
Finding Aid to the Jim (Buddy) Ball Papers, 1959-1987 Coll2014-004

Jeff Snapp

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Title: Jim (Buddy) Ball papers

creator: Ball, Jim (Buddy) (James L. Ball)

Identifier/Call Number: Coll2014-004

Physical Description: 4 Linear Feet2 archive boxes + 1 flat archive box

Date (inclusive): 1959-1987

Abstract: James L. Ball, Ph.D., known as "Buddy" Ball, produced films, records, and videos from about 1977 to 1997 for a variety of audiences including African American churches and other Christian groups, crafters, gay men, and horror fans. The collection includes corporate records, personal papers, and photographs documenting his varied activities from his early career as an educator to his involvement in motorcycle clubs to his inclusion in the banned-in-Britain "Video nasties" list.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in the following series:

Series 1. Corporate records, 1961-1998

Series 2. Personal records, 1959-1997

Biographical note

During the years between 1960 and 2000, James L. Ball, Ph.D., (also known as Buddy Ball, Jim Ball, Jim L. Ball, Jim Lloyd Ball, Mr. Jim L. Ball B.A., M.A., and Jimmy Ball) was active in several fields, including being the credited editor, writer and producer of horror films and craft instructional materials for his Aldan Company, Inc. (earlier known as Aldan Producers & Distributors of Motion Pictures). Ball also worked in the gay erotic video industry and sold Christian church supplies through his Major Studio Productions company. He recorded alternating subjects including drug abuse counseling, fortune-telling, Christian hymn, and teen heartthrobs with his Ball Record Company and Velvet Records. Ball's businesses operated in Southern California out of his homes in Los Angeles and Winnetka, California as well as the French Market in West Hollywood, California.

Ball attended Baylor University and Texas Christian University. Before returning to school at the University of Southern California for his Doctorate in Communication, the Waco resident taught "Child Expression," a course for children to learn how to deport themselves on stage. He compared working as a student in 1957 on "I was a Teenage Werewolf" to the Andy Hardy camaraderie of Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney urging the gang to put on a show. In 1962 Velvet Records released "No Camping" which featured recordings of Jose Sarria performing in drag at the Black Cat Cafe in San Francisco the year before the bar was closed, and included clandestine recordings of Hollywood fortune telling. Buddy Ball also worked with California churches, releasing record albums of their choirs and soloists, as seen in advertisements in "The California Eagle," a long-running Los Angeles African-American newspaper.

Jim "Buddy" Ball is best known for being the story writer and producer of the Sasquatchploitation horror film initially titled in a 1977 script "Revenge of Bigfoot" that had a limited theatrical release in the United States between 1980-1983 through the Aldan Company as "Night of the Demon," but was banned in several countries and was prosecuted in the United Kingdom as a result of the Video Recordings Act 1984 as one of its "video nasties". In the late 1980's and early 1990's, Jim Ball distributed several gay adult erotic videos through Major Studio Productions and is credited as editor on videos with adult film director and producer Kenneth Holloway. Ball is not to be confused with another Jim Ball who was a contemporary in the horror film genre known for writing the music for 1981's "Night of Horror" and appearing in 1982 as Bill in "The Curse of the Screaming Dead" (alternately titled "Curse of the Cannibal Confederates").

There is evidence of Buddy Ball's support of gay activism in his service as a chairperson for the Mark 40 Defense Fund which had been organized to provide legal representation for men charged in the wake of a Los Angeles Police Department "slave auction" raid in 1976. Buddy Ball was also conversant with many facets of the gay experience, keeping in touch with a fellow Wacoan's updates on that city's tea house cruising scene, producing videos for men who prefer uncircumcised men, joining Southern California motorcycle clubs, and appearing in drag as "the beautiful Sister Simple, the Chinese Firecracker" on a flyer parodying the 1993 film "Jurassic Park" in "King Kong Park, the Musical."

Source: Doctor Kiss. (2011, April 11). Does know 80's and 90's horror films received theatrical distribution? Retrieved February 24, 2015, from

<http://monsterkidclassichorrorforum.yuku.com/topic/37220/Does-know-80s-90s-horror-films-received-theatrical-d#>.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to researchers. Restricted access to some membership and financial records. Please consult archivist.

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 method of acquisition unknown.

Preferred Citation

[Box/folder #, or item name] Jim (Buddy) Ball Papers, Coll2014-004, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

Processing Information

Originally housed in box 103-232. Collection processed by Jeff Snapp, 2014.

Scope and Contents

Contents include financial records, mailing lists, order forms and promotional materials for the Aldan Company Inc., Ball Record Company, Major Studio Productions, and Venice Tool Works. The collection also includes constitutional records from the Mark 40 Defense Fund, handwritten notes, greeting cards, letters, Christian and motorcycle club materials, contact sheets, headshots, negatives, Polaroids, slides, transparencies, scripts and screenplays for several works including "Night of the Demon" and "Prophecy of Blood."

Separated materials note

Separated to the ONE library periodical and performing arts collections:

Above and Beyond Tours, Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras, March 1, 1997.

Evita. Playbill [Program. June 1980] Shubert Theatre [ABC Entertainment Center. Century City]. Beverly Hills, CA.: Performing Arts.

RSVP Travel Productions, 1996-1997.

In a Changing Voice: Verses including juvenalia by Jim Kepner, 1996, both letter-sized copy and \$2.75 staple-bound pamphlet; 36 p.; 22 cm.

Klondyke Kontakt. v.18, no. 6, December 1996/ January 1997, R.A.W., formerly 15%.

Jim Kepner's Song and Dance, #8, March 1996.

Separated to the ONE audio visual collection:

VHS labeled "60 Minutes" video recording - Repayment of Vietnamese commandos/adoption of Ukranian babies. Spring 1997 Final: Army plans to end sexual discrimination 9/11/1997". The videotape includes: a 20/20 episode with John Stossel on transgender firefighters and police; the "Escape from New York" episode of "Wings" with a drag queen contest; "The Ambiguously Gay Duo" cartoon episode from "Saturday Night Live"; "Extra" episode about Allen R. Schindler, Jr. gay sailor murder; "Crosstalk" episode with Pat Harvey mediating African American debate with Reverend Peterson and Reverend Hayes, a lesbian minister about the gay rights bill; k.d. Lang on "The Tonight Show"; ABC "Primetime" news program "Boy or Girl?" Dr. Nancy Snyderman on sex reassignment of babies; CBS News Los Angeles report on Cardinal Mahoney welcoming Catholic gays; "World News Tonight" Army sexual misconduct; and a Los Angeles Channel 9 News Army sexual harassment report.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Gay motorcycle clubs

Gay dramatists

Gay men

Christian gay men

Scripts (documents)

Gay erotic films

Gay erotic videos

Promotional materials

Advertising fliers

Motion picture producers and directors -- Archival resources

Mail-order business

Businessmen -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources

Motion picture plays
Ball, Jim (Buddy) (James L. Ball)
Ball, Jim (Buddy) (James L. Ball)

Corporate records 1961-1998

Scope and Contents

Records include applications, clippings, correspondence, customer feedback, financial records, labels, mailing lists, mock-ups, notes, order forms, promotional materials, proofs, receipts, scripts and screenplays, stationery, tax returns, thermal faxes, vendor and supplier information, and video brochures, representing several of Jim Ball's companies and business affiliations, including the Aldan Company, Inc., Ball Record Company, Major Studio Productions (video and Christian supplies), and Venice Tool Works.

Arrangement

Series is arranged alphabetically

Box 1, Folder 1-6

Aldan company 1981-1997

Physical Description: 6 folders

Scope and Contents

Contents include applications, clippings, correspondence, notes, receipts, thermal faxes, vendor information, and a portion of an unidentified script as well as production-specific materials about films and projects, including a proposal and video script for It's Sew Easy/Sew Very Easy; notes and receipts from Night of the Demon, and an illustrated synopsis from Prophecy of Blood. Note that Aldan is often misspelled as "Alden."

Box 1, Folder 7

Ball Record Company records 1961-1972

Scope and Contents

Includes catalogs, contracts, correspondence, invoices, and publicity materials for performances including female impersonators and religious recordings including the A.M.E. (African Methodist Episcopal) church choir; An A.M.E. Tribute to John Fitzgerald Kennedy; Drug Abuse and Youth order forms; and Velvet Records labels and materials about "No Camping", featuring Jose Sarria, prostitutes, and an anonymous "Hollywood Fortune Teller." Also included are promotional materials for An Evening with A.C. Bilbrew; Sondra Williams; and Dreams and Stories Productions' teen pop singer Sonny Padilla Jr.

Box 3, Folder 1

Ball Record Company records Undated

Physical Description: [Oversize]

Scope and Contents

Album cover art for Friendship Baptist Church (Ball Records High-Fidelity #2424), Ghost Stories, and Sherman Oaks Lutheran Church Choir presents "The Seven Last Words of Christ" [Silver Award #1409].

Box 1, Folder 8

Black Windmill Productions Circa 1998

Scope and Contents

Formed in March 1998 for lesbian and straight sex videos. Includes promotional material for Lesbian Biker Sluts of Hollywood.

Financial records 1978-1993

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Aldan Co., Inc. 1983-1992 Scope and Contents Includes Bank of America checking account and other financial records. |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Ball Records 1984-1992 Scope and Contents Includes Bank of America checking account records and expense receipts for Revenge of the Nighthawk. |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | "The beginning banking of M.S.P. Major Studio Productions the cost of x-rated filming" 1982-1983 Scope and Contents Includes Bank of America timesaver statements and cancelled checks. |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | Charge accounts 1992-1993 Scope and Contents Includes statements and cancelled checks for several credit card providers. |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | Clinton Ball 1978-1983 Scope and Contents Includes First Los Angeles Bank and other account records for Clinton-Ball Associates; Clinton- Ball Production Company, Ltd.; and James F. Ball. |
| Box 2, Folder 17 | "The cost of filming in 1981 possibly Prophecy of Blood" 1980-1981 Scope and Contents First Los Angeles Bank records for Clinton-Ball Associates account. |
| Box 2, Folder 18 | Major Studio Productions 1991-1992 Scope and Contents Bank of America checking account. |
| Box 2, Folder 19-20 | Tax returns 1984-1992 Scope and Contents Contents include a 1962 Carl A Matthes California State 540A card, 1984 and 1985 Jimmy L Ball records, and 1986-1992 Jimmy L. Ball and Aldan Co, Inc. records. |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | MSP Christian supply Undated Scope and Contents Contents include catalog pages with the MSP label 'Cristian Supply' [sic]. |

MSP Video (Major Studio Productions) 1987-1998

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|-----------------|--|
| Box 2, Folder 1 | Customer addresses 1990-1997 Scope and Contents Contents include empty envelopes with mostly United States return addresses sent to MSP Video. |
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| Box 2, Folder 2 | <p>Customer correspondence and orders 1990-1997</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Includes customer orders and letters about products and shipping, mostly addressed to Kenneth Holloway in response to an advertisement in 1991 Gayporn Star's Annual.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | <p>Customer order forms Circa 1991</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Includes completed order forms mostly for Clean-cut/Uncut and Lust, but also for Semper Erectus, Paradise Plantation, and Camouflage Cocks.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 4 | <p>Customer shipments 1996-1997</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Includes FedEx, UPS and USPS shipping documents as well as packing lists for customer shipment of titles including: Black on Black; Centerspread 3; Coverboys; Crossroads; Cutting Edge; Favors; Fever; Gianfranco Delivers; Idol Worship; Latin Instinct; Long and Hard of It; Manhattan Skyline [sic]; Matinee Idol; Mensroom; Mirage from the XXX Files; Nightwalk; Puerto Rican Pickup; Ryker Files; Steamroom; and Total Corruption 2.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 5 | <p>Mailing lists Circa 1992</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Contents include labels, handwritten mailing lists, and printouts.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | <p>Mailings and promotional materials Circa 1991-1993</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Contents include customer mailings of videos including: 4-Play video promotion edited by Buddy Ball; 4-Hour/4-Skins; Clean-cut/Uncut; Mirage from the XXX Files; Power Sex - 4; Semper Erectus; Tuff Meat; Kenneth Holloway's U.N.C.U.T., Foreskin Quarterly; MSP Diamond, Silver, and Platinum Showcases; mock-ups and proofs.</p> |
| Box 3, Folder 4 | <p>Mailings and promotional materials 1991-1993</p> <p>Physical Description: [Oversize]</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 7-8 | <p>MSP Video miscellanea 1987-1997</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Contents include business correspondence, handwritten notes, invoices, miscellaneous corporate records, stationery, as well as vendor and supplier materials, including a John Michael Stewart action sequence promotional brochure, and Wizard's Inc. special effects resume.</p> |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | <p>Venice tool works Circa 1995-1996</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Includes video brochures, envelopes, and a few corporate records.</p> |

Box 2,
Folder 10-11

Video producers and distributors 1991-1998

Scope and Contents

Contents include promotional materials and mailings from Axis Studios, Titan Media; BIC Productions; Bill & Debbie Majors Ent.; Bon-Vue Enterprises Inc.; Boxer Rebellion events calendar; Brick House, Jet Set Productions; Drummer centerfold "A Visit to the Garage," undated; Gauntlet II, Leather Corps 1996; Katsam Productions; Leatherfest Los Angeles 1995; Meatmarket gay erotic cardpack; Orange Coast Leather Assembly, September 1998; Pistons Long Beach; Video 10 Distributors; X-Pressive Video; and The Zone New Year's 1991. Also included are video release materials from an unlabeled "Gay or boy/boy Flicks" mimeograph catalog of 8mm black and white or color films; All Worlds Video; Dirk Yates Private Collections [DYPC]; European Military Alliance; Bacchus releasing, xtv.com; Birlynn Productions; Brick House Entertainment; Camp Video; Catalina Video; Frat House Boys, Mardi Gras 97; [Hot House Entertainment / Club Inferno, Pig Play Productions?] Handball Marathon III 1995 premiere at the Faultline; Impressive Productions Inc.; International Media Distributors, Axis Studios; International Studios & Associates [I.S.A]; Leisure Time Products; Live Video, Inc.; Paladin Video; Studio 2000, Minotaur; Pleasure Productions; Primal World Talent & Management.; Sierra Pacific; Spur Productions; Live Video Inc.; T.T.V.; Thunderbolt, 4-play Video; Tom of Finland; VCA Labs Inc., VCA Pictures; HIS Video; Video 10; K O Wright The Dungeon Key; and Xcel Video.

Box 2, Folder 21

Photographs Undated

Physical Description: [1 contact sheet, 2 negatives, 31 negative strips, 6 negative sheets, 1 photocopy, 17 photographs, 3 Polaroids, 9 publicity stills, 5 slides, and 1 transparency]

Scope and Contents

Consists of portraits of Robert Collins, Barry Cooper, Lynn Eastman, Scott Richard Ehredt, Richard Fields, Tom Klatz, Mark Olay, Mark Stripling, and Dix Turner; publicity stills of Beau Baumont, Rod Gurato, Frank Whitner, and "Behind the Greek Door," labeled "Mario Scallucci," several headshots circa 1970 including one labeled "poss: Walt Walter," nudes of Lee Jennings, Gino Colbert, and one by Ted Tietzen; a transparency of special effects make-up probably from "Night of the Demon"; damaged photographs of a unidentified costumed actor in Night of the Demon/Revenge of Bigfoot; and a photocopy labeled "larkin1."

Scripts/screenplays/proposals 1977-1998

Box 1, Folder 24

Boxing 1989

Scope and Contents

Includes location and expense records as well as 13 boxing casting photographs and 3 video cover images with Eric[k], Gerry, Jake, Lee, Terry, Jeff Harmon, Chris Ladd, and Brad Phillips.

Box 1, Folder 25

Buddy Ball's Solo Jack-off Video 1998

Scope and Contents

Script with Barry's lines.

Box 1, Folder 27

Hog Wild Undated

Scope and Contents

Unattributed leather-themed erotic screenplay.

- Box 1, Folder 26 **Heartbreak Hotel 1984**
 Scope and Contents
 Screenplay by Victoria Wozniak.
- Box 1, Folder 28 **Hot: Time and Friction in Faulkner's Fiction 1980**
 Scope and Contents
 Paper by Gregory Hayes.
- Box 1, Folder 29 **The Last Time Around 1970-1988**
 Scope and Contents
 Original writings by Howard R. Knight as Julius Caesar II SPQR, photographs by Alan Houghton, Hollywood, consisting of portraits of the author as characters in costume. Includes shooting script for "Mushroom Cloud 'ore 'Frisco Bay".
- Box 1, Folder 30 **Mandy Undated**
 Scope and Contents
 Screenplay by Jed Duane.
- Box 1, Folder 31 **Merman: Splash of the Blue Water - A Erotic Screenplay 1996**
 Scope and Contents
 Writing sample by J.Emmanuelle a.k.a. Michael Berry.
- Box 1, Folder 32 **Mirage 1996-1997**
 Scope and Contents
 Script and storyboard for video released in 1997 as Mirage from the XXX Files.
- Box 1,
Folder 33-35 **Night of the Demon 1977-1981**
 Scope and Contents
 Includes "Elements Comprising the Package of Night of the Demon" scenario by Jim L. Ball Ph. D., including a synopsis, trailer scripts, advertising campaign, sub-title script, radio commercials, production stills, advertising "button," record album, and television mechanicals. [see also the 1977 script for Revenge of Bigfoot]
- Box 1, Folder 36 **Professor Bodywise's Traveling Menagerie 1985**
 Scope and Contents
 Includes headshot photographs of Rick Burke and Sharon Burke.
- Box 1,
Folder 37-38 **Prophecy of Blood Undated**
 Scope and Contents
 Includes screenplay credited to G.R. Diamond as well as one credited to Martin Matthews.
- Box 1, Folder 39 **Revenge of Bigfoot 1977**
 Scope and Contents
 [see also Night of the Demon]
- Box 1, Folder 40 **Ten in One Circa 1990**
 Scope and Contents
 Includes cast information, script and shooting notes for gay erotic film set in a carnival.

Personal papers 1959-1997

Scope and Contents

Includes letters, notecards, and graphics; notes from Christian group meetings; materials from the Mark 40 Defense Fund; and motorcycle clubs, health information, school, and travel records.

Arrangement

Series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 9

Christian groups 1964, 1996-1997

Scope and Contents

Includes attendance records and letters from the Christian group Hollywood Life, Inc., circa 1964; a 1996 unlabeled mock-up of a member roster; a restaurant list; and programs from Dignity, San Fernando Valley, 1997.

Box 1, Folder 10

Erotica Undated

Scope and Contents

Contents include photocopies of erotica [Tom of Finland?], and a crumpled ink drawing of a nude male signed with the initials "J.F.M."

Box 1, Folder 11

Health reference materials 1990-1993

Scope and Contents

Contents include immunization record, psychological health materials, and the 1992 "Neuro-muscular restructuring" by Dov Nadel.

Box 1,
Folder 13-18

Letters, Personal Circa 1959-1996

Scope and Contents

Includes birthday and Christmas cards, including a Season's Greeting collage card from Matthew and Buddy of Glendale. Also includes letters from Ball's mother; Lola Montes; friends and family; and John G. Haberkorn, as well as letters from his landlord, lawyer, and memorial mailings, and a Popshots collage with James Ball as Eve. Also includes cruising and tea room letters and photographs from Waco, Texas and an autograph with a drawing from Adriana Caselotti, "Snow White" from the Walt Disney film.

Box 3, Folder 3

Mark 40 defense fund 1976

Physical Description: [Oversize]

Scope and Contents

Contents include the constitution, budget, roster, and other records for the Mark 40 defense fund.

Box 1, Folder 12

Miscellaneous Undated

Scope and Contents

Contents include an American Board of Hypnotherapy badge; an ACLU 1985 Bill of Rights Celebration cover autographed "Dr. Ball I'm honored! Peace + Justice! Ed Asner"; a Club Cultural Francais menu; a flyer for a childrens' performance class entitled "Child Expression" taught by "Mr. Jim L. Ball B.A., M.A."; a California State University Los Angeles faculty photo ID; a map to Ball's house on Lurline Avenue in Los Angeles, California; newspaper clippings including items from Waco, Texas; a parody flyer for "King Kong Park, the Musical" [with portrait of James Ball in drag?]; a signed photograph of the 80th birthday portrait of the British Queen Mother; and renter's records.

Box 3, Folder 2

Miscellaneous Circa 1986

Physical Description: [Oversize]

Scope and Contents

Includes poster memorial for James Boswell Newton with recipes for New Year's Hushpuppies and New Year's Eve Party Black Eyed Peas circa 1978. Also includes a Texas Christian University Century Club membership certificate, 1991-1992.

Box 1, Folder 19

Motorcycle clubs Undated

Scope and Contents

Includes Blue Max Motorcycle Club memorial service and Bunkhouse invitations; the 1986 Buddy Motorcycle Club dissolution records, roster, and expense report; a mailing from the California Eagles Motorcycle Club announcing a Russian River Run, a Mt. Tamapais ride from Daddy's Bar, and a 1998 Oktoberfest at The Eagle Tavern in San Francisco; a Gladiator M.C. honorary membership card; a program from the 1989 Oedipus Grecian Games "Astrological Affair"; and an unattributed calligraphic program listing program participants including Buddy as 'White Savage Princess'.

Box 1, Folder 21

Notes and envelopes Undated

Scope and Contents

Contents include addresses and phone numbers, handwritten notes, and labels for Uptown Gay and Lesbian Alliance Uptown Cabaret 97.

Box 2, Folder 22

Photographs circa 1960-1988

Physical Description: [5 negatives, 22 negative strips, 22 photographs, 5 Polaroids, and 5 slides]

Scope and Contents

Consists of images of James (Buddy) Ball, including portraits in drag; his lovers and friends including Carl Mathes, John Haberkorn, and Peter Bromilow at formal events, graduation, St. Patrick's Day parties, and motorcycle events, including an Oedipian Coronation and a Buddy Motorcycle Club gathering at Griff's Bar; correspondence photographs from a Foreskin Directory ad; and images from Palm Springs and the Brown Derby.

Box 1, Folder 22

School records 1960-1996

Box 1, Folder 23

Travel and correspondence Undated

Scope and Contents

Includes cards and letters, a passenger list from the M/S Nordic Prince, and travel ephemera such as a 1974 "Ship to shore" news bulletin, state room tag, and a pamphlet from the Burlington Arcade, London.