
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

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Summary Information

Repository: John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center
Creator: Boyd, Claude A.
Title: Claude A. Boyd papers
ID: Ms.Coll.20
Date [inclusive]: 1966-1985
Date [bulk]: 1980-1982
Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet
Physical Description: 1 box
Physical Location: Collections 13
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: Claude A. Boyd (d. circa 1985) was a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania based performance artist and musician. The Claude A. Boyd papers, 1966-1985, include drafts of music and lyrics as well as other performance related materials. There are also writings by Boyd's partner Jeff Davidson, including fiction and personal stories.

Biographical/Historical Note

Claude A. Boyd was a choreographer/dancer, writer/director, and composer/musician. Born in Rhode Island, he spent time in San Diego, California; Sydney, Australia; and other cities before setting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from 1982 until his death of AIDS around 1985. His directing and choreography credits included Bessie Smith, Empress of the Blues at Theatre Center Philadephia and Testify (an original musical written by Boyd). Boyd was active in many performing arts organizations and lesbian and gay groups, notably Black and White Men Together.

Bibliography:

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists primarily of Boyd's drafts of music, lyrics, and choreography; rehearsal and production schedules and notes; and a high school yearbook. There is a small amount of audio/visual materials, all of which depict Boyd's productions and dance performances: 1 Sony V-32 video tape for helical scan video tape recorders; 2 U-Matic videotapes; and 3 VHS videocassettes. There are also a few photographs and color slides.

The collection also includes writings by Boyd's partner, Jeff Davidson: fiction, personal stories (coming out), speeches/news about Philadelphia LGBT activism and groups, 1966-1970s; and letters from Jeff Davidson to Claude A. Boyd and Richard Wagner, circa 1982-1985. There is some reference in Davidson's writings to his involvement with the group "Black and White Men Together" and other LGBT activist groups.

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.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

Transferred from Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California, 1996.
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.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Coming out (Sexual orientation)
- Choreographers
- Gays and the performing arts
- Musical theater
- Philadelphia (Pa.)
- Boyd, Claude A.
- Davidson, Jeff, d. 1989