
Jeff Hagedorn Papers

Collection number: Coll2008-006

ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives
Los Angeles, California

Processed by:

Michael C. Oliveira

Date Completed:

April 3, 2008

Encoded by:

Michael C. Oliveira

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Processing this collection has been funded by a generous grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.



Descriptive Summary

Title: Jeff Hagedorn papers

Dates: 1979-1995

Collection number: Coll2008-006

Creator: Hagedorn, Jeff, 1957-1995

Collection Size: 2 records boxes, 1 oversize box, 1 shoebox.3.8 linear feet.

Repository: ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives.

Los Angeles, California 90007

Abstract: Scripts, journals, correspondence, flyers, programs, press releases, reviews, research materials, photographic negatives, publicity stills, and other materials, 1979 to 1995, relating to playwright Jeff Hagedorn, his production company, SYZYGY, and his internationally produced theatrical works and video productions.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

Publication Rights

Researchers wishing to publish materials must obtain permission in writing from ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives as the physical owner. Researchers must also obtain clearance from the holder(s) of any copyrights in the materials. Note that ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives can grant copyright clearance only for those materials for which we hold the copyright. It is the responsibility of the researcher to obtain copyright clearance for all other materials directly from the copyright holder(s).

Preferred Citation

Box #, folder #, Jeff Hagedorn Papers, Coll2008-006, ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

Acquisition Information

Collection created from materials from box 104-54; materials found in the Jeff Hagedorn, *One*, and SYZYGY subject files; the Jeff Hagedorn file in the Performing Arts Collection (Coll2007-016), and the Gay and Lesbian Drama Scripts Collection (Coll2008-003).

Processing Information

Collection processed from box 104-54; materials found in the Jeff Hagedorn, *One*, and SYZYGY subject files; the Jeff Hagedorn file in the Performing Arts Collection (Coll2007-016), and the Gay and Lesbian Drama Scripts Collection (Coll2008-003), by Michael C. Oliveira, April 3, 2008.

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Biography

Jeff Hagedorn was born in Milwaukee, and attended Ripon College and the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater. He also took courses at Marquette, University of Wisconsin, Madison, and United States International University, San Diego. While he initially focused on directing, he soon realized his calling as a playwright. After relocating to Chicago, he became a founding member and resident playwright for the Lionheart Gay Theatre. In 1983, his play, *One*, became the first publicly produced theatrical work concerning AIDS. Hagedorn provided the play to AIDS organizations across the country as a fundraiser, and in the early years of the crisis benefit performances raised more than \$50,000. He also formed a production company, SYZYGY, that went on to revive Chicago's pub theater movement with quick witted plays such as *The Layman's Guide to Safe Sex*. Hagedorn continued to craft seminal AIDS plays as the crisis progressed, from the desperate search for medication in *Crusaders*, to the challenges of testing in *High Risk Romance*, and "safe sex" in *Should Have Been A Love Play*. SYZYGY actors in Chicago performed a marathon of 11 his theatrical pieces in 12 days in 1988.

In a search for greater opportunities, Hagedorn moved to Los Angeles, continuing his community theater work through Celebration Theatre and his production company, SYZYGY. Hagedorn's theatrical productions were performed in over 32 cities in the United States, and internationally in Edinburgh, Manchester, and Berlin; in addition, he produced and distributed gay themed videos for a gay audience, including *Jerker* and *Dream Man*.

Hagedorn dedicated the last years of his life to preservation of gay and lesbian history, organizing the subject files and updating the database of the International Gay and Lesbian Archives, now ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Hagedorn collection consists of three series: (1) Writings, (2) Personal papers, and (3) SYZYGY records. The first series contains scripts, flyers, programs, publicity stills, and reviews, and other materials relating to Hagedorn's stage and video productions of theatrical works. The second series contains his resume, biographical information, correspondence, journals, and professional portfolio. The third series consists primarily of the correspondence of Hagedorn's production company, SYZYGY.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Hagedorn, Jeff, 1957-1995

Jacobson, Tom

Kuntze, Tilly S., 1952-

McGregor, Proctor Keith, 1949-

Thomas, Colin, 1952-

Tradup, Troy, 1962-

Gay dramatists

Gay theater

Homosexuality and theater

Homosexuality in the theater

Series 1: **Writings circa 1981-1994**

Physical Description: 2.5 linear feet.

Series Scope and Content

This series contains scripts, flyers, programs, publicity stills, and reviews, and other materials relating to Hagedorn's stage and video productions of theatrical works.

Box 1 : 1 ; 2 : 27 **Annesplay 1981-1988**

Physical Description: 2 folders.

Box 1 : 1 **Documents 1981**

Box 2 : 27 **Photographs, publicity stills 1988**

Box 1 : 2 **Cinderella, script 1981**

Box 1 : 3 ; 2 : 28 ; 3 : **Clowns in the Kitchen 1984-1993**

1 (Oversize); 3 : 10
(Oversize) **Physical Description:** 4 folders.

Box 1 : 3 **Documents 1984-1993**

Box 2 : 28 **Photographs, publicity stills 1988-1992**

Box 3 : 1 (Oversize) **Newspaper clippings 1988**

Box 3 : 10 (Oversize) **Clippings 1988-1993**

Box 1 : 4 ; 2 : 29 ; 3 : **Crusaders 1987-1993**

2 ; 3 : 11 (Oversize)
Physical Description: 4 folders.

Box 1 : 4 **Documents 1988-1993**

Box 3 : 2 (Oversize) **Clippings 1993**

Box 3 : 11 (Oversize) **Newspaper clippings 1987**

Box 2 : 29 **Photographs of Hagedorn in Berlin 1993**

Box 1 : 5 ; 3 : 12 **Face to Face on AIDS 1987-1988**

(Oversize)
Physical Description: 2 folders.

Box 1 : 5 **Documents and scripts 1987-1988**

Box 3 : 12 (Oversize) **Clippings 1987**

Box 1 : 6-7 ; 2 : 30 ; **High Risk Romance 1986-1987**

3 : 3 (Oversize); 3 :
13 (Oversize) **Physical Description:** 5 folders.

Box 1 : 6-7 **Documents and scripts 1986-1987**

Physical Description: 2 folders.

Box 2 : 30 **Photographs, publicity stills 1986**

Box 3 : 3 (Oversize) **Newspaper clippings 1987**

Box 3 : 13 (Oversize) **Clippings 1986-1987**

Box 1 : 8 **How I Learned to Turn the Beat Around, Kiss a Man with a Moustache and Run a Four Minute Mile in Platform Shoes, script 1992**

Box 1 : 9 **Hymen, incomplete script drafts circa 1985**

Box 1 : 10 ; 2 : 31 ; 3 : **I Cover the Lockerroom 1988**

: 4 (Oversize)
Physical Description: 3 folders.

Box 1 : 10 **Documents and script 1988**

Box 2 : 31 **Photographs, publicity stills 1988**

Box 3 : 4 (Oversize) **Newspaper clippings 1988**

Box 1 : 11 ; 2 : 32 ; 3 *In a Room with a Brass Bed* 1984
: 14 (Oversize)

Physical Description: 3 folders.

Box 1 : 11 **Documents 1984**
Box 2 : 32 **Photographs, publicity stills 1984**
Box 3 : 14 (Oversize) **Poster and clippings 1984**
Box 1 : 12 ***Laughing Out Loud*, correspondence 1985**
Box 1 : 13 ; 2 : 33 ; 3 ***The Layman's Guide to Safe Sex* 1987-1989**
: 5 (Oversize); 3 : 15
(Oversize) **Physical Description:** 4 folders.

Box 1 : 13 **Documents and script 1987-1989**
Box 2 : 33 **Photographs, publicity stills 1987**
Box 3 : 5 (Oversize) **Newspaper clippings 1987-1989**
Box 3 : 15 (Oversize) **Clippings 1987**
Box 1 : 14-15 ; 2 : 34 ***One* 1983-1990**
; 3 : 6 (Oversize); 3 :
16 (Oversize) **Physical Description:** 5 folders.

Box 1 : 14-15 **Documents and script 1983-1990**

Physical Description: 2 folders.

Box 2 : 34 **Photographs, publicity stills 1983**
Box 3 : 6 (Oversize) **Newspaper clippings 1983-1986**
Box 3 : 16 (Oversize) **Clippings 1983-1987**
Box 1 : 16 ***One at Ten*, documents 1993-1994**
Box 1 : 17 ***Other Women, Other Men*, script 1988**
Box 2 : 35 ***Poems to an Ex-Lover*, publicity stills 1983**
Box 1 : 18 ; 2 : 36 ; 3 ***Rhyme or Treason* 1987**
: 7 (Oversize) **Physical Description:** 3 folders.

Box 1 : 18 **Documents 1987**
Box 2 : 36 **Photographs, publicity stills 1987**
Box 3 : 7 (Oversize) **Newspaper clippings 1987**
Box 1 : 19-20 ***Should Have Been a Love Play*, draft manuscript, documents, scripts 1984**

Physical Description: 2 folders.

Box 1 : 21 ; 2 : 37 ***Should Have Been a Love Song* 1990-1993**

Physical Description: 2 folders.

Box 1 : 21 **Documents 1990-1993**
Box 2 : 37 **Photographs, publicity stills 1990**
Box 1 : 22 ; 2 : 38 ; 3 ***Some of Us Just Aren't that Weird* 1986-1991**
: 17 (Oversize) **Physical Description:** 3 folders.

Box 1 : 22 **Documents 1986-1991**
Box 2 : 38 **Photographs, publicity stills 1987**
Box 3 : 17 (Oversize) **Clippings 1987**
Box 1 : 23 ***Someone Just Like You*, promotional postcard 1990-1992**
Box 1 : 24 ***Songs of Faith*, documents and script 1988-1990**
Box 1 : 25 ***Sweet Sorrows*, reviews 1985**
Box 1 : 26 ***Waiting for the Blue Haired Child*, script circa 1985**
Box 1 : 27 ***Wild Child and the Man*, script 1989-1992**
Box 1 : 28 ***Women in Power*, script 1980**

Box 1 : 29-31 **Unidentified circa 1985-circa 1990**

Physical Description: 3 folders.

Box 1 : 29-30 **Manuscript drafts circa 1985**

Physical Description: 2 folders.

Box 1 : 31 **Typescript circa 1990**

Series 2: **Personal papers circa 1975-circa 1989**

Physical Description: 0.9 linear foot.

Series Scope and Content

The series contains Hagedorn's writing resume, biographical information, correspondence, a professional portfolio, personal journals, and a trophy from *Gay Chicago Magazine*. The biographical information consists of printed interviews and an obituary. The correspondence files include Hagedorn's personal correspondence, his letters to the editor, interoffice memos from his employer regarding his sick time, faxes to his doctor, and party invitation created from magazine and newspaper clippings.

Box 1 : 32-33 **Writing resume, newspaper clippings 1980-1989**

Physical Description: 2 folders.

Box 1 : 34 ; 3 : 8 **Biographical 1984-1995**

(Oversize) ; 3 : 19

(Oversize)

Physical Description: 3 folders.

Box 1 : 34 **Interviews, clippings, obituary 1987-1995**

Box 3 : 8 (Oversize) **Newspaper clippings 1984-1988**

Box 3 : 19 (Oversize) **Clippings 1987**

Box 1 : 35-38 ; 3 : 18 **Correspondence 1986-1995**

(Oversize)

Physical Description: 5 folders.

Box 1 : 35-36 **General correspondence 1987-1995**

Physical Description: 2 folders.

Box 1 : 37-38 ; 3 : 18 **Party invitations (collages) 1986-1988**

(Oversize)

Physical Description: 3 folders.

Box 2 : 39 **Photographs (personal) circa 1975-1990**

Box 2 : 2 **Professional portfolio circa 1987**

Box 2 : 3-18 **Journals circa 1979-circa 1989**

Physical Description: 16 journals.

Box 2 : 3 **Mead, October 8 circa 1979**

Box 2 : 4 **January 31, 1981**

Box 2 : 5 **May 21, 1983**

Box 2 : 6 **January 14, 1984**

Box 2 : 7 **February 19, 1984**

Box 2 : 8 **December 26, 1985**

Box 2 : 9 **August 25, 1986**

Box 2 : 10 **August 26, 1986**

Box 2 : 11 **May 1, 1987**

Box 2 : 12 **December 29, 1987**

Box 2 : 13 **Cambridge notepad circa 1988**

Box 2 : 14 **October 13, 1988**

Box 2 : 15 **Cambridge steno circa 1989**

Box 2 : 16 **Data Com circa 1989**

Box 2 : 17 **April 20, 1989**

Box 2 : 18 **June 11, 1989**

Box 4 **Trophy from *Gay Chicago Magazine* 1987**

Series 3: SYZGY records circa 1987-1993

Physical Description: 0.5 linear foot.

Series Scope and Content

His production company records consist of clippings and programs from a marathon performance of 15 of his theatrical works, correspondence, order slips for videos, and submissions of other's scripts for review in the SYZGY newsletter.

Marathon of Hagedorn's theatrical works 1988

Physical Description: 2 folders.

- Box 2 : 19 **Clippings and documents 1988**
- Box 3 : 9 (Oversize) **Newspaper clippings 1988**
- Box 2 : 20 **Correspondence 1990-1992**
- Box 2 : 40 **Headshots and actors' resumes 1990**
- Box 2 : 41-42 **Publicity stills circa 1990-1991**

Physical Description: 2 folders.

- Box 2 : 41 ***Jerker, Dream Man* 1991**
- Box 2 : 42 **Unknown performances circa 1990**
- Box 2 : 21 **Video tape order forms for *Should Have Been a Love Play, Jerker, Dream Man* 1991-1992**
- Script submissions 1988-1993**

Physical Description: 5 folders.

- Box 2 : 22 **Jacobson, Tom, *Son of Othello* 1993**
- Box 2 : 23 **Kuntze, Till S., *I Can't See the Sky* 1988**
- Box 2 : 24 **McGregor, Proctor Keith, *Sand Dollar Cove* 1988**
- Box 2 : 25 **Thomas, Colin, *Flesh and Blood* 1991-1992**
- Box 2 : 26 **Tradup, Troy, *The Time at the End of This Time* 1993**