

Finding Aid to the Thrillpeddlers collection

(#2018-85)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Thrillpeddlers collection

Collection Number: 2018-85

Physical Description: 53 linear feet (4 cartons, 9 oversize boxes, 14 artifacts, 1 flat file drawer)

Creator: Thrillpeddlers

Date (inclusive): 1991-2020

Language of Material: English

Abstract:

Thrillpeddlers was a San Francisco-based multigenerational queer theater company specializing in Grand Guignol plays and Theatre of the Ridiculous. The collection is arranged into four series: Production and Hypnodrome Theatre Materials, Photographs, Garments and Props, and Set Pieces and Signs.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Thrillpeddlers collection (#2018-85), 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 Russell Blackwood in March 2017 with additions in August 2021.

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 Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves.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:

Thrillpeddlers was a San Francisco-based multigenerational queer theater company specializing in Grand Guignol plays and Theatre of the Ridiculous. They also staged revivals of the Cockettes musicals. The company was founded in 1991 by Russell Blackwood, who also served as the Artistic Director and performed in many of the company's stage productions. In 2004, Thrillpeddlers moved into the Hypnodrome Theatre located in the SOMA district of San Francisco. Thrillpeddlers also developed an arts education program in 2006 called Creepshow Camp, which taught horror and science fiction performance skills to youth. Thrillpeddlers was operational for over 25 years until closing in 2017 when the owners of the Hypnodrome Theatre decided to sell the building.

Scope and Content:

This collection documents the work of Thrillpeddlers, a San Francisco-based multigenerational queer theater company specializing in Grand Guignol plays and Theatre of the Ridiculous. The records span from 1991-2020, with a primary focus on 2005-2017. The collection is arranged into four series: Production and Hypnodrome Theatre Materials, Photographs, Garments and Props, and Set Pieces and Signs. Production Materials contains scripts, stage manager prompt books, lyrics, and run of shows used in the production of Thrillpeddlers' shows. It also includes a set of Hypnodrome stickers, a CD recording of Hot Greeks, and event posters, as well as inventory lists that contain a comprehensive history of Thrillpeddlers productions with dates. Photographs contain photographic prints of the construction of the Hypnodrome Theatre, cast photographs, and performance photographs. Costumes and Props includes costumes and props used in Thrillpeddlers' productions, a number of which were used for special effects illusions. It also includes several t-shirts. Set Pieces and Signs include large artifacts including the Hypnodrome sign and set pieces used in Thrillpeddlers productions.

Indexing Terms:

LGBTQ
San Francisco (Calif.)
Theater
Music

Container Listing

Series I: Production and Hypnodrome Theatre Materials, 1991-2020

Physical Description: 2 cartons, 2 oversize boxes, 1 flat file

Scope and Content: This series contains scripts, stage manager prompt books, lyrics, CD recordings, posters, and run of shows used in the production of Thrillpeddlers' shows. It also includes a set of Hypnodrome stickers and a map of the Hypnodrome theatre, as well as inventory lists that contain a comprehensive history of Thrillpeddlers productions with dates.

Arrangement: Prompt books and scripts are arranged alphabetically in the beginning of the series. Other materials such as ephemera, inventory lists, and CD recordings are also arranged alphabetically. Posters are arranged chronologically in their containers.

Carton 1, Folder 1	Amazon Apocalypse script, 2016-2017 [1]
Carton 1, Folder 2	Amazon Apocalypse script, 2016-2017 [2]
Carton 1, Folder 3	Audacious Artefacts script, 2009
Carton 1, Folder 4	Bearded Assets script, undated
Carton 1, Folder 5	The Beast script, undated
Carton 1, Folder 6	Blood Bucket Ballyhoo prompt book, 2005
Carton 1, Folder 7	The Bloody Con script, undated
Carton 1, Folder 8	Club Inferno script, 2015 [1]
Carton 1, Folder 9	Club Inferno script, 2015 [2]
Carton 1, Folder 10	Cockettes are Golden run of show, 2019
Carton 1, Folder 11	The Colossus script, 2007
Carton 1, Folder 12	Creepshow Camp – Blood script, 2008
Carton 1, Folder 13	Creepshow Camp – Bumpy Jane script, undated
Carton 1, Folder 14	Creepshow Camp – Carnival of Screams script, undated
Carton 1, Folder 15	Creepshow Camp – Dart of Harkness script, 2008
Carton 1, Folder 16	Creepshow Camp – Escape from Monster Mountain script, undated
Carton 1, Folder 17	Creepshow Camp – The Interrupted Masquerade script, undated
Carton 1, Folder 18	Creepshow Camp – The System of Dr. Gourdon and Prof. Plume script, undated
Carton 1, Folder 19	Creepshow Camp – Tactical Tea script, undated
Carton 1, Folder 20	Creepshow Camp – Untitled, 2006
Carton 1, Folder 21	Creepshow Camp – Untitled, undated

Carton 1, Folder 22	Creepshow Camp – Zombied script, undated
Carton 1, Folder 23	Deathwrite script, undated
Carton 1, Folder 24	The Drug script, 2011
Carton 1, Folder 25	The Empress of Colma script, undated
Carton 1, Folder 26	The Head Hunters script, undated
Carton 1, Folder 27	Hot Greeks prompt book, 2010-2012
Carton 1, Folder 28	Hot Greeks script, 2010
Carton 1, Folder 29	Hypnodrome Head Trips prompt book, 2007 [1 of 2]
Carton 1, Folder 30	Hypnodrome Head Trips prompt book, 2007 [2 of 2]
Carton 1, Folder 31	Jack The Ripper prompt book, 2013
Carton 1, Folder 32	Jack The Ripper script, 2013
Carton 1, Folder 33	Jewels of Paris lyrics, 2015
Carton 1, Folder 34	Jewels of Paris script, 2015
Carton 1, Folder 35	The Kiss of Blood script, 2001
Carton 1, Folder 36	Laboratory of Hallucinations scripts, 2005
Carton 1, Folder 37	Midnight in Manhattan sheet music, 2010
Carton 1, Folder 38	The Model House script, 2015
Carton 1, Folder 39	Mondo Andronicus/Laboratory of Hallucinations/The Torture of Cavaradossi prompt book, 1991-2000
Carton 1, Folder 40	Pearls over Shanghai prompt book, 2009
Carton 1, Folder 41	Pearls over Shanghai script, 2009
Carton 1, Folder 42	The Phantom Limb script, undated
Carton 2, Folder 1	Shocktoberfest!! 2000 script, 2000
Carton 2, Folder 2	Shocktoberfest!! 2002 script, 2002
Carton 2, Folder 3	Shocktoberfest!! 2005 prompt book, 2005
Carton 2, Folder 4	Shocktoberfest: Elemental Horror script, 2008
Carton 2, Folder 5	Shocktoberfest: Kiss of Blood script, 2010 [1]
Carton 2, Folder 6	Shocktoberfest: Kiss of Blood script, 2010 [2]
Carton 2, Folder 7	Shocktoberfest: Fear Over Frisco script, 2011
Carton 2, Folder 8	Shocktoberfest: Bride of Death, 2012
Carton 2, Folder 9	Shocktoberfest: The Bloody Debutante prompt book, 2014
Carton 2, Folder 10	Shocktoberfest: Pyramid of Freaks prompt book, 2016
Carton 2, Folder 11	The System of Dr. Betume script, undated
Carton 2, Folder 12	Tales from the Laguna Café script, 2005
Carton 2, Folder 13	Tinsel Tarts in a Hot Coma prompt book, 2012 [1]
Carton 2, Folder 14	Tinsel Tarts in a Hot Coma prompt book, 2012 [2]
Carton 2, Folder 15	Tinsel Tarts in a Hot Coma script, 2012
Carton 2, Folder 16	Tinsel Tarts in a Hot Coma songs, circa 2012
Carton 2, Folder 17	The Twisted Pair script, undated [1]
Carton 2, Folder 18	The Twisted Pair script, undated [2]
Carton 2, Folder 19	The Untamed Stage script, circa 2016

Carton 2, Folder 20	Untitled script, undated
Carton 2, Folder 21	Vice Palace prompt book, 2011
Carton 2, Folder 22	The Wedding of the Member script, undated
Carton 2, Folder 23	Welcome to the Hypnodrome prompt book, 2004
Carton 2, Folder 24	The Wrong Ripper/Headline Noose/Pageant for the Handsome Accused script, undated
Carton 2, Folder 25	Farewell to the Hypnodrome program, 2017
Carton 2, Folder 26	Hot Greeks CD, 2012
Carton 2, Folder 27	Hypnodrome liquidation sale flyer, circa 2017
Carton 2, Folder 28	The Hypnodrome stickers, undated
Carton 2, Folder 29	Inventory lists, 2020
Carton 2, Folder 30	Unidentified music cue sheet, undated
Oversize box 8, Folder 1	Event posters, undated
Oversize box 8, Folder 2	Event posters, 2000-2009
Oversize box 9, Folder 1	Event posters, 2010-2014
Oversize box 9, Folder 2	Event posters, 2015-2016
Flat file B, Drawer 16	Shocktoberfest poster, 1999
Flat file B, Drawer 16	Hypnodrome Theatre fire/life upgrade plans with map, 2011

Series II: Photographs, circa 2004-2010

Physical Description: 1 carton, 1 flat file

Scope and Content: This series contains photographs of the construction of the Hypnodrome Theatre, cast photos, and performance photographs.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged chronologically within containers.

Carton 2, Folder 31	Russell Blackwood as Mother Fu in "Pearls Over Shanghai" photograph by David L. Wilson, 2009
Carton 2, Folder 32	Pearls Over Shanghai cast photograph by Daniel Nicoletta, 2010
Flat file B, Drawer 16	Hypnodrome Theatre construction photographs mounted on poster, circa 2004
Flat file B, Drawer 16	Russell Blackwood as Mother Fu in "Pearls Over Shanghai" oversize photograph, circa 2009

Series III: Garments and Props, circa 2005-2016

Physical Description: 2 cartons, 7 oversize boxes, 5 artifacts

Scope and Content: This series includes costumes and props used in Thrillpeddlers' productions, a number of which were used for special effects illusions. It also includes several t-shirts.

Arrangement: Series is arranged in the original order of the creator.

Carton 3, Item 1	Trick knife for "The System of Dr. Tarr and Prof. Fether," undated
Carton 3, Item 2	Dulled prop knife, undated
Carton 3, Item 3	Slapstick, undated
Carton 3, Item 4	Shadow play weapon for "The Laboratory of Hallucinations," circa 2005 [1]
Carton 3, Item 5	Shadow play weapon for "The Laboratory of Hallucinations," circa 2005 [2]
Carton 3, Item 6	Bloody blindfold for "The Model House" by Nicholas Torre, circa 2015
Carton 3, Item 7	Clean blindfold for "The Model House" by Nicholas Torre, circa 2015
Carton 3, Item 8	Crystal's skinned face for "The Empress of Colma" by Nicholas Torre, undated
Carton 3, Item 9	Heart for "Pyramid of Freaks" by Nicholas Torre, circa 2016
Carton 3, Item 10	Severed hand for "The Kiss of Blood" by Nicholas Torre, circa 2001-2010
Carton 3, Item 11	Castratable hard on for "The Bloody Debutante" by Nicholas Torre, circa 2014
Carton 3, Item 12	Skull for "The Laboratory of Hallucinations" by Jonathan Horton, circa 2005
Carton 3, Item 13	Burned face/wig piece for "The Drug" by Jonathan Horton, circa 2011
Carton 3, Item 14	Castration underpants for "The Ultimate Torture" by Jonathan Horton, undated
Carton 3, Item 15	Hand for "The Ultimate Torture" by Jonathan Horton, undated
Carton 4, Item 1	Foam pig prop, undated
Oversize box 1, Item 1	Snake headpiece, undated
Oversize box 1, Item 2	Set of two fringe arm cuffs, undated
Oversize box 1, Item 3	Gold costume, undated
Oversize box 2, Item 1	Skull scepter, undated
Oversize box 2, Item 2	Black fishnet stockings, undated
Oversize box 2, Item 3	Purple Colma sash from "The Empress of Colma," undated
Oversize box 2, Item 4	Mother Fu costume top from "Pearls Over Shanghai," circa 2009-2014
Oversize box 2, Item 5	Mother fu costume bottom from "Pearls Over Shanghai," circa 2009-2014

Oversize box 2, Item 6	Paddle from “Hot Greeks,” circa 2012 [1]
Oversize box 2, Item 7	Paddle from “Hot Greeks,” circa 2012 [2]
Oversize box 3, Item 1	Sequined costume with dragon design from “Pearls Over Shanghai,” circa 2009-2014
Oversize box 3, Item 2	Purple costume with collar from “Pearls Over Shanghai,” circa 2009-2014
Oversize box 4, Item 1	Headpiece from “Pearls Over Shanghai,” circa 2009-2014 [1]
Oversize box 4, Item 2	Headpiece from “Pearls Over Shanghai,” circa 2009-2014 [2]
Oversize box 4, Item 3	Bikini top from “Pearls Over Shanghai,” circa 2009-2014
Oversize box 5, Item 1	Alien head spook show puppet with detachable rod, undated [1]
Oversize box 5, Item 2	Alien head spook show puppet with detachable rod, undated [2]
Oversize box 5, Item 3	Liberty’s crown for “Tinsel Tarts in a Hot Coma” by VinC (Vince Costa), circa 2012
Oversize box 5, Item 4	Liberty’s torch for “Tinsel Tarts in a Hot Coma” by VinC (Vince Costa), circa 2012
Oversize box 5, Item 5	Liberty’s tablet for “Tinsel Tarts in a Hot Coma” by VinC (Vince Costa), circa 2012
Oversize box 5, Item 6	Cardboard martini glass prop, undated
Oversize box 6, Item 1	Smoking jacket worn by Russell Blackwood during introductions to shows at The Hypnodrome, circa 2004-2017
Oversize box 6, Item 2	The Thrillpeddlers t-shirt, undated
Oversize box 6, Item 3	Amazon Apocalypse t-shirt, circa 2017
Oversize box 6, Item 4	Club Inferno t-shirt, circa 2015
Oversize box 7, Item 1	Striped pillow, undated [1]
Oversize box 7, Item 2	Striped pillow, undated [2]
Oversize box 7, Item 3	Striped pillow, undated [3]
Artifact 1	Headpiece from “Hot Greeks,” circa 2012 [1]
Artifact 2	Headpiece from “Hot Greeks,” circa 2012 [2]
Artifact 3	Headpiece from “Hot Greeks,” circa 2012 [3]
Artifact 4	Glow in the dark lips prop, undated
Artifact 5	Yellow insect headpiece, undated

Series IV: Set Pieces and Signs, circa 2004-2017

Physical Description: 9 artifacts

Scope and Content: This series includes large artifacts such as the Hypnodrome Theatre sign and set pieces used in Thrillpeddlers productions.

Arrangement: Series is collected with no further arrangement.

Artifact 6	Hypnodrome metal sign (approx. 9’ long), circa 2004-2017
Artifact 7	575 10 th St. folding Hypnodrome sign (approx. 2.5’ long), circa 2004-2017
Artifact 8	Set piece from “Pearls Over Shanghai” (approx. 4’ long) circa

	2009-2014
Artifact 9	“Always Eze” set piece from “Hot Greeks” (approx. 3.75’ long), circa 2012
Artifact 10	Blue and red paint splattered set piece (approx. 4’ long), circa 2004-2017
Artifact 11	Multicolor daisy arch set piece from “Hot Greeks” (approx. 8’ long), circa 2012
Artifact 12	Multicolor purple cannabis leaf arch set piece from “Hot Greeks” (approx. 8’ long), circa 2012
Artifact 13	“Universitatus Athens” arch set piece from “Hot Greeks” (approx. 8’ long), circa 2012
Artifact 14	Zues set piece from “Hot Greeks” (approx. 4’ long), circa 2012