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Collection on Sylvester

Finding aid created by James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center staff using RecordEXPRESS
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2016

Descriptive Summary

Title: Collection on Sylvester

Dates: 1979-1998, undated

Collection Number: GLC 101

Creator/Collector:

Extent: 3 folders (2 legal folders, 1 oversized folder)

Repository: San Francisco Public Library. James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center

San Francisco, California 94102

Abstract: Sylvester James, Jr. (September 6, 1947-December 16, 1988), better known as Sylvester, was an American disco and soul singersongwriter. He was known for his flamboyant and androgynous appearance. The collection contains photographs of Sylvester taken at performances, at his birthday party, 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.

Language of Material: English

Access

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

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

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Acquisition Information

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.

Biography/Administrative History

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.

Scope and Content of Collection

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.

Indexing Terms

Sylvester.

Sylvester--Pictorial works.

Finding aid