

## **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Pomo Afro Homos Records

**Dates:** 1989-1997 (bulk 1990-1994)

**Collection Number:** GLC 139

**Creator/Collector:** Pomo Afro Homos (Theater group)

**Extent:** 9 cubic feet (9 boxes), 1 oversized flat box, 1 oversized poster

**Repository:** San Francisco Public Library. James C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco, California 94102

**Abstract:** The records contain correspondence, programs, press coverage, contracts, scripts, financial information, photographs, and other ephemera of Pomo Afro Homos (Postmodern African American Homosexuals), a San Francisco-based theater group that presented the stories of black, gay men.

**Language of Material:** English

## **Access**

The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center hours. It is unprocessed; please consult inventory to request boxes.

## **Publication Rights**

Copyright retained by Pomo Afro Homos.

## **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Pomo Afro Homos Records (GLC 139). LGBTQIA Center, San Francisco Public Library

## **Biography/Administrative History**

Pomo Afro Homos is short for postmodern African American homosexuals. It was an African-American gay theater troupe founded in San Francisco by Djola Bernard Branner, Brian Freeman, and Eric Gupton. Later, Marvin K. White joined the group. The original concept of the group was to show the issues affecting each black gay person. Their pieces include *Fierce Love: Stories From Black Gay Life* and *Dark Fruit*. They performed nationally from Alaska to New York's Lincoln

Center. They faced opposition from the National Black Theatre Festival in North Carolina (1991), and later, in Anchorage (1993). They performed regularly between 1990 and 1995.

### **Scope and Content of Collection**

The records contain correspondence, programs, press releases and press coverage, contracts, scripts, financial information, photographs, slides, audiotapes, grant writing for Pomo Afro. The collection also contains certificates and awards presented to the troupe. Of particular note are the scripts for *Fierce Love: Stories from Black Gay Life* and *Dark Fruit*. The clippings files also include coverage of the opposition the group faced in Anchorage, Alaska, and North Carolina.

### **Indexing Terms**

African American gays.

African American gays -- Drama.

Branner, Bernard.

Freeman, Brian.

Gupton, Eric.

Pomo Afro Homos (Theater group)--Archives.

White, Marvin K.

## **GLC 139 Pomo Afro Homos Records**

### **Box 1**

Mailing list, undated

T-shirts, 1993-1994

Seattle Weekly / *Dark Fruit*, 1992

Seattle / *Dark Fruit* newspapers, 1992

*Fierce Love* [and *Dark Fruit*] flyers, 1991-1993, undated

Caribbean Times / *Fierce Love* [empty]

London, England, 1992

*The List* / Glasgow, Scotland, 1992

*The Scotsman* / Glasgow, Scotland, 1992

*The Herald* / Glasgow, Scotland, 1992

Glasgow, Scotland. Mayfest, 1992

Cable Car Awards, 1992-1994

*Fierce Love* – script [“*Dark Fruit*” title page]

[*Fierce Love*] Programs, 1992, undated

[*Fierce Love*] Press release *Dark Fruit*, Josie’s Cabaret, 1993

*Fierce Love* – press releases, 1991

*Fierce Love* – booking stuff, 1991-1993

[*Fierce Love*] Pomos – Tech stuff, 1993, undated [lighting, staging, etc.]

[*Fierce Love*] “Reverend Lump” and “Don’t Stick It / Barthol 10/94”

*Fierce Love*, 1990-1991, undated [flyers, scripts, correspondence]

Atlanta, Georgia, 1991-1994 [correspondence, newsletters]

Atlanta, Georgia. National Black Arts Festival, 1993-1994 [correspondence]

Columbus, Ohio. Wexner Center [empty pendaflex folder]

Detroit, undated

Chicago, Illinois, 1989-1992. [Correspondence, clippings; 'zine *Thing*, number 1 (November 1989); *Thing*, number 2 (April 1990).]

[Chicago, Illinois]. Lee Kay – Bubblehead portraits, 1991 [includes photos of bubblehead portraits of Kitty Tsui, Joan Jett Blakk, Jerome the Rag Man, Memory Lane, Chicago Guardian Angels]

[Chicago, Illinois]. Randolph Street Gallery, 1992-1993

Chicago, Illinois, 1993 [newspapers, programs]

Austin, Texas [also Houston], 1993

Australia, 1992-1993

Resumes / bios [Brian Freeman]

Berkeley, California (La Pena Cultural Center), 1991

[Berkeley, California]. U.C. Berkeley conference. Performing / Deforming, 1992

[Berkeley, California]. Press release, La Pena, 1993

[Berkeley, California]. La Pena, July 9, 1993 [flyers, correspondence]

Amherst, Massachusetts. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1993 [includes clippings, programs, flyers, correspondence, contract]

Yellow Springs, Ohio. Antioch College. Martin Worman, 1992-1993

Anchorage, Alaska, 1992-1993 [clippings, flyers, programs, correspondence].  
Censorship of ads.

# **GLC 139 Pomo Afro Homos Records**

## **Box 2 PAH Financial + Brian Freeman Personal Materials**

Bank Statements

Two Black Accordion Folders: PAH checks and financial statements

Red Accordion Folder: Bank and travel documents

### **Folders:**

Pomos Account

Lillian Allen Project

NGLTF Conference: Creating Change

Resumes

Iowa/Grad School

Pacific Bell Phone Bills

PG & E

Darker Fruit- Production

Fierce Love- Production

Office Supplies

Photocopy

Photos

Postage

Rehearsal Space

Phones

T-Shirts

Taxes '95

Potrero Loft Space

Press, Letters, Etc.

Out/Look

Non-Traditional Casting Project (Empty)

Frank Oliver (Empty)

Outwrite '91

Dance Talks

THING

Resume (Bio)

Cultural Odyssey

Artist's Colonies

Receipts, etc. to be refiled!

Itineraries

To Be Copied!

## **GLC 139 Pomo Afro Homos Records**

### **Box 3 Photos, Programs, Flyers, Etc.**

Brown Accordion Folder: various notes, including door count info

Slides

POMO AFRO HOMO Show Tape: 1/2 Track MT Reel

Maxell Sound Recording Tape 35-90B: Sad Young Man 4 cues 7 ½ (?) G,H,I+J

### **Folders:**

Script: Fierce Love: Stories from Black Life

Washington Performing Arts Society (Wash DC). Program: "Some Thing for Everyone"; 1993-1994

Photos: "Dark Fruit" (5x7 prints), publicity photos

Photos: "Fierce Love" (5x7 prints), publicity photos, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, 1994

Photos (8x10 prints) Dark Fruit; Fierce Love, publicity photos

Photos: 5x7 print PAH, Tom Ammiano, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, 1991

Photos: PAH Question and Answer, Nov. 1992

Photos: Pomo Afro Homos (Djola Branner, 11/12/1993, Brian Freeman, Marvin White)

Slides

Johnny Mathis, and Mathis family- matted artwork (in UCLA outreach envelope), 1991?

Flyers: Dark Fruit (Wash DC) 1994

Programs: Dark Fruit (Washington DC) 1994

Flyers: Fierce Love (London)

Flyers: Fierce Love (New York) 1991

Flyers: Fierce Love (San Francisco)

Programs: Fierce Love at “Moving Beyond the Madness Festival” (New York)

Programs: Fierce Love (Washington DC) 1992

Programs: Fierce Love (Lincoln Center) 1994

TWT: This Week Texas (mention of PAH inside)

Article: Nightlines Weekly, 1992

Miscellaneous (Unknown connection to PAH)



## **GLC 139 Pomo Afro Homos Records**

### **Box 4 [Finances primarily; some correspondence, flyers, press clippings]**

[Bank of America. Checking account, 1991-1992]

GFTA [Grants for the Arts] flyers / postcard announcements, 1991, undated

GFTA [Grants for the Arts]. Reviews, 1991-1994

GFTA [Grants for the Arts]. Press/Reviews, 1991, 1994

GFTA [Grants for the Arts] correspondence, 1996

GFTA [Grants for the Arts] invoices, 1994-1995

GFTA [Grants for the Arts] [invoices], 1994-1995

GFTA [Grants for the Arts] Pomo GFTA [tax returns, finances], 1993-1995

GFTA [Grants for the Arts] reimbursement stuff, 1993

GFTA [Grants for the Arts] Pomo Year End 1993/1994

GFTA [Grants for the Arts] 1993 [finances]

CAC MCE [California Arts Council. Multi-Cultural Entry Grant program], 1994-1996

CAC [California Arts Council]. Multi-Cultural Entry Grant, 1991-1995

Arts International, 1992-1994 [correspondence]

Lila Wallace – Reader's Digest proposal, 1994-1995

NEA [National Endowment for the Arts] Expansion Arts, 10/1/1996-9/30/1997

Cultural Equity Fund grants [San Francisco Art Commission], 1994-1996

Cultural Equity Initiative [San Francisco Art Commission], 1992-1994

Creative Work Fund [Walter and Elise Haas Fund], 1995

[Grant guidelines] Horizons Foundation, Vanguard Public Foundation, "What Are the Needs of Lesbians and Gay Men?" 1993

Expansion Arts Program. [National Endowment for the Arts]. Evaluator application, 1992

San Francisco Foundation, 1993

NEA Theater 6/1/95-5/31/96

NEA Theater 10/1/95-9/30/96

NEA Theater 10/1/94-9/30/95

BRAVA IRS Non-profit status – copies

Taxes, 1994-1995

Non-profit paperwork, 1990-1992

Miriam Abrams, non-profit paperwork, 1993-1994

Jeff Jones, grant writer, 1993-1995. Fictitious business names, 1991-1996

Highways, Black Queer Festival, 1994

Root Wy'mn, 1994

Iowa City, Iowa. InQueery, 1994

## **GLC 139 Pomo Afro Homos Records**

### **Box 5 Newspapers/Magazines/Ephemera**

Theatre Forum, 1994

On-Q, 1995

B & G, 1992

TWN, 1995

Queerfest Schedule

San Francisco Bay Guardian, 1992

S.F. Art Institute, 1993

Theatre Review (Theatre Journal), 1992

Wickers and Bullers, U.K., 1994

Gay Community News, 1991

Washington Performing Arts Society, 1993-1994

BLK, 1991

Bay Windows, 1994

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 1994

Southern Voices 1994

Boston Globe, 1991

Paris is Burning Premiere Clippings

Tongues United Clippings

San Francisco Chronicle, 1991

Sun Reporter, San Francisco, 1991

San Francisco Sentinel, 1991

New York Native, 1991

Edge Magazine, Los Angeles

Anchorage Daily News, 1992

Bravo! News Magazine, San Diego, 1991

Performing Arts, w/ Fierce Love Program @YBCA, 1994

Program: The America Play, 1994

Oakland Ensemble Theater

Bay Area Reporter, 1993

Oakland Tribune, 1991

San Francisco Examiner, 1991

Seattle Gay News

Xtra!, Toronto, 1994

The Upper West Side Resident, 1994

Share- Canada's Ethnic Newspaper, 1994

Eight Rock National Black Arts Magazine

Dance Theatre Workshop Mailer, 1991

Fierce Love Festival Programs

Windy City Times, Chicago, 1992

Fierce Love Press/Features

Dark Fruit Reviews/Press

Brian Freeman Speaking Engagements Etc.

Magazines (Non-PAH) 1 of 2

Magazines (Non-PAH) 2 of 2

## **GLC 139 Pomo Afro Homos Records**

### **Box 6 [Performances by city]**

Manchester, England, 1994

San Diego, California. Show programs, 1991-1992

San Diego, California. Correspondence, 1991, 1994

St. Louis, Missouri, undated

Portland, Oregon. Show programs, 1992-1993

Portland, Oregon. Contract / Itinerary, 1992

Portland, Oregon. Press / reviews, 1992-[1993]

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1991-1995

Palo Alto, California / Stanford, 1992

New York. N.Y.S.F. [New York Shakespeare Festival – Public Theater. Fierce Love / Dark Fruit, 1991

New York. NYU [New York University], 1993

New York. Reviews, 1991, 1994

New York. Play program DTW [Dance Theater Workshop], 1991

New York. Whitney Museum info. 1992

New Langton Arts / San Francisco / Fierce Love, 1991

Los Angeles, California. Mailing lists, undated

Los Angeles, California. Lila Wallace Reader's Digest grant application, 1993-1994

Los Angeles, California. Contracts, 1991

Los Angeles, California. Show program, 1991-1992

Los Angeles, California. Budget, 1991, 1994

Los Angeles, California. Budget, 1994

Santa Cruz, California, 1992

Santa Cruz. UC Santa Cruz workshop and performance, 1994

Williamstown, Massachusetts. Williams College. Itinerary, 1992

Williamstown, Massachusetts. Williams College. Correspondence, 1992

Williamstown, Massachusetts. Williams College. Press, 1991-1992

Washington, D.C. Press / reviews, 1994

Washington, D.C. Publicity, 1993-1994

Washington, D.C. Correspondence, 1993

Washington, D.C. Itinerary, [1994]

Washington, D.C. Contracts, 1992-1994

Washington, D.C. Show program, 1994

Washington, D.C. Itinerary, 1992

Washington, D.C. Publicity, 1992

Washington, D.C. Show program, 1992

Washington, D.C. Contracts, 1992

Washington, D.C. Correspondence, 1992

Washington, D.C. B. O. [Box Office] Statement, 1992

Washington, D.C. Press / reviews, 1992

Toronto. Show program, 1994

Toronto. Itinerary, 1994

Toronto. Contract, 1994

Seattle. Correspondence, 1991-1992

Seattle. Alice B. Theatre, 1989-1990

Seattle. B. O. [Box Office] Statements, 1992

Seattle. Show programs, 1991-[1992]

Seattle. Publicity / reviews, [1991-1992]

New Haven, Connecticut (Yale), 1991

Newcastle, England, 1992

Minneapolis. Itinerary, 1994

Minneapolis. Contracts / receipts, 1993-1994

Minneapolis. Publicity, 1993-1994

Minneapolis. Show program, 1994

Minneapolis. Tax info, 1994

Minneapolis. Correspondence, 1991-1994

Mendocino, California. Publicity, 1991-1992

Mendocino, California. Show program, 1991-1992

Mendocino, California. Review, 1991

Mendocino, California. Correspondence, 1991

New York. Publicity, 1991-1993

New York. Itinerary, [1991]

New York. Contracts, 1991

New York. Show program, 1991

New York. Dance Theater Workshop, Membership info., 1991

New York. Reviews, 1993

Texas tour '93. Houston / Austin. Itinerary, 1993

Texas tour '93. Houston / Austin. Publicity, 1993

Texas tour '93. Houston / Austin. Diverse Works Calendar, Mar/Apr 1993

Texas tour '93. Houston / Austin. Contracts, 1992-1993

Texas tour '93. Houston / Austin. Show programs, [1993]

Texas tour '93. Houston / Austin. Reviews (Houston '92), 1992

Miami Beach, Florida. Contract, 1993

Miami Beach, Florida. Publicity, [1993]

Miami Beach, Florida. Correspondence, 1993

Miami Beach, Florida. Show program, 1993

Miami Beach, Florida. Press / Reviews, 1993

## **Box 7**

Newspapers, publicity, playbills



## **GLC 139 Pomo Afro Homos Records**

### **Box 8**

Letters 1993 Pomos. Brian Freeman correspondence, some flyers with Terrence Smith.

Fierce Love letters, 1991-1992

Letters, 1992-1993

San Francisco Art Institute, 1993

Judy Nemzoff, Elizabeth Roth, 1994

Franklin Furnace [empty folder]

Pomo budget, 1991-1992

"CAC" on folder [California Arts Council], 1994-1995 [pertains to loan for Artspace Development Co. / Goodman 2 project].

Script / Dark Fruit (3 folders)

Texas residency / DiverseWorks, 1992, 1996 [programs, clippings, correspondence]

Fierce Love script (in black report cover)

Press clippings, 1991-1993

To do list, May 7, 1994

BESSIE Award / New York Times, 1992. Program, clippings

Photocopies of California State Assembly certificate, 1991

Dark Fruit, 1992, undated [flyers, clippings, notes and staging]

Censorship stuff, 1993

L.A. Times (San Diego County), [1991] [clipping]

Fierce Love - San Diego Union, 1991 [clipping]

North Carolina, 1993 [correspondence, programs, clippings]

Script / Fierce Love tech. script

[Script / Fierce Love] Performance and [?] space

Contracts, 1991-1992. Includes "Hey Boy" poem/lyrics

## **GLC 139 Pomo Afro Homos Records**

### **Box 9**

Miscellaneous Press: San Francisco Focus Magazine / Pomo photo, 1991

Miscellaneous Press: Fierce Love. San Francisco Bay Times, 1991

Miscellaneous Press: Fierce Love. San Francisco Examiner, 1991

Miscellaneous Press: Seattle Times, 1991

Miscellaneous Press: Fierce Love. Bay Area Reporter, [1991]

Miscellaneous Press: Fierce Love. San Francisco Bay Guardian, 1991

Miscellaneous Press: Fierce Love. San Francisco Chronicle, 1991

Miscellaneous Press: Fierce Love. East Bay Express, 1991

Miscellaneous Press: Fierce Love. Gay and Lesbian Times (San Diego), 1991

Miscellaneous Press: Fierce Love. San Francisco Weekly, 1991

Miscellaneous Press: Fierce Love. Washington Blade, [1991]

Miscellaneous Press: Fierce Love. Village Voice. Choice, 1991

Miscellaneous Press: Fierce Love. The Oregonian, 1992

Miscellaneous Press: Dark Fruit. Washington Post, 1994

Miscellaneous Press: Articles, 1991-1992, undated

Program copy "Fierce Love," (Boston), 1991

Fierce Love. Promo sheet, [1991]

London, England, 1992

London, England. National Review, 1993

London, England, 1994

Dark Fruit reviews, 1991-1993

Pomos production stuff [also includes reviews, programs], 1991-1992

Reviews. Originals. Fierce Love, 1991

San Francisco. Press release, 1994

San Francisco. Contract / Budget, 1994

San Francisco. Reviews, 1994

San Francisco. Correspondence, 1994-1995

San Francisco. Production schedule CFA [Yerba Buena Center for the Arts], [1994]

San Francisco. African-American Performance Art Festival, 1993-1994

Durham, North Carolina, 1994

Boston, Abe Rybeck (Theater Offensive of Boston), 1993

Boston, Dark Fruit, 1991-1992

Boston, Fierce Love, 1991-1992

[Reviews, Josie's program [1993]], 1991-1993

Hartford, Connecticut, 1993

Madison, Wisconsin, 1993

Auditions, 1994, undated

University of California, Irvine, 1992-1993

Manchester, [England] (Julia Turpin), 1992-1993

Serious Fun! Festival, 1993-1994

Serious Fun! '94 (2 folders), 1994-1995

Out There! Comedy Central, 1993-1995

Publishing, 1994-1996

Donahue (Junette Pinkney, producer), 1994

Glasgow, Scotland. Center for Contemporary Arts (CCA), 1991-1993

"SF Weekly *Dark Fruit*" [actually *Seattle Weekly* review, 1992]

*Oakland Tribune* "Dark Fruit," April 1992

*San Francisco Bay Guardian* "Dark Fruit," 1992

"Dark Fruit" *Oakland Tribune*, February 1992

"Dark Fruit" Josie's press releases, 1992

"Dark Fruit" Magic Johnson articles, 1991

*Los Angeles Times* "Dark Fruit," 1992

"Dark Fruit" reviews / originals, 1992

"Dark Fruit" script in black report cover

San Diego "Dark Fruit," [1991]-1992

Columbus, Ohio. Wexner Center, 1993

## **GLC 139 Pomo Afro Homos Records**

### **Box 10 Certificates and Awards (oversized)**

California State Assembly certificate, 1991

Boston Mayoral proclamation, 1991 (framed)

Cable Car Award, 1992

Dance Theater Workshop. New York Dance And Performance Awards, 1992  
(framed)

LGADDA Cultural Vision Awards, 1994 (framed)