



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Photographs of Rumi Missabu**

2008-2014

\*T-Vim 2015-029

Compiled by Camille Croce Dee, 2016.

## Summary

**Creator:** Gemerek, Keith

**Title:** Photographs of Rumi Missabu

**Date:** 2008-2014

**Size:** .17 linear feet (1 other item)

**Source:** Gift of Keith Gemerek, November 2015.

**Abstract:** Collection contains 13 original color photographs of Rumi Missabu, a founding member of The Cockettes, in various female costumes, taken by Keith Gemerek.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult: <https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

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**Preferred citation:** Photographs of Rumi Missabu, \*T-Vim 2015-029. Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Camille Croce Dee, 2016.

## Creator History

Rumi Missabu (James Bartlett) is a founding member of The Cockettes, a San Francisco-based gender-bending theatrical troupe. Photographer Keith Gemerek began his career in Buffalo, New York in the 1970s; he moved to New York City in 1981 and has photographed composers, musicians, dancers, actors, artists, and activists.

## **Scope and Content Note**

Collection contains 13 original color photographs of Rumi Missabu, a founding member of The Cockettes, in various female costumes and with other performers such as Francois Chagnaud, Sebastian Cheron, and Agosto Machado, taken by Keith Gemerek. Photographs are signed and numbered on versos.

**Arrangement:** Numerical.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Female impersonators -- United States

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Photographs

### **Names**

Missabu, Rumi (James Bartlett)

Cockettes (Theatrical troupe)

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 *Rumi NYC 1 - Rumi Missabu, back stage at Theater for the New City, for The Cockettes are Coming: An Extravaganza to Benefit Faerie Camp Destiny, New York City 2008*
- b. 1 f. 1 Rumi NYC 2 - Studio Portrait, Brooklyn, New York 2010
- b. 1 f. 1 *Rumi NYC 3 - Russian ex-pat dancer Sebastian Cheron and Rumi Missabu, studio promotional photograph for (The) Crystal Ball, a mini-ballet based on a Grimm fairy tale at the Center for Performance Research in Brooklyn, New York 2011*
- b. 1 f. 2 Rumi NYC 4 - Rumi Missabu, studio portrait during a filmed interview by filmmaker Conrad Ventur for a work-in-progress documentary about the life of drag legend Mario Montez, Brooklyn, New York 2014
- b. 1 f. 2 Rumi NYC 5 - Rumi Missabu, portrait during a staged interview for a series focusing on gay cultural icons by curator/performer Nicholas Gorham at the Spectrum, Brooklyn, New York 2012
- b. 1 f. 2 *Rumi NYC 6 - Legendary performer Agosto Machado and Rumi Missabu, backstage at the performance of Keeping the Tigers Away, a dance attraction based on a collection of Sufi parables, at Judson Memorial Church, New York City 2014*
- b. 1 f. 3 Rumi NYC-7 - Rumi Missabu and French dancer Francois Chagnaud, studio portrait, Brooklyn, New York 2009
- b. 1 f. 3 Rumi NYC 8 - Rumi Missabu, studio portrait, Brooklyn, New York 2009
- b. 1 f. 3 *Rumi NYC 9 - Rumi Missabu, performance shot during (A) Cocktail of Glamour and Anarchy at the Dumbo Art Center, Brooklyn, New York 2011*
- b. 1 f. 4 Rumi NYC 10 - Rumi Missabu, studio portrait wearing Billy Bowers designed jacket, Brooklyn, New York 2010
- b. 1 f. 4 Rumi NYC 11 - Rumi Missabu, studio portrait, Brooklyn, New York 2009
- b. 1 f. 5 Rumi NYC 12 - Rumi Missabu, studio portrait, Brooklyn, New York 2010
- b. 1 f. 5 Rumi NYC 13 - Rumi Missabu, portrait, Brooklyn, New York 2014