Finding Aid to the Henry Grace and Michael L. Grace Collection, 1942-2009
Coll2014-042

Loni Shibuyama
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
909 West Adams Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90007
(213) 821-2771
askone@usc.edu
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Contributing Institution: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Title: Henry Grace and Michael L. Grace collection
creator: Grace, Henry
creator: Grace, Michael L.
Identifier/Call Number: Coll2014-042
Physical Description: 2 Linear Feet1 carton, 1 flat box, and 1 oversize item.
Date (inclusive): 1942-2009
Abstract: Photograph albums, biographical information, a painting, and other material from Hollywood set decorator, Henry Grace; as well as writings, publicity materials, and videotapes (VHS) from his nephew, Michael L. Grace. The bulk of the collection is Henry's photograph albums, circa 1942-1986, that document his travels throughout Mexico, social gatherings, costume parties, and art works he collected or used as inspiration for his set designs. The videotapes (VHS) collected by Michael are primarily related to the gay fraternity Gamma Mu.
Storage Unit: Acc2010.013
Arrangement
The collection is divided into two series: (1) Henry Grace photographs and memorabilia, and (2) Michael L. Grace papers
Biography
Henry Wooten Grace was an Academy Award-winning motion picture set decorator. He was born on March 20, 1907 in Bakersfield, California, to Henry Barnett and Elsie Fowler Grace. He attended Glendale High School and Chouinard Art Institute. Soon after graduating from Chouinard, he started his career as an interior decorator and worked for several decoration firms before joining Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) in the mid-1930s. During World War II, Grace enlisted in the United States military (branch unknown) and served in the South Pacific as an engineer. He was awarded a Bronze Star and rose to the rank of Captain before he was honorably discharged in 1946.
Following the war, he returned to MGM and remained with the studio throughout his 35 year career as a set decorator. He won the Academy Award for his work on Gigi (1958) and was nominated eight other times for his work on Blackboard Jungle, North by Northwest, Cimarron, How the West Was Won, The Unsinkable Molly Brown and others.
Henry Grace died on September 16, 1983 in Los Angeles.
Biography
"[Michael L. Grace] attended St. Paul's, University of Southern California, the Pasadena Playhouse, and San Francisco State University. He also apprenticed at ACT - The American Conservatory Theatre and with the Los Angeles Civic Light Opera. He did graduate work at the American University of Beirut and the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii. He has guest lectured at USC, UC San Diego, McGill, Univ. of London and the Univ. of Texas on writing spec screenplays - in a way to avoid development hell in Hollywood."

"After working in media and public relations, Michael started working in development and as a writer. He was involved in developing horror films and wrote a cult film The Unseen. He then started working in television as a continuing writer on such series as Love Boat, Paper Dolls, and Knots Landing. He developed screenplays for such major award winning directors as Nicolas Meyers, Tony Richardson and J. Lee Thompson. He has written for all the major networks and studios. He has been hired numerous times as a script doctor, doing many un-credited rewrites on TV movies and features.

"He [produced] P.S. Your Cat is Dead by Pulitzer prize-winning author James Kirkwood, co-produced the touring productions of The Boy Friend and Meet Me in St. Louis, along with revival productions of Peter Pan in Australia and Canada. He wrote the stage thriller Final Cut which has had productions in the America and Canada. His one-man play, Kennedy—The Man Behind the Myth, was developed for HBO and produced theatrically."

"He is part of the award winning team that created the internationally performed award-winning musical Snoopy, based on Peanuts by Charles M. Schultz. He co-produced Snoopy and co-wrote the book."

"Grace is a lifetime member of the Writers Guild of America and Dramatist Guild. He is former AIDS chair for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, board member of the San Francisco State University Foundation and founding member of the Children's Theatre Association - Kids Go Broadway."

"He is a continuing contributor to New York Social Diary and, through a life-long passion for travel and social history, has an award winning website: Cruising the Past. He is an expert on steamships and ocean travel from the 1930s until the 1950s. He has one of the largest private collections of ocean liner memorabilia in the USA. He is currently working on It’s the Love Boat... And How It Changed Cruising by Ship, a non-fiction book dealing with how the hit TV series as a major cultural phenomenon and altered the style of cruising by ship. The ten year running show created today's cruise industry."
“He lives in West Hollywood, California.”

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

Conditions Governing Use
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Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Michael Grace, June 1, 2010.

Preferred Citation
[Box/folder #, or item name] Henry Grace and Michael L. Grace Collection, Coll2014-042, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

Processing Information
Formerly box #A266. Collection processed by Loni Shibuyama, September 2014.

Scope and Contents
This collection includes photograph albums and other material from Hollywood set decorator, Henry Grace, as well as materials from his nephew, Michael L. Grace. Materials in the photograph albums, circa 1942-1986, document Henry’s personal life, including his travels throughout Mexico; social gatherings and costume parties he attended, including one in which guests dressed in bird costumes; and art works he collected or used as inspiration for his set designs. The collection also includes Carnival gay cruises publicity material, posters, an article, and videotapes (VHS) collected by Michael L. Grace. The videotapes document Gamma Mu, a gay fraternity that became the target of investigation following Andrew Cunanan’s 1997 murder spree.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Gay men -- California -- Los Angeles
Greek letter societies
Motion picture set designers -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archival resources
Motion pictures and gay men
Photograph albums
Serial murderers
Cunanan, Andrew
Grace, Henry
Grace, Michael L.

Henry Grace photographs and memorabilia 1942-2001

Scope and Contents
The bulk of this series comprises photograph albums from Hollywood set decorator, Henry Grace. Materials in the photograph albums, circa 1942-1986, document Henry’s personal life, including his travels throughout Mexico; social gatherings and costume parties he attended, including one in which guests dressed in bird costumes; and art works he collected or used as inspiration for his set designs. This series also includes biographical writings, a Bronze Star and pins from his military uniform (unknown branch), a photograph of Henry on the set of an unknown film production, and a portrait painting of Henry.

Arrangement
Henry Grace’s photographs albums are at the beginning of this series. The remaining folders are arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 2
Photograph album #1 circa 1942-1979
Box 1, Folder 3-4
Photograph album #2 circa 1950-1967
Box 1, Folder 5
Photograph album #3 circa 1966-1986
Box 1, Folder 1
Biographical information circa 1962-2001
Box 1, Folder 9  Bronze Star Medal and military uniform pins circa 1942-1946
Box 2, Item 2  Cape Fear lobby card, signed by Lee Thompson 1962
Box 2, Item 1  Henry Grace on set of unidentified motion picture Undated
Item 1AR0150  Henry Grace portrait, by Stryck Undated

Michael L. Grace papers 1976-2009

Scope and Contents
This series includes publicity material for Carnival gay cruises, posters with Michael L. Grace credits, an article written by Grace, and videotapes (VHS) related to Gamma Mu, a gay fraternity that became the target of investigation following Andrew Cunanan's 1997 murder spree, in which Cunanan killed fashion designer Gianni Versace and four other men.

Arrangement
This series is arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 6  Carnival Pride, gay cruise 2003
Box 1, Folder 7  "Luscious" Lucius Beebe article, by Michael Grace 2009
Box 2, Item 3-4  P.S. Your Cat is Dead posters, mounted 1976, undated
Box 2, Item 5  The Unseen poster, mounted 1980
Box 1, Folder 8  Videotape descriptions regarding Andrew Cunanan circa 2009

Video recordings
Item VV3176  Gamma Mu fly-in, New Orleans 1990
Item VV3174  [Gamma Mu] private car, train; Los Angeles, Oakland; Chicago fly-in 1991-1992
Item VV3177  Gammy Mu fly-in, Houston; train to Galveston circa 1992
Item VV3175  Gamma Mu fly-in, Costa Rica 1995