Song of the Loon collection

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2020
Descriptive Summary

Title: Song of the Loon collection


Collection Number: 2003-35

Creator/Collector: Sayles, Shan V.

Extent: 8 linear feet

Repository: GLBT Historical Society
San Francisco, California 94103

Abstract: This collection contains materials related to Shan V. Sayles and “Song of the Loon,” one of the first feature films made by and for gay men. Released in 1970, it was based on the popular 1966 novel of the same name by Richard Amory, who also wrote the screenplay. Shan V. Sayles, owner of several gay male theaters including San Francisco’s Nob Hill Cinema, produced the film.

Language of Material: English

Access

Collection is open for research. Mailing lists and other records holding the names, addresses, and/or phone numbers of individuals will be restricted for 20 years. Funding for processing the original donation of the collection was provided by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR).

Preferred Citation

Song of the Loon collection. GLBT Historical Society

Acquisition Information


Scope and Content of Collection

This collection contains materials related to Shan V. Sayles and “Song of the Loon,” one of the first feature films made by and for gay men. Released in 1970, it was based on the popular 1966 novel of the same name by Richard Amory, who also wrote the screenplay. Shan V. Sayles, owner of several gay male theaters including San Francisco’s Nob Hill Cinema, produced the film. Publicity material called the “Song of the Loon” a romantic all-male saga of the Old West. The collection contains the original positive and negative 35mm and 16mm prints of the film, videotapes, financial records, promotional materials, a copy of the screenplay, and Polaroid snapshots, including pictures of the cast goofing around on the set. Researchers should note that some materials are housed at the Outfest Legacy Project at the UCLA Film and Television Archive. Cartons 1-2 contain prints/negatives of the film and 2 ¾” videotapes. Carton 3 includes candid photographs; flyers, posters, advertisements and other publicity materials, such as a press book and publicity photos; a screenplay; employment and theater contracts; articles about the “making of” “Song of the Loon”; and the 1998 Something Weird release of the film. There is also a Umatic video featuring footage from the hardcore pornographic film, “Boys in Chains,” circa late 1960s; and VHS tapes from BFP Video’s “Duo Series” from the 1990s. Cartons 4-6 and the manuscript box include audiovisual material related to the film “Comming Distractions” (alternate spelling “Coming Distraction’s”); various floppy disks; audiovisual material related to various gay films; papers related to Song of the Loon, theater, production records, and other subjects; photographs; and copies of the books “Song of the Loon”, “Song of Aaron”, and “Listen, the Loon Sings.”

Indexing Terms

Film/Video

Gay Men

Literature and Poetry