Descriptive Summary
Title: Leland Moss papers
Dates: circa 1952-1990
Collection Number: 1990-04
Creator/Collector:
Extent: 4.6 linear feet
Repository: GLBT Historical Society
San Francisco, California 94103
Abstract: The Leland Moss papers document the personal and professional life of this well-known actor, writer and director.
Language of Material: English
Access
Collection is open for research.
Preferred Citation
Leland Moss papers. GLBT Historical Society
Scope and Content of Collection
The Leland Moss papers document the personal and professional life of this well-known actor, writer and director. Prior to moving to the Bay Area, Moss directed and acted in Cambridge, Massachusetts and New York and was a resident director at La MaMa and Playwrights Horizons. In San Francisco, Moss worked with Theatre Rhinoceros, co-directing “The AIDS Show” and its updated version, “Unfinished Business,” with Doug Holsclaw. “The AIDS Show” was the first play by any theater company in the nation to deal with the AIDS epidemic, and brought The Rhino national attention. The company also produced Moss’ play, “Quisbies,” which dealt with the effects of AIDS. Moss died of AIDS in 1990. The collection includes 30 years of personal and professional correspondence, including copies of the letters Moss wrote to friends and colleagues informing them that he had tested positive for the AIDS virus; and nearly 30 years of personal journals and writings, including plays, poetry, prose, screenplays and journalism. Materials related to Moss’ work with Theatre Rhinoceros include drafts, scripts, notes and research materials for “The AIDS Show,” “Unfinished Business,” “Quisbies” and other plays. The collection also contains documentation of his lengthy career in the theater, including notes from his studies at Harvard University, plays he directed and roles he played, as well as flyers, playbills and photographs. There are also materials related to Moss’ practice of Buddhism and personalia, including writings by his parents, Paul and Thelma Moss.
Indexing Terms
Theater
AIDS Activism
Religion and Spirituality