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LG MS 160 Dale McCormick Gay Side Story Interview

Jill Piekut Roy
University of Southern Maine

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Dale McCormick Gay Side Story Interview LG-MS0160

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Special Collections

314 Forest Ave
PO Box 9301
Portland, ME 04104-9301
Business Number: 207-780-4269
susie.bock@maine.edu
URL: <https://usm.maine.edu/library/specialcollections>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Special Collections
Creator - ive:	McCormick, Dale
Creator - ivr:	MacGregor, Megan A., 1984-
Title:	Dale McCormick Gay Side Story Interview
ID:	LG-MS0160
Date:	2023-03-23
Physical Description:	958 Megabytes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Dale McCormick is an AIDS and LGBTQ + activist of Maine. Collection includes two copies of an oral history interview (one edited) and an automatically-generated transcript. In the edited version of the interview, Dale McCormick recalls her role as producer of "Gay Side Story," an adaptation of the musical West Side Story, with Diane Elze, Miles J. Rightmire, Cheryl Ring, and others. The play was performed for two nights in Luther Bonney Hall at University of Southern Maine during the 10th Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's Symposium in May 1983. McCormick discusses her work on the writing team, the set design, and the positive reception of the production during a time when, in McCormick's words, "we were a feared and hated minority."

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Biographical / Historical

Dale McCormick is an AIDS and LGBTQ + activist and politician of Maine. In 1982 and 1983, McCormick worked with a team of activists and artists to produce Gay Side Story. McCormick is best known for her work to support women in the trades and as the first openly gay Maine legislator.

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Biographical / Historical

Megan MacGregor is the Instruction and Outreach Librarian at University of Southern Maine and a member of the LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee of the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity in Maine.

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Scope and Contents

Collection includes two copies of an oral history interview (one edited) and an automatically-generated transcript.

In the edited version of the interview, Dale McCormick recalls her role as producer of "Gay Side Story," an adaptation of the musical West Side Story, with Diane Elze, Miles J. Rightmire, Cheryl Ring, and others. The play was performed for two nights in Luther Bonney Hall at University of Southern Maine during the 10th Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's Symposium in May 1983. McCormick discusses her work on the writing team, the set design, and the positive reception of the production during a time when, in McCormick's words, "we were a feared and hated minority."

Megan MacGregor, instruction and outreach librarian at University of Southern Maine, in Portland, Maine, conducted an oral history interview with Dale McCormick, in Augusta, Maine, on March 23, 2023, using Zoom to preserve her memories of the creation and performance of Gay Side Story at the 1983 Maine Lesbian & Gaymen's Symposium held on the Portland campus of the University of Southern Maine. The interview was prompted by a program hosted by the LGBTQ+ Collection and funded by an grant from the University's Intercultural and Diversity Advisory Council (IDAC) to play the film of the 1983 musical for University students and staff in Robie-Andrews Hall on the same date.

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Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Megan MacGregor, Gift, 2023

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Related Materials

Related Materials

LG-MS0031 Dale McCormick Papers

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Controlled Access Headings

- West Side story (Motion picture : 1961) -- Adaptations
- Musical theater
- Theaters -- Stage-setting and scenery
- Homophobia
- McCormick, Dale
- Rightmire, Myles J.
- Ring, Cheryl
- Elze, Diane -- Gay Side Story -- Oral History
- Maine Gay Symposium (10th : 1983: Portland, Me.)
- University of Southern Maine -- History

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
Dale McCormick and Gay side Story uncut Video.mp4, 2023-03-23	
Dale McCormick and Gay Side Story(no subtitles-one in Kaltura).mp4, 2023-03-23	
Transcript to uncut version automatically generated.txt, 2023	