



MG 652 – Peter McGehee fonds

Dates: 1976-1991 (inclusive) ; 1981-1991 (predominant).

Extent: 0.4 cm textual records, 5494 negatives, 281 photograph prints, 2 photograph slides, 3 collages.

Biography: Peter Gregory McGehee was born on October 6, 1955 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to Frank and Julia Ann May McGehee. He attended elementary and high school in Little Rock, Arkansas, then attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas where he worked toward a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. In 1976, McGehee quit the program without completing the degree to move to San Francisco, California.

In San Francisco, McGehee wrote and acted in several plays. He also joined the satirical musical revue The Quinlan Sisters with Fiji Robinson and Wendy Coad and met Douglas Wilson. In 1980, McGehee immigrated to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan to live with his partner Doug Wilson. McGehee and Wilson moved to Toronto, Ontario in 1982. McGehee was deported from Canada in 1984 and lived in New York City, New York until 1986.

Upon his return to Toronto in 1986, McGehee and Robinson co-wrote the songs for and performed together in The Fabulous Sirs. McGehee also developed a one-man show, later published as a novella "Beyond Happiness", which was edited by Wilson. McGehee's other publications included *Boys Like Us* (1991), a short story collection entitled *The I.Q. Zoo* (1991), and *Sweetheart* (published posthumously in 1992).

McGehee died in 1991.

Custodial History: Fiji Robinson, acting on behalf of Nancy Wilson, Doug Wilson's sister and executor of his estate, donated these records to the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan in one accession in 2010 (2010-233). The Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan transferred these records to the University of Saskatchewan, University Archives & Special Collections in March 2019 in one accession (2019-017).

Scope and Content: This fonds consists of records created, accumulated and used by Peter McGehee in his work as an artist, performer, and writer in San Francisco, California, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Toronto, Ontario, and as part of the Quinlan Sisters and the Fabulous Sirs. The fonds also includes photographs taken by McGehee's friends, such as his partner Doug Wilson and Fiji Robinson.

Textual records include: an outline of a script of Fiji Robinson's life story (according to Peter McGehee); a poster for "Beyond Happiness: The intimate memoirs of Billy Lee Belle"; photocopied advertisements and newspaper articles about "Boys Like Us" and the Quinlan Sisters; posters for the Quinlan Sisters; Fabulous Sirs concert itinerary; invitation to Maddy Quinlan's (Tim Lewis) 10 year in San Francisco party; and a business card for the Quinlan Sisters with McGehee listed as writer/director, Doug Wilson as manager, and Fiji Champagne, Peaches O'Cod, and Marie Quinlan as performers.

Photographs include colour and black and white prints, black and white contact sheets, print collages, and colour and black and white negatives. Images include professional photographs of Peter McGehee, The Quinlan Sisters, The Fabulous Sirs, and Doug Wilson and candid shots of Peter McGehee, Doug Wilson, Wilson's family, Fiji Robinson, Wendy Coad, Rob MacDonald, Cheryl O'Brien, Janice Kell, Michael Achtman, Brian Gladwell, Lynn McLeod, Charlie Drinkwater, Ruth Welsh, John Goodman, Julie McGehee, Katie O'Grady, and David Rimmer. Some photographs are identified as taken in San Francisco, Toronto, New York City, Rome, Italy, Granada, and Saskatoon, Climax and Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. Most negatives are not identified. **Some photos contain explicit content.**

Arrangement: No arrangement was applied to the records in this fonds.

Restrictions: Records are open for research use. Use, publication and/or reproduction of records is subject to the terms and conditions of the *Copyright Act*.

Related Records: Records related to Peter McGehee and his involvement with the Quinlan Sisters or the Fabulous Sirs may be found in the Doug Wilson fonds (MG 653) and the Fiji Robinson fonds (MG 651).

Notes: Prints, contact sheets, and negatives were placed into Mylar sleeves by Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan for conservation purposes.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Source of Descriptions: Some photographs were identified by Fiji Robinson at the time of processing by the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan.

Notes: Accn 2019-017.

Finding aid created by Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan. Edited for formatting by Bonnie Dahl, 2019.

Box 1

1. Photographs. – n.d. – 17 b&w prints. – 96 colour prints. – 1 drawing.

Most of the photographs are unidentified. There is a business card for the Quinlan Sisters.

2. Photographs. – n.d. – 98 b&w negatives. – 519 colour negatives.

Unidentified 35 mm negatives.

3. Photographs. – n.d. – 552 b&w negatives. – 171 colour negatives.

Mostly 35 mm negatives. Unidentified.

4. Photographs. – n.d. – 33 b&w negatives. – 646 colour negatives.

Unidentified 35 mm negatives. One handwritten note.

5. Script and poster. – n.d. – 2 b&w photograph prints. – 2 colour slides. – 3 b&w photograph contact sheets.

Script outline for Fiji Robinson's life story and poster for "Beyond Happiness." Photographs are unidentified.

6. Material for Quinlan Sisters, The Fabulous Sirs and *Boys Like Us*. – 1982-1991. – 17 b&w photograph prints. – 7 b&w photograph contact sheets. – 1 colour print.

Advertisement and review of *Boys Like Us*, reviews of Quinlan Sisters and The Fabulous Sirs, and a party invitation. Most of the photographs in this file relate to the Quinlan Sisters or The Fabulous Sirs but not all. The photographs are unidentified.

7. Promotional Materials. – 1981-1991. – 8 b&w prints. – 19 colour prints. – 5 b&w photograph contact sheets.

File consists primarily of promotional photographs of Peter McGehee and the Quinlan Sisters. There are also 3 photograph collages as well as a hand flyer and posters. The photographs in this file are identified.

Box 2

8. Personal Photographs. – 1982-1986. – 2 folders. – 1467 b&w negatives. – 53 b&w contact sheets.

Many of these photographs have been identified. Photographs include images of Peter McGehee, Doug Wilson, Fiji Robinson, Charlie Drinkwater, Ruth Welsh, Doug Wilson's family, and others. Photo locations have been identified as: Rome, Toronto, and New York City along with Saskatchewan locations of Saskatoon, Climax, and Meadow Lake. There are also a number of nude images of Doug Wilson and Peter McGehee. Also included are images of Peter McGehee rehearsing his one-man show, "Beyond Happiness."

9. Personal Photographs. – 1979-1988. – 2 folders. – 2008 b&w negatives. – 65 b&w contact sheets.

Only a small portion of these photographs have been identified. Photographs include images of Peter McGehee, Doug Wilson, Tim Lewis, Charlie Drinkwater, Rob MacDonald, and Peter Millard. Photo locations have been identified as Saskatoon and San Francisco. There are images of the Saskatoon Gay Pride Parade likely from 1979 or 1980. This file also includes promotional images of Peter McGehee and The Fabulous Sirs.