
Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Darwent
Processing this collection has been funded by a generous grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.
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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
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.
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

**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**
Correspondence, David Sherlock 1983-1992
**Box 1, Folder 3-5**
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**
Elementary school diploma 1960
**Box 1, Folder 10**
Oedipus the King, prompt script circa 1960-1964
**Box 1, Folder 11**
West Side Story screenplay 1963
**Box 3, Folder 1**
Red Owl, St. John's Prep 1963-1964
**Box 1, Folder 12**
Commencement, St. John's Prep 1964
**Box 1, Folder 13**
The Torch, St. John's University 1964
**Box 1, Folder 14**
Transcripts, St. John's University 1964
**Box 1, Folder 15**
College theater programs circa 1964-1969
General Physical Description note: 2 black & white 8x10 photographs.

**Box 1, Folder 16**
St. John's University diploma 1969
**Box 1, Folder 17**
Luis Rivera Dance Company 1978
**Box 1, Folder 18**
Fashion Panic circa 1978-1982
**Box 1, Folder 19**
Art show and theater programs circa 1980-1990
**Box 1, Folder 20**
**Box 1, Folder 21**
Goals and to-do lists 1981
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 22</td>
<td>Bill collections circa 1982-1983, 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 23</td>
<td>Obituaries, memorial services 1985-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Physical Description note: 2 color photographs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 24</td>
<td>Los Angeles Unified contracts 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 25</td>
<td>Hollywood Community Hospital 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 26</td>
<td>Midway Hospital 1991-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 27</td>
<td>Progressive Nursing Service 1991-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 28</td>
<td>Critical Care America 1991-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 29-30</td>
<td>Blue Shield of California 1991-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: [2 folders]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 31</td>
<td>Medical tests and bills 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 32</td>
<td>Ultimate Home Care 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 11</td>
<td>Photographs circa 1953-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Physical Description note: Negatives, 14 black &amp; white photographs, 161 color photographs, and 16 color slides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Screenplays and writings Series 2. circa 1960-1992**

**Scope and Contents**

The series includes final drafts for the screenplays *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.

**Arrangement**

The series is arranged in the following order: copyrights, notebooks, poetry, short stories and screenplays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 3</td>
<td>Copyright and Writers Guild 1977, 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 9-15</td>
<td>Notebooks #1-7 undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: [7 folders]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 5</td>
<td>Notebooks, loose pages undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 4</td>
<td>Poetry and incomplete manuscripts undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 2</td>
<td><em>Adriana</em> short story undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 3</td>
<td>Capt. <em>Thomas Webb</em> short story undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 7</td>
<td><em>Riverratz</em> or <em>The Last Novel of the Seventies</em> short story undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 8</td>
<td><em>The Somewhere Over the Rainbow Whip Co.</em> short story undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 16</td>
<td><em>Streetlife</em>: ’56 short story undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 1</td>
<td><em>Angelcake</em> screenplay undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 2</td>
<td><em>Body Talk</em> screenplay and notes undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 5-6</td>
<td><em>Eatz</em> or <em>Love on the Menu</em> screenplay undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: [2 folders]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 7-8</td>
<td><em>Medea</em> screenplay 1977-1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: [2 folders]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 4</td>
<td><em>The Divine Medea</em> 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 6</td>
<td><em>Medea</em>, production contract 1977-1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 17</td>
<td><em>Tenebrae</em> screenplay undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 9-10</td>
<td><em>Windows on the Square</em> screenplay undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: [2 folders]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 2, Folder 18  Untitled screenplay undated