
Finding aid prepared by Loni Shibuyama and Simbree Touchstone
Processing this collection has been funded by a generous grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources.
ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
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(213) 741-0094
askone@ONEarchives.org
(c) 2013
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>James Carroll Pickett Papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identifier/Call Number:</td>
<td>Coll2013.058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributing Institution:</td>
<td>ONE National Gay &amp; Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language of Material:</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description:</td>
<td>4.8 linear feet. 2 archive boxes + 2 archive cartons + 1 flat archive box.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date (inclusive):</td>
<td>1976-1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract:</td>
<td>Scripts, theater production records, promotional material, bylaws and incorporation records, tax and financial records, correspondence, medical records, photographs, an audiocassette and other material, 1976-1994, from writer and AIDS activist James Carroll Pickett. Best known for his plays <em>Bathhouse Benediction</em>, <em>Dream Man</em> and <em>Queen of Angels</em>, Pickett also co-founded Artists Confronting AIDS (ACA) and was instrumental in a number of theater productions promoting AIDS awareness. The collection includes Pickett's writings and personal papers, as well as administrative records from ACA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>creator:</td>
<td>Pickett, James Carroll, d. 1994</td>
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**Biography**

Playwright and AIDS activist, James Carroll Pickett, was the co-founder and Executive Director of Artists Confronting AIDS (ACA). He is best known for his plays *Bathhouse Benediction*, *Dream Man* and *Queen of Angels*, which have been produced in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Atlanta, Portland, Des Moines, Minneapolis, Washington, D.C., Dusseldorf, Edinburgh and London. Pickett received an LA Weekly Humanitarian Theatre Award for his work with Artists Confronting AIDS, as well as for his work as a founder and producer of the Southland Theatre Artists Goodwill Event (STAGE) Benefits for AIDS Project Los Angeles.

Pickett was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1949, and raised on the family farm in Shelby County. After briefly living in New York and San Francisco, Pickett settled in Los Angeles in 1973. He began writing plays and acting and getting involved in the Los Angeles theater scene. His most active period in playwriting began in 1984 with *Bathhouse Benediction*, for which he received a Drama-Logue Award for Playwriting. In addition, he wrote and co-produced the docudrama *AIDS/US* and *AIDS/US II*, for which he received a Media Award from the Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Artists.

In the early 1990s, Pickett was a Writer in Residence at the Beverly Hills Playhouse, and taught theater classes and headed the Thursday Night Playwrights Workshop. From 1987 to 1990, Pickett produced the monthly Gay Writers Series for *A Different Light Bookstore* in Los Angeles. He curated "3 Gay Sons Read on Father's Day" at Highways Performance Space; "(This is Not) An AIDS Reading" for Words Project for AIDS at Barnsdall Gallery Theatre; and "3 Gay Writers for Life" for the Otis-Parsons Art & AIDS Exhibition.


Source: Box 1, Folder 1, James Carroll Pickett Papers, Coll2013-058, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

**Conditions Governing Access**

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

**Conditions Governing Use**

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the ONE Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives at USC Libraries as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.

**Acquisition**

Received by ONE board member Bill Kaiser following Pickett's death in 1994. Donor and exact date of acquisition unknown.

**Preferred Citation**

[Box/folder #, or item name] James Carroll Pickett Papers, Coll2013-058, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

**Processing Information**

Collection processed by Loni Shibuyama with the assistance of Sana Shuja and Simbree Touchstone, June 2013.

**Scope and Contents**

The collection comprises scripts, theater production records, promotional materials, bylaws and incorporation papers, tax and financial records, correspondence, medical records, photographs, an audiocassette and other material, 1976-1994, from writer and AIDS activist James Carroll Pickett. As a playwright in Los Angeles theater, Pickett also co-founded Artists Confronting AIDS (ACA) and was instrumental in a number of theater productions and benefits promoting AIDS awareness.
The Writing Career Series includes Pickett's manuscripts, production files, press photographs and press materials documenting Pickett's award-winning plays (Bathhouse Benediction, Dream Man and Queen of Angels) and lesser known works; as well as his work teaching playwriting and producing the Gay Writers Series. The Artists Confronting AIDS (ACA) Series includes administrative records from ACA, such as incorporation papers and production files for events that Pickett wrote and produced, such as AIDS-US and the Southland Theatre Artists Goodwill Event (STAGE) Benefits. The Personal Papers Series includes Pickett's resume, will, correspondence, an audio interview with Pickett, as well as financial and medical records documenting Pickett's personal life.

**Arrangement**

This collection is arranged in the following series:

- **Series 1. Writing career**
- **Series 2. Artists Confronting AIDS**
- **Series 3. Personal papers**

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

- Artists Confronting AIDS (Organization).
- Kearns, Michael, 1950-
- Advertising fliers
- AIDS (Disease)--Dramas
- AIDS activists--California--Los Angeles
- Authors and theater
- Gay men's writings
- Gay theater
- Gays in the performing arts
- Homosexuality in the theater
- Plays
- Scripts (documents)

**Box 1, 4-5 Writing career Series 1. 1978-1994**

**Series Description**

This series includes manuscripts, production files, press photographs and press materials documenting Pickett's award-winning plays (Bathhouse Benediction, Dream Man and Queen of Angels) and lesser known works and poetry. This series also includes material documenting his playwriting workshops, and his work producing the Gay Writers Series for A Different Light Bookstore.

**Arrangement**

Clippings about Pickett are at the beginning of this series. The remaining folders are arranged alphabetically.

**Box 1, Folder 1-2 Clippings about James Carroll Pickett 1984-1994**

**Physical Description:** [2 folders]

**Box 1, Folder 3**

- **Bathhouse Benediction 1983**
- **Bathhouse Benediction, press packets 1983-1985**
- **Before Raw Umber undated**
- **By the Bay 1989**
- **Chart, unidentified undated**
- **Copyright registrations 1978-1981**
- **Cultural Affairs Department grant 1990**
- **A Different Light, 10th Anniversary 1989**
- **A Different Light newsletter material 1988-1989**
- **Dream Man 1984-1993**
- **Copyrights and agreements 1987-1990**
Box 5, Item 1  
Dream Man button circa 1984-1993
Press packet 1984-1993
Physical Description: [2 folders]

Box 1, Folder 15  
Tribe, An American Gay Journal review copy 1989
Freelance writing 1987-1993
"Gay Song Sing" 1990
Gay Writers Series 1988-1990
Physical Description: [3 folders]

Box 1, Folder 16  
"Good Gay Republican" 1991
"The Good Homosexual" 1985-1989
Hallie 1984
Katselas, Milton 1990-1991

Box 1, Folder 21  
General 1990-1991
Acting Class, screenplay treatment by Milton Katselas and James Carroll Pickett 1990
Dreams Into Action, by Milton Katselas 1991
Physical Description: [2 folders]

Box 1, Folder 26  
Summary of Recommendations 1990-1991
KY 55 South 1990-1991
Monday Night Playwrights 1991
Next of Kin 1988
Plainsong 1991-1992
Posters circa 1985-1994
Queen of Angels 1990-1993

Box 1, Folder 33  
Autographed script 1990
Beverly Hills Playhouse reading 1991
Brody Arts Fund 1991
Contract collaboration 1990-1991
Contracts signed 1991
Copyright 1990-1991
Highways 1992

Box 4, Folder 2  
Highways 1992

Box 1, Folder 40  
Lyrics 1991
Manuscript 1992
Outline, notes, and miscellaneous 1991-1992
Photographs and negative 1992

Box 1, Folder 44  
Press material 1991-1992
Receipts 1990-1991
Physical Description: [3 folders]

Box 1, Folder 48  
San Francisco 1992-1993
Skylight 1992
Theatre Rhinoceros 1993

General Physical Description note: includes 20 photographs: b&w.

General Physical Description note: includes 35 photographs: b&w, col.

General Physical Description note: 17 photographs and 1 negative: b&w.

General Physical Description note: 34 photographs: b&w, col.
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<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 51</td>
<td>The Totem 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 52</td>
<td>Raps 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 55</td>
<td>Theatre Rhinoceros 1985-1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 53</td>
<td>TWEED New Works Festival 1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 3-4</td>
<td>Untitled new project 1983-1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 54</td>
<td>&quot;What's This Play About?&quot; class 1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, 4</td>
<td>Artists Confronting AIDS Series 2. 1984-1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 1</td>
<td>Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation 1986-1989</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 2</td>
<td>Internal Revenue Service tax exemption 1987-1992</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 3</td>
<td>ACT-UP 1990</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 4-7</td>
<td>AIDS/US 1986</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 8-12</td>
<td>AIDS/US II 1986-1990</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 8</td>
<td>Cultural Affairs Department grant 1986-1990</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 9</td>
<td>KPFK 1990</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 10</td>
<td>Paid invoices 1990</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 11</td>
<td>Press packets 1990</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 12</td>
<td>Script 1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 3</td>
<td>Staff 1989-1990</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 4-5</td>
<td>AIDS/US Women 1986-1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 13-15</td>
<td>Physical Description: [3 folders]</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 16</td>
<td>Arts &amp; AIDS seminar 1980-1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 6</td>
<td>Arts &amp; AIDS task force 1989</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 17</td>
<td>&quot;Bashers&quot; 1991</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 18</td>
<td>City Business Tax 1990</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 19-20</td>
<td>Correspondence 1984-1990</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 21</td>
<td>Physical Description: [2 folders]</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 22-23</td>
<td>Christopher Street West, Circle of Hope 1990</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 24-28</td>
<td>Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant, Voices of AIDS concert 1984-1989</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 29</td>
<td>Financial records 1985-1992</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 30</td>
<td>Physical Description: [5 folders]</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 31</td>
<td>Forget Me Not, a Concert Reading of AIDS Letters 1987-1990</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 32</td>
<td>Fringe Festival 1987</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 33</td>
<td>&quot;Gay Wax Museum,&quot; by Neil Tucker and James Carroll Pickett 1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 7</td>
<td>Grants 1990</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 34</td>
<td>Los Angeles Festival 1989-1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 35</td>
<td>Mailing list 1989</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 36</td>
<td>Otis-Parsons AIDS exhibition 1989</td>
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</table>
Artists Confronting AIDS Series 2. 1984-1994

Finding aid to the James Carroll Pickett papers, 1976-1994
Coll2013.058

Box 5, Folder 2  Promotional mailer layout circa 1992
Box 2, Folder 35  Press material 1988-1991
Box 2, Folder 36  Purple Circuit 1988-1990
Box 2, Folder 37  “On the Purple Circuit” drafts 1992-1993
Box 2, Folder 38  “Raging at the Visible, AIDS in City of Angels” program 1990
Box 2, Folder 39  The Second Friday in October, to Benefit AIDS Project Los Angeles 1984
Box 2, Folder 40  Staff 1987-1989
Box 2, Folder 41-43  STAGE Benefits 1984-1987
   Physical Description: [3 folders]
   General Physical Description note: Includes 1 photograph: b&w.
Box 2, Folder 44  Words Project for AIDS, “(This is Not) An AIDS Reading” 1989
   General Physical Description note: Includes 4 photographs: b&w.

Box 3, 4-5  Personal papers Series 3. 1976-1993
   Series Description
   This series includes Pickett’s resume, will, correspondence, an audio interview with Pickett, as well as financial and medical records documenting Pickett’s personal life, 1976-1993.
   Arrangement
   A folder with Pickett’s resume and birth certificate is at the beginning of this series. The remaining folders are arranged alphabetically.

Box 4, Folder 1  Resume, birth certificate, correspondence and other personal documents 1976-1984
   General Physical Description note: Includes 2 photographs: b&w.

Box 3, Folder 1  Apartment 1993
Box 5, Item 3  Artist’s sketch book undated
Box 3, Folder 2  Community service 1990
Box 3, Folder 3  Correspondence 1987-1992
Box 3, Folder 4  Department of Water and Power 1990
Box 3, Folder 5  Disability and social security 1990-1992
Box 3, Folder 6  Dramatists Guild loan 1991
Box 3, Folder 7-9  Financial records 1987-1992
   Physical Description: [3 folders]
Box 3, Folder 10  Giard, Robert, photographer 1988
Box 4, Folder 8-10  Health, hospital records 1990-1992
   Physical Description: [3 folders]
Box AC, Item AC1840  Interview: James C. Pickett with Alan Farley, KALW San Francisco [sound recording] October 1985
   General Physical Description note: 1 audiocassette.

Box 3, Folder 11  Medical 1989
Box 3, Folder 12  Mexico 1989-1990
Box 3, Folder 18  Photographs undated
   General Physical Description note: 3 photographs: b&w, col.

   Physical Description: [3 folders]

Box 3, Folder 17  Weekly calendar 1988
Box 3, Folder 16  Will, Durable Power of Attorney 1991