

Finding Aid to The Kinsey Sicks collection

(#2015-16)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: The Kinsey Sicks collection

Collection Number: 2015-16

Physical Description: 12 linear feet (5 cartons, 1 manuscript box, 2 half manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box, 3 flat file drawers)

Creator: The Kinsey Sicks

Date (inclusive): 1993-2014

Language of Material: English

Abstract:

The Kinsey Sicks are a drag a cappella ensemble who bill themselves as “America’s Favorite Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet.” The collection is arranged into six series: Administrative Records; Production Materials; Press and Publicity; Photographs; Audiovisual and Digital Media; and Textiles, Memorabilia, and Ephemera.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], The Kinsey Sicks collection (#2015-16), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

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Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Ben Schatz in October 2015.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid created by Megan Needels in 2021 with funding provided by the National Historical Publications & Records Commission.

This finding aid uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its creation. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical/Organizational History Note:

The Kinsey Sicks are a drag a cappella ensemble who bill themselves as “America’s Favorite Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet.” The group was formed in 1993 when five friends went to a Bette Midler concert dressed in drag as the Andrews Sisters. The original group consisted of Ben Schatz as “Rachel”, Irwin Keller as “Winnie”, Maurice Kelly as “Trixie”, Jerry Friedman as “Vaselina”, and Abatto Avilez as “Begoña.” In 1995, Avilez died and The Kinsey Sicks went from being a quintet to a quartet and has remained as such ever since. The original members were largely lawyers and professional activists who performed with the group on the side, however they eventually became successful enough to leave their former professions and focus on The Kinsey Sicks full time. The Kinsey Sicks perform both original compositions and parodies of pop music, focusing on topics of queer life, Jewish identity, pop culture, and political satire. They have released ten studio albums, two feature films, thirty five music videos, and have produced numerous performances worldwide.

The Kinsey Sicks lineup has undergone several iterations since its inception. Ben Schatz has been the group’s longest standing member. The current lineup in 2021 includes Ben Schatz as “Rachel” (1993–present), Jeff Manabat as “Trixie” (2004-present), Spencer Brown as “Trampolina” (2008-present), Nathan Marken as “Winnie” (2014-present), and J.B. McLendon as “Angel” (2019-present). Former members include Irwin Keller as “Winnie” (1993-2014), Abatto Avilez as “Begoña” (1993), Jerry Friedman as “Vaselina” (1993-1999), Maruice Kelly as “Trixie” (1993-2001), Chris Dilley as “Trampolina” (1999-2007/2008), Kevin Kirkwood as “Trixie” (2001-2003), Tom Gualtieri as “Trixie” (2002), and Charles Romaine as “Trampolina” (2007-2008).

Scope and Content:

The collection documents the work of the drag a capella group, The Kinsey Sicks. The records span from 1993-2014, with a primary focus on 1996-2010. The collection is arranged into six

series: Administrative Records; Production Materials; Press and Publicity; Photographs; Audiovisual and Digital Media; and Textiles, Memorabilia, and Ephemera. Administrative Records contain a variety of materials including business meeting notes, work contracts, partnership agreement materials, merchandise and royalty records, legal records relating to Jerry Friedman's resignation, and materials documenting the establishment of The Kinsey Sicks LLC. Production Materials contain documentation of the musical and performance work of the group, including scripts, sheet music, costume designs, production meeting minutes, Dragapella! investor documents, design proofs, event itinerary, and CD score sheets. Press and Publicity contains press clippings, newspaper and magazine articles, posters, flyers, postcards, press kits, and press releases. Photographs contain negatives and photographs of performances, promotional images, dressing room photographs, and panels from an exhibit at the Hormel Center at San Francisco Public Library. Audiovisual and Digital Media contain VHS tapes, DVDs, and CDs of live performances; a 35mm trailer; studio albums; and recorded interviews; as well as data discs with press, musical arrangements, and digital photos. Textiles, Memorabilia, and Ephemera contain t-shirts, a banner, a branded magnet and picture frame, awards received by The Kinsey Sicks, and various ephemera such as ticket stubs, business cards, custom stationary, and letters sent by friends and fans.

Indexing Terms:

Drag

Gay Men

Music

Theater

Jewish people

Container Listing**Series I: Administrative Records, 1995-2002**

Physical Description: 1 carton

Scope and Content: This series contains business meeting notes, work contracts, partnership agreement materials, merchandise and royalty records, legal records relating to Jerry Friedman's resignation, and materials documenting the establishment of The Kinsey Sicks LLC.

Arrangement: Series is arranged chronologically.

Carton 1, Folder 1	K6 business meeting notes, 1995-2006
Carton 2, Folder 2	Kinsey Sicks chronology, 1997
Carton 2, Folder 3	Kinsey Sicks partnership agreement, 1997
Carton 2, Folder 4	Work contracts, 1997-2006
Carton 2, Folder 5	AZT copyright certificate of registration, 1999
Carton 2, Folder 6	Jerry Friedman resignation, 1999
Carton 2, Folder 7	Merchandise and royalty records, 1999-2006
Carton 2, Folder 8	Kinsey LLC process, 2000
Carton 2, Folder 9	Provincetown rental agreement, 2002

Series II: Production Materials, 1996-2014

Physical Description: 1 carton, 2 boxes

Scope and Content: This series contains scripts, sheet music, costume designs, production meeting minutes, Dragapella! investor documents, design proofs, event itinerary, and CD score sheets.

Arrangement: Series is arranged alphabetically, with the exception of programs, which are housed separately and organized chronologically.

Carton 2, Folder 10	Audition materials, undated
Carton 2, Folder 11	Balled Sopranos materials, 1998
Carton 2, folder 12	Costume designs by Irwin Keller, 2005
Carton 2, folder 13	Dragapella master sheet music, 1996-2000
Carton 2, Folder 14	Dragapella! NY investor materials, 2001

Carton 2, Folder 15	Dragapella! NY production and promotional records [1], 1999-2002
Carton 2, Folder 16	Dragapella! NY production and promotional records [2], 1999-2002
Carton 2, Folder 17	Dragapella! NY production and promotional records [3], 1999-2002
Carton 2, Folder 18	Dragapella! NY scripts, 1999-2000
Carton 2, Folder 19	Each Hit and I setlist, circa 2010
Carton 2, Folder 20	Each Hit and I CD packaging proof [1], 2010
Carton 2, Folder 21	Each Hit and I CD packaging proof [2], 2010
Carton 2, Folder 22	GreatesTits production materials, 1999
Carton 2, Folder 23	Just For Laughs Comedy Festival, 2002
Carton 2, Folder 24	K6 Retreat notebook, 1995
Carton 2, Folder 25	Kinsey Sicks and Josies, 1995
Carton 2, Folder 26	Live recording score sheets, 1999
Carton 2, Folder 27	Loose notes, 1999-2004
Carton 2, Folder 28	Lyrics, 1995-2014
Carton 2, Folder 29	New York or Bust audience survey, 2000
Carton 2, Folder 30	Oy Vey In A Manger set design, undated
Carton 2, Folder 31	Scripts, 2000-2006
Carton 2, Folder 32	Sheet music, 1995-1999
Carton 2, Folder 33	Sheet music, 2000
Carton 2, Folder 34	Sheet music, 2001-2003

Carton 2, Folder 35	Sheet music, 2004-2005
Carton 2, Folder 36	Sheet music, undated [1]
Carton 2, Folder 37	Sheet music, undated [2]
Carton 2, Folder 38	Sheet music - incomplete and notes, undated
Carton 3, Folder 1	Sicks Appeal scripting materials, circa 1996-1997
Carton 3, Folder 2	Sing along cue cards, undated
Carton 3, Folder 3	Stage cues and tech notes, 2000-2003
Carton 3, Folder 4	Wake the F@#k Up America - Miami sheet music, 2009
Box 2, Folder 5	Programs, 1998-1999
Box 2, Folder 6	Programs, 2001-2010
Box 2, Folder 7	Programs, 2010-2011
Box 2, Folder 8	Programs, 2012-2014
Box 3, Folder 3	Costume design sketch, undated
Box 3, Folder 4	Dragapella! CD production materials, 1997

Series III: Press and Publicity, 1995-2014

Physical Description: 2 cartons, 3 boxes, 1 oversize box, 2 flat file drawers

Scope and Content: Press and Publicity contains press clippings, newspaper and magazine articles, posters, flyers, postcards, press kits, and press releases.

Arrangement: Series is arranged alphabetically by subject, with the exception of magazines, newspapers, and postcards, which are grouped by type and arranged chronologically at the end of the series.

Carton 3, Folder 5	Dragapella! Las Vegas flyer designs, undated
Carton 3, Folder 6	Dragapella! press clippings, 2001
Carton 3, Folder 7	Dragapella! Wesbeth flyer proofs, 2001
Carton 3, Folder 8	Flyers and promotional material, circa 1995-2014
Carton 3, Folder 9	HX Magazine cover story, 2001
Carton 3, Folder 10	LGNY newspaper article, 2001
Carton 3, Folder 11	Michigan and D.C. press clippings, 2003
Carton 3, Folder 12	Press releases and critic reviews, circa 1997-2003
Carton 3, Folder 13	Press kit [1], 2001
Carton 3, Folder 14	Press kit [2], 2003
Carton 3, Folder 15	Press kit [3], 2004
Carton 3, Folder 16	Press kit [4], 2004
Carton 3, Folder 17	Press kit [5], circa 2006
Carton 3, Folder 18	Publicity photocopies, circa 1996-2010
Carton 3, Folder 19	San Francisco Chronicle article, 1998
Carton 3, Folder 20	San Francisco Bay Times Dragapella! Review, 1997
Carton 3, Folder 21	Seattle Gay Standard article, 2001
Carton 3, Folder 22	Magazine clippings, circa 1996-2006
Carton 3, Folder 23	Magazines [1], 1996-1999
Carton 3, Folder 24	Magazines [2], 2000-2001
Carton 3, Folder 25	Magazines [3], 2001
Carton 3, Folder 26	Magazines [4], 2002

Carton 3, Folder 27	Magazines [5], 2003
Carton 3, Folder 28	Magazines [6], 2004-2006
Carton 3, Folder 29	Magazines [7], 2006-2011
Carton 3, Folder 30	Magazines [8], 2007-2011
Carton 3, Folder 31	Magazines [9], 2011-2012
Carton 3, Folder 32	Magazines [10], 2013-2014
Carton 4, Folder 1	Newspaper clippings, circa 1995-2005
Carton 4, Folder 2	Newspapers [1], circa 1995-2014
Carton 4, Folder 3	Newspapers [2], circa 1995-2014
Carton 4, Folder 4	Newspapers [3], circa 1995-2014
Carton 4, Folder 5	Newspapers [4], circa 1995-2014
Carton 4, Folder 6	Newspapers [5], circa 1995-2014
Carton 4, Folder 7	Newspapers [6], circa 1995-2014
Carton 4, Folder 8	Newspapers [7], circa 1995-2014
Carton 4, Folder 9	Newspapers [8], circa 1995-2014
Carton 4, Folder 10	Newspapers [9], circa 1995-2014
Carton 4, Folder 11	Newspapers [10], circa 1995-2014
Carton 4, Folder 12	Newspapers [11], circa 1995-2014
Box 1, Folder 4	Hormel exhibit materials, circa 1993-2014, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Postcards [1], 1997-2012

Box 1, Folder 6	Postcards [2], 1997-2014
Box 1, Folder 7	Postcards [3], 1997-2014
Box 2, Folder 1	Postcards [4], 1997-2014
Box 2, Folder 2	Postcards [5], 1997-2014
Box 2, Folder 3	Postcards [6], 1997-2014
Box 2, Folder 4	Postcards and brochures, circa 1998-2008
Box 3, Folder 4	Daily Nebraskan article, 1996
Box 3, Folder 5	Billboard review, 2002
Box 3, Folder 6	Press kit [6], 2001
Oversize box 1, Folder 1	Oversize magazines, 1995-2001
Oversize box 1, Folder 2	Oversize magazines, 2002-2009
Oversize box 1, Folder 3	Oversize magazines, 2010-2014
Oversize box 1, Folder 4	Posters, circa 1995-2014 [1]
Flat file drawer 1	Oversize posters, circa 1995-2014
Flat file drawer 2	Oversize posters, circa 1995-2014

Series IV: Photographs, circa 1993-2014

Physical Description: 1 carton, 1 box, 1 oversize box, 2 flat file drawers

Scope and Content: This series contains negatives and photographs of performances, press images, dressing room photographs, and panels from an exhibit at the Hormel Center at the San Francisco Public Library.

Arrangement: Series is arranged chronologically within each container.

Carton 1, Folder 1	Motel Sicks press photographs, circa 1993-2005, undated
Carton 1, Folder 2	Press photographs, circa 1993-2005, undated
Carton 1, Folder 3	Sven Wiedenholt photographs [1], circa 1993-2005, undated
Carton 1, Folder 4	Sven Wiedenholt photographs [2], circa 1993-2005, undated
Carton 1, Folder 5	Sven Wiedenholt photographs [3], circa 1993-2005, undated
Carton 1, Folder 6	Sven Wiedenholt photographs [4], circa 1993-2005, undated
Carton 1, Folder 7	Sven Wiedenholt photographs [5], circa 1993-2005, undated
Carton 1, Folder 8	Wendy Tiefenchacher photographs, circa 1993-2005, undated
Carton 1, Folder 9	Dressing room photographs, circa 1993-2010, undated
Carton 1, Folder 10	Hormel exhibit photographs [1], circa 1993-2014, undated
Carton 1, Folder 11	Hormel exhibit photographs [2], circa 1993-2014, undated
Carton 1, Folder 12	Hormel exhibit photographs [3], circa 1993-2014, undated
Carton 1, Folder 13	Loose photographs, circa 1993-2014, undated
Carton 1, Folder 14	Photographs on copier paper, circa 1993-2014, undated
Carton 1, Folder 15	Unidentified performance contact sheets [1], circa 1993-2014, undated
Carton 1, Folder 16	Unidentified performance contact sheets [2], circa 1993-2014, undated

Carton 1, Folder 17	Boy shots photographs, 1995
Carton 1, Folder 18	Gay and Lesbian Medical Association syposium contact sheet, 1997
Carton 1, Folder 19	Dragapella! Opening night negatives, 2001
Carton 1, Folder 20	Gypsy of the Year and Bloomingdale's window show, 2001
Carton 1, Folder 21	Provincetown photographs, 2001
Carton 1, Folder 22	Hormel exhibit panels [1], 2014
Carton 1, Folder 23	Hormel exhibit panels [2], 2014
Carton 1, Folder 24	Hormel exhibit panels [3], 2014
Carton 1, Folder 25	Hormel exhibit panels [4], 2014
Carton 1, Folder 26	Hormel exhibit panels [5], 2014
Carton 1, Item 1	Dalton DeHart photo album, 2002
Box 3, Folder 1	Bill Rozan contact sheets, circa 1993-2005, undated
Box 3, Folder 2	I Wanna Be a Republican performance photographs, circa 2012, undated
Oversize box 1, Folder 5	Oversize group portrait, circa 1993-2010
Flat file drawer 2	Oversize Hormel exhibit panels, 2014
Flat file drawer 3	Oversize Hormel exhibit panels, 2014

Series V: Audiovisual and Optical Media, 1997-2012

Physical Description: 1 carton

Scope and Content: This series contains VHS tapes, DVDs, and CDs of live performances; a 35mm trailer; studio albums; and interviews; as well as data discs with press, musical arrangements, and digital photos.

Arrangement: Series is collected with no further arrangement.

Carton 5, Item 10	Jewish Film Festival 35mm trailer, 2000
Carton 5, Item 11	Dragapella! NY live recording VHS tape, 2001
Carton 5, Item 12	Montreal Comedy Fest VHS tape, undated
Carton 5, Item 13	I Wanna Be a Republican DVD, 2008
Carton 5, Item 14	Almost Famous DVD, 2008
Carton 5, Item 15	Get Off Your Ass and See Our Show DVD, 2003
Carton 5, Item 16	Get Off Your Ass and See Our Show excerpts DVD, 2003
Carton 5, Item 17	Smoky Hill River Festival DVD, 2008
Carton 5, Item 18	Electile Dysfunction DDP master [1], 2012
Carton 5, Item 19	Electile Dysfunction DDP master [2], 2012
Carton 5, Item 20	Dragapella Chorus CD [1], undated
Carton 5, Item 21	Dragapella Chorus CD [2], undated
Carton 5, Item 22	Dragapella Chorus CD [3], undated
Carton 5, Item 23	Dragapella Chorus CD [4], undated
Carton 5, Item 24	Sicks! Sicks! Sicks! master CD, 2008
Carton 5, Item 25	I Wanna Be a Republican Herbst Theatre CD, 2004
Carton 5, Item 26	KFOG-FM Kinsey Interview CD, 2009
Carton 5, Item 27	Dragapella studio master CD, undated
Carton 5, Item 28	Kinsey Sicks original backup tracks, 2012

Carton 5, Item 29	Kinsey Sicks overdub tracks, 2012
Carton 5, Item 30	Sicks! Sicks! Sicks! CD, 2008
Carton 5, Item 31	Each Hit & I CD, 2010
Carton 5, Item 32	Electile Dysfunction CD, 2012
Carton 5, Item 33	Boyz 2 Girlz CD, 1999
Carton 5, Item 34	Dragapella! CD, 1997
Carton 5, Item 35	I Wanna Be a Republican CD, 2004
Carton 5, Item 36	Oy Vey In A Manger CD, 2005
Carton 5, Item 37	Sick in the City CD, 2002
Carton 5, Item 38	Travelpride Cruise CD, 2007
Carton 5, Item 39	Kinsey Sicks digital photos, 2011
Carton 5, Item 40	Theatre J ED Press CD-R, undated
Carton 5, Item 41	Theatre J Press clippings CD-R, undated
Carton 5, Item 42	Kinsey Sicks Musical Arrangements and Lyrics CD-R, 2006

Series VI: Textiles, Memorabilia, and Ephemera,

Physical Description: 1 carton and 2 boxes

Scope and Content: This series contains textiles and memorabilia such as banners, t-shirts, and a branded magnet and picture frame. It also includes awards received by The Kinsey Sicks such as an Outmusic award nomination and a City of San Francisco Kinsey Sicks Day proclamation; various ephemera such as ticket stubs, business cards; custom stationary; and cards and letters sent by friends and fans.

Arrangement: Series is collection without further arrangement.

Carton 5, Item 1	Guardian Best Drag Troupe framed award, 2003
Carton 5, Item 2	Dragapella picture frame, undated
Carton 5, Item 3	Kinsey Sick magnets, undated
Carton 5, Item 4	Electile Dysfunction banner, undated
Carton 5, Item 5	Kinsey Sicks tank top, undated
Carton 5, Item 6	Kinsey Sicks Nebraska t-shirt, undated
Carton 5, Item 7	Kinsey Sicks black flower t-shirt, undated
Carton 5, Item 8	Kinsey Sicks black t-shirt, undated
Carton 5, Item 9	Kinsey Sicks white t-shirt, undated
Carton 5, Item 11	Irwin Keller's Las Vegas Hilton badge, undated
Box 1, Folder 1	Awards, 2005
Box 1, Folder 2	Ephemera, circa 1993-2014
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence from friends and fans, circa 1995-2014
Box 3, Folder 7	City of San Francisco Kinsey Sicks Day proclamation, 2001