



ArchivesSpace

Sylvester Collection

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Finding aid is in English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center

100 Larkin Street
San Francisco 94102

info@sfpl.org

URL: <http://sfpl.org/gaylesbian>

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Summary Information

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| Repository: | James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center |
| Title: | Collection on Sylvester |
| ID: | GLC 101 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1979-1998, undated |
| Physical Description: | 3 folders (2 legal folders, 1 oversized folder) |
| Physical Location: | The collection is stored onsite. |
| Physical Location: | The collection is stored in L65. |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Language of the Material: | Collection materials are in English. |
| Abstract: | Sylvester James, Jr. (September 6, 1947–December 16, 1988), better known as Sylvester, was an American disco and soul singer-songwriter. He was known for his flamboyant and androgynous appearance. The collection contains photographs of Sylvester taken at a performance at the War Memorial Opera House (San Francisco), March 11, 1979; at an Atlanta AIDS Benefit, January 31, 1983; at his birthday party, September 10, 1983; and two portraits that may have been used for promotional purposes. In addition, there is a press kit for a documentary on his life, and proclamations from San Francisco mayors Dianne Feinstein and Art Agnos regarding celebrations in his honor. |

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Collection on Sylvester (GLC 101), Gay and Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library.

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Biographical Note

Sylvester James, Jr. (September 6, 1947-December 16, 1988), better known as Sylvester, was an American disco and soul singer-songwriter. He lived in San Francisco and performed with the Cockettes in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He was known for his flamboyant and androgynous appearance. He died of AIDS on December 16, 1988.

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Scope and Content

The collection contains photographs of Sylvester taken at a performance at the War Memorial Opera House (San Francisco), March 11, 1979; at an Atlanta AIDS Benefit, January 31, 1983; at his birthday party, September 10, 1983; and two portraits that may have been used for promotional purposes. In addition, there is a press kit for the documentary *Do You Wanna Funk: the Life and Times of Sylvester*, and proclamations from San Francisco mayors Dianne Feinstein and Art Agnos regarding celebrations to honor of Sylvester.

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Arrangement

Arranged by format: Photographs, Subject File, and Certificates. Arranged in chronological order within each folder.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access

The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center hours, with photographs available during Photo Desk hours.

Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items. Copyright retained by photographers.

Provenance

The photographs were donated by Monica Wynn, February 2005. The proclamations were donated by Barbara Smookler, May 2011. The provenance of the press kit is unknown.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Sylvester
- Sylvester -- Pictorial works

Collection Inventory

| Title/Description | Instances |
|--|----------------------------|
| Photographs, 1979, 1983, undated <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder <u>Access:</u> Access The photographs are available during Photo Desk hours. | |
| Sylvester at Opera House, uncredited, (black and white), March 11, 1979 | folder 1 photograph 1 |

| | | |
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| Signed "To Tim, A Very Strange and Wonderful Queen! Sometimes Butch and Sometimes Not. But I love you anyway. Kisses, Sylvester 79." Uncredited, (color), printed April 1979 | folder 1 | photograph 2 |
| Atlanta, Georgia AIDS Benefit: Tim McKenna, Carol Douglas, Sylvester, Frank Loverde, Angela Clemmons. Rick Diamond Photography (black and white), January 31, 1983 | folder 1 | photograph 3 |
| Sylvester's Birthday Party, Prism, San Francisco: Paul Parker, Ken, Tim McKenna, Sylvester, Izora Rhodes, Marty Blecman, Chris Desson, Jeanie Tracy, Frank Loverde, Tip Wirrick, unidentified. Uncredited (black and white), September 10, 1983 | folder 1 | photograph 4 |
| Sylvester's Birthday 1983: Sylvester, Tim McKenna. Mick Hicks Photographer (black and white), 1983 | folder 1 | photograph 5 |
| Sylvester portrait. Photo by Phil Bray (black and white), undated | folder 1 | photograph 6 |
| Press kit for <i>Do You Wanna Funk: The Life and Times of Sylvester</i> , a music documentary by Tim Smyth, 1998 | folder 2 | |
| Proclamations, 1987, 1989 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder (2 oversized items) | | |
| Dianne Feinstein, Mayor, City and County of San Francisco to Sylvester regarding his 40th birthday celebration, September 4, 1987 | oversize- folder 1 | |
| Art Agnos, Mayor, City and County of San Francisco proclamation regarding Sylvester's Remembrance Day in San Francisco, February 18, 1989 | oversize- folder 1 | |