



JEFF HAGEDORN PAPERS

Coll2008-006

Contact Information

One National Gay & Lesbian Archives
909 West Adams Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007
Phone: (213) 741-0094
Fax: (213) 741-0220
E-mail: askone@onearchives.org

Processed by

Michael C. Oliveira

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Descriptive Summary

Title

Jeff Hagedorn Papers

Creator

Hagedorn, Jeff, 1957-1995

Extent

Number of containers: 2 records boxes, 1 oversize box, 1 shoebox
Linear feet: 3.8 linear feet

Date

1979-1995

Repository

ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Abstract

Scripts, journals, correspondence, flyers, programs, press releases, reviews, research materials, photographic negatives, publicity stills, and other materials, 1979 to 1995, relating to playwright Jeff Hagedorn, his production company, SYZYGY, and his internationally produced theatrical works and video productions.



Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

Publication Rights

Researchers wishing to publish material must obtain permission in writing from ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives as the physical owner of the material. Note that permission to publish does not constitute copyright clearance. ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives can grant copyright clearance only for those materials for which we hold copyright. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain copyright clearance for all other materials from the copyright holder(s).

Preferred Citation

Box #, folder #, Jeff Hagedorn Papers, Coll2008-006, ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California

Indexing Terms

This collection is indexed under the following terms:

- Hagedorn, Jeff, 1957-1995
- Jacobson, Tom
- Kuntze, Tilly S., 1952-
- McGregor, Proctor Keith, 1949-
- Thomas, Colin, 1952-
- Tradup, Troy, 1962-
- Gay dramatists
- Gay theater
- Homosexuality and theater
- Homosexuality in the theater

Acquisitions Information

Collection created from materials from box 104-54; materials found in the Jeff Hagedorn, *One*, and SYZYGY subject files; the Jeff Hagedorn file in the Performing Arts Collection (Coll2007-016), and the Gay and Lesbian Drama Scripts Collection (Coll2008-003).



Jeff Hagedorn Papers, Coll2008-006

Processing Information

Collection processed from box 104-54; materials found in the Jeff Hagedorn, *One*, and SYZYGY subject files; the Jeff Hagedorn file in the Performing Arts Collection (Coll2007-016), and the Gay and Lesbian Drama Scripts Collection (Coll2008-003), by Michael C. Oliveira, April 3, 2008.

Biography

Jeff Hagedorn was born in Milwaukee, and attended Ripon College and the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. He also took courses at Marquette, University of Wisconsin, Madison, and United States International University, San Diego. While he initially focused on directing, he soon realized his calling as a playwright. After relocating to Chicago, he became a founding member and resident playwright for the Lionheart Gay Theatre. In 1983, his play, *One*, became the first publicly produced theatrical work concerning AIDS. Hagedorn provided the play to AIDS organizations across the country as a fundraiser, and in the early years of the crisis benefit performances raised more than \$50,000. He also formed a production company, SYZYGY, that went on to revive Chicago's pub theater movement with quick-witted plays such as *The Layman's Guide to Safe Sex*. Hagedorn continued to craft seminal AIDS plays as the crisis progressed, from the desperate search for medication in *Crusaders*, to the challenges of testing in *High Risk Romance*, and "safe sex" in *Should Have Been A Love Play*. SYZYGY actors in Chicago performed a marathon of 11 his theatrical pieces in 12 days in 1988.

In a search for greater opportunities, Hagedorn moved to Los Angeles, continuing his community theater work through Celebration Theatre and his production company, SYZYGY. Hagedorn's theatrical productions were performed in over 32 cities in the United States, and internationally in Edinburgh, Manchester, and Berlin; in addition, he produced and distributed gay themed videos for a gay audience, including *Jerker* and *Dream Man*.

Hagedorn dedicated the last years of his life to preservation of gay and lesbian history, organizing the subject files and updating the database of the International Gay and Lesbian Archives, now ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives.

Scope and Content and Container List

The collection consists of three series: (1) Writings, (2) Personal papers, and (3) SYZYGY records. The first series contains scripts, flyers, programs, publicity stills, reviews, and other materials relating to Hagedorn's stage and video productions of theatrical works. The second series contains his resume, biographical information, correspondence, journals, and professional portfolio. The third series consists primarily of the correspondence of Hagedorn's production company, SYZYGY.

Series 1: Writings.

Date: circa 1981-1994

Extent: 2.5 linear feet

This series contains scripts, flyers, programs, publicity stills, and reviews, and other materials relating to Hagedorn's stage and video productions of theatrical works.

Box Folder

		<i>Annesplay</i> , 1981-1988
1	1	Documents, 1981
2	27	Photographs, publicity stills, 1988
1	2	<i>Cinderella</i> , script, 1981
		<i>Clowns in the Kitchen</i> , 1984-1993
1	3	Documents, 1984-1993
2	28	Photographs, publicity stills, 1988-1992
3	1	Newspaper clippings, 1988 (Oversize)
3	10	Clippings, 1988-1993 (Oversize)
		<i>Crusaders</i> , 1987-1993
1	4	Documents, 1988-1993
3	2	Clippings, 1993 (Oversize)
3	11	Newspaper clippings, 1987 (Oversize)
2	29	Photographs of Hagedorn in Berlin, 1993
		<i>Face to Face on AIDS</i> , 1987-1988
1	5	Documents and scripts, 1987-1988
3	12	Clippings, 1987 (Oversize)
		<i>High Risk Romance</i> , 1986-1987
1	6-7	Documents and scripts, 1986-1987
2	30	Photographs, publicity stills, 1986
3	3	Newspaper clippings, 1987 (Oversize)
3	13	Clippings, 1986-1987 (Oversize)
1	8	<i>How I Learned to Turn the Beat Around, Kiss a Man with a Moustache and Run a Four Minute Mile in Platform Shoes</i> , script, 1992
1	9	<i>Hymen</i> , incomplete script drafts, circa 1985
		<i>I Cover the Lockerroom</i> , 1988

1	10	Documents and script, 1988
2	31	Photographs, publicity stills, 1988
3	4	Newspaper clippings, 1988 (Oversize)
		<i>In a Room with a Brass Bed</i> , 1984
1	11	Documents, 1984
2	32	Photographs, publicity stills, 1984
3	14	Poster and clippings, 1984 (Oversize)
1	12	<i>Laughing Out Loud</i> , correspondence, 1985
		<i>The Layman's Guide to Safe Sex</i> , 1987-1989
1	13	Documents and script, 1987-1989
2	33	Photographs, publicity stills, 1987
3	5	Newspaper clippings, 1987-1989 (Oversize)
3	15	Clippings, 1987 (Oversize)
		<i>One</i> , 1983-1990
1	14-15	Documents and script, 1983-1990
2	34	Photographs, publicity stills, 1983
3	6	Newspaper clippings, 1983-1986 (Oversize)
3	16	Clippings, 1983-1987 (Oversize)
1	16	<i>One at Ten</i> , documents, 1993-1994
1	17	<i>Other Women, Other Men</i> , script, 1988
2	35	<i>Poems to an Ex-Lover</i> , publicity stills, 1983
		<i>Rhyme or Treason</i> , 1987
1	18	Documents, 1987
2	36	Photographs, publicity stills, 1987
3	7	Newspaper clippings, 1987 (Oversize)
1	19-20	<i>Should Have Been a Love Play</i> , draft manuscript, documents, scripts, 1984
		<i>Should Have Been a Love Song</i> , 1990-1993
1	21	Documents, 1990-1993
2	37	Photographs, publicity stills, 1990
		<i>Some of Us Just Aren't that Weird</i> , 1986-1991
1	22	Documents, 1986-1991
2	38	Photographs, publicity stills, 1987
3	17	Clippings, 1987 (Oversize)
1	23	<i>Someone Just Like You</i> , promotional postcard, 1990-1992
1	24	<i>Songs of Faith</i> , documents and script, 1988-1990
1	25	<i>Sweet Sorrows</i> , reviews, 1985
1	26	<i>Waiting for the Blue Haired Child</i> , script, circa 1985
1	27	<i>Wild Child and the Man</i> , script, 1989-1992
1	28	<i>Women in Power</i> , script, 1980
		Unidentified
1	29-30	Manuscript drafts, circa 1985
1	31	Typescript, circa 1990

Series 2: Personal papers.

Date: circa 1975-circa 1989

Extent: 0.9 linear foot.

This series contains Hagedorn's writing resume, biographical information, correspondence, personal journals, a professional portfolio, and a trophy. The biographical information consists of printed interviews and an obituary. The correspondence files include Hagedorn's personal correspondence, his letters to the editor, interoffice memos from his employer regarding his sick time, faxes to his doctor, and party invitation created from magazine and newspaper clippings. The series also contains some of his personal journals, a professional portfolio, and a trophy from *Gay Chicago Magazine*.

Box Folder

- 1 32-33 Writing resume, news clippings, 1980-1989
Biographical, 1984-1995
- 1 34. Interviews, clippings, obituary, 1987-1995
- 3 8 Newspaper clippings, 1984-1988 (Oversize)
- 3 19 Clippings, 1987 (Oversize)
- Correspondence
- 1 35-36 General Correspondence, 1987-1995
- 1 37-38 Party invitations (collages), 1986-1988
- 3 18 Party invitations (collages), 1986-1988 (Oversize)
- 2 39 Photographs (personal), circa 1975-1990
- 2 2 Professional portfolio, circa 1987
- Journals, circa 1979-circa 1989
- 2 3 Mead, October 8, circa 1979
- 2 4 January 31, 1981
- 2 5 May 21, 1983
- 2 6 January 14, 1984
- 2 7 February 19, 1984
- 2 8 December 26, 1985
- 2 9 August 25, 1986
- 2 10 August 26, 1986
- 2 11 May 1, 1987
- 2 12 December 29, 1987
- 2 13 Cambridge notepad, circa 1988
- 2 14 October 13, 1988, 1988
- 2 15 Cambridge steno, circa 1989
- 2 16 Data Com, circa 1989
- 2 17 April 20, 1989
- 2 18 June 11, 1989
- 4 Trophy from *Gay Chicago Magazine*, 1987

Series 3: SYZYGY records.

Date: circa 1987-1993

Extent: 0.5 linear foot

Hagedorn's production company records consist of clippings and programs from a marathon performance of 15 of his theatrical works, correspondence, order slips for videos, and submissions of scripts by playwrights Tom Jacobson, Till S. Kuntze, Proctor Keith McGregor, Colin Thomas, and Troy Tradup for review in the SYZYGY newsletter.

Box Folder

		Marathon of Hagedorn's theatrical works, 1988
2	19	Clippings and documents, 1988
3	9	Newspaper clippings, 1988 (Oversize)
2	20	Correspondence, 1990-1992
2	40	Headshots and actors' resumes, 1990
		Publicity stills
2	41	<i>Jerker, Dream Man</i> , 1991
2	42	Unidentified productions, circa 1990
2	21	Videotape order forms for <i>Should Have Been a Love Play</i> , <i>Jerker, Dream Man</i> , 1991-1992
		Script submissions, 1988-1993
2	22	Jacobson, Tom, <i>Son of Othello</i> , 1993
2	23	Kuntze, Till S., <i>I Can't See the Sky</i> , 1988
2	24	McGregor, Proctor Keith, <i>Sand Dollar Cove</i> , 1988
2	25	Thomas, Colin, <i>Flesh and Blood</i> , 1991-1992
2	26	Tradup, Troy, <i>The Time at the End of This Time</i> , 1993