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## Guide to the Ariadne Kane Outreach Institute for Gender Studies Collection

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**Contributing Institution:** Special Collections & Archives

**Title:** Ariadne Kane Outreach Institute for Gender Studies Collection

**Creator:** Kane-Demaïos, J. Ari, 1936-

**Identifier/Call Number:** SC.AK

**Extent:** 6.38 linear feet

**Extent:** 5.53 Gigabytes

**Date (inclusive):** 1974-2001

**Abstract:** Joseph Ariadne "Ari" Kane-Demaïos is the founder of the Outreach Institute for Gender Studies. Originally named Joseph DeMaïos, he officially came out as Ariadne "Ari" Kane in 1971. The *Ari Kane Outreach Institute for Gender Studies Collection* contains various documents, audio and video tapes, photographs, and awards. These items were collected by, as well as given to, Kane chronicling the work conducted by her institute and the annual coordination of Fantasia Fair, which is considered to be the longest running annual event for crossdressers, transgenders, and transsexuals in the world.

**Language of Material:** English

**Biographical Information:**

Joseph Ariadne "Ari" Kane-Demaïos (1936-) was born and raised in New York City. Ari is touted by Playboy magazine as the very definition of an Androgyny, meaning that Ari is comfortable portraying both genders in society. During his childhood, DeMaïos cross-dressed just one time, which his parents found out about, prompting him to cease all gender experimentation until later in life. DeMaïos went on to receive a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biophysics, Mathematics and Chemistry at City College, New York in 1958 before commencing graduate work at New York University and the University of Buffalo. From 1966-1968, DeMaïos taught overseas at St. Stephen's School in Rome and at the American College of Switzerland in Leysin. During this time, DeMaïos was able to cross-dress again for Fastnacht in Munich and Mardi Gras in Naples. DeMaïos eventually quit teaching, returned to the U.S., and went into designing. He later opened a travel agency, in addition to working as an educational consultant and realtor.

In 1971, DeMaïos became the leader of the Boston Gamma chapter of Tri-Sigma and officially came out as Ariadne "Ari" Kane. The chapter was later renamed the Cherrystone Club. In 1974, the event known as Fantasia Fair aka Fan/Fair was conceived by Ari and several other members of the Cherrystone Club including Betty Ann Lind, Betsy Shaw, and Linda Franklin. The first fair was officially held in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Fan/Fair offered individuals, particularly cross-dressers, transvestites, and transsexuals a safe place to express themselves. The Outreach Institute for Gender Studies, founded by Ari, was the main coordinator and overseer of the fair until March of 2001 when its Board of Directors decided to hand over management to Real Life Experiences, Inc., headed by Dallas Denny. The fair has played host to a number of events including the Fan/Fair Follies, the Fantasia Fashion Show, and an awards banquet. In addition to these events, the fair has continuously featured various workshops and seminars designed to help attendees embrace gender experimentation and succeed in their overall lives. These workshops include, but are not limited to, hair and make-up tutorials, gender theory, and even special programs tailored to spouses and partners.

In conjunction with the opening of Fantasia Fair, Ari founded the Human Outreach and Achievement Institute, later renamed the Outreach Institute for Gender Studies in 1996. Through her work with the institute, Ari wrote numerous articles, attended various conferences, and coordinated workshops in order to stress the importance of sex and gender studies. From her work with the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists, to the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, and the International Foundation for Gender Education, Ari continuously gained attention and appreciation for her work. Ari was even asked to appear in 1980 on the Phil Donahue Show and the David Suskind Show in 1982. Furthermore, she founded the Theseus Counseling and Consulting Service in 1985 in order to offer counseling, instruction, and health care resources specializing in gender and/or sex related services.

**Scope and Contents**

Joseph Ariadne "Ari" Kane-Demaïos is the founder of the Outreach Institute for Gender Studies and was the main coordinator for Fantasia Fair aka Fan/Fair from 1975-2001, as well as a sex and gender studies educator and activist. The materials within the *Ariadne Kane Outreach Institute for Gender Studies Collection* chronicle Ari's outreach work via the Institute, in addition to documents and audio and visual tapes collected from Fan/Fair. The collection is separated into two series: **Fantasia Fair** (1977-2001) and **Sex and Gender Education** (1974-2001).

Series I, **Fantasia Fair**, documents the planning, preparation, and execution of Fantasia Fair, the longest running annual event for crossdressers, transgenders, and transsexuals in the world. This series includes correspondence, pamphlets, and newsletters, photographs, audio and video tapes, and is arranged alphabetically.

Series II, **Sex and Gender Education**, documents the activities of organizations, conventions, and of public outreach programs in which Kane was involved, including the Outreach Institute for Gender Studies, the American Association of Sex

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Educators, Counselors, and Therapists, the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, and the International Foundation for Gender Education. This series includes documents and specialty items, such as trophies and plaques, and is arranged alphabetically.

**Arrangement of Materials:**

Series I: Fantasia Fair, 1977-2001

Series II: Sex and Gender Education, 1974-2001

**Conditions Governing Access:**

The collection is open for research use.

**Conditions Governing Use:**

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**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Ariadne Kane.

For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the [Citing Archival Materials](#) guide.

**Processing Information:**

Sarah E. Witherspoon, 2018

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Audiovisual materials

Ephemera

Documents

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