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## **Finding Aid to the William Capobianco Papers, 1947-1992 Coll2013.102**

Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Darwent

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:** William Capobianco Papers

**Identifier/Call Number:** Coll2013.102

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

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 2.1 linear feet.1 archive box + 2 archive cartons

**Date (bulk):** Bulk, 1978-1992

**Date (inclusive):** 1947-1992

**Abstract:** Correspondence, screenplays, drafts, clippings, photographs, health records and other personal documents relating to gay screenwriter William J. Capobianco (1947-1992), who co-wrote *Tenebrae* (date unknown) and *Medea* (1978). The collection includes other screenplays and short story drafts, as well as correspondence with Joe Callahan and David Sherlock. Photographs document the retail store LA Leathers in Los Angeles.

**creator:** Capobianco, William J., 1947-1992

#### **Arrangement**

This collection is arranged in the following series:

Series 1. Personal papers

Series 2. Screenplays and writings

#### **Biography**

William J. Capobianco was born on July 6, 1947 in Brooklyn, New York. Raised in an Italian Catholic home, Capobianco attended Our Lady of Loretto Elementary School and St. John's Preparatory School in Brooklyn. He was interested in theater from a young age and participated in shows during his school-age years. He graduated from St. John's University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts.

Capobianco was a screenplay writer in Los Angeles. He wrote the screenplays *Windows on the Square* (unknown year), *Body Talk* and *Eatz/ Love on the Menu*. He co-wrote *Tenebrae* (unknown year) and *Medea* (1978), the latter of which was planned to star famous drag queen Divine in an adaptation entitled *The Divine Medea*. Capobianco also worked at the specialty retail shop LA Leathers, creating leather pieces and clothing.

During the 1990s, Capobianco was diagnosed HIV positive. He received treatment and care starting in 1991 until his death in 1992 in Los Angeles.

#### **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**

Date and donor of acquisition unknown.

#### **Preferred Citation**

[Box/folder #, or item name] William Capobianco Papers, Coll2013-102, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

#### **Processing Information**

Formerly boxes #103-342 and 103-344. Collection processed by Jennifer Darwent, October 2013.

#### **Scope and Contents**

This collection consists of correspondence, screenplays, drafts, clippings, photographs, slides and other personal documents relating to gay screenplay writer William J. Capobianco (1947-1992). The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence and screenplay drafts.

The first series documents Capobianco's personal life and history. The correspondence documents Capobianco's ties to gay friends, especially in New York, and his relationships with his mother and sister. There are materials and diplomas from schools and theater programs that Capobianco attended. Medical records document the care he received from 1991-1992 for AIDS-related illness.

The second series includes final drafts for *Tenebrae* (unknown year) and *Medea* (1978), as well as drafts of other screenplays, such as *Body Talk*, *Windows on the Square* and *Angelcake*. There are short stories and notebooks filled with various writing and drafts.

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The photographs show Capobianco at work at the store LA Leathers, his family members and his school-age class portraits.

**Separated Materials**

Two buttons, "Stop LaRouche No on 64" and "Rawhide NYC," have been separated from the collection and placed with the ONE Archives button collection.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

AIDS (Disease)  
Correspondence  
Gays' writings, American  
Gays--Correspondence  
Leather  
Screenplays

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**Personal papers Series 1. 1947-1992**

**Scope and Contents**

Materials document Capobianco's personal life and history. The correspondence documents Capobianco's ties to gay friends, especially in New York, and his relationships with his mother and sister. There are newspapers, theater programs and diplomas from schools that Capobianco attended. There are fliers and photographs relating to the store LA Leathers and other gay establishments. Medical records document the care he received from 1991-1992 for AIDS-related illness.

**Arrangement**

The series begins with correspondence. Remaining folders are arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 1

**Correspondence, Joe Callahan 1979-1985**

**General Physical Description note:** 2 color photographs, 1 black nylon stocking.

Box 1, Folder 2  
Box 1, Folder 3-5

**Correspondence, David Sherlock 1983-1992**

**Correspondence, general 1978-1992**

**Physical Description:** [3 folders]

**General Physical Description note:** 12 color photographs.

Box 1, Folder 6-7

**Correspondence, greeting cards 1978-1992**

**Physical Description:** [2 folders]

**General Physical Description note:** 6 color photographs.

Box 1, Folder 8  
Box 1, Folder 9  
Box 1, Folder 10  
Box 1, Folder 11  
Box 3, Folder 1  
Box 1, Folder 12  
Box 1, Folder 13  
Box 1, Folder 14  
Box 1, Folder 15

**Birth certificate and passports 1947, 1978, 1990**

**Elementary school diploma 1960**

***Oedipus the King*, prompt script circa 1960-1964**

***West Side Story* screenplay 1963**

***Red Owl*, St. John's Prep 1963-1964**

**Commencement, St. John's Prep 1964**

***The Torch*, St. John's University 1964**

**Transcripts, St. John's University 1964**

**College theater programs circa 1964-1969**

**General Physical Description note:** 2 black & white 8x10 photographs.

Box 1, Folder 16  
Box 1, Folder 17  
Box 1, Folder 18  
Box 1, Folder 19  
Box 1, Folder 20  
Box 1, Folder 21

**St. John's University diploma 1969**

**Luis Rivera Dance Company 1978**

**Fashion Panic circa 1978-1982**

**Art show and theater programs circa 1980-1990**

**Newspaper clippings circa 1980-1981, 1988**

**Goals and to-do lists 1981**

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<p>Box 1, Folder 22 Box 1, Folder 23</p>	<p><b>Bill collections circa 1982-1983, 1987</b> <b>Obituaries, memorial services 1985-1992</b> <b>General Physical Description note:</b> 2 color photographs.</p>
<p>Box 1, Folder 24 Box 1, Folder 25 Box 1, Folder 26 Box 1, Folder 27 Box 1, Folder 28 Box 1, Folder 29-30</p>	<p><b>Los Angeles Unified contracts 1990</b> <b>Hollywood Community Hospital 1991</b> <b>Midway Hospital 1991-1992</b> <b>Progressive Nursing Service 1991-1992</b> <b>Critical Care America 1991-1992</b> <b>Blue Shield of California 1991-1992</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> [2 folders]</p>
<p>Box 1, Folder 31 Box 1, Folder 32 Box 3, Folder 11</p>	<p><b>Medical tests and bills 1992</b> <b>Ultimate Home Care 1992</b> <b>Photographs circa 1953-1992</b> <b>General Physical Description note:</b> Negatives, 14 black &amp; white photographs, 161 color photographs, and 16 color slides. <b>Scope and Contents</b> Includes photos from Capobianco's school-age years, family photos, pictures of stores Fashion Panic and LA Leathers, images of the damage to LA Leathers from a tropical storm, and unlabeled photos of friends.</p>
	<p><b>Screenplays and writings Series 2. circa 1960-1992</b> <b>Scope and Contents</b> The series includes final drafts for the screenplays <i>Tenebrae</i> (unknown year) and <i>Medea</i> (1978), as well as drafts of other screenplays, such as <i>Body Talk</i>, <i>Windows on the Square</i> and <i>Angelcake</i>. There are short stories and notebooks filled with various writing and drafts. <b>Arrangement</b> The series is arranged in the following order: copyrights, notebooks, poetry, short stories and screenplays.</p>
<p>Box 2, Folder 3 Box 2, Folder 9-15</p>	<p><b>Copyright and Writers Guild 1977, 1981</b> <b>Notebooks #1-7 undated</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> [7 folders]</p>
<p>Box 3, Folder 5 Box 3, Folder 4 Box 3, Folder 2 Box 3, Folder 3 Box 3, Folder 7 Box 3, Folder 8 Box 2, Folder 16 Box 2, Folder 1 Box 2, Folder 2 Box 2, Folder 5-6</p>	<p><b>Notebooks, loose pages undated</b> <b>Poetry and incomplete manuscripts undated</b> <b>Adriana short story undated</b> <b>Capt. Thomas Webb short story undated</b> <b>Rriverrattzz or The Last Novel of the Seventies short story undated</b> <b>The Somewhere Over the Rainbow Whip Co. short story undated</b> <b>Streetlife: '56 short story undated</b> <b>Angelcake screenplay undated</b> <b>Body Talk screenplay and notes undated</b> <b>Eatz or Love on the Menu screenplay undated</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> [2 folders]</p>
<p>Box 2, Folder 7-8</p>	<p><b>Medea screenplay 1977-1978</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> [2 folders]</p>
<p>Box 2, Folder 4 Box 3, Folder 6 Box 2, Folder 17 Box 3, Folder 9-10</p>	<p><b>The Divine Medea 1978</b> <b>Medea, production contract 1977-1978</b> <b>Tenebrae screenplay undated</b> <b>Windows on the Square screenplay undated</b> <b>Physical Description:</b> [2 folders]</p>

Box 2, Folder 18

**Untitled screenplay undated**