
Finding aid to the Kenneth Bartmess masks and photographs, circa 1979-1985
Coll2013.008

Finding aid prepared by Loni Shibuyama

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ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

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Title: Kenneth Bartmess Masks and Photographs

Identifier/Call Number: Coll2013.008

Contributing Institution: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 3.5 linear feet.3 flat archive boxes.

Date (inclusive): circa 1979-1985

Abstract: Four flower masks, one Don Kilhefner mask, and photographs of Radical Faeries gatherings from gay activist and craftsman, Kenneth Bartmess, circa 1979-1985.

creator: Bartmess, Kenneth

Biography

California native and longtime Los Angeles resident, Kenneth Bartmess, was a volunteer peer counselor at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center during the 1980s-1990s. He earned a degree from Santa Monica College in the early 1990s, and was involved in theater and dance. Bartmess was also a craftsman, and ran a custom lamp and lighting-fixture business. In 1991, Bartmess lost his lover of 22 years, CJ Meagher, to an AIDS-related illness. He later wrote about his experience in *From a Burning House: The AIDS Project Los Angeles Writers Workshop Collection* (1996). As a craftsman, Bartmess also made masks for artistic expression.

Source: Borger, Irene, Ed. *From a Burning House: The AIDS Project Los Angeles Writers Workshop Collection*. New York, NY.: Washington Square Press, 1996.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

Acquisition

Donated by Kenneth Bartmess, March 21, 2007.

Preferred Citation

[Box/folder #, or item name] Kenneth Bartmess Masks and Photographs, Coll2013-008, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Processing Information

Collection processed by Loni Shibuyama, January 2013.

Scope and Contents

The collection, circa 1979-1985, comprises five of Bartmess' hand-crafted masks, as well as a small collection of photographs taken of gatherings of the Radical Faeries, a collective of spiritual gay men. One mask is in the likeness of gay activist and Radical Faerie founder, Don Kilhefner; and the other four flower masks were used in *Without Reservations*, a theatrical reading of stories from a gay theater group in Los Angeles.

Separated Materials

A pamphlet from Stonewater Circle, the San Diego gathering of Radical Faeries, has been separated from the collection and placed with the "Radical Faeries" file in the ONE Subject Files Collection, Coll2012-001.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged alphabetically.

Conditions Governing Use

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Subjects and Indexing Terms

Kilhefner, Don, 1939-

Radical Faeries.

Gay men

Gay theater

Masks (costume)

Photographs

Spirituality

Box 1, Item 1
Box 2, Item 1-2
Box 3, Item 1-2
Box 3, Folder 3

Collection contents

Don Kilhefner mask circa 1979-1985
Flower masks circa 1979-1985
Flower masks circa 1979-1985
Radical Faerie photographs circa 1979-1

General Physical Description note
photographs: col.