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Finding Aid to the Gangway Suzie Collection, 1976-1982 Coll2014.047

Loni Shibuyama

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Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

Title: Gangway Suzie collection

creator: Slezewski, Alfred

Identifier/Call Number: Coll2014.047

Physical Description: 1.2 Linear Feet1 flat box.

Date (inclusive): 1976-1982

Abstract: Correspondence, award certificates, flyers, publicity photographs, and other material, 1976-1982, from Gangway Suzie, a bartender and camp drag performer at The Gangway bar in San Francisco, California. A local celebrity in the San Francisco drag queen community, Gangway Suzie, whose real name is Alfred Slezewski, was killed in 1982.

Historical Note

Alfred K. Slezewski was born in New York on June 25, 1928. He adopted the name Suzie/Susie at the Lemon Twist bar in Los Angeles, where he performed camp at bars and drag queen competitions. He moved to San Francisco and became a bartender and performer for The Gangway bar for nine years. Slezewski was stabbed to death on January 22, 1982 in San Francisco. The man who admitted to killing Slezewski, Douglas Toney, was acquitted based on claims of self-defense.

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to researchers. There are no access restrictions.

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donor and date of acquisition unknown.

Preferred Citation

[Box/folder #, or item name] Gangway Suzie Collection, Coll2014-047, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Loni Shibuyama, September 2014.

Scope and Contents

This collection comprises correspondence, award certificates, flyers, clippings, publicity photographs, drawings, and other material, 1976-1982, from Gangway Suzie, a bartender and drag performer at The Gangway bar in San Francisco, California. Included are certificates and other material from drag queen events and competitions, including from Imperial Courts events.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged alphabetically.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Cross dressing -- Competitions -- United States

Drag shows

Gay community -- California -- San Francisco

Gay bars -- California

Slezewski, Alfred

Gangway Suzie collection

Box 1, folder 1	**Award certificates 1976-1981**
Box 1, folder 2	**Bar administration records and correspondence 1978-1981**
Box 1, Folder 3	**Clippings circa 1976-1982**
Box 1, folder 4	**Drawings circa 1977-1981**
Box 1, folder 5	**Flyers circa 1981**
Box 1, folder 6	**Publicity photographs Undated**

Box 1, folder 7	**Suzie Polish Empress II logo 1978**