
Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Michael Gubicza through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories on PDF produced on July 17, 2019
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary Information</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical/Historical Note</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Information</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlled Access Headings</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary Information

Repository: John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center  
Creator: Capsuto, Steven  
Title: Steven Capsuto book research files for "Alternate Channels"  
ID: Ms.Coll.19  
Date: circa 1998-2001  
Physical Description: 5 Linear Feet  
Physical Description: 4 records cartons  
Physical Location: Collections 15 and Collections 17  
Language of the Material: English  

^ Return to Table of Contents

Biographical/Historical Note

"Steven Capsuto earned a B.A. in Spanish from Rutgers University in 1986, with a double minor in U.S. History and Mass Media & Journalism. Since 1989, he has been presenting video-illustrated lectures about how television portrays lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender lives.

"He began researching the media's LGBT images in the late 1980s, while volunteering at a crisis hotline. Many of the callers were suicidal gay teens who had built their self-image on the grim depictions seen on television at that time.

"His book, Alternate Channels, traces the radical changes in queer imagery on radio and TV from 1930 to 2000. It has a five-star rating on Amazon.com and was a semifinalist for a 2001 ALA Book Award. Alternate Channels has been used in college courses and is widely cited by other researchers and authors."
"Steven has contributed related articles to periodicals and reference books, has presented LGBT-history papers at academic conferences in several countries, and served on the research teams for documentaries seen on PBS and Bravo cable (including *The Question of Equality and TV Revolution*).

"He was the head archivist of the GLBT Archives of Philadelphia from 1997 to 2003, and has been involved in LGBT equality causes since the 1980s.

"He is a full-time professional translator, mainly translating texts into English from Catalan, French, Portuguese and Spanish."

**Bibliography:**


\^ Return to Table of Contents

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**Scope and Content Note**

This collection consists of files compiled by Steven Capsuto while writing his book *Alternate Channels: The Uncensored Story of Gay and Lesbian Images on Radio and Television, 1930s to the Present* (New York: Ballantine, 2000). His research includes original and copy newspaper/magazine clippings, press releases from GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) and other LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) advocacy groups, excerpts from television show scripts, and some emails regarding his research. The collection also contains outlines, notes, and drafts from various stages of Capsuto's book-writing process.

\^ Return to Table of Contents

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**Administrative Information**

**Publication Statement**

John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center

1315 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
archives@waygay.org
Conditions Governing Access Note

Contact John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia for information about accessing this collection.

Processing Information Note

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2011-2012 as part of a pilot project conducted by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to make better known and more accessible the largely hidden collections of small, primarily volunteer run repositories in the Philadelphia area. The Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR) was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was accomplished during the HCI-PSAR project.

In some cases, more detailed inventories or finding aids may be available on-site at the repository where this collection is held; please contact John J. Wilcox Jr. LGBT Archives of Philadelphia directly for more information.

Controlled Access Headings

- Gay men
- Gays
- Gays in the performing arts
- Lesbians
- Mass media and gays
- Philadelphia (Pa.)
- Television and gays
- Television programs for gays