

GLBT Historical Society
Dr. John P. De Cecco Archives and Special Collections
Holdings related to Sylvester

Last edited: May 2020

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This research guide is intended to help users locate holdings related to Sylvester in the GLBT Historical Society Dr. John P. De Cecco Archives and Special Collections.

Sections include:

- Manuscript Collections
- Audio and Film Recordings
- Photographs
- Periodicals

Other collections may also contain relevant materials. Researchers are encouraged to conduct their own searches of the catalog and finding aids. Please reach out to reference@glbthistory.org with any questions or comments.

Manuscript Collections

Sylvester collection (2018-05). Sylvester (1947-1988) was a famed Black, genderqueer, disco performer and singer-songwriter. The collection contains performance costumes, family photographs, press materials, awards, albums, and personal items such as hand-made jewelry made by Sylvester.

Todd Trexler collection (2006-33). This collection contains posters and original artwork by Todd Trexler. The collection includes Sylvester posters along with many other performers.

Erik Nielsen papers (1992-14). The Erik Nielsen papers contain materials related to his career as a party producer in the 1970s and 1980s. He worked in Artist Management with Fantasy Records, where he represented Sylvester and other artists. The collection includes publicity material, including photographs, and other material related to Sylvester.

San Francisco LGBT Biography Ephemera Collection. Request the folders on Sylvester.

Audio and Film Recordings

Video titled Sylvester Celebrates. This footage includes live performances by Sylvester, including his performance at his 40th birthday celebration and at the 1985 Cable Car Awards. Video by Charles Cyberski for his business, Male Entertainment Network (MEN).
<https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/glb/bundles/238690?searchOffset=0>

Audio recording of a Jon Sugar Tribute to Sylvester from Fruit Punch Radio:
<https://californiarevealed.org/islandora/object/cavpp%3A21041> (begin at 28:54)

Charles Cyberski Videotapes (1994-03). Footage produced by Charles Cyberski for his Male Entertainment Network, plus other videotapes he collected. The collection includes a number of recordings of Sylvester. Many of the recordings have been digitized. Contact reference@glbthistory.org for more information regarding access.

Photographs

Many of our collections include photographs of Sylvester. Included here is a list of some of our most commonly requested collections. Some collections may have digitized content that can be made available for remote viewing. Contact reference@glbthistory.org for more information.

Collection of slides of black gay events (1997-39). These slides were found after the death of their owner, an African-American gay man. They document gay African-American concerts and dances. Includes a number of images of the disco diva, Sylvester.

Mick Hicks photographs (1998-49). Mick Hicks is a prolific photographer. The collection includes a number of photographs of Sylvester and other subjects.

Daniel Nicoletta slides (1999-02). This collection contains thirty slides of photos depicting Sylvester, Divine, and the Cockettes during performances and events throughout the 1970s and 1990s. The images are by Nicoletta and other photographers.

Crawford Wayne Barton papers (1993-11). Barton is best known as a photographer of San Francisco's gay culture in the 1970s. The collection includes photographs of Sylvester.

Periodicals

Many of our periodicals may contain articles related to Sylvester. Periodical titles can be searched here: <https://www.glbthistory.org/catalog-search>

The complete run of the Bay Area Reporter (BAR) has been digitized and is keyword searchable and available here:

<https://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=cl&cl=CL2.1995.09&sp=BAR&e=-----en--20--1--txt-txIN-----1>

To get started, this link takes you to a search of the BAR for “Sylvester”:

<https://cdnc.ucr.edu/?a=q&hs=1&r=1&results=1&txq=sylvester&puq=BAR&e=-----en--20--1--txt-txIN-----1>