

Inventory of the Leland Moss Papers

(#1990-04)

Note: This document is a preliminary inventory, not a completed finding aid. The collection is surveyed but not processed, and its organization and composition are subject to change. This inventory is intended to help researchers better understand the general scope and content of the collection.

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Leland Moss papers

Collection Number: 1990-04

Physical Description: 6 linear feet (4 cartons, 1 manuscript box)

Creator: Leland Moss

Date (inclusive): 1952-1990 (bulk 1972-1989)

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Leland Moss (1948-1990) was a theater director and playwright who is best known for *The AIDS Show*, a 1984 work he produced with Theatre Rhinoceros in San Francisco. This collection includes personal and professional correspondence, as well as nearly 30 years of personal journals and writings, including plays, poetry, prose, screenplays, and journalism. Materials related to Moss' work with Theatre Rhinoceros include drafts, scripts, notes and research materials for *The AIDS Show*, *Unfinished Business*, *Quisbies* and other plays.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Leland Moss papers (#1990-04), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research. Some materials, including counseling documents in Carton 2 and medical records in Box 1, may be restricted; please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives for details.

Publication Rights:

For the status of the rights to this material, please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives.

Acquisition Information:

For this material's acquisition information, please contact the GLBT Historical Society archives.

Processing Information:

Inventory created by Isaac Fellman in 2020, based on processing by Leslie Batchelder in 1998 and additional surveying by Marjorie Bryer in 2011.

This inventory uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical/Organizational History Note: Leland Moss (1948-1990) was a theater director and playwright who is best known for *The AIDS Show*, a 1984 work he produced with Theatre Rhinoceros in San Francisco. After studying at Harvard and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, he worked with companies that included La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, Playwrights Horizons, and the New York Shakespeare Festival. In 1980, he moved to Berkeley and began working for Theater Rhinoceros. Moss died of AIDS in 1990.

Scope and Content: This collection includes personal and professional correspondence, as well as nearly 30 years of personal journals and writings, including plays, poetry, prose, screenplays, and journalism. Materials related to Moss' work with Theatre Rhinoceros include drafts, scripts, notes and research materials for *The AIDS Show*, *Unfinished Business*, *Quisbies* and other plays. The collection also contains documentation of his lengthy career in the theater, including notes from his studies at Harvard University, plays he directed and roles he played, as well as flyers, playbills and photographs. There are also materials related to Moss' Buddhist practice, and personalia, including writings by his parents, Paul and Thelma Moss.

Indexing Terms:

Gay men
Theatre
AIDS (disease)

Container Listing

CARTON 1
Manuscripts by Leland Moss

Early Play: Had a Great Fall

Draft Play: And Do You Like The Human Race, 1963
Play: Too Many Worlds (And Do You Like The Human Race), 1963
Play: 2nd version, *Too Many Worlds* (And Do You Like The Human Race), 1963
Journalistic Academic Paper: “Oh Say Can You See: An Examination of the Process of the Americanization of Vian” May 6, 1968
“Self-titled”: Creative Writing (various pieces)
“Pre-College Writing”: Play, *The Gift of Death*, 57 pages.
“Pre-College Writing”: Play, drafts, mostly *The Gift of Death*
“Pre-College Writing”: Play, *And Do You Like The Human Race*, 53 pages.
“Pre-College Writing”: Play, *And Miles To Go Before I Sleep*, 15 pages
“Pre-College Writing”: Play, *Prunes and Coffee*, 61 pages.
“Pre-College Writing”: various fragments
“Regrets Should Fade and Hope Remain Constant”: Photo-essay about Moss’ grandmother.
Photographs
Notes on construction of “Regrets Should Fade and Hope Remain Constant” and manuscript in draft form
Manuscript fragments
Manuscript (early), title unknown
Quisbies, early draft and revisions. This is a play about a group of friends coming to terms with the death of a friend lost to AIDS, one of the earliest plays to tackle this theme. The play went on to be performed at the Kennedy Center.
Quisbies revisions
Quisbies draft with notes
Quisbies manuscript 1st version.
Quisbies manuscript, Kennedy Center version

Act I:6 Quisbies , published in ZYZZYVA vol. IV No. 2, Summer 1988
Manuscript: Julie And Her Friends
Two drafts of But What Is The Sound of A View?, year unknown.
Screenplay: Adaptation of Eliot’s *Waste Land*
Screenplay: Adaptation of Maugham’s *The Razor’s Edge*
Fragments including, “Notes on My Own Story” and “Port Chester Summer.”
“Poetry” includes various poems
“Fiction” includes a fragment of Taylor, outlines, dialogues and short stories.
“Book Second Draft”: contains fragments with the following headings: “People Will Always Leave You and “Beanstalk: Lessons For An Inorganic Actor.”
From a file entitled, “Book: Original Materials”
Various Manuscripts, drafts, plays, books
“Beanstalk” draft
Screenplay, *Waste Land*

Prose, "Journey to England: Good-bye and Thanks For Everything," 1970
Unidentified Fragments (3 folders)
"Acting Lessons"
Manuscript: "Acting Lessons"

Carton 2
Manuscripts, Theater Rhinoceros

AIDS Show/Theater Rhinoceros
AIDS Show Old Scripts (3 folders)
Unfinished Business: AIDS Show Revised Version
Unfinished Business: AIDS Show 1985-86
Unfinished Business: AIDS Show
Unfinished Business: Aids Show, Theater Rhinoceros Version
AIDS Show Old Scripts
AIDS Show Old Scripts
Moss Interview Clippings Concerning His Career and Theater Rhinoceros, 1971-1974
Theater Rhinoceros/Quisbies Production
Moss' Application to Become Director of Theater Rhinoceros
Theater Rhinoceros Reviews

Essays Pertaining to Death and Grief (may have been used as source material for AIDS Show)
Medical Essays on Cancer and Immunodeficiency Treatments
Shanti Project (2 folders)
Los Angeles Counseling

General Theater Notes and Harvard Acting Study Notes
Playwright Competitions
"Audition Pieces"
Playbills

Theater Awards: includes the Hollywood Dramalogue Critics Award for Writing (Quisbies), the
Dramalogue Critics Award for both Production and Directing Genet's Balcony, and the Cable Car
Award for Directing and Production of "The Life of The Party"
Actors Equity contracts
Yentl script (actor)
1969 Three Sisters (director)
1970 Baal (director)
Harvard Summer Rep, 1970
1970 Godot (actor)

1972 LaMaMa And Things That Go Bump In The Night (director)
1974 LaMaMa Measure For Measure (director)
Twelfth Night notebook
Theater notebook
1977 The Tempest (director)
Cymbeline journal and notes
Mission review (director)—also has “Mississippi Moonshine” flyers
Lion Theater Company reviews
Godot and Travelers reviews, with photographs
1988 Genet Balcony (director)
Theater Memorabilia/Travelers
Theater production, personal notebook, undated

CARTON 3:

Correspondence
1
960-65, 2 folders
1966-69, 3 folders
1969-72
1973-75, 3 folders
1976-79, 3 folders
1980-88
1983-85
“Post Diagnosis Personal Correspondence”
Unfiled correspondence

CARTON 4:

Correspondence, notebooks, and journals

Correspondence
Cards
Christmas Cards, 3 folders
Postcards

Buddhism reading list
Dharma Art
Kum Nye
Kum Nye Essay and Notes, 1980
Blue Notebook: Exercises pertaining to Moss’ Buddhism. 1977 (4 folders)

Music, including Gay Chorus notes

Journalism

Ram Dass Interview: 1977-78 Gaysweek

Gaysweek Interviews

Gayswest articles

Winthrop Drama Review. Moss editor and contributor

Journals

"Journal Material"

1977 Retrospectives

Dream Journal 2/14/77-5/77

Dream Journal 1977

Journal 1972

Journal 1972-73

"Mid-70s Journal"

1963 Journal

Journal 1965

Diary 1970-71

Journal 1972

Journal 1977 (3 folders)

Journal Kum Nye Period 1979-1980? (3 folders)

Journal 1982

Journal Dates Unknown

Journal 5/84 until Death

Theater Production Journal Year Unknown

Box 1

Contains a few of the journals from the previous carton, including an illustrated journal, 1975-1976.

Newspaper Clippings, 1971-1990

Personal Documents: Report cards, Social Security card

Healthcare Documents

Tax Records

"Quisbie Sybaritic Society"

"Moss, Thelma: Contains Possible Manuscript Fragments Written by Moss' Mother

"Paul Moss": Radio Play Co-written by Moss' Father Paul ("Finder") Moss.

"Pearl Hart": Manuscript/information by/about gay male singer Pearl Hart

Sympathy, Signed Manuscript by Dana Coen, 1985

Contact Lists: names and addresses of various colleagues and friends

Temescal Gay Chorus