Finding aid of the Maurice & La Monte Papers

Collection number: Coll2008-033

ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives
Los Angeles, California

Processed by:
Johanna Michael
Date Completed:
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Encoded by:
Michael P. Palmer

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Maurice & La Monte papers
Collection number: Coll2008-033
Creator: Jouron, Henry Joseph, 1930-2006
Creator: Kugler, William Stewart, 1912-1993
Collection Size: 2 archive cartons + 1 oversize archive box 0.75 linear foot
Repository: ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives.
Los Angeles, California 90007
Abstract: Audio recordings, programs, photographs, and ephemera relating to female impersonators and pantomime artists Henry Jouron and William "Billy" Kugler (known theatrically as Maurice & La Monte). The bulk of the collection consists of sound recordings used for Maurice & La Monte's "Off the Record" pantomime act. The collection also contains photographs of celebrities and other female impersonators, some of which are signed.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.
Publication Rights
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Processing Information

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Biography

William Stewart Kugler was born Aloysius Kenney on June 22, 1912 in Buffalo, New York. He was adopted at a young age and given the name William Stewart Kugler. He performed as a female impersonator in New York and Chicago in the 1930s.

Henry Joseph Jouron was born in Chicago on August 13, 1930. He also became involved in the performing arts.

Kugler and Jouron met in the late 1940s while they were each performing separately in Florida. They became a romantic couple, and shortly afterward decided to begin performing together. They created the Maurice & La Monte "Off the Record" pantomime act and staged their first shows in Florida. The act paired music made famous by other performers (and used in the act with their permission) with visual jokes and physical comedy. Maurice & La Monte wore simple black costumes to emphasize the individual costume pieces they used to create different characters (a colorful scarf, for example). Jouron made all of the costume pieces for the shows (he also made costumes for other female impersonators); they did each other's make-up.

The act toured in gay night clubs across the nation, with Kugler and Jouron working their way north from Florida to New York, then west to Chicago, and even further west to San Francisco and Los Angeles. Performing was difficult for the duo because of laws against female impersonation, particularly in California. Kugler and Jouron were plagued by police; they were even jailed briefly for impersonating females.

In 1965, Maurice & La Monte performed with Judy Garland in her last performance in Las Vegas, at the Thunderbird Hotel. Later, Maurice & La Monte often performed with Judy Lynn, a lesbian and Judy Garland impersonator. Maurice & La Monte performed through the mid-1980s, mostly in California and Hawaii. Kugler died in Los Angeles on January 29, 1993. Jouron died on March 11, 2006, also in Los Angeles.

Source:
Maurice & La Monte Papers, Coll2008-033, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection consists of sound recordings used for Kugler and Jouron's Maurice & La Monte acts, descriptions of those recordings, programs from their performances and from theater performances they attended, a framed collage of newspaper clippings relating to their act, a keychain-size gun that fires blank cartridges and was used in their act, photographs of celebrities and other female impersonators (some signed by the subjects), and notes from fans. Miscellaneous materials include two publications on Mother Mason, a book of poems given to Kugler and Jouron on their 28th anniversary by Tymchuck and his partner, and a painting of a toucan, used as the backing for a framed photograph.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

Female impersonators--United States
Jouron, Henry Joseph, 1930-2006
Kugler, William Stewart, 1912-1993
Pantomime--United States

| Box 1 : 1-3 | "Off the Record" pantomime act circa 1955-1970 |
| Box 1 : 1 | Orders circa 1955-1970 |
| Box 1 : 2 | Order book circa 1955-1970 |
| Box 1 : 3 | Souvenir programs circa 1955-1970 |
| Box 1 : 13 | Keychain gun used in act circa 1960 |
| Box 2 : 1-13 | Audio tape recordings circa 1955-1974 |

- Physical Description: 11 x 7-inch open reels (1 x 7.5 ips ; 10 x 3.75 ips) ; 2 x 5-inch open reels (1 x 7.5 ips ; 1 x 3.75 ips).

| Box 2 : 1-10 | Maurice & Lamonte "Off the Record" pantomime act circa 1955-1970 |

- Physical Description: 10 7-inch open reels ; 3.75 ips.

| Box 2 : 1 | Show #1 circa 1955-1970 |

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Box 2 : 2
Show #2 circa 1955-1970

Box 2 : 3
Show #3 circa 1955-1970

Box 2 : 4
Show #4 circa 1955-1970
Physical Description: 35 minutes.

Box 2 : 5
Show #5 circa 1955-1970
Physical Description: 46 minutes.

Box 2 : 6
Show #6 circa 1955-1970
Physical Description: 47 minutes.

Box 2 : 7
Show #7 circa 1955-1970

Box 2 : 8
Show #8 circa 1955-1970

Box 2 : 9
Show #9 circa 1955-1970

Box 2 : 10
Show #10 circa 1955-1970

Box 2 : 11
Maurice & Lamonte Ford Show circa 1955-1970
Physical Description: 1 x 5-inch open reel; 12 minutes; 3.75 ips.

Box 2 : 12-13
Judy Lynn circa 1955-1974
Physical Description: 1 x 7-inch open reel (7.5 ips); 1 x 5-inch open reel (7.5 ips).

Box 2 : 12
Funeral Parlor circa 1955-1970
Physical Description: 1 x 7-inch open reel; 7.5 ips.

Box 2 : 13
Garland Medley 1974
Physical Description: 1 x 5-inch open reel; 5.5 minutes; 7.5 ips.

Item 4
Collage of photographs and newspaper clippings 1965
Physical Description: 36.5 x 28.5 inches; framed.

Box 1 : 4
Fan notes no dates

Box 1 : 5-7
Photographs 1937-circa 1990
Physical Description: 3 folders.

Box 1 : 5
Personal 1937-circa 1980

Box 1 : 6
Celebrities circa 1950-1990

Box 1 : 7
Motion picture publicity stills 1962-1975

Box 1 : 8-9
Theater programs 1961-1994
Physical Description: 2 folders.

Box 1 : 8
A-I 1961-1994
Physical Description: 2 folders.

Box 1 : 9
Physical Description: 2 folders.

Box 1 : 10-12; 3 : 1
Miscellanea 1966-2005

Box 1 : 10
Mother Mason 1971-1973

Box 1 : 11

Box 1 : 12
Drawing of Tyrannosaurus Rex. To Henry Jouron from Mathew Decker October 2005

Box 3 : 1
Painting of toucan. Signed: P. Stright 1966
Physical Description: 17 x 14 inches.