Finding aid prepared by Tim Wilson
James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA, 94102
(415) 557-4400
info@sfpl.org
2013
Title: Peter Mintun Cockettes Collection,
Date (inclusive): 1970-2009
Date (bulk): 1970-1972
Collection Identifier: GLC 78
Creator: Mintun, Peter
Physical Description: 2 document cases + 1 oversized box (1.0 cubic feet)
Contributing Institution: James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA, 94102
(415) 557-4400
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Abstract: The collection contains photographs of the Cockettes, especially Sylvester and John Rothermel, flyers, show sequence sheets and some scripts for Cockettes performances, correspondence and contracts, newspaper clippings and published articles about the Cockettes, and some audiorecordings.
Physical Location: The collection is stored onsite.
Language of Materials: 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. Collections that are stored offsite should be requested 48 hours in advance.
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.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Peter Mintun Cockettes Collection (GLC 78), Gay and Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library.
Provenance
Donated by Peter Mintun, September 1, 2012.
Related materials
Researchers are encouraged to see also GLC 79 Kreemah Ritz Papers.
Biographical Note
Peter Mintun is a pianist. Due to his talent playing 1920s and 1930s songs, Mintun was recruited by John Rothermel to become the piano accompanist for the Cockettes, an experimental theater troupe. Mintun has performed with many singers and groups including The Cockettes, John Rothermel, and Sylvester. He is credited as Peter Arden in some productions.
Mintun served as accompanist for the Cockettes for many of their early 1970s performances. He also accompanied Sylvester for his early solo concerts. In May 1971 Mintun played piano (and had Jackie Floyd Jones on drums) for Sylvester, Frank Bourquin and John Rothermel for a performance art piece called "Club Mandarin," which was a recreation of a 1930s nightclub held at the Upper Market Street Gallery. When the Cockettes went to New York in 1971, Mintun remained in San Francisco. Mintun's last performance with the troupe was Vice Palace in October 1972, when he accompanied only Rothermel.
Scope and Contents
The collection contains photographs of the Cockettes, especially Sylvester and John Rothermel, flyers, show sequence sheets and some scripts for Cockettes performances, correspondence and contracts, newspaper clippings and published articles about the Cockettes, and some audiorecordings.
Arrangement
The collection is arranged into 6 series: Series 1. Correspondence; Series 2. Shows; Series 3. Subject Files; Series 4. Audiorecordings; Series 5. Publications; and Series 6. Photographs. Within each series, all folders are arranged alphabetically.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Cockettes (Theatrical troupe).
Rothermel, John
Sylvester, 1947-1988
Series 1 Correspondence, 1971-2002

Physical Description: 10.0 folders

Scope and Contents
Contains letters to and from Mintun pertaining to the Cockettes and to events or documentaries to celebrate their performances and impact. One letter from Mintun's father expresses his concern about Peter's future and the people with whom he associated.

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by name.

Box 1, Folder 1
Cockettes documentary: contract, photo selection, invitation to fundraiser, 1998-2002
Weissman, David

Box 1, Folder 2
Crawford, R[obert], manager of Zim's Restaurant, undated

Box 1, Folder 3
Ed [Edward Heyman?], undated

Box 1, Folder 4
Harding, Tom, 1994

Box 1, Folder 5
K__, undated

Box 1, Folder 6
Lindsay, Charles and Edward Linotti, 1974-1975

Box 1, Folder 7
Mintun, H.D. (father), 1971

Box 1, Folder 8
Nieze, Thomas, 1971, 1980

Box 1, Folder 9
Ritz, Kreemah, 1997-1998, undated

Box 1, Folder 10
Sebastian, undated


Physical Description: 17.0 folders

Scope and Contents
The series contains musical arrangements, tune lists, and scripts for performances by the Cockettes, and tune lists and arrangements for John Rothermel, Sylvester, and Kenneth Marlowe. Some contracts and flyers are included. The folder "Show sequence lists, lyrics, scenarios" contains material for several different Cockettes shows. In some cases, notes for more than one show appear on a single page; in other cases, the name of the show is not clear. The material is from when Mintun was engaged as the troupe's accompanist.

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Box 1, Folder 11
Club Mandarin, May 26-28, 1971, undated

See also:
Box 1 / Folder 22. Sylvester lyrics and tune lists.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 12</th>
<th>Les Cockettes des Paris, October 9-10, 1970</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes sheet music, flyers, playlist. &quot;The Poor People of Paris (Jean's song)&quot; is inscribed &quot;Best wishes, Desi Arnaz, 1956, Hollywood.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 13</th>
<th>A Curious Evening with Kenneth Marlow, 1971</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 14</td>
<td>Hallowe'en show, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 15</td>
<td>Hollywood Babylon, 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Oversize-folder 1</td>
<td>Midnight Films poster. Nocturnal Dream Shows, Todd Trexler artwork, 1970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 16</th>
<th>Pearls Over Shanghai script, Winter 1970</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes a flyer for June 1971 shows that features a drawing of Peter Mintun by Todd Trexler.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 17</th>
<th>Rothermel, John. Song sequence lists, sheet music, 1972, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sheet music,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baby Your Mother, Like She Babied You. Words by Andrew Donnelly and Dolly Morse, music by Joe Burke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dearie by Bob Hilliard and Dave Mann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oh Promise Me. Words by Clement Scott, music by Reginald De Koven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Over There by George M. Cohan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Strike Up the Band (Here Comes a Sailor). Words by Andrew B. Sterling, music by Charles B. Ward</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 18</th>
<th>Show sequence lists, lyrics, scenarios, 1971-1972, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes: Chanson des &quot;Tinsel Tarts&quot; / Radio show items; Hal Roach clip Comedies; I've Told Every Little Star / Trademark; &quot;Hollywood Babylon&quot;; &quot;Smiles&quot; / &quot;I'm No Angel&quot;; and untitled sequence sheets.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 19</th>
<th>Smacky and Our Gang, 1971, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 20</th>
<th>Sylvester lyrics and tunes lists, includes Club Mandarin, 1971, undated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tinsel Tarts in a Hot Coma, 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tropical Heatwave / Hot Voodoo ; untitled tune lists, [1970], undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 21</th>
<th>Vice Palace, October 27-28, 1972</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See also:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Box 1 / Folder 31. Rothermel, John.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Physical Description: 14.0 folders

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Scope and Contents
The series contains clippings, some drawings, flyers, and ephemera relating to the Cockettes, and to John Rothermel and Sylvester. Of note are the contracts for Mintun's official performances, his calendar for October 1972, and the files on Sylvester which includes some drawings.

Box 1, Folder 26
Admittance ticket to Cockettes shows, undated

Box 1, Folder 27
Calendar, October 1972

Box 1, Folder 28
Clippings, 1971-2000, undated

See also:
Box 1 / Folder 4. Harding, Tom for clippings from New York City, 1994.

Box 1, Folder 29
Contracts, 1970-1972

Box 1, Folder 30
Pickup's Tricks, 1995

Box 1, Folder 31

General note
Includes clippings; flyer for "A Curious Evening with Kenneth Marlow" (1971); script and press release for Vice Palace; flyer for "The Hilarious Cass Daley with orchestra" at 56 Gold Street, San Francisco; song sheets and contracts for 56 Gold Street performances with Mintun.

Box 1, Folder 32
Sylvester [James], 1970-2005

Box 1, Folder 33
Clippings, 1970-2005

Box 1, Folder 34
Contract with Peter Mintun, 1972

Box 1, Folder 35

Box 1, Folder 36
Drawings by Sylvester, 1970-1971

Box 1, Folder 37
Sylvester at the Opera House program, March 11, 1979

Box 1, Folder 38
"Sylvester Metamorphosis! From Cockette to Disco Diva and Disco!" exhibition flyer, 1998

Box 1, Folder 39

Box 1, Folder 40
Series 4 Audio recordings, 1970, 1972

Physical Description: 1.0 folder(4 CD-ROMs)

John Rothermel, Frank Bourquin, and Tom Nieze accompanied by Peter Mintun, January 5 and 29, 1972

General note

Sylvester James with John Rothermel. Peter Mintun, piano, August 1970

Physical Description: 1.0 items

General note
1 CD-ROM with playlist. Recorded in Menlo Park, California.
Series 5 Publications, 1970-1978

Physical Description: 13.0 folders

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Scope and Contents
The series contains magazine issues with stories about the Cockettes. The majority of the material is from the early 1970s, and includes some photo essays on the troupe.

Box 3, Oversize-folder 4
Andy Warhol’s Interview #33, June 1973

Box 2, Folder 1
Bay Area Reporter, vol. 2, no. 21, October 18, 1972
General note
Includes piece on John Rothermel’s performance to benefit SIR.

Box 3, Oversize-folder 5
The California Aggie University of California, Davis, May 27, 1971
General note
News item on pages 8-9 "The Cockettes" Sat.

Box 3, Oversize-folder 6
City Adventure, June 1978
General note
Article: "Sylvestre. Step Two: Disco Dandy Lured to Hollywood" by Michael Branton.

Box 2, Folder 2
Earth, vol. 2, no. 8, October 1971
General note
Article: "The Cockettes of San Francisco."

Box 3, Oversize-folder 7
Kalendar, vol. 1, no. K20, October 25, 1972
General note
Includes article on Vice Palace, page 6, 12.

Box 2, Folder 3
"Neon Rose" (Place, volume 3, number 1). Printed in San Francisco, California, by Stecher-Traung-Schmidt Corp., June 1973

Box 2, Folder 4
General note

Box 2, Folder 5
Rags / 3 (San Francisco, Calif.), August 1970
General note
Article on the Cockettes.

Box 3, Oversize-folder 8
The San Francisco Phoenix, vol. 1, no. 4, October 26, 1972
General note
Contains photo of John Rothermel and notice of Halloween performance.

Box 2, Folder 6
Scanlan’s Monthly vol. 1, no. 5, July 1970
General note
Contains article: "The Bastard Children of Cecil B. De Mille Are Making Films in San Francisco" by Arnold Passman about the Cockettes film Luminous Procuress.
Box 2, Folder 7  
**Vector, vol. 8, no. 9, November 1972**

*General note*
Contains photo of Mink Stole.

Box 2, Folder 8  
**Zoom: le Magazine de l'Image, Janvier-Fevrier 1973**

*General note*
Contains article: "New York Unisex" photographs of Cockettes taken by Gilles Larrain.


*Physical Description:* 20.0 folders

*Arrangement*
Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

*Scope and Contents*
Contains photographs, negatives, and some contact sheets with images of the Cockettes at rehearsals, some performances, and in informal settings. Two folders contain images of Sylvester that were taken over several years.

Box 4, Folder 1  
**Cockettes, Palace Theatre, San Francisco, California, October 1970**

Box 4, Folder 2  
**Cockettes reunion, April 3, 1994**

Box 4, Folder 3  
**Contact proof sheets, 1971**

*General note*

Box 4, Folder 4  
**Divine, October 26, 1972**

*General note*
3 images: one labeled Vice Palace production, photo by Clay Geerdes; one with no annotations but appears to be from same photo shoot; third photo by Clay Geerdes.

Box 4, Folder 5  
**Doda, Carol, 1972**

Box 4, Folder 6  
**Gold Street (San Francisco, Calif.) bar show, September 1972**

*General note*
John Rothermel, Peter Mintun.

Box 4, Folder 7  
**Killough, Chris. Mountain View, 1970?**

*General note*
Mintun, Peter. Et al.

Box 4, Folder 8  
**Peter Mintun, Frank Bourquin ("Inez"), Stuart Jenkins, David Winters, Greg Walsh, Ed Linotti, Martin Worman, Rumi Missabou, Johnny MacGowman, circa 1970**

*General note*
Photographs taken by Joshua Freiwald at Mountain View, California, commune. Some 8x10 portraits and group shots, some contact sheets.

Box 4, Folder 9  
**Peter Mintun, Daniel Ware, Sylvester James, Jody, Goldie Glitters in Sausalito, California, Summer 1970**

Box 4, Folder 10  
**Peter Mintun, Club Mandarin, San Francisco [2 copies], July 1971**

*General note*
"Happy 40--Love, Joshua" [Peter Mintun, Sylvester, Palace Theatre lobby, signed by Joshua Freiwald], undated

Box 3, Oversize-folder 9  
**Peter Mintun, John Rothermel, undated**

*General note*
In Palace Theatre (San Francisco, Calif.) alley. Photos by Clay Geerdes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Oversize-folder 10</th>
<th><strong>Peter Mintun, John Rothermel, Palace Theatre rehearsal, 1972</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photo by Anthony Enton Friedkin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 12</td>
<td><strong>Negatives, undated</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 13</td>
<td><strong>Passaloqua, Lennie, 1970?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 14</td>
<td><strong>Rothermel, John, undated</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 15</td>
<td><strong>Rumi at Palace Theatre rehearsal, October 1970</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 16</td>
<td><strong>Sylvester, 1970-1983, undated</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 photos: &quot;Miss Rubie Blue, 1925&quot; photo by Rosenhugh; &quot;To Peter...all my love, Rubie Bleu [sic], Sept. 6, 1970&quot;; 3 copies of photo by David Wise; Victorian Vignettes photo; &quot;Jann Wenner's office, Rolling Stone magazine, February 25, 1971; 2 snapshots on front steps of 946 Haight Street, San Francisco; 9 snapshots in various poses, some in Mountain View and San Francisco; August 1980, 2647 Pine St., San Francisco; Jan. 1983 with Mintun at piano.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 17</td>
<td><strong>Sylvester and Bobbie Cameron, (Mountain View, Calif.), 1970-1971?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Related materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Researchers are encouraged to see also Box 4 / Folder 12: Negatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 18</td>
<td><strong>Unidentified man, undated</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>