Finding aid to the Collection on Sylvester GLC 101

Finding aid prepared by Tim Wilson
James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library
2019
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
info@sfpl.org
URL: http://sfpl.org/gaylesbian
Title: Collection on Sylvester
Date (inclusive): 1979-1998, undated
Identifier/Call Number: GLC 101
Physical Description: 3 folders (2 legal folders, 1 oversized folder)
Contributing Institution: James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
info@sfpl.org
URL: http://sfpl.org/gaylesbian
Abstract: Sylvester James, Jr. (September 6, 1947–December 16, 1988), better known as Sylvester, was an American disco and soul singer-songwriter. He was known for his flamboyant and androgynous appearance. The collection contains photographs of Sylvester taken at a performance at the War Memorial Opera House (San Francisco), March 11, 1979; at an Atlanta AIDS Benefit, January 31, 1983; at his birthday party, September 10, 1983; and four portraits that were probably used for publicity purposes. In addition, there is a press kit for a documentary on his life, and proclamations from San Francisco mayors Dianne Feinstein and Art Agnos regarding celebrations in his honor.
The collection is stored onsite.
Language of Material: Collection materials are in English.
Access
The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center hours, with photographs available during Photo Desk hours.
Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items. Copyright retained by photographers.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Collection on Sylvester (GLC 101), LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library.
Provenance
Photographs 1-6 were donated by Monica Wynn, February 2005. Photographs 7 and 8 were found in ephemera files with no provenance information. The proclamations were donated by Barbara Smookler, May 2011. The provenance of the press kit is unknown.
Biographical Note
Sylvester James, Jr. (September 6, 1947–December 16, 1988), better known as Sylvester, was an American disco and soul singer-songwriter. He lived in San Francisco and performed with the Cockettes in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He was known for his flamboyant and androgynous appearance. He died of AIDS on December 16, 1988.
Scope and Content
The collection contains photographs of Sylvester taken at a performance at the War Memorial Opera House (San Francisco), March 11, 1979; at an Atlanta AIDS Benefit, January 31, 1983; at his birthday party, September 10, 1983; and four portraits that were probably used for promotional purposes. In addition, there is a press kit for the documentary Do You Wanna Funk: the Life and Times of Sylvester, and proclamations from San Francisco mayors Dianne Feinstein and Art Agnos regarding celebrations to honor of Sylvester.
Arrangement
Arranged by format: Photographs, Subject File, and Certificates. Arranged in chronological order within each folder.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Sylvester
Sylvester -- Pictorial works
Photographs 1979-1983, undated

Physical Description: 1 folder

Access

The photographs are available during Photo Desk hours: Tuesdays 1-5 p.m., Thursday 1-5 p.m., and Saturdays 10-12, 1-5.

folder 1, photograph 1

Sylvester at Opera House. Photographer unknown (black and white) March 11, 1979

folder 1, photograph 2


folder 1, photograph 3

Atlanta, Georgia AIDS Benefit: Tim McKenna, Carol Douglas, Sylvester, Frank Loverde, Angela Clemmons. Rick Diamond Photography (black and white) January 31, 1983

folder 1, photograph 4


folder 1, photograph 5

Sylvester's Birthday 1983: Sylvester, Tim McKenna. Mick Hicks Photographer (black and white) 1983

folder 1, photograph 6

Sylvester portrait. Photographer: Phil Bray (black and white) undated

folder 1, photograph 7

Sylvester publicity headshot. Photographer unknown (black and white) undated

Scope and Contents

Fantasy. Management: Nancy C. Pitts. Bookings: ICM.

folder 1, photograph 8

Sylvester publicity photo. Photographer unknown (black and white) 1980

Scope and Contents


folder 2

Press kit for Do You Wanna Funk: The Life and Times of Sylvester, a music documentary by Tim Smyth 1998

Proclamations 1987, 1989

Physical Description: 1 folder(2 oversized items)

oversize-folder 1

Dianne Feinstein, Mayor, City and County of San Francisco to Sylvester regarding his 40th birthday celebration September 4, 1987

oversize-folder 1

Art Agnos, Mayor, City and County of San Francisco proclamation regarding Sylvester's Remembrance Day in San Francisco February 18, 1989