



Archives and Records

Finding Aid

COLLECTION NUMBER: Coll. 63
TITLE: Gender Crash Collection

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Gunner Scott
Title: Gender Crash Collection
Extent: 1 archival box (.5 linear feet)
Date Span: 2000-2009
Repository: The History Project, Archives and Records Department

Finding aid prepared for the History Project, Archives and Records Department by Deirdre Doran, Spring 2011, under the supervision of Andrew Elder and Andrea Still Gray. Funding provided by a grant from Mass Humanities.

SUBJECT TERMS

Subject Names:
Scott, Gunner

Subject Topics:
Spoken Word poetry series
Transgender people—Identity
Transgender people--Literary collections.
Transgender people--Massachusetts.
Transgender people--Social aspects.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Terms of Use/Copyright: Unrestricted, though some items in the collection are copyrighted by individuals and/or organizations outside The History Project.

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HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

Gender Crash Open Mic for poets/spoken wordsters/literary geeks/journal writers/queers/

transgender/gender queers was a spoken word and performance event held at Spontaneous Celebration in Jamaica Plain from 2000-2009. Gender Crash, created by Gunner Scott, was the longest running open mic for queer/transgender/gender queer folks in Boston as well as the country's first spoken word event to be hosted by a transgender person and to feature transgender poets/spoken word performers. It was known for being a welcoming place for people to try out material, and a favorite venue of first-time performers. Gunner Scott on why he created Gender Crash:

"I realized that there was no open mic, performance space, or poetry slam that would be comfortable for myself or many of my friends that identified as trans/gender queer/butch/fairy/queen/dyke/boy chick/bear/bisexual/and all the other labels & identities that don't fit into those two tiny boxes called male-female. So I started Gender Crash to give a performance space to this community...my community, because I want to see/hear/feel everything that you, the trans/gender queer/ butch/fairy/queen/dyke/boy chick/bear/bisexual/and all the other labels & identities that don't fit into those two tiny boxes called male-female are creating/ writing/ and living."

Gunner Scott is a genderqueer boy, trans/queer activist, domestic violence survivor, and creator of Butch Dyke Boy Productions. Gunner started his queer activism career as part of the Lesbian Avengers, with whom he organized a march to protest the negative press coverage of the murder of transgender women Rita Hester. From 2000-2006 Gunner also worked as the Organizer/Outreach Coordinator for The Network/La Red from, a social justice/social change organization that provides domestic abuse services for lesbian, bisexual women, and transgender folks. Through his work at The Network/La Red he has shared his own experience of surviving domestic abuse to help educate others about domestic abuse and sexual assault in the LGBT communities. In 1999 Gunner started Butch Dyke Boy Productions, the definitive transgender resource of New England. Dyke Boy Productions and its website served the social and support needs of the Trans, Queer, Genderqueer, Bi, Dyke and other marginalized communities. In the same year, he founded Gender Crash. In September of 2001 Gunner joined the newly formed Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC). The MTPC is a fast-growing organization of activists across the state committed to ending discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression. In 2002, as part of the MTPC, Gunner played an integral role in lobbying the Boston City Council to pass an ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression. Gunner Scott is currently involved in the campaign to pass statewide legislation for gender identity and gender expression protections and the Executive Director of the MTPC. Gender Crash open mic ended in 2009.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Gender Crash collection consists of one archival box (.5 linear feet). This box contains a series of folders centering on the monthly open mic Gender Crash, Butch Dyke Boy Productions, and the founder of both organizations, Gunner Scott. This collection also contains limited information about events of other LGBT organizations in the Boston area. The majority of the materials present date between 2000 and 2009, although many are undated. Included are original documents as well as photocopies of event flyers, administrative materials, letters, one photograph, one book, and newspaper and journal articles. The collection is arranged thematically by organization, first Gender Crash, then Butch Dyke Boy Productions, and then other materials created or collected by Gunner Scott.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Series I: Gender Crash Materials

This series consists of materials relating to Gender Crash Open Mic held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at Spontaneous Celebrations in Jamaica Plain, MA. There is one folder of flyers for the open mic, mostly undated. One flyer reads: "Come read with go-go queers with words of action, erotic writing soccer moms, sweet trans boys with agendas, bears who bake and write about it, poet inspiring truck driving gay boys, devilish dykes, awe inducing poetic transwomen, princess riot grrls with diaries, transmen with type written essays, queer Daddies with bedtime stories, and yes you!!!" There is another folder of Gender Crash administrative materials including: ticket stubs, guest lists, admission numbers with charges, mailing lists, signage, tips on hosting an open mic, and information and notes about a documentary on Gender Crash. There is also a folder of permits and some receipts from the City of Boston to hold the open mic dated between 2002-2006.

Series II: Butch Dyke Boy Productions Materials

This series consists of materials related to Gunner Scott's organization Butch Dyke Boy Productions. There is one folder of flyers for various ButchDykeBoy Productions events including: Transgender Day of Remembrance, Pride Night, the ButchDykeBoy website, Best Lesbian Erotica Book Release Party, Dyke March, Queer Speed-Dating, Genderversity, and many more. There is also a folder of various administrative materials relating to Butch Dyke Boy Productions such as including: meeting minutes for various events such as Queer Speed-Dating, Gunner's Thoughts on Advancing Discussions on Gender, Tranny Short Films introduction, Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition flyer, a list of LGBT funding sources, a request to edit a chapter of the book *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, information about a review Scott did of Ratale Media's film *Full Load*, email lists, and photocopies of handouts on Gender and GenderQueer. This folder also includes notes on a Trans Theater group production, Dyke March, and Theater Offensive, among others. This series also contains a folder of flyers and meeting notes from the After-Pride Party "Friction" sponsored by ButchDykeBoy and DykeNight, help at the Jorge Hernandez Cultural Center in Boston on June 14, 2003. One large format poster for "Friction" is rolled inside this box.

Series III: Gunner Scott

This series contains materials related to Gunner Scott which are not specifically related to his work with Gender Crash or Butch Dyke Boy Productions. There is one folder of event posters and projects at which Scott spoke including: The Ithaca College Department of Sociology 2005 Mental Health Speaker; The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally Resource Center's Ninth Annual Awards Ceremony; the 20th Annual Boston Gay & Lesbian Film/Video Festival at the Museum of Fine Art; and Equality Alabama's Fifth Annual Awards Banquet. There is also one folder of pertaining to Scott's work at The Network/La Red, a social justice/social change organization that provides domestic abuse services for lesbian, bisexual women, and transgender people. The last folder in this series contains personal cards to Scott, poems, one photograph of Scott, and a set of paper dolls in Scott's likeness.

Series IV: Articles and Publications

This series consists of published materials written by or about Gunner Scott or Gender Crash. One folder contains materials related to the book *Pinned Down By Pronouns*, for

which Scott wrote the introduction and organized the book release party. There is also a folder with copies of *The Advocate* March 14, 2006 edition, with a short article about Gunner Scott on page 23; a copy of *Stuff@Night* from June 6-16, 2006 with an ad for Gender Crash; and copies of *BSRM* vol. 1 iss. 2 from 2007 that contains an interview with Gunner Scott.

Series V: Related Materials

This series consists of one folder of LGBT event flyers collected by Gunner Scott including flyers for: The Lesbian Avengers, the Boston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, Dyke March, Women's Herstory Month, and many more.

SERIES AND PUBLICATION LIST

Box 1:

Series I: Gender Crash Materials

- Folder 1: Flyers
- Folder 2: Administration
- Folder 3: Permits

Series II: Butch Dyke Boy Productions Materials

- Folder 4: Flyers
- Folder 5: Administration
- Folder 6: Friction Party

Series III: Gunner Scott

- Folder 7: Event Speaker
- Folder 8: The Network/La Red
- Folder 9: Personal

Series IV: Articles and Publications

- Folder 10: *Pinned Down By Pronouns*
- Folder 11: Magazines and Journals

Series V: Related Materials

- Folder 12: Flyers