Vicki Marlane Photographs and Artifacts

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2020
Descriptive Summary
Title: Vicki Marlane Photographs and Artifacts
Dates: 1934-2013 (bulk 1981-2011)
Collection Number: 2014-01
Creator/Collector:
Extent: 2 cartons, 1 box (2.4 linear feet)
Repository: GLBT Historical Society
San Francisco, California 94103
Abstract: Vicki Marlane (1934-2011) was a critically acclaimed drag performer and transgender woman who worked in San Francisco. The Vicki Marlane Photographs and Artifacts document Marlane’s personal life in the 1970s and 1980s and her performance work in the 1990s.
Language of Material: English
Access
Collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
Vicki Marlane Photographs and Artifacts. GLBT Historical Society
Acquisition Information
Gift of Felicia Elizondo in February 2014.
Biography/Administrative History
Vicki Marlane (1934-2011) was a critically acclaimed drag performer and transgender woman who worked in San Francisco. Marlane’s numerous awards and the efforts of various LGBT organizations to rename a block of Turk Street after Marlane underscore her importance to these communities. Born on September 5, 1934, in Crookston, Minnesota, Marlane left her family’s farm after she began performing at a Minnesota gay bar at age 16. In the 1950s and 1960s, she toured nationally in circus sideshows, then with female impersonator troupes. In 1966, Marlane moved to, and performed widely in, San Francisco. In the 1980s, Marlane transitioned and moved to San Diego. Returning to the San Francisco drag scene in 1998, Marlane earned critical acclaim as “The Lady with the Liquid Spine” while performing at Aunt Charlie’s Lounge. Marlane continued to perform at Imperial and Ducal Court events, was Grand Marshal of the 2003 San Francisco Pride Parade, and was the subject of the documentary Forever’s Gonna Start Tonight (2009). She died July 5, 2011 of AIDS-related complications.
Scope and Content of Collection
The Vicki Marlane Photographs and Artifacts document Marlane’s personal life in the 1970s and 1980s and her performance work in the 1990s. There is a small amount of material on her early career. The collection is divided into four series: Biographical Material and Correspondence; Photographs; Publicity and Reviews; and Artifacts.
Indexing Terms
Transgender people