



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Vito Russo papers

1969-1990

MssCol 2654

Compiled by Beth Kleber, Maurita Baldock, and Susan Malsbury, 2009 and 2014.

Summary

Creator: Russo, Vito

Title: Vito Russo papers

Date: 1969-1990

Size: 13.19 linear feet (36 boxes); 1.41 Megabytes (249 computer files); 230 audio files, 19 video files

Source: Gifts of Arnie Kantrowitz and Jed Mattes, 1995; Telling Pictures, 1998- 1999

Abstract: The papers reflect Russo's personal life and career as a writer, lecturer, film historian, and gay rights and AIDS activist. They include correspondence, journals, appointment books, writings by and about Russo, electronic records, photographs, sound and video recordings, ephemera, and posthumous material.

Access: Advance notice required.

Conditions Governing Access:

Under the terms of Russo's will, most correspondence is closed until November 7, 2015.

Preferred citation: Vito Russo papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Beth Kleber, Maurita Baldock, and Susan Malsbury, 2009 and 2014. The floppy disks that comprise the Electronic Records were forensically imaged for preservation.

Creator History

Vito Russo (1946-1990), a film historian, writer, and gay rights and AIDS activist, was born on July 11, 1946 in New York City, the son of Angelo and Angelina Russo. He was raised in New York City and completed his undergraduate work at Fairleigh Dickinson University. He received a master's degree in cinema from New York University in 1971 and worked as a film distributor for the Museum of Modern

Art from 1971 to 1973 and Cinema 5 Limited from 1973 to 1975.

Russo became active in gay politics in 1970 when he joined New York's Gay Activist's Alliance (GAA). During the 1980s, Russo co-founded and became a frequent speaker at meetings, demonstrations, and fundraisers for the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP). In 1985, Russo became one of the founding members of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), an organization which sought to counteract the negative effects of the media on gays, lesbians, and people with AIDS.

A freelance writer for most of his career, Russo was one of the first critics to bring a gay liberationist's view to popular culture, particularly film. In the mid-1970s, Russo and Village Voice columnist Arthur Bell co-wrote a column for *Gaysweek* that consisted primarily of transcripts of phone conversations between the two writers. He later wrote a regular column for *The Advocate* called "Russo on Film." Russo's essays, interviews, and reviews appeared in the gay and mainstream press, including *Rolling Stone*, *New York*, *Outweek*, *The Village Voice*, and *Esquire*. He also wrote material for several performers, including Lily Tomlin. He was granted awards by many foundations, including The Human Rights Campaign Fund, The Stonewall Foundation, The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, The Alliance of Gay Artists in the Entertainment Industry, The Hetrick-Martin Institute, and the National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation. In 1983, Russo wrote, produced, and co-hosted a series focusing on the gay community called "Our Time" for WNYC-TV and in 1985 he was the national publicity director for the Academy Award-winning documentary, *The Times of Harvey Milk*. He achieved prominence on-screen as one of the subjects of *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt*, which won the 1990 Academy Award for best documentary. The film focused on Russo's loss of his lover, Jeffrey Sevcik, to AIDS in 1986.

Russo began giving film and lecture presentations in the mid-1970s about the treatment of gay characters in film. This ever-changing program called "The Celluloid Closet," which he presented at universities, museums and film festivals all over the United States, Europe, and Australia, eventually evolved into a book of the same name. *The Celluloid Closet* was published by Harper and Row in 1981 and revised in 1987. During the spring 1990 semester, Russo taught two courses at the University of California at Santa Cruz: "The Celluloid Closet" and "Documenting Gay Activism."

Russo learned he had AIDS in 1985 but was determined to continue his demanding speaking and teaching schedule despite his declining health. He persisted in fighting for increased AIDS research, access to new medications, and an end to discrimination against people with AIDS. He died of AIDS-related complications on November 7, 1990 at the age of forty-four.

Custodial History

The Vito Russo papers were donated to the Library by Arnie Kantrowitz, Russo's close friend, and additions were contributed by Russo's literary agent, Jed Mattes and by Telling Pictures (Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, producers of the film *The Celluloid Closet*). Kantrowitz supplemented the collection with photocopies of correspondence received from Russo and files of posthumous material pertaining to Russo's life and career.

Scope and Content Note

The Vito Russo papers document Russo's life and career as a writer, lecturer, film historian, and gay rights and AIDS activist. His papers consist of correspondence, journals, appointment books, writings by and about Russo, electronic records, photographs, sound and video recordings, ephemera, and

posthumous material. These materials also document the gay rights movement from the late 1970s through 1990 and narrate how the AIDS epidemic mobilized and yet devastated the gay community.

The correspondence in the collection is both personal and professional. Although it is mostly incoming, the collection does include a number of outgoing letters of which Russo kept copies, as well as photocopies of correspondence to Arnie Kantrowitz (one of the collection's donors), which were added by Kantrowitz. Russo's personal journals chronicle his work, relationships, and fight against AIDS. The posthumous material was added by Arnie Kantrowitz and contains obituaries, articles remembering Russo, and programs for his memorial services.

The items relating to Russo's professional life include his writings, lectures, and notes for presentations. His writings consist mainly of articles on film and the gay rights movement. His lectures and speeches are from his "Celluloid Closet" presentations, his teaching at University of California Santa Cruz, and various gay events. Many of the electronic records also related to his professional life. The gay and lesbian ephemera consists of items such as buttons, handbills, and flyers that demand gay rights or celebrate anniversaries of the Stonewall riots. It also includes a large number of programs from gay and lesbian film festivals from the 1980s.

Sound and video recordings account for a large percentage of the collection and include recordings of Russo's interviews, gay events, and his "Celluloid Closet" lectures. Most of the photographs in the collection are snapshots or contact sheets of friends and various gay marches and events.

Key Terms

Subjects

AIDS (Disease)
AIDS (Disease) and the arts
AIDS activists
Film criticism
Film critics
Gay activists
Gay and lesbian studies
Gay critics
Gay liberation movement
Gay men -- United States
Gay men's writings, American
Gay rights
Gays -- United States
Gays in popular culture
Gays' writings, American
Homosexuality in motion pictures
Motion pictures -- United States -- History
NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt

Occupations

Authors
Lecturers

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence
Diaries

Floppy disks
Sound recordings
Video recordings

Names

Allen, Bruce Hampton
Allen, Jay Presson, 1922-2006
Almadóver, Pedro
Almendros, Nestor
Anger, Kenneth
Ballard, Kaye
Bell, Arthur (Arthur Irving)
Bowie, David
Bradbury, Ray, 1920-2012
Brown, Rita Mae
Bumbalo, Victor
Burroughs, William S., 1914-1997
Cassidy, David, 1950-
Charisse, Cyd
Duane, Tom
Dyer, Richard, 1945-
Fellini, Federico
Frears, Stephen
Goldberg, Whoopi, 1955-
Hines, Grainger
Jiménez-Leal, Orlando, 1941
Kantrowitz, Arnie, 1940-
Katz, Jonathan, 1938-
Kellerman, Sally
Koch, Ed, 1924-2013
Laurents, Arthur
Midler, Bette
Russo, Vito
Tomlin, Lily
Waters, John, 1946-
Williams, Tennessee, 1911-1983

Container List

Series I. Correspondence 1969-1990 (6 boxes)

The bulk of the correspondence is organized chronologically and covers both personal and professional matters. The material spans 1969 to 1990, but largely dates from 1980 to 1990. The correspondence is with personal friends, organizations requesting him to speak (or thanking him for speaking), activists in the gay liberation movement, politicians, researchers and writers working on topics related to *The Celluloid Closet*, and fans praising/responding to *The Celluloid Closet*, *Common Threads*, his lectures, or articles.

Correspondents include Arthur Bell (approximately 10 items, 1976-1981), Ray Bradbury (1973, 1974), Rita Mae Brown (approximately 25 items, 1975-1988 and undated), Cyd Charisse (1988 and undated), Tom Duane (1988), Harvey Fierstein (1988), Jonathan Ned Katz (1989), Ed Koch (1984, 1988), Craig Lucas (1990), Janet Maslin (1988), Bette Midler (approx. 4 items, 1972-1981), Paul Monette (1988), Randy Shilts (1976, 1989), Liz Smith (approximately 3 items, 1978 and 1984), Lily Tomlin (approx. 6 items, 1975, 1976, 1989, and undated), and John Waters (1988 and undated).

The medical and legal file consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence pertaining to Russo's AIDS treatment, as well as paperwork related to the medical and public assistance he received near the end of his life. The file also includes a letter notifying Russo of a sum of money left to him in Arthur Bell's will, as well as several letters regarding Bette Midler's attempt to stop Russo from showing rare footage of her performing at the Continental Baths in 1971.

The family file contains correspondence from Russo's parents, his brother Charles, and various aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The Jeffrey Sevcik folder contains intimate correspondence from Sevcik, Russo's lover who died of AIDS in 1986.

The University of California at Santa Cruz folder contains correspondence pertaining to Russo's two week lectureship during the 1988-89 academic year, and the two courses he taught from January to March 1990, "The Celluloid Closet: Lesbians/Gay Men in Film" and "Documenting Gay Activism." The file contains paperwork confirming Russo's appointment but most of the material is from Russo's students, who continued to keep in touch with him after he left the campus.

The Russo outgoing folders contain both personal and professional correspondence, including letters to friends, thank you notes, responses to letters received, and letters to the editors of various papers in which he responded to articles promoting misconceptions about gays and lesbians and/or people with AIDS.

The *Celluloid Closet* folders contain incoming and outgoing materials pertaining to the research for and publication of the book (both the original and revised edition). Correspondents include screenwriters Nancy Dowd, Bryan Forbes, Michael Gordon, Gavin Lambert, Edmund Morris, Edmund H. North, Tom Rickman, Stewart Stern, Daniel Taradash, and Gore Vidal; actors Paul Newman and Christopher Reeve; and others in the film industry including Lindsay Anderson, Edward Dmytryk, Richard Levinson, and Michael Winner. Also included is correspondence from Jed Mattes, Russo's literary agent, and Russo's editors at Harper and Row, as well as material pertaining to requests for movie stills and permissions to reprint them.

The Arnie Kantrowitz correspondence spans from the early 1970s to the late 1980s. It consists of outgoing letters printed from computer files in 1996, correspondence between Russo and Arnie Kantrowitz added to the collection by Kantrowitz following Russo's death (Kantrowitz added photocopies of correspondence received from Russo), and one letter from Russo contributed by the recipient in 1996. Many of the items are addressed to "Sunny" or "Cher," Russo and Kantrowitz's nicknames for each other, respectively. The letters are largely anecdotal and include many letters and postcards to and from Russo as he traveled through the United States, Australia, and Europe.

In accordance with the terms of Russo's will, most correspondence (Boxes 1-5) is closed until November 7, 2015.

- b. 1 f. 1-11 1969, 1972-1980
- b. 2 f. 1-12 1981-1986
- b. 3 f. 1-11 1987-1990

Series I. Correspondence (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 1-5 Undated
- b. 4 f. 6 Medical and Legal Correspondence
- b. 5 f. 1 Family Correspondence
- b. 5 f. 2 Jeffrey Sevcik Correspondence
- b. 5 f. 3 University of California- Santa Cruz Correspondence
- b. 5 f. 4-5 Vito Russo Outgoing Correspondence
- b. 5 f. 6-10 *The Celluloid Closet Correspondence*
- b. 5A f. 1-4 Arnie Kantrowitz Correspondence 1972-1990

Series II. Journals 1978-1990 (2 boxes)

The journals, arranged chronologically, span the years 1978 to 1990 and offer a chronicle of the New York gay community as it faced the outbreak of the AIDS epidemic. Russo discusses his personal life and relationships; his work on *The Celluloid Closet*; his travels through the United States, Europe, and Australia; his feelings about gay liberation and AIDS activism; and his struggle with the AIDS virus. Most of the journals contain ticket stubs, photographs, and clippings glued inside.

The 12/14/78 - 9/25/80 journal contains entries pertaining to Russo's research for *The Celluloid Closet* as well as details of his personal life. During this period he traveled to, among other places, London, Amsterdam, Dublin, Stockholm, and Athens.

The 9/26/80 - 3/29/85 journal includes continued travel to Yugoslavia, Italy, France, Wales, London, and Berlin. It also chronicles his relationship with his longtime lover, Jeffrey Sevcik. Russo writes about how the publication of his book has thrust him into the public eye.

The 3/30/85 - 11/13/87 journal chronicles Jeffrey Sevcik's struggle with and death from AIDS, as well as Russo's own diagnosis. He travels to Australia, London, and Amsterdam.

The 11/14/87 - 6/2/89 journal chronicles Russo's continued struggle against AIDS and his difficulties coping with his family once they know of his illness. Russo also writes about his involvement with ACT UP. He travels to Australia and California.

The 6/3/89 - 8/22/90 journal shows Russo battling serious depression and loneliness. The journal covers his time at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Russo expresses his frustration with the lack of new gay activism as well as his disappointment with the medical profession, which he felt had not taken an activist role in fighting the AIDS virus.

An undated journal contains a short entry regarding Russo's continued disillusionment with the medical profession. A yellow pad labeled "Vito Russo's final week in hospital" contains illegible writing presumably by Russo, as well as notes made by others.

Russo's final journal (8/90 - 11/90) chronicles his last days.

- b. 6 1978 Dec 14 - 1980 Sep 25
- b. 6 1980 Sep 29 - 1985 Mar 29
- b. 6 1985 Mar 30 - 1987 Nov 13
- b. 6 1987 Nov 14 - 1989 Jun 2
- b. 6 1989 Jun 3 - 1990 Aug 22
- b. 7 1990 Aug 23 - 1990 Nov 4
- b. 7 Undated Journal ca. 1990
- b. 7 "Vito Russo's final week in hospital" (notepad)

Series III. Personal Miscellaneous 1977-1990 (1 box, 4 folders)

This series contains appointment calendars, biographical information, and a folder of miscellaneous items. The calendars are arranged chronologically and span the years 1977 through 1990. They contain personal and professional appointments, and many list phone numbers in the back. The folder of biographical information includes brief summaries of Russo's life and career, his curriculum vitae, and professional references. The miscellaneous folder contains Russo's daily medication list, a removal permit for the cremated remains of Jeffrey Sevcik, a list of films, and numerous phone number lists.

- b. 8 Appointment calendars 1977-1986
- b. 9 f. 1-2 Appointment calendars 1987-1990
- b. 9 f. 3 Biographical information
- b. 9 f. 4 Miscellaneous
- b. 9 f. 5-8 Series IV. Posthumous Material 1990 (3 folders)

Added to the collection by Arnie Kantrowitz, the posthumous material contains obituaries for Russo and articles recounting his life and career. A program from his funeral service and invitations and programs from his memorial services in New York and San Francisco are also included.

Series V. Electronic Records 1987-1990 (1.41 Megabytes (249 computer files), 1 box)

The electronic records consists of professional and personal correspondence, writings, speeches, teaching materials from the University of Santa Cruz, and a small amount of personal documents. The bulk of the correspondence documents Russo's efforts to secure permission to screen film clips for his Celluloid Closet lectures. Other correspondence reflects his travels; his work as an activist; and his medical care, including his navigation of the Medicaid system. Writings and speeches consists of front matter and addendum drafts for the *Celluloid Closet* revision; drafts of articles, including Russo's columns for *The Advocate*; and interview transcripts. Personal documents contain various lists such as his videotape collection, medications and vitamins, and a guest list for a party. The computer files as a whole document Russo's interest in how AIDS was reported in the press. They contain letters to editors commenting on specific articles or topics, as well as notes regarding a 1988 meeting with *The New York Times* to discuss *The Times'* coverage of drug and treatment issues.

Subseries V. B. Contains paper copies of the computer files that were printed at The New York Public Library in May and June, 1996, using a borrowed Kaypro 2X computer.

V. A. Computer Files

- er. 1 Correspondence 1987-1990
(294.2 Kilobytes (113 computer files))
- er. 2 Writings and Speeches circa 1986-1990
(897 Kilobytes (80 computer files))
- er. 3 Teaching Materials 1989-1990
(162.7 Kilobytes (35 computer files))
- er. 4 Personal Documents 1985-1990
(99.11 Kilobytes (21 computer files))

V. B. Files Printed from Disks

- b. 11 Correspondence 1987-1990
Celluloid Closet revisions
Columns, Articles and Speeches
Course Notes and Related Material: "Celluloid Closet" and "Documenting Gay Activism"
Film Notes
Personal and financial documents

Series VI. Professional Materials 1975-1990 (7 boxes)

The items relating to Russo's professional life are teaching materials, speeches and lectures, writings, research information, and various awards. The teaching materials are from his two 1990 courses at University of California, Santa Cruz. They include class lectures, syllabi, lists of films for class, student papers, and articles for course reading. The series also contains Russo's public lectures and presentations. The speeches that are identified are from his "Celluloid Closet" lectures, AIDS rallies, film festivals, and various panel discussions. Writings are articles written about Russo as well as his own pieces in gay publications, such as *The Advocate*, and in more mainstream periodicals, such as *Moviegoer*. His writings discuss the gay rights movement, gays and lesbian portrayals in film, and the film industry in general. Included in the writings are several columns of the "Russo/Bell Connection" from the *New York Native* that chronicled the daily phone conversations of Russo and Arthur Bell. Two folders also contain several drafts of Russo's writings.

The series also holds information that Russo presumably used as background material for his writings, teaching, and lectures. Files consist of clippings of articles regarding gay rights and gays in film, notebooks, lists of films, interviews and writings by others, the proposal for *The Celluloid Closet* to be made into a documentary, and permission requests to use film clips. The awards in the collection are certificates, plaques and statues. The awards do not provide much information on the honors other than the name of the award and the presenting organization.

VI. A. Teaching

- b. 12 f. 1-4 Lectures and court material
- b. 12 f. 5-6 Student papers
- b. 12 f. 7-8 Course reading material for "The Celluloid Closet," at University of California, Santa Cruz, Vol. I & II, Winter 1990
- b. 13 f. 1-2 Course reading material for "Documenting Gay Activism," at University of California, Santa Cruz, Vol. I & II, Winter 1990

VI. B. Public Appearances and Lectures

- b. 13 f. 3 Announcements for Russo lectures
- b. 13 f. 4-5 Lectures and speeches

VI. C. Writings

- b. 14 f. 1 Articles about Russo
- b. 14 f. 2-3 Russo articles from various publications
- b. 14 f. 4-7 *The Advocate*
- b. 14 f. 8 *Film Comment*
- b. 14 f. 9 *London Gay News*
- b. 14 f. 10 *Moviegoer*
- b. 14 f. 11 *The New York Native*
- b. 14 f. 12 "The Russo/Bell Connections" from *The New York Native*
- b. 14 f. 13 *Newsday*
- b. 14 f. 14 *Soho Weekly News*
- b. 14 f. 15 *The Village Voice*
- b. 15 f. 1-2 Drafts
- b. 15 f. 3 *Signed copy of the book, The Celluloid Closet*

VI. D. Research and Background Materials

- b. 15 f. 4 Research notes in notebooks
- b. 15 f. 5-9 Articles of gay and lesbian rights from various productions
- b. 16 f. 1 Articles and reviews of gay and lesbian films
- b. 16 f. 2 Articles and reviews on films of general interest

Series VI. Professional Materials (cont.)

VI. D. Research and Background Materials (cont.)

- b. 16 f. 3 Lists of films used for writings and lectures
- b. 16 f. 4 Lists of films of 1980s with portrayals of gays and lesbians
- b. 16 f. 5 *Book cover for The Celluloid Closet*
- b. 16 f. 6 *Proposal for documentary film, The Celluloid Closet*
- b. 16 f. 7 Correspondence regarding permission to use film clips
- b. 16 f. 8 Letter to Russo explaining Production Code
- b. 16 f. 9 Professional Contacts
- b. 16 f. 10 *Agenda for meeting with New York Times*
- b. 16 f. 11 Letters and materials claiming "cures" for AIDS
- b. 16 f. 12 *Script for movie The Silence of the Lambs*
- b. 16 f. 13 *Letter to Outweek by Patrick Merla*
- b. 16 f. 14 Paper by Patrick Horrigan on Barbra Streisand and her gay audience
- b. 16 f. 15 Story by Arnie Kantrowitz and interview with Arnie Kantrowitz
- b. 16 f. 16 *Copied pages from Publicity is Power: A Media Handbook for Energy Activists by Diane MacEachern*

VI. E. Honors and Awards

- b. 17 Alliance for Gay Artists in the Entertainment Industry
Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
The Washington Blade and the First Annual Washington, D.C. International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (Oct. 14, 1984)
Frameline Award, for outstanding contribution to lesbian and gay media arts 1986
Fairpac Media Award 1990
Emery S. Hetrick Award for providing an outstanding role model for gay and lesbian youth 1988
1984 Arthur Bell Arts and Humanitarian Award
Unmarked award with Lambda symbol
- b. 18 Gay Advocacy Award from Gay Friends and Neighbors, Ltd., Brooklyn 1986
Bobby Campbell Public Awareness Award by National Lesbian and Gay Health Foundation 1986

Series VII. Gay and Lesbian Ephemera 1971-1990 (3 boxes)

This series consists of ephemera relating to gay and lesbian rights and interests. These include pins and buttons, notices and flyers for protests and events, programs for gay and lesbian film festivals, the constitution and newsletter of the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), and information relating to the AIDS Quilt. Many of the handbills calling for political action are signed by "The Red Queen." The series also has ephemera celebrating anniversaries of the Stonewall Riots of 1969. One booklet from 1979, entitled *Stonewall Romances*, includes personal accounts of the night of the riots. Other ephemera includes gay magazines, information about the media arts organization Frameline, and a program from Finocchio's female impersonator club in San Francisco.

- b. 19 Buttons and pins
- b. 20 f. 1 Flyers and announcements
- b. 20 f. 2 Stonewall anniversary celebrations
- b. 20 f. 3 Gay Activists Alliance (GAA)
Program, constitution, and publications
- b. 20 f. 4 AIDS Quilt

Series VII. Gay and Lesbian Ephemera (cont.)

- b. 20 f. 5-10 Gay and Lesbian Film Festival Programs 1980-1990
 - b. 21 f. 1 Gay magazines
 - b. 21 f. 2-3 Miscellaneous

Series VIII. Video Recordings 1978-circa 1991 (19 video files)

The video recordings are arranged in alphabetical order and consist of interviews and lectures by Russo; broadcast productions; and film clips used in Russo's "Celluloid Closet" lectures. There is also a recording of the Second Annual Media Awards Presentation for the Alliance for Gay Artists in the Entertainment Industry. Interviews and lectures consist of an interview of Russo by radio personality Zane Blaney and two versions of a "Celluloid Closet" lecture in Oregon. One version is the complete lecture while the other is a condensed edit of the lecture interspersed with film clips. The broadcast productions include episodes of *Our Times*, a topical television show that Russo hosted on a variety LGBT issues; segments of the *Emerald City* television show including interviews Russo did with John Waters and Larry Kramer; *Vito's Legacy*; *The Inaugural Display of the NAMES Project Quilt*; and *The Lavender Peacock/Hen: Gays and the Broadcast Media*.

Celluloid Closet

- 211325.mp4 Lecture in Oregon (video file (01:49:23))
- 211327.mp4 Lecture in Oregon (video file (01:43:47))
With film clips.
- 215930.mp4 Film Clips #1 (video file (00:41:36))
- 215931.mp4 Film Clips #2 (video file (01:02:50))
- 215925.mp4 Film Clips #3 (video file (0:19:39))
- 211366.mp4 Film Clips (Short Version) (video file (00:45:41))
- 211322.mp4 Film Clips (video file (01:36:38))
Covers Silent Era; Pre-Code Era; and Gays as Alien.

Alliance for Gay Artists in the Entertainment Industry: Second Annual Media Awards Presentation

- 215928.mp4 Part I (video file (00:57:46))
- 215929.mp4 Part II (video file (0:49:49))
- 211376.mp4 *Emerald City* 1978 (video file (02:04:16))
Segments include footage of a gay cabarets, and interviews with John Waters and Larry Kramer.
- 211329.mp4 *Vito's Legacy* circa 1991 (video file (00:59:39))
Produced by the Gay Cable Network.
- 211335.mp4 *The Inaugural Display of the NAMES Project Quilt* circa 1987 (video file (00:16:10))
Produced by David Thompson.
- 211328.mp4 Interview by Zane Blaney 1989 Jun 17 (video file (02:03:57))
- 211352.mp4 *The Lavender Peacock/Hen: Gays and the Broadcast Media* (video file (00:51:07))
- 211368.mp4 *Our Time* 1983 (video file (03:55:20))
Contains episodes #1 Movement, #8 Writers, #9 Drag, and #10 Rita Mae Brown.
- 211344.mp4 *Our Time* 1983 (video file (03:55:42))
Contains episodes #4 AIDS, #5 Parents, #6 SAGE, and #7 Gay and Lesbian Youth of New York (GLYNY).
- 211343.mp4 *Our Time* 1983 (video file (01:57:03))
Contains episodes #11 Racism and #12 Third World.
- 211369.mp4 *Our Time* 1983 (video file (01:32:16))
Contains episode #13 Lily Tomlin, Harvey Fierstein, and the Chelsea Street Fair. Includes raw footage of Tomlin in Cleveland.

Series IX. Sound Recordings 1974-1989 (230 audio files)

The sound recordings consist of interviews by Russo; talks and appearances; protests, rallies, and events; and miscellaneous recordings. The interviews were conducted for the *Celluloid Closet* and for articles Russo was writing for gay and popular publications. There are *Celluloid Closet* interviews for both the initial publication (1981) and the revised edition (1987). Russo interviewed directors, actors and actresses, and screenwriters, as well as musicians, novelists, and other journalists. Notable interviewees include directors Robert Aldrich, Pedro Almodóvar, Kenneth Anger, Federico Fellini, and Stephen Frears; actors Spalding Grey, Ian McKellan, and Martin Sheen; actresses Whoopi Goldberg, Barbara Hershey, Jessica Lange, Bette Midler, and Lily Taylor; writers William S. Burroughs and Tennessee Williams; and musicians David Bowie and David Cassidy. Some of the audiocassettes contained multiple interviews on a side. In these instances, all interviewees are listed.

There is a series of travel interviews (circa 1989) that appear to have been collected on a trip across the United States which include street preacher John 3:16 Cook and his wife Magickal Marissa in Las Vegas, a dance troop composed of senior citizens called the Arizona Pom Pom's, and an interview with gay soldiers in the military and the owner of a gay bar they frequented, among others.

Protests, rallies, and events consist of an ACT UP press conference regarding the FDA protest; the ACT UP demonstration on Wall Street; an anti-nuclear demonstration in Washington, D.C.; names being read out loud for the NAMES Memorial Quilt; a Human Rights Campaign Fund Dinner; and the Christopher Street Liberation Day, which Russo officiated.

Talks and appearances include Celluloid Closet lectures Russo presented at both gay community centers and academic institutions, including his last lecture at the Roxie Theater in San Francisco in 1990, and interviews Russo gave on the radio and to other journalists. There are multiple interviews of Russo by Zane Blaney which span from 1970 to 1989.

Other recordings consist of a panel discussion at the New York Lesbian and Gay International Film Festival, a telephone chat line that Russo was participating in, segments from the Gay Liberation Follies, the *Killing of Sister George* radio spots, and the cast album for the AIDS musical *Dirty Dreams of a Clean Cut Kid*. Recordings related to Arthur Bell include his memorial service and two phone conversations between Bell and Russo.

Interviews

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 207835_f01.mp3 | Allen, Jay Presson; Grainger Hines (audio file (00:30:09)) |
| | Allen, Peter 1977 May |
| | Part 1 |
| 207837_f01.mp3 | Side A (audio file (00:45:54)) |
| 207837_f02.mp3 | Side B (audio file (00:45:45)) |
| | Part 2 |
| 207836_f01.mp3 | Side A (audio file (00:46:13)) |
| 207836_f02.mp3 | Side B (audio file (00:46:06)) |
| | Almendros, Nestor and Orlando Jimenez-Leal 1984 Apr 6 |
| 207851_f01.mp3 | Side A (audio file (00:47:46)) |
| 207851_f02.mp3 | Side B (audio file (00:22:46)) |
| | Almodóvar, Pedro |
| 207844_f01.mp3 | 1988 (audio file (00:15:09)) |
| 207849_f01.mp3 | circa 1988 (audio file (01:01:08)) |
| | undated |
| 207848_f01.mp3 | Side A (audio file (00:31:32)) |
| 207848_f02.mp3 | Side B (audio file (00:30:24)) |
| | Anger, Kenneth 1984 Oct 16 |
| 207842_f01.mp3 | Side A (audio file (00:43:02)) |

Series IX. Sound Recordings (cont.)

Interviews (cont.)

Anger, Kenneth (cont.)

207842_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:24:53))

Aldrich, Robert 1978 Aug 3

207834_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:31:29))

207834_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:31:30))

Ballard, Kaye 1978 Oct 31

207853_f01.mp3 Part 1 (audio file (00:45:00))

207854_f02.mp3 Part 2 (audio file (00:40:27))

Includes interview with an unidentified female gay activist.

Blakley, Ronee

207856_f02.mp3 1975 Jul 10 (audio file (00:30:51))

207857_f01.mp3 1975 Jul 10 (audio file (00:30:39))

undated

207855_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:29:17))

207855_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:31:28))

Bowie, David

1982 Nov 10

207862_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (01:00:39))

207862_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:44:12))

undated

216556_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (01:01:53))

216556_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:45:51))

207866_f02.mp3 Bumbalo, Victor; Bob Hoskins (audio file (00:44:21))

207863_f01.mp3 Carlino, Lewis John 1978 Aug 9 (audio file (00:31:20))

Cassidy, David

1975 Oct 28

207865_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:29:01))

207865_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:28:58))

207864_f01.mp3 1976 Jan 22 (audio file (00:04:31))

207866_f01.mp3 Coco, James; Sara Davidson (audio file (00:46:56))

Crowley, Mart 1978 Aug 2

207867_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:31:24))

207867_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:31:23))

Davies, Terence 1988 Oct

207929_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:46:54))

207929_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:46:53))

Dyer, Richard

207931_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:47:36))

207931_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:47:40))

207932_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:44:10))

207932_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:38:17))

Frears, Stephen

Series IX. Sound Recordings (cont.)

Interviews (cont.)

Fears, Stephen (cont.)

1986 Aug 20

- 207935_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:59:14))
- 207935_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:03:58))
- 207937_f02.mp3 undated (audio file (00:27:57))
- 207938_f01.mp3 undated (audio file (01:02:21))
- 207853_f02.mp3 Garfien, Jack 1978 Oct 31 (audio file (00:45:40))
- Goldberg, Whoopi 1985 Sep 24
- 207939_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:59:06))
- 207939_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:34:14))
- Goldberg, Whoopi; Bill Sherwood
- 207940_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:45:31))
- 207940_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:35:44))
- 207864_f02.mp3 Gotham 1976 Jan 22 (audio file (00:29:14))
Gay male vocal trio.
- 216553_f02.mp3 Grey, Spalding (audio file (01:02:18))
- 207944_f01.mp3 Harper, Valerie (audio file (00:17:12))
- Hermosilo, Jaime
- 207946_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:31:25))
- 207946_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:31:28))
- 207849_f02.mp3 Hershey, Barbara circa 1988 (audio file (00:13:55))
- Kellerman, Sally
- 207856_f01.mp3 1975 Jul 10 (audio file (00:18:16))
- 207944_f02.mp3 undated (audio file (00:28:57))
- 207945_f02.mp3 undated (audio file (00:30:32))
- King, Perry
- 207950_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:46:57))
- 207950_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:11:11))
- 207875_f02.mp3 Kinski, Nastassja 1982 Jun 13 (audio file (01:00:46))
- 207863_f02.mp3 Lambert, Gavin 1978 Aug 9 (audio file (00:28:23))
- Lange, Jessica circa 1982
- 216572_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (01:00:39))
- 216572_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:59:06))
Includes a partial interview with an unidentified member of the New York City Gay Men's Chorus.
- 207951_f01.mp3 Lansbury, Angela 1983 (audio file (01:02:18))
- Laurents, Arthur 1978 Aug 15
- 207952_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:31:18))
- 207952_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:31:18))
- 207953_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (01:01:14))
Also includes interview with Paul Aaron.
- Lewis, Charlotte Aug 19
- 207954_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:56:33))

- Series IX. Sound Recordings (cont.)
Interviews (cont.)
Lewis, Charlotte (cont.)
- 207954_f02.mp3 **Side B** (audio file (00:21:21))
McKellan, Ian circa 1989
Both sides include names being read out loud for the NAMES Memorial Quilt.
- 207957_f01.mp3 **Side A** (audio file (00:47:05))
207957_f02.mp3 **Side B** (audio file (00:46:37))
207958_f02.mp3 **Midler, Bette** (audio file (00:28:55))
- Multiple Interviews 1987**
- 207845_f01.mp3 **Side A** (audio file (00:47:00))
Pedro Almodo_var
207845_f02.mp3 **Side B** (audio file (00:38:25))
Pedro Almodo_var continued, Anne Carlisle, and James Kirkwood, Jr.
- 207951_f02.mp3 **Multiple Interviews** (audio file (01:01:05))
Nastassja Kinski, and William S. Burroughs and James Grauerholz.
- 207874_f01.mp3 **Multiple Interviews** (audio file (00:59:12))
Helen Shaver, Penelope Spheeris, James Kirkwood Jr., Rusty Lemorande, and Steve Barron.
- Multiple Interviews**
- 207933_f01.mp3 **Side A** (audio file (00:42:00))
Federico Fellini, Lily Tomlin, Jane Wagner, and Lilia Skala.
207933_f02.mp3 **Side B** (audio file (00:47:12))
Federico Fellini continued.
- Musto, Michael 1989 Aug**
- 207868_f01.mp3 **Side A** (audio file (00:47:12))
207868_f02.mp3 **Side B** (audio file (00:15:21))
- Oliveira, Dona**
- 216557_f01.mp3 **Side A** (audio file (00:56:27))
Tape begins with recording of unidentified awards show.
216557_f02.mp3 **Side B** (audio file (01:01:41))
207938_f02.mp3 **Side B** (audio file (01:02:22))
- Reynolds, Debbie**
- 207869_f01.mp3 **Side A** (audio file (00:44:52))
207869_f02.mp3 **Side B** (audio file (00:28:54))
- Scolero, Michael**
- 207876_f01.mp3 **Side A** (audio file (00:30:56))
207876_f02.mp3 **Side B** (audio file (00:30:59))
- Sheen, Martin**
- 207857_f02.mp3 **1975 Jul 10** (audio file (00:14:37))
207945_f01.mp3 **undated** (audio file (00:30:31))
207875_f01.mp3 **Stanley, Kim 1982 Jun** (audio file (00:19:45))
207874_f02.mp3 **Stein, Joseph; Charles Strouse 1986** (audio file (01:02:44))
207955_f01.mp3 **Stuart?** (audio file (00:47:22))
On journalists coverage of AIDS.
- 216554_f01.mp3 **Terkel, Studs** (audio file (01:03:01))
216553_f01.mp3 **Thomas, Richard** (audio file (01:02:24))

Series IX. Sound Recordings (cont.)

Interviews (cont.)

- 207871_f02.mp3 Williams, Tennessee 1977 Mar 3 (audio file (00:46:14))
Wright, Suzanne 1988 Jan 7
- 216555_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (01:01:51))
- 216555_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:20:31))
- Travel Interviews circa 1989
- 207858_f02.mp3 In a casino (audio file (00:06:52))
In a restaurant in Memphis
- 207901_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:40:03))
- 207901_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:14:42))
- 207916_f02.mp3 In a women's clothing store (audio file (00:16:33))
- 207861_f02.mp3 Gay marines (audio file (00:12:32))
- 207890_f01.mp3 Gay marines and owner of gay bar (audio file (00:47:27))
John 3:16 Cook and Magickal Marissa in Las Vegas
- 207881_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:46:58))
- 207881_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:18:42))
- 207896_f02.mp3 On a train leaving New Orleans (audio file (00:20:35))
First part of interview is on Part III of the "Celluloid Closet" lecture at the Roxie Theater (file 207896_f01.mp3).
- 207860_f02.mp3 People talking about Elvis (audio file (00:47:45))
- 207884_f02.mp3 Arizona Pom Poms (audio file (00:37:16))
- 207871_f01.mp3 Man discussing the rise in male consciousness 1977 Mar 3 (audio file (00:46:14))
- 207955_f02.mp3 Man discussing gay and lesbian film festival undated (00:47:29)
- 207918_f02.mp3 Women discussing lesbian and gay films (audio file (00:31:00))
- Protests, Rallies, and Events
- 207854_f01.mp3 Anti-Nuclear Demonstration in Washington, D.C 1979 (audio file (00:46:14))
- 207906_f01.mp3 ACT UP Demonstration on Wall St 1983 Mar 14 (audio file (00:16:27))
Radio program. Live coverage by WBAI .
- 207912_f02.mp3 ACT UP FDA Demonstration 1988 Oct 11 (audio file (00:25:24))
Christopher Street Gay Liberation Stonewall Rally
- 207919_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:27:52))
- 207919_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:31:46))
WBAI coverage
Radio program. Live coverage of the rally including interviews with rally participants.
- Part I
- 207925_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:31:55))
- 207925_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:31:39))
- Part II
- 207926_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:31:46))
- 207926_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:31:45))
- 207920_f02.mp3 Part III (audio file (00:28:04))
- 207904_f02.mp3 Council Hearings 1975 Sep (audio file (00:47:26))
- 207905_f02.mp3 Human Rights Campaign Fund Dinner 1989 Nov 5 (audio file (00:46:51))

Series IX. Sound Recordings (cont.)
Protests, Rallies, and Events (cont.)

NAMES Memorial Quilt 1989

See: Interviews--McKellan, Ian.

Talks and Appearances

Celluloid Closet Lectures

Castro Theatre 1981

207907_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:47:19))

207907_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:47:11))

Roxie Theater

1978 Dec 12

207913_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:48:17))

207913_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:22:17))

1990 Mar

Part I

207895_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:47:41))

207895_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:47:56))

207896_f01.mp3 Part III (audio file (00:47:24))

207839_f01.mp3 Yale University 1989 (audio file (00:47:27))

Oregon

Part I and II

207889_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:47:12))

207889_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:46:35))

207890_f02.mp3 Part III (audio file (00:17:59))

Film Clips

207914_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:47:10))

207914_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:41:01))

207915_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:46:48))

207915_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:46:50))

207916_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:46:51))

Also includes recording of people at the beach.

207886_f01.mp3 The David Brudnoy Show (audio file (00:31:08))

Excerpts From Queersville

207882_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:23:44))

207882_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:25:40))

Fruit Punch

207878_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:46:39))

207878_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:46:38))

GMHC Movie Concert

207903_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:40:30))

207903_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:33:31))

History Panel Camp

Part I

207893_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:31:14))

- Series IX. Sound Recordings (cont.)
Talks and Appearances (cont.)
History Panel Camp (cont.)
Part I (cont.)
- 207893_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:31:11))
- Part II
- 207898_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:31:07))
- 207898_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:24:08))
- Interview by T. P 1988 Jun 27
- 207885_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:08:25))
- 207885_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:46:45))
- 207892_f02.mp3 Interview by Alan Farley circa 1987 (audio file (00:30:18))
Vito Russo and Ronald Chase regarding the 10th Annual Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.
- Interviews by Zane Blaney
- 207858_f01.mp3 1982 Feb 9-- Part 1 (audio file (00:31:48))
1982 Feb 9--Part 2
- 207859_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:31:39))
- 207859_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:24:47))
- 207860_f01.mp3 1989 Jun 17 (audio file (00:31:55))
- Keynote Address 1981 Oct 9
- 207887_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:30:38))
- 207887_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:20:12))
- The Vito Russo Tapes
On K108 FM The Public Affair Show.
- 207861_f01.mp3 1970 (audio file (00:28:39))
- 207891_f01.mp3 1975 Oct 6 (audio file (00:31:20))
Includes clips featuring Lily Tomlin and others.
- Arthur Bell Memorial Service
- 207902_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:29:27))
- 207902_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:26:14))
- Dirty Dreams of a Clean Cut Kid Cast Album* 1990
- 207922_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:25:41))
- 207922_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:27:20))
- 207904_f01.mp3 The Gay Liberation Follies circa 1974 (audio file (00:39:24))
- 207910_f02.mp3 The Gay Liberation Follies 1974 Apr 17 (audio file (00:07:43))
- 207921_f01.mp3 The Killing of Sister George Radio Spots (audio file (00:01:52))
- 207892_f01.mp3 Memories of people who died of AIDS (audio file (00:47:35))
Edited recording. Russo remembers Jeffrey Sevcik.
- New York Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival 1988
Panel discussion with Su Friedrich, Tom Chomont, Abigail Child, Jim Hubbard, and Barbara Hammer.
- Part I
- 207923_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:29:52))
- 207923_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:31:08))
- Part II
- 207924_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:31:10))
- 207924_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:16:33))

Series IX. Sound Recordings (cont.)

- 207909_f02.mp3 Russo Bell Connection (audio file (00:20:02))
- 216554_f02.mp3 Russo Bell Connection (audio file (00:15:42))
- Telephone Chat Line
- 207948_f01.mp3 Side A (audio file (00:31:15))
- 207948_f02.mp3 Side B (audio file (00:31:15))

Series X. Photographs 1960s-1990 (2 boxes)

The photographs consist of snapshots, contact sheets, and negatives of friends and gay and lesbian events. Included are gay marches, street fairs, vacations, stills from movies used in *The Celluloid Closet*, and portraits of famous women. Many of the events and people are unidentified.

- b. 38 f. 1 "First Gay Demonstration" - protests in Washington D.C. (1965) and in Philadelphia
- b. 38 f. 2 Promotional photographs from films in 1990 New York International Festival of Lesbian and Gay Film
- b. 38 f. 3-4 *Contact sheets and negatives from The Celluloid Closet*
- b. 38 f. 5 Contact sheets and/or negatives of Fire Island, 1979 March on Washington, 1979 Chelsea Street Fair, 1981 Gay Press Conference, and 1980 Stockholm Rally
- b. 38 f. 6 Contact sheets and/or negatives of vacation and friends 1979-1980
- b. 38 f. 7 Portrait of Russo and contact sheet and/or negatives of unidentified friends
- b. 38 f. 8 Contact sheets and/or negatives of vacation to Key West
- b. 38 f. 9 Portraits of Marlene Dietrich, Bette Midler, and Judy Garland
- b. 39 Snapshot photographs and negatives from gay cruises, Fire Island, Stockholm Gay Pride Day, and other unidentified events and people