

L1993.09
Sue Palmer / Ms. B Haven
Collection, 1981-1992

FINDING AID AUTHOR

Gabrielle Garcia

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

Sue Palmer donated these materials to Lambda Archives of San Diego in 2013.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

This collection was processed by Gabrielle Garcia as part of the 2020 CSL Project.

EXTENT

Number of containers: 1
Linear feet of shelf space: 0.25

ABSTRACT

BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY

“Known worldwide as the Queen of Boogie Woogie, Sultana of Swing, and Lady Who Skates on the 88s, Sue Palmer has been a presence on the live music scene in San Diego and the world for over 30 years. She was inducted into the San Diego Music Hall of Fame in 2018, had a day named after her by the city in 2008, and won numerous San Diego Music Awards for her bands and albums. She has recorded over 12 albums under her own name, securing an international award from The International Blues Challenge (IBC) in Memphis for Best Self Produced Album (Sophisticated Ladies). She was the beehive wearing music director and longtime pianist for blues diva Candye Kane, through the 90s, appearing on many of her albums, touring world wide (France, Germany, England, The Czech Republic, Turkey, South Africa, Australia, and more) as well as all over the US and parts of Canada.

Sue has also toured Switzerland, Russia, The Netherlands, and Argentina under her own name. Her current high energy band, the Motel Swing Orchestra, is up for a 2020 Music Award for Best Jazz Band, and her latest album GEMS volume 2, is up for an award for Best Blues Album.”

<https://www.suepalmer.com/sues-biography.html>

“After majoring in political science at SDSU, Sue Palmer - often called the Queen of Boogie Woogie - played in an all-women rock band called Ms. B. Haven, before moving on to Pearl Tapioca.

For around a dozen years, Palmer played with Tobacco Road, which featured two other former members of Ms. B. Haven, April West (also of Euphoria Brass Band) and Sharon Shufelt. By 1987, Palmer was able to buy a keyboard and quit her day job, to make music full time. During her tenure with the group, Tobacco Road won seven San Diego Music Awards from 1986 through 1994.

She first earned widespread attention while backing up blues belter Candy Kane. They toured the world together, with Palmer also appearing on Kane's CDs like *Diva La Grande* and *Swango*. The duo co-wrote the title track on *Swango*, which can also be heard in the 2000 NPR documentary *The Girl Next Door*, profiling porn star Stacy Valentine. Palmer left Kane's band in summer 1999, though they reunited for a while after Palmer was diagnosed with breast cancer, and they continued to collaborate until Kane's own cancer-related death.

Palmer formed her own band, the Motel Swing Orchestra, with April West and Sharon Shufelt from Ms.B.Haven and Tobacco Road, a group that has also included Jonny Viao, Deeja Marie, Earl Thomas, Sharifah Muhammad, and Candy Kane guitarist Steve Wilcox (Kats Caravan). Her first album, *Boogie Woogie and Motel Swing*, was nominated for a 2000 SDMA as "Best Blues Album" and "Best Jazz Album." Her second album, *Soundtrack to a B Movie*, was nominated for a 2001 SDMA as "Best Blues Album," and her third album, *Live at Dizzy's* - which aired live as it happened on KSDS 88.3 - won the "Best Blues Album" SDMA in 2003. Her Motel Swing Band was nominated "Best Blues Band" at the 2006 SDMA's, and their album *Sophisticated Ladies* was nominated for a 2007 SDMA as "Best Blues Album."

Sophisticated Ladies also won a 2008 award for "Best Self-Produced Album" at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. March 25, 2008 was proclaimed by the San Diego City Council as Sue Palmer Day.

In September 2010, her *After Hours* record won a San Diego Music Award as "Best Blues Album." She also served as musical director for the world premiere of *The Toughest Girl Alive*, an autobiographical play Candy Kane wrote that opened in 2010 at the Moxie in San Diego before moving on to play NYC.”

<https://www.sandiegoreader.com/bands/sue-palmer/>

COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains materials pertaining to Sue Palmer, her first band Ms. B Haven, and Fresh Dish Productions. These materials include flyers, notes, mockup flyers, drafts, information documents, pamphlets, contracts, event programs, newspapers, correspondence, and memorabilia.

ARRANGEMENT

This collection consists of 1 box and no series.

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: [P138, box 33]
 - a. Loose photos and print proofs

SUBJECTS

Sue Palmer, Fresh Dish Productions, Thursday's Child, Ms. B Haven, music, women musicians and singers, women's music, newspapers

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]
Sue Palmer / Ms. B. Haven Collection, 1981-1992
Lambda Archives of San Diego
San Diego, California

RELATED MATERIAL

L2013.25

LOCATION NOTE

C.9.2.5

LANGUAGES

English

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	Ms. B Haven and Sue Palmer Performances	1981-1982	
1	2	Fresh Dish Productions	1992	
1	3	Newspapers	1981-1982	
1	4	Correspondence and Memorabilia	1981-1982	