My Stuff" 1999
- b. 1 f. 23 "Choose: A Biomythography" 2001
- b. 1 f. 24 "In the Kitchen: 1.99"
- b. 1 f. 25 "To Grandmother's House I Go" 1999
- b. 1 f. 26 "A Cultural Legacy Denied and Discovered: Black Lesbians in Fiction by Women"

Writing (cont.)

Essays (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 27 "Repeat After Me: We Are Different. We Are the Same" 1986
- b. 1 f. 28 "Showing Our Faces: A Century of Black Women Photographed" 1987
- b. 1 f. 29 "Do We Have a Chance Against the Far Right?" 1993
- b. 1 f. 30 "Out of the Past"
- b. 1 f. 31 "Femme Erotic Independence" 1998

Articles and reviews

- b. 1 f. 32 *Panga Nyeusi* 1971
- b. 1 f. 33 "For Pandora Edition of ZAMI" 1996  
About Audra Lorde's *Zami*; published in Great Britain.
- b. 1 f. 34 Other articles
- b. 1 f. 35 Reviews 1992-1997
- b. 1 f. 36 Speeches and lectures 1998-2000