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Guide to the

Charles Ludlam and the Ridiculous Theatrical Company interview tape collection

*L (Special) 05-09

Processed by Thomas C. Christie.

Summary

Creator: Kaufman, David, 1951-

Title: Charles Ludlam and the Ridiculous Theatrical Company interview tape collection

Size: 83 sound cassettes

Source: Gift of David Kaufman

Abstract: Consists of 83 sound cassettes, each representing one or more taped interviews of people involved with Charles Ludlam and/or the Ridiculous Theatrical Company. All interviews were conducted by David Kaufman as source material for his book "Ridiculous! : the theatrical life and times of Charles Ludlam," or other articles written about Ludlam, the company, and his associates. Interviewees include: Eric Bentley, John Brockmeyer, Black Eyed Susan, David Hockney, Madeline Kahn, Lola Pashalinski, Steven Samuels, and Christopher Scott, among others.

Conditions Governing Access:

Access to original items by permission only. Some items may be available as service copies. Other items which need preservation work may require advance notification for use. Refer to item descriptions in individual catalog records for more information. Users never directly handle sound recordings. Listening selections are transmitted through a playback system.

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Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Thomas C. Christie; machine-readable finding aid created by T. Christie.

Creator History

Charles Ludlam (1943-1987), the son of Joseph William and Marjorie Braun Ludlam, was born April 12, 1943 in Floral Park, Long Island. He graduated from Hofstra University in 1965 and then moved to New York City to begin his acting career. Ludlam made his first New York stage appearance in 1966 at the Play-House of the Ridiculous, a group formed by playwright Ronald Tavel and director John Vaccaro. In 1967, Ludlam founded his own theatrical group, the Ridiculous Theatrical Company, and began to write his own plays. According to the Cambridge guide to theatre, "the Ridiculous Theatrical Company was one of the first American theaters to deal explicitly with homosexual themes. Known for their flamboyant style, high camp, and combinations of the lofty and the lowly, plays at the Ridiculous are often based on classical dramatic and operatic texts, which are then both spoofed and celebrated with cross-dressing, scatological humor, visual gags, and puns." "Since Ludlam's death from AIDS in 1987, the Ridiculous has continued under the directorship of his life-partner Everett Quinton, a long time actor and designer with the theatre."

Source:

Banham, Martin. *Cambridge Guide to Theatre*. Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Scope and Content Note

Consists of 83 sound cassettes, each representing one or more taped interviews of people involved with Charles Ludlam and/or the Ridiculous Theatrical Company. All interviews were conducted by David Kaufman as source material for his book, *Ridiculous! : the theatrical life and times of Charles Ludlam*, or other articles written about Ludlam, the company, and his associates.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by last name of interviewee, and then chronologically. Note that some interviews span more than one cassette, and some cassettes contain more than one interview.

Key Terms

Subjects

Dramatists, American -- 20th century -- Biography
Experimental theater
Theater -- Interviews

Titles

Ridiculous! : the theatrical life and times of Charles Ludlam

Names

Bentley, Eric, 1916-
Brockmeyer, John
Carlson, Susan, 1952-
Hockney, David
Kahn, Madeline
Kaufman, David, 1951-
Ludlam, Charles

Pashalinski, Lola
Samuels, Steven
Scott, Christopher, 1945-2002
Ridiculous Theatrical Company

Container List

Arrango, Jose Rafael

Sept. 19, 1990

*LTC 9347 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Arthur Kraft interview. Audio erratic for first 10 min. of recording.

Beers, Robert

[part 1?] June 16, 1991

*LTC 9366 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 June 29, 1991

*LTC 9368 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Bentley, Eric, 1916-

part 1 Apr. 10, 2002

*LTC 9412 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Edgar Franceschi interview.

part 2 Apr. 10, 2002

*LTC 9413 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Black Eyed Susan, (aka Carlson, Susan

[part 1] Aug. 17, 1989

*LTC 9342 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 Aug. 17, 1989

*LTC 9343 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Minette interview.

Brockmeyer, John

[part 1] Aug. 2, 1989

*LTC 9340 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Christopher Scott interview.

part 2 Aug. 2, 1989

*LTC 9341 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Georg Osterman interview.

Sept. 29, 1990

*LTC 9349 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Jack Mallory interview.

Busch, Charles

Oct. 12, 1993

*LTC 9388 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Begins on side 2 of cassette. Concluded as the second interview on side 1 of cassette (after Marjorie Ludlam interview)

Callejo, Bobjack

Nov. 18, 1992

*LTC 9383 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Cardwell, Stiles

Feb. 20, 1991

*LTC 9357 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Third interview (of 3) on cassette. On cassette with interviews with Richard Currie and David Hockney interviews. Starts on side B.

Castle, Joyce

Castle, Joyce (cont.)

Feb. 24, 1994

*LTC 9408 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Madeline Kahn interview.

Castle, Ted

part 1 Nov. 14, 1990

*LTC 9353 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 Nov. 14, 1990

*LTC 9355 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Richard Currie interview.

Crosby, John

Feb. 15, 1994

*LTC 9407 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Earl Wild interview.

Currie, Richard

part 1 Dec. 6, 1990

*LTC 9355 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Ted Castle interview.

part 2 Dec. 6, 1990

*LTC 9356 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 3 Dec. 6, 1990

*LTC 9357 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 3) on cassette. On cassette with interviews with Stiles Cardwell and David Hockney interviews.

Davis, Rick

Sept. 10, 1993

*LTC 9360 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with James Morfogen interview.

Eureka, (aka Brown, Erika

June 28, 1991

*LTC 9367 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Feb. 13, 1992

*LTC 9376 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Forbes, Charlotte

part 1 Aug. 26, 1993

*LTC 9386 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 Aug. 26, 1993

*LTC 9387 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Susan Kapliwicz interview.

Franceschi, Edgar

part 1 Nov. 11, 2000

*LTC 9411 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 Nov. 11, 2000

*LTC 9412 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Eric Bentley interview.

Geldzahler, Henry

Mar. 23, 1991

*LTC 9363 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

With Christopher Scott.

Gorell, Wally

June 4, 1991

*LTC 9365 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Henessey, Richard

Aug. 1, 1989

*LTC 9338 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Heys, John

part 1 July 10, 1991

*LTC 9369 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 July 31, 1991

*LTC 9371 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Hockney, David

Jan. 8, 1991

*LTC 9357 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 3) on cassette. On cassette with Stiles Cardwell and Richard Currie interviews.

Holt, Stephen

Nov. 7, 1990

*LTC 9352 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Kahn, Madeline

Feb. 22, 1994

*LTC 9408 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Joyce Castle interview.

Kapliwicz, Susan

part 1 Aug. 31, 1993

*LTC 9387 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Charlotte Forbes interview.

part 2 Aug. 31, 1993

*LTC 9385 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Paul Taylor interview.

Katz, Leandro

Oct. 10, 1990

*LTC 9351 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Kazaras, Peter

Aug. 15, 1993

*LTC 9350 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Mark Rappaport interview.

Kohler, William

part 1 Oct. 12, 1991

*LTC 9373 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 Oct. 12, 1991

*LTC 9374 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Georg Osterman interview.

Kraft, Arthur

Sept. 20, 1990

*LTC 9347 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Jose Rafael Arrango interview.

Ludlam, Marjorie

Sept. 2, 1993

*LTC 9388 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Charles Busch interview.

Aug. 30, 1990

*LTC 9345 (2 sound cassettes : analog, mono.)

With Donald Ludlam.

, and July 12, 1990, Aug. 16, 1990, Aug. 20, 1990

*LTC 9344 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Ludlam, Donald

Aug. 30, 1990

*LTC 9345 (2 sound cassettes : analog, mono.)

With Marjorie Ludlam.

Mallory, Jack

part 1 Sept. 27, 1990

*LTC 9348 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 Sept. 27, 1990

*LTC 9349 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with John Brockmeyer interview.

McAdam, Adam

Dec. 23, 1992

*LTC 9384 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Minette

[part 1] Sept. 5, 1990

*LTC 9346 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

[part 2] Sept. 24, 1990

*LTC 9343 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Black eyed Susan interview.

Morfogen, James

part 1 Mar. 4, 1991

*LTC 9359 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 Mar. 4, 1991

*LTC 9360 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Rick Davis interview.

Osterman, Georg

Aug. 7, 1989

*LTC 9341 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with John Brockmeyer interview.

part 1 May 6, 1992

*LTC 9382 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 May 6, 1992

*LTC 9381 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Ronald Tavel interview.

Pashalinski, Lola

Aug. 21, 1991

*LTC 9372 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Quinton, Everett

Quinton, Everett (cont.)

July 24, 1989

*LTC 9337 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Dec. 11, 1991

*LTC 9375 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Steve Samuels interview.

Jan. 27, 1994

*LTC 9406 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Sept. 2, 1998

*LTC 9410 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Rappaport, Mark

Oct. 3, 1990

*LTC 9350 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Peter Kazaris interview.

Reddy, Robert

July 11, 1991

*LTC 9370 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Reynolds, Jan

Jan. 25, 1994

*LTC 9405 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Rodriguez-Soltero, Jose

May 4, 2002

*LTC 9414 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Samuels, Steven

part 1 Sept. 17, 1993

*LTC 9389 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 Sept. 17, 1993

*LTC 9375 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Everett Quinton interview.

part 1 Oct. 20, 1993

*LTC 9390 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 and Oct. 20, 1993, Oct. 21, 1993

*LTC 9391 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

and Oct. 25, 1993, Oct. 28, 1993

*LTC 9392 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

and Oct. 28, 1993, Nov. 2, 1993

*LTC 9393 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

and Nov. 2, 1993, Nov. 3, 1993

*LTC 9394 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

and Nov. 3, 1993, Nov. 22, 1993

*LTC 9395 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

and Nov. 22, 1993, Nov. 23, 1993

*LTC 9396 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

and Nov. 23, 1993, Nov. 24, 1993

*LTC 9397 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Nov. 30, 1993

*LTC 9398 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Samuels, Steven (cont.)

Dec. 1, 1993

*LTC 9399 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

and Dec. 1, 1993, Dec. 3, 1993

*LTC 9400 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Dec. 7, 1993

*LTC 9401 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Dec. 9, 1993

*LTC 9402 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

and Dec. 10, 1993, Dec. 13, 1993

*LTC 9403 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Second interview is conclusion of an interview begun on *LTC 9404.

Dec. 13, 1993

*LTC 9404 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Interview concludes on 1 side of *LTC 9403.

Schmidt, Thomas Lanigan, 1948-

part 1 Mar. 19, 1991

*LTC 9361 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 Mar. 19, 1991

*LTC 9362 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Scott, Christopher, 1945-2002

part 1 Aug. 1, 1989

*LTC 9339 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 Aug. 1, 1989

*LTC 9340 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with John Brockmeyer interview.

Mar. 23, 1991

*LTC 9363 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

With Henry Geldzahler.

Mar. 23, 1991

*LTC 9364 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

On cassette box: "Car ride back from H.G.'s" [ie. Henry Geldzahler's]

Jan. 11, 1995

*LTC 9409 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Smith, Michael

Jan. 3, 1991

*LTC 9358 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Tavel, Ronald

part 1 Mar. 11, 1992

*LTC 9379 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 2 Mar. 11, 1992

*LTC 9380 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

part 3 Mar. 13, 1992

*LTC 9381 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Georg Osterman interview.

Taylor, Paul

July 27, 1993

*LTC 9385 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with Susan Kapliwicz interview.

Teriananda

Feb. 20, 1992

*LTC 9377 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Turtell, Steve

Feb. 10, 2002

*LTC 9415 (1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

Wind Earl

Feb. 15, 1994

*LTC 9407 (on 1 side of 1 sound cassette : analog, mono.)

First interview (of 2) on cassette. On cassette with John Crosby interview.