Finding Aid to the Gangway Suzie Collection, 1976-1982 Coll2014.047

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
Language of Material: English

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

Title: Gangway Suzie collection

creator: Slezewski, Alfred

Identifier/Call Number: Coll2014.047

Physical Description: 1.2 Linear Feet1 flat box.

Date (inclusive): 1976-1982

Abstract: Correspondence, award certificates, flyers, publicity photographs, and other material, 1976-1982, from Gangway Suzie, a bartender and camp drag performer at The Gangway bar in San Francisco, California. A local celebrity in the San Francisco drag queen community, Gangway Suzie, whose real name is Alfred Slezewski, was killed in 1982.

Historical Note
Alfred K. Slezewski was born in New York on June 25, 1928. He adopted the name Suzie/Susie at the Lemon Twist bar in Los Angeles, where he performed camp at bars and drag queen competitions. He moved to San Francisco and became a bartender and performer for The Gangway bar for nine years. Slezewski was stabbed to death on January 22, 1982 in San Francisco. The man who admitted to killing Slezewski, Douglas Toney, was acquitted based on claims of self-defense.

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
Donor and date of acquisition unknown.

Preferred Citation

Processing Information
Collection processed by Loni Shibuyama, September 2014.

Scope and Contents
This collection comprises correspondence, award certificates, flyers, clippings, publicity photographs, drawings, and other material, 1976-1982, from Gangway Suzie, a bartender and drag performer at The Gangway bar in San Francisco, California. Included are certificates and other material from drag queen events and competitions, including from Imperial Courts events.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged alphabetically.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Cross dressing -- Competitions -- United States
Drag shows
Gay community -- California -- San Francisco
Gay bars -- California
Slezewski, Alfred

Gangway Suzie collection

Box 1, folder 1
Award certificates 1976-1981

Box 1, folder 2
Bar administration records and correspondence 1978-1981

Box 1, Folder 3
Clippings circa 1976-1982

Box 1, folder 4
Drawings circa 1977-1981

Box 1, folder 5
Flyers circa 1981

Box 1, folder 6
Publicity photographs Undated
Box 1, folder 7

Suzie Polish Empress II logo 1978