



Guide to the Joshua Abbey Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Abbey, Joshua, 1956-
Title:	Joshua Abbey Papers
ID:	MS-00820
Date [inclusive]:	1952 to 2017
Physical Description:	1.69 Cubic Feet (2 boxes, 1 shared box)
Physical Description:	11 Digital Files (11 Optical Discs, 2.67 GB) MP4
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Collection is comprised primarily of files from approximately the early 1980s to 2017 detailing Joshua Abbey's theater and film career; his involvement with environmental efforts in Southern Nevada such as the Citizens Against Nuclear Waste in Nevada (CANWIN); and his involvement with the Jewish community in Las Vegas, including the Jewish Film Festival, the Jewish Federation, Temple Beth Sholom, and other organizations. The collection also includes information about the Jewish Community Center from the 1950s and a file on the film production of <i>The Brave Cowboy</i> , a novel written by his father, Ed Abbey.

Preferred Citation

Joshua Abbey Papers, 1952-2017. MS-00820. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Joshua Abbey was born to author, Edward Abbey, and artist, Rita Deanin Abbey in Albuquerque, New Mexico on April 12, 1956. Abbey first moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1964. He founded Theater Exposed, a company that produced numerous original and experimental theatrical productions. He studied with Lee Strasberg in Los Angeles, California and worked as a professional actor. Abbey eventually returned to Las Vegas, Nevada to attend the University

of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Theater. He went on to receive a Master of Fine Arts in Producing from the American Film Institute (AFI). His graduate thesis film was entitled *Monkey Park* and starred Amanda Plummer and Tim Roth.

In 1991, he was invited to be the project manager for an innovative found art installation and concert in Bern, Switzerland titled Sound Bridge. After graduating from the AFI, Abbey returned to Las Vegas to work as the programming specialist for the Summerlin Library and Performing Arts Center. During his tenure, he produced the Las Vegas Literary Film Festival and the Literary Laureate Lectures.

Abbey worked as the Program Director and Community Relations Director for the Jewish Federation of Las Vegas from 1995 to 1998. During this time, he established the Jean Weinberger Museum of Jewish Culture where he was the director and curator. Abbey produced several major community-wide events for the Federation, such as the Interfaith Coalition on the Environment, which established a unified religious opposition to the proposed Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository.

In 1998 Abbey founded the CineVegas Film Festival. Abbey was appointed by the Governor of Nevada to the Nevada Arts Council and served on the executive committee with a special focus on the Community Arts Development division of the agency from 2005 to 2008. Abbey served as the chairman of the City of Las Vegas Arts Commission from 2008 to 2010, where he helped author and successfully lobby for a Percent for the Arts ordinance that provided over \$500,000 in annual revenue for the arts. Abbey also was the first full-time employee for the Blue Man Group's Las Vegas production where he was responsible for creating the initial promotion and marketing for the multi-media theatrical production.

As the director of the Desert Space Foundation, Abbey produced an international design competition exhibition related to the proposed Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Depository. A major focus of the Desert Space Foundation is the Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival (LVJFF) which was founded in 2001. As of 2016, the LVJFF is the longest running film festival in Nevada. The film festival utilizes the art of film and interactive educational discourse to enhance and strengthen awareness of Jewish culture, history, and identity. As of 2017 Abbey is still the director of the Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival and works for the non-profit organization, Robert Rock Belliveau and Rita Deanin Abbey Foundation.

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Scope and Contents Note

The collection primarily contains program and subject files spanning the early 1980s through 2015 on a variety of topics relating to Joshua Abbey's involvement in the Jewish community in Las Vegas, Nevada, including the Jewish Film Festival, the Jewish Federation, Temple Beth Sholom, and other organizations, as well as Abbey's time spent in New York working on theater productions. The collection provides information about the Jewish Community Center dating

back to the 1950s. The collection contains files about Citizens Against Nuclear Waste in Nevada (CANWIN), the Yucca Mountain Universal Warning Sign competition, and the Las Vegas-Clark County Library Laureate Lecture Series. Also included are a scrapbook about the film production of Abbey's novel, *Monkey Park*, and various files on different theater and entertainment projects Abbey has worked on over the years. The bulk of the collection is comprised of material relating to productions Abbey acted in, produced, or was otherwise involved with, mainly from his time in New York in the 1980s. Also included is a file about the 1962 film production of *The Brave Cowboy*, novel written by Joshua Abbey's father, Ed Abbey.

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Arrangement Note

Materials are arranged roughly by topic.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2016 by Joshua Abbey; accession number 2016-068.

Processing Note

The collection was minimally processed by Tammi Kim in 2016 at the time of accessioning. The materials were quickly reviewed to provide a general description of the contents of each box and an estimate of dates represented in the material. Loose papers were foldered. Audio files were transferred from eleven DVD-RW optical discs and then converted from VOB files to MP4 for access. Content from one DVD-RW optical disc was not converted due to issues during transfer. The collection was further processed and described by Maggie Bukowski in 2017.

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Names and Subjects

- Jews -- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Theater -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Theater--New York (State)--New York
- Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival
- Citizens Against Nuclear Waste in Nevada

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Joshua Abbey personal ephemera including CV, news articles, and a photo of Josh Abbey and family, 1995-2000 Scope and Contents Note: Photo (L-R) Aaron Abbey, Rita Deanin Abbey, Joshua Abbey. CV 2000. Misc news articles, certificates, fliers about Josh.	box 01
Joshua Abbey personal photos including Josh and Yves wedding in Valley of Fire officiated by Rabbi Mel Hecht, and Rita Deannin Abbey photo in art studio, undated	box 01
Blue Man Group marketing packet from Luxor, 1998	box 01
Letters and proposals written to Joshua Abbey regarding events and community partnerships, 1992-1998	box 01
Marketing and budget materials for the CineVegas film festival, 1998	box 01
Las Vegas Arts Commission marketing materials for the artist Haluk Akakce, undated	box 01
Theater Exposed company program for the production <i>Rivertrip</i> , 1982-1983	box 01
Information about Edward Abbey, his books, and movie adaptations of his books, 1962-2002 Scope and Contents Note: Includes a manuscript collection guide to the Edward Abbey Papers held at the University of Arizona Library, Special Collections, photo from the <i>Lonely Are The Bravemovie</i> , and an article about Edward Abbey's book, <i>The Brave Cowboy</i> . (c.1962, 2002)	box 01
Citizens Against Nuclear Waste in Nevada (CANWIN) Publicity including: newspaper clippings, printouts of websites, and programs, undated	box 01
UNLV Children's Theatre company program and performance photos of the production <i>Our Town</i> , 1971	box 01
Photos from New York productions, 1980-1988	box 01

Jacques Ribbons photos and narrative about Nazi gold, 1999	box 01
Scope and Contents Note: Jacques Ribbons was a Holocaust survivor who later resettled in Las Vegas; this folder contains a story by the New York Times about American G.I.'s looting Nazi gold and Jacques Ribbon's recollections about that event	
Newspaper clippings, photos, fliers, advertisements, project proposal, and floorplans for the Klangbrucke Raummusik Project, 1990	box 01
Headshots, resumes, correspondence, slides, and proposal for the production <i>Monkey Park</i> , 1992	box 01
Scope and Contents Note: <i>Monkey Park</i> was Joshua Abbey's American Film Institute (AFI) Graduate Thesis project. Includes: proposal, correspondences, slides, and actor headshots and resumes for Tim Roth, Amanda Plummer, and Ray Wise.	
Correspondence and library policy statement for the Las Vegas Clark County Literary Laureate Lectures, 1994-2001	box 01
Program and article for the Las Vegas Literary Film Festival, 1994	box 01
News clippings, pamphlets, brochures, and season passes for the Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival, 2002-2017	box 01
Scope and Contents Note: Includes information about the early concept for the Las Vegas celebration of Jewish Film, 2002-2016. Passes are for the 2010 to 2017 seasons.	
Ephemera and communications for Israel Independence Day Celebration, 1998	box 01
Scope and Contents Note: Also includes a <i>Guide to the Celebration for the 1998 Israel Independence Day Celebration</i>	
Jewish Federation Project management ephemera including: Poets Cross culture event, Jean Weinberg Museum, and newspaper clippings, 1995-1996	box 01
Organizational agendas for the Temple Beth Sholom Archive Committee, 2000-2001	box 01
Swiss Films program book, 1987	box 02
Printed negatives of unknown production, undated	box 02
Program and schedule for the Solothurner Film Festival, 1987	box 02
Summerlin Library and Performing Arts Center spring schedule, 1995	box 02
<i>The Wyoming Eagle</i> , 1984	box 02
Scope and Contents Note: Photo of Joshua Abbey on the front cover	
<i>Rivertrip</i> programs, fliers, postcards, and publicity clippings, 1983	box 02
Franklin Furnace Inc. letter to Joshua Abbey, 1981	box 02
The Institute for Readers Theater National Summer Workshop The Living Cell program, 1980	box 02
Scope and Contents Note: The workshop was held at the University of Hawai'i	

<i>Windows on White</i> fliers, undated	box 02
Various scripts, undated	box 02
<i>A Life in the Theater</i> flier and newspaper clippings, undated	box 02
<i>Anonymous Communication</i> flier, undated	box 02
<i>I Think We're All Bozos on This Bus</i> script, undated	box 02
<i>The Cell</i> program, undated	box 02
<i>First Coda</i> script and promotional material, undated	box 02
<i>Desert Island Game</i> postcards, fliers, programs, and advertisements for <i>Don't Stand on the Ocean It's Not Dry Yet</i> and <i>Clichés</i> , 1982	box 02
Scope and Contents Note: Desert Island Game is the name of the theater group with which Joshua Abbey was involved.	
The New York Theater Ensemble <i>Macbeth</i> programs and fliers, 1981	box 02
CBA Theater Workshop <i>Uncle Vanya</i> flier and programs, undated	box 02
White columns New York New Independent Video promotional material and note from wife, Yves, undated	box 02
The New York Actors Ensemble fliers for <i>Noon</i> and <i>Dunelawn</i> , undated	box 02
Bleacher Bums Productions <i>A Midsummer Nights Dream</i> fliers and program, undated	box 02
Letter to Robert Redford from Edward Abbey, 1982	box 02
Article about Edward Abbey in the <i>Bloomsbury Review</i> , 1984	box 02
<i>People Weekly</i> magazine, 1984	box 02
Scope and Contents Note: Includes article about Edward Abbey.	
Correspondence to Joshua Abbey about Edward Abbey, 1990	box 02
Correspondence, 1980-1985	box 02
New York productions, 1980-1988	box 02
Workscene script and sketches, undated	box 02
<i>Desert Island Game</i> scripts and notes, undated	box 02
Script and sketches for unknown production, undated	box 02
<i>Steh Nicht Auf Den Ozean</i> fliers, newspaper clippings, and photos, 1987	box 02
Adat Ari El Sisterhood interviews, 2005	
Physical Description: 11 Digital Files (11 Optical Discs, 2.67 GB) MP4	
Universal warning sign: Yucca Mountain, undated	oversized box SH-012