



University of Victoria Archives

SC636

Fantasia Fair collection

Fonds-level description

Title

Fantasia Fair collection

Dates

1981, 1991-1998

Extent

27 videocassettes

Biographical sketch

Beginning in 1975, Fantasia Fair is a week-long trans* conference held every October in Provincetown, Massachusetts. It provides a safe space for cross-dressers, transgender and gender questioning people to experiment with their gender identities and presentations, to interact with their communities, and to advocate for their rights. It is attended by a diverse audience of trans men and women, cross-dressers, and genderqueer people of every sexual orientation.

The conference began as an initiative of the nonprofit Outreach Institute for Gender Studies, and was founded by Ari Kane, Betty-Ann Lind, Betsy Shaw, Linda Franklin, and other members of the Cherrystone Club, a transgender support group in Boston. The founders began working with heterosexual cross-dressers to debut the event, but it was envisioned as a place where transgender people could learn about themselves and feel less isolated by a discriminatory society. It was promoted through flyers, brochures to past participants, ads and articles in publications, by staff members in speaking engagements, and by word of mouth.

The second annual Fantasia Fair, in 1976, offered events such as fashion and beauty courses, a fashion show, awards banquet, film festival, feminization and a course for the wives and girlfriends of trans* participants in order to foster healthy relationships and understanding between partners. Following years included workshops on “femme comportment”, femininity awards (since retired), potluck dinners, community building, and pronoun usage and gender change. In recent years, seminars, workshops and talks have addressed political struggles such as hate crimes by the federal government, gendered washrooms, self-defense, and medical aspects of transitioning.

In 2000, nonprofit Real Life Experiences was founded to serve as the parent nonprofit of Fantasia Fair, whose stewardship was transferred in 2001.

Custodial History

Cassettes were donated in March 2021 by Ari Kane--founder of Fantasia Fair--via Dallas Denny, Fair Director of several years.

Scope and content

Materials consist of 26 VHS cassettes and 1 Betacam cassette, documenting several years of the Fantasia Fair trans* conference in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Video primarily documents the Fashion Shows and Follies, held at the end of the conference. Footage also includes seminars, luncheon speakers, Outreach Institute awards banquets, video titled “Our Gal Jane”, and exhibit at Berta Walker Gallery by Helen Strong. Two cassettes include pages of time stamps and notes regarding performances.

Sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fantasia_Fair. Accessed April 15, 2021.

Inventory

Accession 2021-015

Box 1

- 1.1 Fantasia Fair '81 - Medical Seminar / by Fantasia Fair. -- 1981. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr., 37 min., 37 sec.) : analog, VHS.
Footage consists of a Medical Seminar held at Fantasia Fair in 1981.
- 1.2 FF 94 - VHS-3 - 1 on 1 Cole - 1 on 1 Docter - SrCDr(?) / by Fantasia Fair. -- 1994. -- 1 videocassette (2 hr., 31 min., 2 sec.) : analog, VHS.
Footage consists of a one-on-one discussion with Ari Kane and Sandra Cole, a one-on-one discussion with Ari Kane and Rich Docter, and a lunch seminar panel exploring how the cross-dressing lifestyle fits into retirement years, with Barbara Craig, Jane Peabody, and Jezebel. The tape's label reads as follows:
FF 94 VHS-3
ARI 1 on 1 Sandra Cole 2-00-35-01__2-21-31-15
ARI 1 on 1 Rich Docter 2-00-23-15__3-31-02-11
Sr CDr CST(1) 1-00-17-06__1-27-37-06
Sr CDr CST(2) 1-27-39-02__1-57-38-06
- 1.3 Fantasia Fair Fashion Show / by Fantasia Fair. -- 1995. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr., 8 min., 7 sec.) : analog, VHS.
Footage consists of the 1995 Fantasia Fair Fashion Show. The tape's label indicates that it begins with a Follies Act by Savannah Rose.
- 1.4 Fantasia Fair Follies 1995 / by Fantasia Fair. -- 1995, c1996. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr., 52 min., 12 sec.) : analog, VHS.
Footage consists of the 1995 Fantasia Fair Follies. Official VHS produced by Fantasia Fair.
- 1.5 Berta Walker Gallery - Opening Night - Helen Strong Exhibit (sic) - 1994 / by Berta Walker Gallery|Helen Strong. -- 1994. -- 1 videocassette (48 min., 2 sec.) : analog, VHS.
Footage consists of Helen Strong's art exhibit at the Berta Walker Gallery in Provincetown, MA.
- 1.6 FF 96 Code Burns - VHS-1 - Follies up to Crystal's Tina Turner / by Fantasia Fair. -- 1996. -- 1 videocassette : analog, VHS.
Footage consists of part of the 1996 Fantasia Fair Follies, up to (exclusively) Crystal's Tina Turner act. The tape's label reads as follows:
FF96 – VHS 1
Time Code Burn-ins
Follies up to (but not incl) Crystal's Tina Turner
FFF Reels 1, 2, 3, & most of 4

- 1.7 Fan Fair - Fashion Show 95 / by Fantasia Fair. -- 1995. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr., 8 min., 7 sec.) : analog, VHS.
Footage consists of the 1995 Fantasia Fair Fashion Show.
- 1.8 Fan Fair Follies 95' / by Fantasia Fair. -- 1995. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr., 52 min., 12 sec.) : analog, VHS.
Footage consists of the 1995 Fantasia Fair Follies.
- 1.9 Fantasia Fair Follies 1996 / by Fantasia Fair. -- 1996, c1997. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr., 53 min., 15 sec.) : analog, VHS.
Footage consists of the 1996 Fantasia Fair Follies. Official VHS produced by Fantasia Fair.
- 1.10 Fantasia Fair Fashion Show 1995 / by Fantasia Fair. -- 1995, c1996. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr., 8 min, 7 sec.) : analog, VHS.
Footage consists of the 1995 Fantasia Fair Fashion Show. Official VHS produced by Fantasia Fair.
Duplicate of 1.12, 1.13, 1.14.
- 1.11 FF 94 - Time Code Burn-in - Fashion - one on one - VHS #2 - M Volk + Ari Kane / by Fantasia Fair. -- 1994. -- 1 videocassette (2 hr., 10 min., 29 sec.) : analog, VHS.
Footage consists of fashion shows and a one-on-one discussion with M. Volker and Ari Kane. The tape's label reads as follows:
FF 96 VHS-2
Fashion CST 1. 1-00-59- to 1-28-10-
2. 1-28-32- to 1-59-35-05 (EOT)
3. 1-59-41-23 (BOT) to 2-00-09-00 (2-03-43-)
Ari one on one -- 1-00-50- to 1-28-42-10
FFF 6 -- 2-49-28-16 (BOT) to 3-10-29-
- 1.12 Fantasia Fair '95 Fashion Show (1) / by Outreach Institute. -- 1995, c1996. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr., 5 min.) : analog, VHS.
Footage consists of the 1995 Fantasia Fair Fashion Show. Official VHS produced by the Outreach Institute.
Duplicate of 1.10, 1.13, 1.14.
- 1.13 Fantasia Fair '95 Fashion Show (2) / by Outreach Institute. -- 1995, c1996. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr., 5 min.) : analog, VHS.
Footage consists of the 1995 Fantasia Fair Fashion Show. Official VHS produced by the Outreach Institute.
Duplicate of 1.10, 1.12, 1.14.
- 1.14 Fantasia Fair '95 Fashion Show (3) / by Outreach Institute. -- 1995, c1996. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr., 5 min.) : analog, VHS.

Footage consists of the 1995 Fantasia Fair Fashion Show. Official VHS produced by the Outreach Institute.
Duplicate of 1.10, 1.12, 1.13.

- 1.15 Fantasia Fair '96 Follies / by Outreach Institute. -- 1996, c1998. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr., 51 min.) : analog, VHS.

Footage consists of the 1996 Fantasia Fair Follies. Official VHS produced by the Outreach Institute.

Duplicate of 1.9, 1.16.

- 1.16 Fantasia Fair '96 Follies / by Outreach Institute. -- 1996, c1998. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr., 51 min.) : analog, VHS.

Footage consists of the 1996 Fantasia Fair Follies. Official VHS produced by the Outreach Institute.

Duplicate of 1.9, 1.15.

- 1.17 Fantasia Fair '94 Fashion Show / by Outreach Institute. -- 1994, c1994. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr.) : analog, VHS.

Footage consists of the 1994 Fantasia Fair Fashion Show. Official VHS produced by the Outreach Institute.

- 1.18 Fantasia Fair '94 Follies / by Outreach Institute. -- 1994, c1994. -- 1 videocassette (2 hr.) : analog, VHS.

Footage consists of the 1994 Fantasia Fair Follies. Official VHS produced by the Outreach Institute.

- 1.19 Our Gal Jane / by Maxine. -- 1997-05. -- 1 videocassette : analog, VHS.

Contents unknown. Tape's label reads as follows:

Produced by Maxine

May 97

t=25 min

- 1.20 FF 97 Cam Origs - TC Burns - Follies Reel 5 - Fashion Reels 1-4 / by Fantasia Fair. -- 1997. -- 1 videocassette : analog, VHS.

Footage consists of 1997 Fantasia Fair Fashion Show and Follies, and presentation by Evelyn Shade, Ari Kane, and McDonald. Enclosed note reads as follows:

FF97 – Follies + Fashion Show

TC – Burns

Edu[?]

Shade, Kane + McDonald

Tape's label reads as follows:

FF97 TC Burns

Follies Reel 5

Fashion Show Reels 1-4

- 1.21 Outreach Institute Beta Tapes: I, J, K, L / by Outreach Institute. -- [1992]. -- 1 videocassette (2 hr., 2 min., 13 sec.) : analog, VHS.
 Footage consists of the Outreach Institute's Outreach Awards Banquet, Guest Luncheon with speaker Garber, and Luncheon Seminar with Garber. Tape's label reads as follows:
 Beta Tapes: I,J,K,L
 Tapes I: Outreach Awards Banquet
 Tape J: Guest Luncheon Speaker Garber
 Tape K: Luncheon Seminar Garber
- 1.22 Fantasia Fair 1993 - 21, 22, 23, 24 / by Fantasia Fair. -- 1993. -- 1 videocassette : analog, VHS; 3 p.
 Footage consists of 1993 Fantasia Fair comportment workshop with Evelyn Shade, Shade's fashion show rehearsal, and T+G supper panel. Enclosed are 3 pages of notes with time stamps. Tape's label reads as follows:
 10 – E Shade – Comportment
 11 Shade's Rehearsal for F.S.
 9 T+G Supper Pannel
- 1.23 Fantasia Fair 1993 - 11, 13, 17, 70 / by Fantasia Fair. -- 1993. -- 1 videocassette (1 hr., 59 min., 19 sec.) : analog, VHS|4 p..
 Footage consists of 1993 Fantasia Fair, including seminar by Dr. Eugene Schrang on sexual reassignment surgery, Miller workshop, and comportment workshop with E. Shade. Enclosed are 4 pages of notes with time stamps. Tape label reads as follows:
 Schrang + SRS
 Part II – 13 BC
 Miller Workshop
 Shade – Comportment
Note: Contains images of surgeries.
- 1.24 Outreach Institute SRS / by Outreach Institute. -- [1993?]. -- 1 videocassette (49 min.) : analog, VHS.
 Footage consists of Outreach Insitute seminar on sexual reassignment surgery by plastic surgeon Dr. Eugene Schrang.
Note: Contains images of surgeries.
- 1.25 Outreach Institute Awards Banquet / by Outreach Institute. -- 1993. -- 1 videocassette (40 min., 14 sec.) : analog, VHS.
 Footage consists of 1993 Outreach Institute Awards Banquet.
- 1.26 Outreach Institute Beta Tapes: M, N, O, P / by Outreach Institute. -- 1992. -- 1 videocassette (2 hr., 3 min., 32 sec.) : analog, VHS.
 Footage consists of 1992 Outreach Institute events, including Garber luncheon seminar, colloquium with Nielson, introduction to PAAM symposium

(duplicated), and Ari Kane's introduction to seminar with Bulling, Bolin, and Rich Docter. Tape label reads as following:

Reel M: Garber luncheon seminar

Reel N: Coll. w/ Nielson

Reel O: Intro to PAAM sym 1992

Reel P same as above

Tape: Edit A. Kane Intro to Bulling/Bolin/Docter

- 1.27 Outreach Institute - 1991 Beta Reel #12 - Howey / by Outreach Institute. -- 1991. -- 1 videocassette (53 min.) : analog, VHS.

Footage consists of 1991 Outreach Institute event with Howey, including question and answer period. Enclosed note reads, "Very little content – worth keeping? –K.J." Tape label reads as follows:

Tape 9

TCR 12 – Howey –

More Q + A.

47-53 END of Howey