

Finding Aid to Ms. Bob Davis papers

(#2012-06)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: Ms. Bob Davis papers

Collection Number: 2012-06

Physical Description: 4 linear feet (three cartons, two oversized folders)

Creator: Ms. Bob Davis, Doris Fish, “Tippi,” Ambi Sextrous

Date (inclusive): 1977-2014

Language of Material: English

Abstract: Ms. Bob Davis is a professor of music and sound design, as well as a composer, sound engineer, and owner of the Louise Lawrence Transgender Archive. This collection contains materials from Davis’ professional and personal life, documents from her service on the GLBT Historical Society board, and memorabilia from three of her friends: the drag performers Ambi Sextrous, “Tippi,” and Doris Fish.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], Ms. Bob Davis collection (2012-06), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights:

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Acquisition Information:

The various sections of the collection were donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Ms. Bob Davis between 1997 and 2019.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid created by Isaac Fellman in 2019.

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 Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves.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: Ms. Bob Davis is a professor of music and sound design, as well as a composer, sound engineer, and owner of the Louise Lawrence Transgender Archive. She is the first transgender person to become a member of the tenured faculty at City College of San Francisco (CCSF), where she has also served as Dean of Liberal Arts.

Scope and Content: This collection contains materials from Davis' professional and personal life, documents from her service on the GLBT Historical Society board, and memorabilia from three of her friends: the drag performers Ambi Sextrous, "Tippi," and Doris Fish. The personal and professional materials contain records of the Queer Resource Center and Queer Alliance club at City College of San Francisco (CCSF), as well as conference materials, books, photographs, and ephemera, and VHS tapes of Shanti Project videos and related floppy disks with Shanti Project training manual materials. There are also a number of photographs of people in and out of drag on an RSVP cruise, purchased by Davis at a garage sale. Ambi Sextrous' materials include fliers, photographs, an essay, and a book of song titles from Ambi's professional repertoire. Mead and Fish's materials are largely composed of personal memorabilia, including dolls, buttons, jewelry, and a telephone; there are also a number of cassette recordings of rehearsals of Mead and Fish's performance troupe, Sluts-a-Go-Go. Two oversized folders contain posters from the 10th Annual Transgender Awareness Day at City College, a poster from Magnet, a Victoria Kolakowski campaign poster, and a No on 8 yard sign.

Indexing Terms:

Transgender people
Female impersonators
AIDS (Disease)
Shanti Project
City College of San Francisco
Drag