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## **Finding Aid to the John Canalli Photographs and Video Recordings, circa 1978-2010 Coll2009-007**

Loni Shibuyama

Processing this collection has been funded by a generous grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources.

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

909 West Adams Boulevard

Los Angeles, California 90007

(213) 821-2771

[askone@usc.edu](mailto:askone@usc.edu)

URL: <http://one.usc.edu>

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**Language of Material:** English

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

**Title:** Canalli (John) photographs and video recordings

**creator:** Canalli, John

**Identifier/Call Number:** Coll2009-007

**Physical Description:** 0.7 Linear Feet1 archive carton.

**Date (inclusive):** circa 1978-2010

**Date (bulk):** bulk

**Abstract:** Photographs, video recordings, and personal papers, circa 1978-2010, from gay independent filmmaker John Canalli. The bulk of the photographs documents Canalli and his friends attending drag queen events in San Francisco. The video recordings include DVDs and videocassettes of Canalli's film productions, including Wigstock documentaries and outtakes, the documentary *Heroism : A Community Responds*, programs from the Gay Cable Network, and excerpts from unfinished works.

### **Biography**

Born on October 29, 1956, independent filmmaker John Canalli (also known by his family name Canaly) wrote and produced LGBT-themed dramas and documentaries. Active in LGBT film festival programming, Canalli served as Assistant Film Festival Director for the 9th International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in 1985, where his dramatic short *One Sings* was screened. Canalli went on to develop the Gay Video Festival in San Francisco in 1986, and later co-developed west coast programming for the Gay Cable Network, which featured interview programs produced out of San Francisco and New York. Canalli also documented the AIDS crisis, writing and producing *Heroism : A Community Responds*, which highlighted the gay community coming together through Meals on Wheels and other forms of compassionate outreach. Among his most celebrated works, Canalli produced a number of video documentaries about Wigstock, a popular annual drag performance party in New York City's Tompkins Square Park. He died from complications from AIDS on March 25, 1992.

### **Conditions Governing Access**

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

### **Conditions Governing Use**

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the ONE Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives at USC Libraries as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.

### **Acquisition**

Gift of Christine Canaly, July 30, 2009.

### **Preferred Citation**

[Box/folder #, or item name] John Canalli Photographs and Video Recordings, Coll2009-007, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

### **Processing Information**

Collection processed by Michael Palmer; revised by Loni Shibuyama, May 2014.

### **Scope and Contents**

The collection includes correspondence, miscellaneous papers, clippings, microcassettes, photographs, and video recordings from independent filmmaker John Canalli, circa 1978-2010. The bulk of the photographs documents Canalli and his friends as they dressed up for and attended drag queen events, mostly in San Francisco. The video recordings include DVDs and videocassettes of Canalli's film productions, including Wigstock documentaries and outtakes, the documentary *Heroism : A Community Responds*, programs from the Gay Cable Network, and excerpts from unfinished works. Also included are an interview with Canalli and a documentary retrospective of his work.

### **Arrangement**

This collection is arranged in the following series:

Series 1. Papers and photographs

Series 2. Video recordings

### **Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Gay and lesbian film festivals

Gays in motion pictures

Photographs

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Homosexuality on television  
Cross dressing  
Drag shows  
Video tapes  
Motion pictures and gay men  
Homosexuality in motion pictures  
Gay men on television  
Canalli, John

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**Papers and photographs circa 1978-2010 **

**Scope and Contents**

This series comprises correspondence, miscellaneous papers, clippings, microcassettes, and photographs from John Canalli, circa 1978-2010. The microcassettes are sound recordings of Canalli's conversations with others, and audio from his film productions. The bulk of the photographs documents Canalli and his friends as they dressed up for and attended drag queen events, mostly in San Francisco. Note that some correspondence may be found in the photograph albums.

**Arrangement**

Personal papers are at the beginning of this series, followed by photographs.

Box 1, Folder 1  
Box 1, Folder 2

**Personal papers 1980-1992**

**Whitworth, David correspondence about Canalli 1989-2010**

**Physical Description:** 21 color photographs.

Box 1, Folder 10

**Microcassettes 1987-1988**

**Physical Description:** 2 microcassettes.

Box 1, Folder 3

**Photograph album #1: "The Me Story" circa 1978-1992**

**Physical Description:** 60 color and black and white photographs.

Box 1, Folder 4

**Photograph album #2 circa 1978-1992**

**Physical Description:** 90 color and black and white photographs.

Box 1, Folder 5

**Photograph album #3 circa 1978-1992**

**Physical Description:** 49 color and black and white photographs.

Box 1, Folder 6

**Photograph album #4 circa 1978-1992**

**Physical Description:** 57 color and black and white photographs.

Box 1, Folder 7-8

**Photograph album #5 circa 1978-1992**

**Physical Description:** 290 color photographs.

Box 1, Folder 9

**Photographs found loose circa 1978-1992**

**Physical Description:** 18 color photographs.

**Video recordings circa 1980-1992**

**Scope and Contents**

This series comprises DVDs and videocassettes of Canalli's film productions. Included are Wigstock documentaries and outtakes; the documentary *Heroism : A Community Responds*; programs from the Gay Cable Network; and excerpts from unfinished works. This series also includes an interview with Canalli and a documentary retrospective of his work.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Item VDD0696

**1 in 7 undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 DVD.

**Existence and Location of Originals**

Original videocassette (Betacam) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M143228.

Item VDD0697

***Alphabitland: The Backyard Tour, Featuring Wigstock 89 1989***

**Physical Description:** 1 DVD.

**Existence and Location of Originals**

Original videocassette (U-matic) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M143229.

Item VDD0698

***Alphabitland: The Underground Tour, Featuring Wigstock 90; One Sings 1990***

**Physical Description:** 1 DVD.

**Existence and Location of Originals**

Original videocassette (U-matic) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M154050.

Item VDD0699

***Alphabitland: The Underground Tour, Featuring Wigstock 90 1990***

**Physical Description:** 1 DVD.

**Existence and Location of Copies**

Original videocassette (U-matic) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M143230.

Item VDD0700

**[Excerpts from John Canalli's unfinished work] undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 DVD.

**Existence and Location of Originals**

Original videocassette (U-matic) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M143233.

Item VDD0701

**Gay Cable Network Show #51 and #52 undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 DVD.

**Existence and Location of Originals**

Original videocassette (VHS) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M154052.

Item VDD0702

***Ghetto Girls (A Day in the Life) undated***

**Physical Description:** 1 DVD.

**Existence and Location of Originals**

Original videocassette (VHS) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M154053.

Item VV3094

***Ghetto Girls; Human Still Life; The Me Show undated***

**Physical Description:** 1 videocassette (VHS).

- Item VDD0703      **Halloween 89; Alphabitland (raw 5B + 8 + TV outtakes) undated**  
Physical Description: 1 DVD.  
Existence and Location of Originals  
Original videocassette (VHS) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M154054.
- Item VDD0704      **Heroism: A Community Responds undated**  
Physical Description: 1 DVD.  
Existence and Location of Originals  
Original videocassette (VHS) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M154055.
- Item VDD0705      **Human Still Life undated**  
Physical Description: 1 DVD.  
Existence and Location of Originals  
Original videocassette (U-matic) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M143231.
- Item VV3095-VV3096      **Human Still Life; Gay Cable Network #47 and #52; Pride and Progress; The Right Stuff undated**  
Physical Description: 2 videocassettes (VHS).
- Item VV3097      **Human Still Life; The Me Show undated**  
Physical Description: 1 videocassette (VHS).
- Item VDD0706      **[Interview excerpts] undated**  
Physical Description: 1 DVD.  
Existence and Location of Originals  
Original videocassette (U-matic) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M143232.
- Item VDD0707      **John Canalli: Video Artist 1955-1992 (retrospective and interview) undated**  
Physical Description: 1 DVD.  
Existence and Location of Originals  
Original videocassette (VHS) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M154057.
- Item VDD0708      **Just Another Girl; One Sings undated**  
Physical Description: 1 DVD.  
Existence and Location of Originals  
Original videocassette (VHS) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M154056.
- Item VDD0709      **Return of the Flies; Divine is Dead; Nuclear Family undated**  
Physical Description: 1 DVD.  
Existence and Location of Originals  
Original videocassette (VHS) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M154051.

Item VDD0710

**Wigstock 89 undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 DVD.

**Existence and Location of Originals**

Original videocassette (VHS) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M154058.

Item VDD0711

**[Wigstock outtakes] undated**

**Physical Description:** 1 DVD.

**Existence and Location of Originals**

Original videocassette (VHS) is stored at the UCLA Film and Television Archive: UCLA Inventory #M154059.