
Finding aid prepared by Kyle Morgan
Processing this collection has been funded by a generous grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.
ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
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Title: Jesse Jacobs papers
Identifier/Call Number: Coll2012.136
Contributing Institution: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.0 linear feet. 1 archives box
Date (inclusive): 1942-1998
Abstract: The collection consists of personal papers and correspondence; organizational records from the League of Voters for Equal Rights (LOVER), ONE Institute, and the Institute for the Study of Human Resources (ISHR); and acting-related materials created and/or collected by Jesse Jacobs, 1942-1998. Jacobs was a longtime character actor in theater and television, influential early member of Beth Chayim Chadashim (BCC), a president of LOVER and ONE Incorporated, and a board member for ONE Institute and ISHR.
creator: Jacobs, Jesse, 1922-1998
Access
The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.
Scope and Contents
The collection consists of personal papers and correspondence; organizational records; theater scripts, programs, and playbills; clippings; school records; photographs; and World War II materials created and/or collected by Jesse Jacobs, 1942-1998. The organizational records document Jacobs' involvement with the League of Voters for Equal Rights (LOVER), ONE Institute, and the Institute for the Study of Human Resources.
Processing Information
Formerly housed in boxes 103-151 and 103-231. Collection processed by Kyle Morgan, 2012.
Separated Materials
Guides:
Periodicals:
Dignity, v.4, no.4-6, June-August 1973.
Prime Timers (Los Angeles), October/December 1997.
Theater Arts, October 1946 - February 1947.
Playbills:
The Royal Ballet from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, c. 1957.
Programs and catalogs:
Wintersun Ah Men catalog.
Related Archival Materials
Acquisition Information
Date of acquisition unknown.
Biography
Jesse Jacobs was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1922 and grew up in Brooklyn. He studied speech therapy at Brooklyn College, when during his senior year in 1943, he was drafted in the army. After the war's end, Jacobs pursued an acting career, working as Oscar Brand's assistant, teaching drama at the New Jersey College for Women, and joining the Men's Acting Company at Vassar. In 1952 with funding from the GI Bill, Jacobs earned a master's degree in drama at Columbia University. Across the 1950s Jacobs had minor roles in numerous New York theater productions, before moving to California in 1960 where he worked as a character actor in television.
In July 1972, Jacobs joined the recently formed Beth Chayim Chadashim (BCC), the world’s first synagogue for gay and lesbian Jews. Jacobs helped write some the congregation’s first services and served for several years as the ritual chair, leading the majority of the services. In the late 1970s at a time when most temples still used male language for God, Jacobs helped created the first prayer book with gender-neutral language.
In 1975 Jacobs took his first job as a bookkeeper, an occupation that would become his primary profession for the next 20 plus years. In 1978 he became president of the League of Voters for Equal Rights (LOVER), a group dedicated to registering LGBT people to combat Proposition 6, also known as the Briggs Initiative. Jacobs joined the board of directors at ONE Incorporated in 1981 where he served as president for six of the next fourteen years. When ONE joined with the International Gay & Lesbian Archives in 1994, Jacobs remained on the board and also became treasurer at the affiliated organization, the Institute for the Study of Human Resources (ISHR). Jacobs remained active in both organizations until his death in 1998.

Edited from Tracy Moore's article "Jesse Jacobs: An Original BCC Member." G"vanim, v.45, no.5 (January 1997).

Preferred Citation
[Box/folder #, or item name] Jesse Jacobs Papers, Coll2012-136, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

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Subjects and Indexing Terms
Gay activists--California--Los Angeles
Gay men
Theater

Jesse Jacobs papers Series 1. 1942-1998
Arrangement
This collection is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 1
Art and photographs undated
General Physical Description note: Includes sheet music, poetry, 9 photographic prints, 43 negative strips, and 1 watercolor portrait.
Scope and Contents note
The photographs comprise professional headshots as well as stills from an acting performance in television or theater.

Box 1, Folder 2-3
Bills and receipts 1954-1955
Physical Description: [2 folders]

Box 1, Folder 4
The Barrier company 1950-1951
Scope and Contents note
A theater company Jacobs performed with.

Box 1, Folder 5-6
Clippings 1950-1997
Physical Description: [2 folders]

Box 1, Folder 7-9
Correspondence, incoming 1946, 1955
Physical Description: [3 folders]

Box 1, Folder 10-12
League of Voters for Equal Rights (LOVER) 1977-1978
Physical Description: [3 folders]

Box 1, Folder 13
ONE Institute and the Institute for the Study of Human Resources (ISHR) 1996-1998

Box 1, Folder 14-15
Personal notes and papers 1953-1997
Physical Description: [2 folders]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 16-17</th>
<th><strong>Playbills and programs 1942-1958</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: [2 folders]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes issues of <em>The Playbill</em>, the Columbia Theater Associates of Columbia University theater programs, and the Columbia University music class catalog.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 18-22</th>
<th><strong>Scripts and school papers 1945-1955, undated</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: [5 folders]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes scripts for <em>Boy Meets Girl</em> and <em>Utter Submission</em> as well as an untitled script written by Jacobs. School records include those for drama classes he taught and attended.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 23-24</th>
<th><strong>World War II materials 1944-1945</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: [2 folders]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes a cigarette filter tip and a Nazi soldier's swastika armband.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>