

L2002.05
Beautiful Lesbian Thespians/Labrys Productions
Collection, 1981-1993

FINDING AID AUTHOR

Gabrielle Garcia

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

Kithie Gateley donated these materials on behalf of Beautiful Lesbian Thespians/Labrys Production to Lambda Archives of San Diego in 2002.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

This collection was processed by Gabrielle Garcia as part of the 2020 CSL Project. This project was guided by an overarching anti-racist framework that informs archival practice in all aspects at Lambda Archives. Therefore, along with processing the collections specified in the original narrative, we intentionally prioritize the collections of BIPOC and Transgender members of the community to preserve and disseminate their narratives, which have been historically ignored and suppressed in archives across the U.S.

This framework promotes transparency and accountability in our responsibility to those in the LGBTQ+ community that have been historically underrepresented, misrepresented and/or trivialized in archives. Our goals are to (a) gain or rebuild trust with BIPOC members of the community; (b) more fully reflect the community's diversity; (c) outwardly recognize the contributions that BIPOC have made which have enabled the community, as a whole, to flourish; and (d) improve the discoverability of these under-acknowledged histories to increase their engagement for varying purposes within the community and for research and public knowledge.

EXTENT

Number of containers: 1

Linear feet of shelf space: 0.5

ABSTRACT

BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY

Beautiful Lesbian Thespians (BLT), which later became Labrys Productions, is San Diego's first lesbian theater group that performed plays solely by lesbian playwrights. The group was formed in 1987 after the production *My Sister*. They operated from

donations under the Center's umbrella as a non-profit. Beautiful Lesbian Thespians changed their name to Labrys Production in early 1991 while preparing for Cinderella: The Real True Story to "reflect the group's commitment to lesbian theater and its roots" and to create a more serious image of their group. BLT/LP operated under the umbrella of The Center. Notable people involved in the organization included: Ellie Rapp, Muriel Fisher, Julia Doughty, Kithie Gateley, Sheila Clarke, Winona McNitt, Francine Blanchard, Tris(tan) Higgins, Darlene Cleary, Judy Bennett, Gail/Gayle Feldman, Lois Gail, Sherry Hopwood, Sandy Berry, Linda Fiddler, Cookie Jackson, Barbara Lee, Rose Sanchez, Andrea Villa, Judith McConnell.

COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT

"The Beautiful Lesbian Thespians (BLT) / Labrys Productions collection contains various plays that were produced by the group such as "Triple Play," "Sisters," "Cinderella: The Real True Story," The Clue in the Old Birthbath," 8x10 Glossy," and "The Anastasia Trials in the Court of Women." The collection also contains production flyers, minutes and calendars, active members and mailings lists, artwork, Labrys ads, newspaper articles, media lists and press releases, and Lesbian Delight #1 videotape. In addition, the collection also includes various photographs such as from San Diego Pride 1990 and the "Cinderella" play."

ARRANGEMENT

This collection consists of 1 box.

SEPARATED MATERIAL

In this field, list any materials that have been removed from the collection and transferred to another collection, department (e.g., the library), or institution.

1. Photos [P156-P163]
 - a. P156 - 8 plastic sleeves of photos "from Sheila Clark & Judy Reif"
 - b. P157 - 20 plastic sleeves of photos "Shirtails Dance Photos"
 - c. P158 - 22 plastic sleeves of photos "S.D. CA Pride Parade 1990"
 - d. P159 - 3 plastic sleeves of photos plus negatives Anrea Villa - Labrys 10/23/92 and 12/9/93
 - e. P160 - 3 plastic sleeves of photos "Cast photos - Gayle Feldman and Isabel Rachlin"
 - f. P161 - 4 plastic sleeves of photos "Performance Labrys photos of cast"
 - g. P162 - 7 plastic sleeves of photos "Jan. 15 play Cinderella"
 - h. P163 - 3 plastic sleeves of photos "Photos and letter BLT 1990"
2. VHS [V0648]
 - a. "More Lesbian Delights - Master - 8/14/93"

SUBJECTS

Beautiful Lesbian Thespians (BLT), Labrys Productions, Lesbians, Performing Arts, Theatre, Ellie Rapp, Muriel Fisher, Julia Doughty, Kithie Gateley, Sheila Clarke, Winona McNitt, Francine Blanchard, Tristan Higgins, Darlene Cleary, Judy Bennett, Gail Feldman, Lois Gail, Sherry Hopwood, Sandy Berry, Linda Fiddler, Cookie Jackson, Barbara Lee, Rose Sanchez, Andrea Villa, Judith McConnell, LAGADU, Imperial Court, African American, Fashion, Mr. and Miss Black Gay SD, Nicole Murray Ramirez, Vertez Burks

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This collection is open and available for research use. Copyright restrictions apply.

PREFERRED CITATION

The suggested citation for the collection is:

[Item Description]
Beautiful Lesbian Thespians Collection, 1981-1993
Lambda Archives of San Diego
San Diego, California

RELATED MATERIAL

L2011.06

LOCATION NOTE

C.10.2.3

LANGUAGES

English

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	Theatrical Programs		
1	2	Flyers		
1	3	BLT Minutes and Calendars 1988-1990	1988-1990	
1	4	Policies		
1	5	Active Members and Mailing Lists		
1	6	BLT: Lesbian Delight #1		

1	7	Artwork		
1	8	Labrys Ads		
1	9	Labrys Media List and Press Releases		
1	10	Gay & Lesbian 24-hour Info Line		
1	11	Letters and Cards		
1	12	Newspaper Article 1992	1992	
1	13	Andrea Program Mockups		
1	14	Performance Labrys Newsletter		
1	15	Sisters by Patricia Montley © 1990	1990	
1	16	Heterosexuals Anonymous by Carolyn Gage © 1990	1990	
1	17	Cinderella: The Real True Story by Cheryl Moch		
1	18	Organizational Materials		