Finding Aid for the Janet Cunningham papers LSC.2355

UCLA Library Special Collections
Online finding aid last updated 2019 September 17
Room A1713, Charles E. Young Research Library
Box 951575
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1575
spec-coll@library.ucla.edu
URL: https://www.library.ucla.edu/special-collections
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Title: Janet Cunningham papers
Creator: Cunningham, Janet
Identifier/Call Number: LSC.2355
Physical Description: 25.8 Linear Feet (53 boxes, 7 shoe boxes, 3 flat boxes, and 1 oversize flat box)
Date (inclusive): 1967-2018
Abstract: Janet Cunningham moved from New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA) to Los Angeles in 1978 with her son Beau to pursue a career as a Hollywood writer. In 1981 she opened the Contemporary Artists Space of Hollywood (C.A.S.H.) nightclub and gallery next door to the Zero Zero Club on Cahuenga Boulevard, where she hosted punk music shows, theater, and art exhibitions; screened films and videos; and served NOLA-inspired red beans and rice to artists and fans. Cunningham spent most of her career in Hollywood as a casting agent with her Creative Artists Service of Hollywood (C.A.S.H.) agency where she employed punks as paid extras in films, television shows, and music videos. The Janet Cunningham papers range in date from 1967-2018 and contain Cunningham's handwritten diaries, C.A.S.H. files, photographs, audio and audiovisual materials, personal files, punk rock memorabilia, and NOLA files related to her documentary on the survival of African culture within New Orleans.

Language of Material: Materials are in English.

Stored off-site. All requests to access special collections material must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

Conditions Governing Access
Open for research. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

Conditions Governing Use
Copyright to portions of this collection has been assigned to the UCLA Library Special Collections. The library can grant permission to publish for materials to which it holds the copyright. All requests for permission to publish must be submitted in writing to Library Special Collections. Credit shall be given as follows: The Regents of the University of California on behalf of the UCLA Library Special Collections.

The photograph of Beau Cunningham, Janet's son, taken by photographer Gary Leonard in box 36, folders 4 and 5 may be accessed but shall be restricted from all duplication and publication until 2023 May 22.

Janet Cunningham's diaries, contained within boxes 1-6, are restricted from duplication and publication until 2023 May 22. During this period, her diaries will be accessible for reading and incidental quotation.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Janet Cunningham papers (Collection 2355). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Kathryn Gillum; Gift; 2018.

Processing Information
Processed by Kelly Besser, 2018.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
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Biographical / Historical
Janet Cunningham moved from New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA) to Los Angeles in 1978 with her son Beau to pursue a career as a Hollywood writer. In 1981 she opened the Contemporary Artists Space of Hollywood (C.A.S.H.) nightclub and gallery next door to the Zero Zero Club on Cahuenga Boulevard where she hosted punk music shows, theater, and art exhibitions; screened films and videos; and served NOLA inspired red beans and rice to artists and fans. The same year she opened C.A.S.H., Cunningham was invited by the University of California, San Diego graduate program of sociology to deliver her “Punk as a Social Movement” lecture for a course on social upheaval. Cunningham spent most of her career in Hollywood as a casting agent with her Creative Artists Service of Hollywood (C.A.S.H.) agency where she employed punks as paid extras in films, television shows, and music videos. Her casting credits for film include Valley Girl, Night of the Comet, and Cafe Flesh. She also cast music video extras for the following artists: Rockwell, Billy Idol, Ramones, Stray Cats, Blue Oyster Cult, Oingo Boingo, Josie Cotton, Bangles, Plimsouls, and Wasp. In addition to her work with C.A.S.H., Cunningham also worked...
as a writer, actor, production designer, art director, and landscape designer. Between 1996 and 1998, she produced, directed, and shot a documentary in NOLA about the survival of African culture within the city. After a battle with cancer in March 2018, Cunningham passed away at Garden Crest Rehabilitation Center in the Silver Lake neighborhood of Los Angeles. Her son Beauregard Baker predeceased her in 1986.

**Scope and Content**

**Arrangement**
This collection has been arranged in the following series:
- Series 1: Diaries, 1967-2008
- Series 3: Personal files, 1970-2018
- Series 4: New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA) files, 1996-2018

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements**
COLLECTION CONTAINS PROCESSED AND UNPROCESSED AUDIO AND AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS: Special equipment will be required for viewing. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

PORTIONS OF THIS COLLECTION HAVE BEEN DIGITIZED. Please consult digital facsimiles instead of originals.

COLLECTION CONTAINS UNPROCESSED DIGITAL MATERIALS: Special equipment or further processing may be required for viewing. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

**Related Materials**
The American Hotel and Al's Bar Project records (Collection 2305). Available at UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

Darby Romeo collection of zines (Collection 1746). Available at UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

Punk zines and ephemera collection (Collection 2276). Available at UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

S.A. Griffin collection of underground poetry, Scott Wannberg, and The Carma Bums (Collection 2248). Available at UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

Razorecake/Gorsky Press, Inc. records (Collection 2284). Available at UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Punk culture and art -- United States
Nightclubs -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archives
Alternative spaces (Arts facilities) -- California -- Los Angeles -- Archives
Alternative rock music -- California -- Los Angeles
Cunningham, Janet -- Archives
Series 1 Diaries

Scope and Contents
Cunningham's diaries are handwritten within composition books and detail her personal life and life as a writer in New York, New Orleans, and Los Angeles.

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Janet Cunningham's diaries, contained within boxes 1-6, are restricted from duplication and publication until 2023 May 22. During this period, her diaries will be accessible for reading and incidental quotation.

Series 2 C.A.S.H. files 1980-2010

Scope and Contents
The C.A.S.H. files include documentation of Cunningham's Contemporary Artists Space of Hollywood nightclub and gallery and her casting agency of the same acronym, Contemporary Artists Service of Hollywood.

Audio and audiovisual materials include two 7-inch vinyl records, forty-one CDs, sixteen VHSes, 6 Hi8s, ten Video8s, three 8mm films, 2 U-Matics, 2 MiniDVs, and 5 Video8s.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
SERIES CONTAINS PROCESSED AND UNPROCESSED AUDIO AND AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS: Audio and audiovisual materials in this collection will require assessment and possible digitization for safe access. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

SERIES CONTAINS DIGITAL MATERIALS: Special equipment or further processing may be required for viewing. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

Restricted
The photograph of Beau Cunningham, Janet's son, taken by photographer Gary Leonard in box 36, folders 4 and 5 may be accessed but shall be restricted from all duplication and publication until 2023 May 22.

Existence and Location of Copies
Digital copies of the Alien Dog Archives Herr Schadel Im Der Haus CD-RW in Box 34, the U-Matics and Video8s in Box 37 and the 8mm films in Box 39 are available. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.

Contemporary Artists Service of Hollywood (C.A.S.H.) casting cards

Scope and Contents
Contemporary Artists Space of Hollywood (C.A.S.H.) flyers, listings, press, photographs, and ephemera

Scope and Contents

SCRATCH Magazines

Scope and Contents
Cunningham's collection of SCRATCH Magazine which was "created as a collector's remembrance of Hollywood's night life at this point in time." Box 21 also includes C.A.S.H. photo albums and Cunningham's address book. Box 23 contains a signed catalog for the First Los Angeles Erotic Mail Art Show organized by Richard A. Meade at the Zero Zero gallery.

Casting files

Scope and Contents
Casting files include scripts and production notes for Gas, Food, Lodging, Punk Rocks, and Alien Dog. Box 26 contains a typed and handwritten Cunningham autobiography. Audiovisual materials include one 7-inch Adore O'Hara vinyl record entitled La Luna Fettuccine in Box 27.

Casting composition books

Scope and Contents
Cunningham's casting composition books are filled with her notes for productions.

Casting files

Scope and Contents
Casting files include scripts and production notes. Box 31 contains four photograph albums and crew lists for various productions. Box 34 contains Destroy All Movies!!! The Complete Guide to Punks on Film which is inscribed by the editors to Cunningham. Box 35 contains Cunningham's Rolodex and business cards. Audio and audiovisual materials in box 34 include Chocolate Orgasm, Why Work?, Hollywood Fantasy, Hooray for Hollywood, The Black Flag Returns, "Headshots," and Alien Dog Archives Herr Schadel Im Der Haus. Box 34 also contains twenty-three 3.5 inch floppy disks and 2 flash drives. Audio and audiovisual materials in box 37 include C.A.S.H. auditions, No Thanks!: The '70s Punk Rebellion, Punk Agents: The Butthead and The Punkization of Hollywood. Box 39 contains the following audiovisual materials: Faye Dunaway interview, Maggie interview, and Beau's "Jump" B-Day.

Personal files 1970-2018

Scope and Contents
The personal files contain Cunningham's correspondence, photographs, ephemera, and memorabilia. Audio and audiovisual materials include three 7-inch vinyl records, seventy-seven audiocassettes, and twenty-five microcassettes. Digital materials include one CD-R.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
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Series 3 Personal files 1970-2018

Correspondence, photographs, ephemera, and memorabilia
Scope and Contents
In addition to personal files which include photographs, programs, and ephemera from Cunningham's memorial, boxes 40-50 contain Cunningham's C.A.S.H. flyers, signs, photographs, and original collage artwork for C.A.S.H. punk casting flyers. Audio materials include two 7-inch vinyl records, *The Hollywood Hillbillys* and *The Mower Compilation #2* in box 41 and one 7-inch *The Euge* vinyl record in box 42. Digital materials include one "Photos for Janet Cunningham" CD-R in box 49.

Telephone answering machine messages
Scope and Contents
Cunningham's answering machine recordings include messages from artists and friends. Box 51 contains forty-nine audiocassettes and twenty-five microcassettes. Box 52 contains twenty-eight audiocassettes.

Series 4 NOLA files 1996-2018
Scope and Content
The NOLA files contain Cunningham's research notes, subject files, editing logs, audio recordings of interviews, master film and video footage, and trailer for her documentary film which focuses on the survival of African culture through NOLA jazz funerals, second line parades, Mardi Gras festivals, and REBIRTH. This includes two audiocassettes, eighty-four VHSes, seven MiniDVs, six VHSes, four Betacam (SP) videocassettes, nineteen Video8s, forty-four Hi8s, and one DVD-R of Cunningham's NOLA documentary. Box 64 contains Cunningham's own Mardi Gras mask which she made by hand.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
SERIES CONTAINS AUDIO AND AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS: Audio and audiovisual materials in this collection will require assessment and possible digitization for safe access. All requests to access special collections materials must be made in advance using the request button located on this page.