

The Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives at The Banff Centre

Finding Aid - Action Poetry fonds (ACP)

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The Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives at The Banff Centre

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Action Poetry fonds

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Summary information

Repository: The Paul D. Fleck Library and Archives at The Banff Centre

Title: Action Poetry fonds

ID: ACP

Date: 1969-1994, predominate 1993-1994 (date of creation)

Physical description: 0.3 m of textual records and other materials

Note [generalNote]:
 Textual records located in D-2-7
 Sound recordings in 12-02-05
 Video (VHS) recordings are #3416-#3455
 U-Matic masters located in 09-03-01 to 09-03-03; duplicates in 09-01-05
 Digital material located on the R drive.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

John Sobol, Program Director for Action Poetry '94, had worked in the performing arts in a wide variety of capacities. His career prior to 1994 had included being a Canadian poet, performer, musician, composer and music critic. Sobol recorded several albums, including "Blue History", by the John Sobol Poetry Band. Sobol ran a loft space in Montreal called "The Crossroads", which presented video and film screenings, dance performances, live music, art exhibitions and poetry readings.

In late 1992, John Sobol met with Vice President and Director Carol Phillips to discuss the potential for a program called Action Poetry '94. With his background in music and poetry, he recognized that there was an isolation of sorts between all forms of oral traditions. Therefore, he wanted to bring together multiple disciplines in one forum as a cross-cultural exchange of the many traditions of spoken word performance. This would occur in the form of a three-week workshop for the performers, which would culminate in a filmed presentation of their works.

Once the program was approved, John Sobol began scouting in Canada and the United States for artists he would like to include in the workshop. The participants would be from various performance backgrounds, including: poets, rappers, dub poets, monologists, performance artists, street entertainers, storytellers of various persuasions, and stand-up comedians from all backgrounds and cultures. Performers included: Lillian Allen, Uma Rao, Erik Belgum, Aaron Williamson, Sean "Spaz" Zitello, Deanna Ferguson, Judy Radul, Jeannette Armstrong, Jill Batson, Terrence Crane, Diane Wolkstein, Desaz Tempo and Richie D., Bob Holman, Wendy Berner, Tim Lander, Paul Dutton, Adeena Karasick, Gunargie, Greg Young-Ing, Mary Dalton, Tom Henihan, Kedrick James, Clifton Joseph, Tracie Morris, John Giorno, Alex Ferguson, Jayne Cortez, Meryn Cadell, Pine Trio, Shawna Dempsey, Tuong, Djewel (Don) Davidson, Darryl Keyes, Isobeau Miller, Lori Weidenhammer, Peter McPhee, Sheri D. Wilson, Stephen Humphreys, Murdoch

Burnett, Ahdri Mandiela, John Sobol, and Flex Plan Nine (Harold Carr, Marilyn Lerner, Peter Valsamis and Tim Posgate).

The artists not only worked on their craft at the Banff Centre, but also participated in the Nat Christie Poetry Day and subsequent Nat Christie Poetry Jam. John Sobol organized these events that would see the artists visit various high schools in Calgary to work with students in performance workshops. Schools included: St. Francis High School, Forest Lawn High School, Bishop Carroll High School, Ernest Manning High School, Queen Elizabeth High School, and the Plains Indians Cultural Survival School. Chosen students would then perform their works on stage, along with the Action Poets, at the Nat Christie Poetry Jam at the Uptown Stage and Screen in Calgary.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of records generated as part of “Action Poetry ‘94”, a symposium and festival of the spoken word, organized by The Banff Centre in 1994. Records include internal and external correspondence, artist information, newspaper clippings, research notes, proposals, scheduling information, photographs, and video recordings reflecting the organization, build-up, and eventual three-week Action Poetry symposium that was held from April 11-29, 1994, and the Nat Christie Poetry Day and Poetry Jam festival on April 19, 1994.

The fonds is divided into eight series: 1. Action Poetry Artist Information and Correspondence (ACP1); 2. Action Poetry Event Planning and Research (ACP2); 3. Action Poetry Administrative Files (ACP3); 4. Action Poetry Event Information (ACP4); 5. Action Poetry Performances Contact Sheet Prints (ACP5); 6. Action Poetry Video Recordings (ACP6); 7. Nat Christie Poetry Day and Poetry Jam Video Recordings (ACP7); 8. Action Poetry Audio Recordings (ACP8).

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on contents of the fonds.

Physical condition

Includes 0.3 m of textual records
91 photograph contact sheets
40 U-Matic videocassettes/40 VHS
37 digital audio tapes
605 GB of digitized material (116 mp4s)

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were created by the Banff Centre and transferred to the Archives by the Action Poetry Coordinator after the event. Each artist signed an agreement granting The Banff Centre the right to photograph and video record them for archival purposes.

The material arrived in several accessions: 1995-135, 1994-65.2, 1995-72, 1998-54, and 1999-32.

Arrangement

No further accruals are expected.

Restrictions on access

Some access restrictions may apply in accordance with Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation. Please consult the archivist for more details.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Status description:** Final

Access points

- Action Poetry
- Arts (subject)
- Education (subject)

Collection holdings

Series: ACP-1 - Action Poetry : artist information and correspondence

Title: Action Poetry : artist information and correspondence

ID: ACP-1

Date: 1969-1994, predominant 1990-1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of four subseries, which document the participants and applicants in “Action Poetry ‘94”. The series includes collected materials such as artist biographies, artist contracts and resumes. In addition, the series includes correspondence between John Sobol and the many artists considered for the program.

Physical description: 12.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: ACP-1-.001 - Participant lists and biographies

Title: Participant lists and biographies

ID: ACP-1-.001

Date: 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of one file containing public biographies of the participants.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: ACP-1-.002 - Action Poetry class list

Title: Action Poetry class list

ID: ACP-1-.002

Date: 31 March 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of one file containing a class list of participations.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

Subseries is restricted.

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: ACP-1-.003 - Artist files

Title: Artist files

ID: ACP-1-.003

Date: 1969-1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of 30 files, arranged alphabetically containing information on each participant in the program. Includes samples of work, CVs, correspondence (mainly with John Sobol), and other materials.

Physical description: 8 cm of textual records

Restrictions on access:

Some files are restricted, contact the archivist for more details.

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: ACP-1-.004 - Potential Action Poetry artist information

Title: Potential Action Poetry artist information

ID: ACP-1-.004

Date: ca. 1990-1993 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of five files with prospective artists for the Action Poetry Program. Includes correspondence (mainly with John Sobol), news clippings, copies of work, and other materials.

Physical description: 2.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Series: ACP-2 - Action Poetry : event planning and research

Title: Action Poetry : event planning and research

ID: ACP-2

Date: 1992-1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of three files containing background research material collected by Program Director John Sobol. Some documents detail out of town poetry events, accumulated relevant newspaper clippings, travel information, and miscellaneous research notes. Collected items are from poetry events in Vancouver, Toronto, New York, and Oregon.

Physical description: 3.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Series: ACP-3 - Action Poetry : administrative filesTitle: Action Poetry : administrative filesID: ACP-3Date: 1993-1994 (date of creation)Scope and content:

Series consists of three subseries, which contain material relating to the planning and promotion of Action Poetry '94. Materials in this series include internal memos, meeting minutes, proposals and correspondence with faculty, as well as media and advertising requests. The series also includes fundraising, budget and donor information.

Physical description: 5.5 cm of textual recordsPublication status:

Published

Subseries: ACP-3-.001 - Proposals and budgets relating to Action PoetryTitle: Proposals and budgets relating to Action PoetryID: ACP-3-.001Date: 1993-1994 (date of creation)Scope and content:

Subseries consists of five files of various drafts, proposals, and internal memos and correspondence, and meeting minutes in regards to Action Poetry '94 and the Nat Christie Poetry Day. Files also includes budget information for these events.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual recordsPublication status:

Published

Subseries: ACP-3-.002 - Media and advertising relating to Action Poetry

Title: Media and advertising relating to Action Poetry

ID: ACP-3-.002

Date: 1993-1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of material relating to the promotion of Action Poetry '94. Includes correspondence between John Sobol and CBC Radio's "Morningside", various profiles and correspondence with filming companies, and advertising costs.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: ACP-3-.003 - Grants, fundraising, and donor information relating to Action Poetry

Title: Grants, fundraising, and donor information relating to Action Poetry

ID: ACP-3-.003

Date: 1993-1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of seven files, which contain primarily correspondence between John Sobol and various corporate donors, and grant applications in regards to fundraising for Action Poetry '94. The files also include internal correspondence in this regard.

Physical description: 3.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Series: ACP-4 - Action Poetry : event information

Title: Action Poetry : event information

ID: ACP-4

Date: 1993-1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of two subseries, which contain materials relating to the actual events that made up Action Poetry '94. The records in this series consist of scheduling information, programs, and

promotional materials for Action Poetry '94, including posters. Series also includes information regarding the Nat Christie Poetry Day at various Calgary schools, and subsequent Nat Christie Poetry Jam at the Uptown Stage and Screen.

Physical description: 4 cm of textual records and other material

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: ACP-4-.001 - Event information relating to Action Poetry

Title: Event information relating to Action Poetry

ID: ACP-4-.001

Date: March-April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries contains six files which pertain to scheduling, event information, programs, and promotional materials, including posters for Action Poetry '94. The subseries also includes two anthologies produced in celebration of Action Poetry '94. The subseries also includes post-workshop meeting notes between all Action Poetry artists in Regards to their craft.

Physical description: 3.5 cm of textual records and other material

Publication status:

Published

Subseries: ACP-4-.002 - Nat Christie Poetry Day records

Title: Nat Christie Poetry Day records

ID: ACP-4-.002

Date: March-April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Subseries consists of two files of information and correspondence regarding the Nat Christie Poetry Day at local schools in Calgary, and the subsequent Nat Christie Poetry Jam.

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Publication status:

Published

Series: ACP-5 - Action Poetry : performance contact sheet prints

Title: Action Poetry : performance contact sheet prints

ID: ACP-5

Date: 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series includes 91 pages of contact sheet prints documenting artist performances during Action Poetry, Nat Christie Poetry Day at various schools in Calgary, and the Nat Christie Poetry jam at the Uptown Stage and Screen.

Physical description: 91 photograph contact sheets

Note: Contact sheets contain approximately 35 images each.

Publication status:

Published

Series: ACP-6 - Action Poetry : video recordings

Title: Action Poetry : video recordings

ID: ACP-6

Date: 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of edited video recordings produced by Action Poetry '94. The video recordings consist primarily of artist performances at the Ground Round at the Banff Centre. The quality of image, lighting and/or sound in some video recordings may be poor.

Physical description: 40 VHS (ca. 25 hr, 40 min)

40 U-Matics

40 mp4 files

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Moving images (documentary form)
-

Item: ACP-6-.001 - John Sobol : Action Poetry performance

Title: John Sobol : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.001

Date: 11 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

John Sobol, Program Director for Action Poetry '94, had worked in the performing arts in a wide variety of capacities. He has worked as a poet, performer, musician, composer and music critic. Sobol recorded several albums, including "Blue History", by the John Sobol Poetry Band. Sobol ran a loft space in Montreal called "The Crossroads", which presented video and film screenings, dance performances, live music, art exhibitions and poetry readings. He grew up in Montreal. (1994 biography)

This video includes John Sobol's introduction and performances at Action Poetry '94.

Performances Include:

1. "[Dy-no-mite]" (2:30)
2. "Blue History" (8:00)
3. "Frankenstein's Dream" (3:55)
4. "Jump Monk" (10:34)
5. "She is Lost" (2:04)
6. "[In earlies Estonia] (1:04)
7. "Peaches are Regalia" (3:54)

Physical description: 1 VHS (32 min., 1 sec.)

1 U-matic (32 min., 1 sec.)

1 mp4 file (32 min., 1 sec.)

Note [generalNote]:

: Previous number tape #5, accno 1994-65.2/2. This film begins in the middle of a poem by [John Sobol?] and is very dark. Once the introduction begins, the lighting improves. Note on outside of tape reads: "Tape 1 missing".

Digitized copy's filename is ACP6_001.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.002 - Uma Roa and Erik Belgum : Action Poetry performance

Title: Uma Roa and Erik Belgum : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.002

Date: 12 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Uma Rao was born in Karnataka, South India and graduated in Science and Law from the University of Mysore. A freelance Advertising Copywriter by profession, she also wrote shorts stories, poems, articles and interviews published in leading magazine in Kannada and English. She acted in over 25 plays, did scripting for a TV serial and prepared kits for Adult Literacy programmes. (1994 biography).

Erik was a Minneapolis-based poet and composer of polyphonic stories. He curated a spoken-word concert at the Walker Arts Centre and a literary audio work of his appeared on the CD audio magazine "Aeria". Following Action Poetry '94, Erik would so a residency at the Studio for Electro Instrumental Music in Amsterdam. (1994 biography)

This video includes Uma Rao and Erik Belgum's performances at Action Poetry '94.

Uma Rao:

1. "The Flag" (1:20)
2. "A Single Earring" (1:07)
3. "[A-MA-Sari]" (1:20)
4. "Beyond" (4:55)

Erik Belgum:

5. "Bladder [Blotter?]" (31:11)

Uma Rao:

6. "It is different in Vancouver (1:00)

Physical description: 1 VHS (40 min., 57 sec.)

1 U-matic (40 min., 57 sec.)

1 mp4 file (40 mins., 57 sec.)

Note [generalNote]:

Previous number was tape #104, accno 1994-65.2/3

Digitized copy is ACP6_002.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.003 - Flex Plan Nine : Action Poetry performance

Title: Flex Plan Nine : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.003

Date: 13 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Flex Plan Nine is a jazz band and consisted of Harold Carr (bass), Marilyn Lener (piano), Tim Posgate (guitar), and Peter Valsami (drums). Flex Plan Nine performed at Action Poetry 1994 and accompanied some of the poets. (1994 biography)

This video includes Flex Plan Nine's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. "Ice Weasels" (4:47)
2. "Alone Together: (6:15)
3. "Oldie Oh" (6:35)
4. "78 Dream Song" (1:59)
5. "Healing Hands" (8:45)
6. "Solar" (11:18)
7. "Smatter" (6:32)

Physical description: 1 VHS (52 min., 52 sec.)

1 U-matic (52 min., 52 sec.)

1 mp4 file (52 min., 52 sec.)

Note [generalNote]:

Video starts at beginning of first song with no introduction. Previous number was tape #105, accno 1194-65.2/5.

Digitized copy is ACP6_003.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.004 - Aaron Williamson : Action Poetry performance

Title: Aaron Williamson : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.004

Date: 13 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Aaron Williamson, a British writer and performer, held a Master's degree in Philosophy from the University of Sussex and was working on his Doctorate of Philosophy. He had a substantial volume of published writings and extensive performance history. Aaron's intense emotions response to the world was medicated through his own condition – that of profound deafness. (1994 biography)

This video includes Aaron Williamson's performance at Action Poetry '94.

1. "[...And how do we connect language up to the body...]" (25:42)

Physical description: 1 VHS (25 min., 42 sec.)

1 U-matic (25 min., 42 sec.)

1 mp4 file (25 min., 42 sec.)

Note [generalNote]:

Video starts while performance is already in progress. Previous number was tape # 106, accno 1994-65.2/1.

Digitized copy is ACP6_004.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.005 - Spaz (Sean Zitello) : Action Poetry performance

Title: Spaz (Sean Zitello) : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.005

Date: 14 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Spaz (as he liked to be called) had published numerous chapbooks, as well as a collection of poems titled "Spurts and Spazms: Poems for People". He had performed in venues as diverse as university stages and neighbourhood taverns. (1994 biography)

This video includes Spaz (Sean Zitello)'s performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. "Ode to Jessie" (4:35)
2. "For Fred" (1:31)
3. [Ideas Scratch] (3:22)
4. [Yet another killer] (1:16)
5. [The foibles of former strangers...] (2:14)
6. [Pissing on the Blarney Stone] (2:00)
7. Poem grenades over Poland (6:54)
8. Ralphie's dilemma (1:44)
9. [In dreams I have no...] (2:33)
10. [This rumpled heart...] (1:22)
11. Small town (2:16)
12. [Chatter chip chompers] (0:45)
13. [Hello there old wooden friend] (0:46)
14. Excerpts from a conversation in western Idaho (3:50)
15. [Follow me deep inside a story...] (6:38)
16. [Let's get a little psychological] (0:50)
17. [That little person inside your head (2:20)
18. After Hours Joint (1:25)
19. Tissue (4:50)
20. Edgy (1:44)
21. Where do the mountains live? (1:37)

Physical description: 1 VHS (52 min, 51 sec)

1 U-Matic (52 min, 51 sec)

1 mp4 file (52 min, 51 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Some poems are accompanied by music from Flex Plan Nine. The last poem may have been cut off by end of tape. Previous number was tape #107, accno 1994-65.2/6.
Digitized copy is ACP6_005.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.006 - Deanna Ferguson and Judy Radul : Action Poetry performance

Title: Deanna Ferguson and Judy Radul : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.006

Date: 14 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Judy was described as a tough, friendly and smart veteran of punk with a kind of shy yet in your face attitude on stage. Her poems were delivered powerfully. Judy received her Bachelor of Arts, with a major in Fine and Performing Arts, from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia. (1994 biography)

Deanna was Assistant Editor of "Vancouver Anthology: The Institutional Politics of Art" and Co-editor of "Literary Arts Directory, BC Federation of Writers 1988". She was a performance poet and writer. Her curriculum vitae included several successful submissions to publications in Canada and the USA, poetry readings/talks and collaborations and exhibitions. (1994 biography)

This video includes Deanna Ferguson and Judy Radul's performances at Action Poetry '94.

Deanna Ferguson:

1. "Dizzily 93" (8:58)
2. [So the offspring] (2:59)
3. Crisis in my America (3:24)
4. Perth Bless (0:28)
5. Eye Guide (1:56)
6. Received Standard (4:36)

Judy Radul:

7. Baby you've caught the culture (1:20)
8. Delicate problem (1:47)
9. Tried to pull frightened vision to pedle and grit (9:09)
10. [Vaguely masturbating] (1:40)
11. [When you know you're trivial] (1:03)
12. [As today the mirror is piss yellow] (1:02)
13. Crisis is my erotia (9:15)

Physical description: 1 VHS (47 min, 37 sec)

1 U-Matic (47 min, 37 sec)

1 mp4 file (47 min, 37 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

There is a 1.50 minute break between artists. No audio for fourteen seconds between No. 12 and No. 13 (from 45.56-46.11). Also note that Judy Radul's name is spelled incorrectly on tape cover. Previous number was tape #108, accno 1994-65.2/4. Digitized copy is ACP6_006.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.007 - Jeanette Armstrong : Action Poetry performance : [part 1 of 2]

Title: Jeanette Armstrong : Action Poetry performance : [part 1 of 2]

ID: ACP-6-.007

Date: 15 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Jeanette Armstrong was a member of the Okanagan nation; born and raised on the Penticton Indian Reserve. She was a fluent speaker of the Okanagan language and strong adherent to her traditional teachings. After graduating from the University of Victoria, she became the founder and director of the En'owkiin International School of writing. She achieve excellence as an author and sculptor. Several of her poetry/prose pieces were recorded with music and were also featured on "Till the Bars Break" for which she was nominated for a Juno Award in 1992. Her first book of poetry, was "Breathtracks". As a novelist, poet, performer and activist, Jeanette had a long history of engagement with the creative potential of language. (1994 biography)

This video includes Jeannette Armstrong's performances at the Action Poetry '94.

1. Introduction (4:33)
2. Song: [I'm Okanagan and I'm beautiful (1:11)
3. First People (2:29)
4. [Frog Singing] (0:33)
5. [And once I was flying] (0:38)
6. [The ocean waited for me] (0:30)
7. [The black trees bent in the evening] (0:38)
8. Earth Love (0:19)
9. Grandmothers (2:07)
10. Rocks (4:10)
11. [I have, I screamed] (13.51)
12. Trickster Time (7:30)

Physical description: 1 VHS (38 min, 29 sec)

1 U-Matic (38 min, 29 sec)

1 mp4 file (38 min, 29 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Note: Tape 1 of 2. No 13 continues on tape 2. Previous number was tape #109, accno 1994-65.2/7.1
Digitized copy is ACP6_007.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.008 - Jeanette Armstrong : Action Poetry performance : [part 2 of 2]

Title: Jeanette Armstrong : Action Poetry performance : [part 2 of 2]

ID: ACP-6-.008

Date: 15 April 1994 (date of creation)

Physical description: 1 VHS (16 min, 1 sec)

1 U-Matic (16 min, 1 sec)

1 mp4 file (16 min, 1 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Tape 2 of 2. Continues from No. 13 on tape 1 with some of the performance missing. Multiple and some lengthy breaks in audio between 6.54-8.30. Previous number was tape #110, accno 1994-65.2/7.2
Digitized copy is ACP6_008.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.009 - Jill Batson : Action Poetry performance

Title: Jill Batson : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.009

Date: 15 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Jill was a native of England who had lived in both the USA and Canada. She was a poet and organizer of poetic events. Jill was attending Action Poetry '94 as a guest, and while present would produce a series of one-minute spoken word videos featuring selected Action Poets. These videos had been commissioned by MuchMusic, Canada's version of MTV. (1994 biography)

This video includes Jill Batson's performance at Action Poetry '94.

1. [I burn the ridges of my fingertips smooth] (1:08)
2. [Joined at the skull] (1:18)

3. [My table on the African reserve] (0:53)
4. [She slapped me] (1:33)
5. [I awake with my hands bleeding again] (1:47)
6. [It has been twenty days] (1:54)
7. [What is it like to hang from the neck] (1:16)
8. [Crimson viscose drop of blood] (1:22)
9. [The tartness prickling my tongue] (1:33)
10. [The wedding ring glinted] (2:21)
11. [Sometimes I am a circus] (4:37)

Physical description: 1 VHS (28 min, 56 sec)

1 U-Matic (28 min, 56 sec)

1 mp4 file (28 min, 56 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Some performances include Flex Plan Nine. A few short breaks in audio between 8:29-8:40.
 Previous number was tape #111, accno 1994-65.2/8.
 Digitized copy is ACP6_009.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.010 - T. (Terrence) Crane : Action Poetry performance

Title: T. (Terrence) Crane : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.010

Date: 15 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Terry was a performance poet and musician from Vancouver. He was the vocalist/poet for the band "Bugs Inside". He received training from Sun Ergos Theatre and Dance and One Yellow Rabbit, both located in Calgary. (1994 biography)

This video includes T. (Terrence) Crane's performance at Action Poetry '94.

1. [You don't have to talk anymore] (0:38)
2. Ooligans are small oily fish] (0:32)
3. My smoking harbour pistol tells no lines (1:12)
4. [Men must stop the hell we cause women (1:30)
5. A letter from the critters of the planet (1:12)
6. Love poem no. 6,846 (0:10)
7. Love poem no. 9,829 (1:51)
8. They sing to me fucking siren songs in the saliva rain (1:13)
9. [Let God judge us by the length of our neckties] (0:33)
10. Symptomatic love poems no. 87 (0:13)
11. Love poem no. 8,246 (1:09)

12. Kids today (0:06)
13. Boy talk (0:13)
14. Love poem no. 6,826 (0:32)
15. [Sad world] (1:10)
16. Love poem no. 1 (0:18)
17. [I read about two dozen embryos] (0:23)
18. Slick politics (0:37)
19. [Shit your bullets] (1:04)
20. [OK he say] (1:15)
21. Dizzy come to visit (6:53)
22. Song: New York flat top (1:17)
23. Song: Mother Night (6:19)
24. Song: Scream for Rodney King (1:42)
25. Song: Come on and change, blues (4:53)

Physical description: 1 VHS (50 min, 4 sec)

1 U-Matic (50 min, 4 sec)

1 mp4 file (50 min, 4 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Note: A few poems include Flex Plan nine and John Sobol. Previous number was tape #112, accno 1994—65.2/9.

Digitized copy is ACP6_010.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.011 - Paul Dutton : Action Poetry performance

Title: Paul Dutton : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.011

Date: 16 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Paul Dutton, writer and free voice singer, had appeared throughout Canada, Europe, and the United States, both as a soloist and in group contexts, most notably with the sound poetry ensemble, "The Four Horsemen" (1970-1989). In demand as a writer, performer, and interpreter of others' voice works, his career was centered in Toronto, from which location he travelled to literary and musical engagements. (1994 biography)

This video includes Paul Dutton's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. Imps rove 64 (3:26)
2. Alpha Omega (0:44)
3. Sugar (0:12)
4. Smile (0:11)

5. How to kill the noun (0:46)
6. The eighth sea (5:12)
7. Stereo head (4:10)
8. Little sound 1 (0:39)
9. Kit Talk (1:55)
10. Score for Tony (3:02)
11. Mercure (5:41)
12. [Wanna] No. 10 (4:55)
13. Hiding (5:01)

Physical description: 1 VHS (35 min, 54 sec)

1 U-Matic (35 min, 54 sec)

1 mp4 file (35 min, 54 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Previous number was tape #113, accno 1994-65.2/10.
Digitized copy is ACP6_011.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.012 - Desaz Tempo : Action Poetry performance

Title: Desaz Tempo : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.012

Date: 16 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Signed to Def Jam Records but still waiting for their first release, Dasez (MC) and Richie D (DJ) combined a multitude of musical directions to produce a hard core street sounds accessible to hip-hop listeners worldwide. Members of the "Boom Poetic", Dasez and Richie explored improvisation in hip-hop. "If DIggable Planets were jazz musicians," Say Dasez, "they'd be, maybe Cab Calloway. But we want to be like John Coltrane." (1994 biography)

This video includes Desaz Tempo's performance at Action Poetry '94.

1. [Well well well well] (1:26)
2. Desaz Tempo (4:26)
3. Can I get some? (3:08)
4. In the clutches (3:13)
5. [Music meditation] (3:16)
6. Kick it to the left, kick it to the right (4:02)
7. [We are going to get mellow] (3:29)
8. If it ain't one thing it's got to be another (2:13)
9. [Tina from Texas} (3:33)
10. Base in, chase in (0:42)

11. Ice Oasis (5:25)
12. Can't nobody do you like you do yourself (2:45)
13. Party Zone (3:16)
14. Tempo tantrum (3:08)

Physical description: 1 VHS (44 min, 2 sec)

1 U-Matic (44 min, 2 sec)

1 mp4 file (44 min, 2 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Tape skips at 10:32, 40:41, 40:56, 48:37 and a few times between 33:53-33:58, 41:51-41:58 and 48:52-50.59. There is a 24 second break between No.6 and No.7. Previous number was tape #144, accno 1994-65.2/11.

Digitized copy is ACP6_012.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.013 - Diane Wolkstein : Action Poetry performance

Title: Diane Wolkstein : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.013

Date: 18 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Diane has been telling stories of many different settings for 25 years. She had been the Official Storyteller of New York City, telling stories in Central Park to thousands of children and adults. She had published 16 collections of stories, including "The Magic Orange Tree and Other Haitian Folktales", which she collected during her 8 visits to Haiti in the early 1970". (1994 biography) This video includes Diane Wolkstein's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. [Introduction] (2:55)
2. The magic orange tree (9:50)
3. The two donkeys (4:23)
4. Owl (8:55)
5. Monkey asks for misery (4:37)

Physical description: 1 VHS (30 min, 40 sec)

1 U-Matic (30 min, 40 sec)

1 mp4 file (30 min, 40 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Tape visual quality is very poor. Multiple and lengthy skips with full audio but no image. This occurs during first 0:34 seconds from 6:31-6:56, from 12:37-13.04, from 18:20-18:26 and at frequent intervals from 19:44 to end. Previous number was tape #116, accno 1994-65.2/12.

Digitized copy is ACP6_013.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.014 - Bob Holman : Action Poetry performance

Title: Bob Holman : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.014

Date: 18 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Poet and poetry activist, Bob Holman dubbed the “Ringmaster of the Spoken Word.” He won two Emmy producing “Poetry Spots” and an International Public Television Award for “Words in Your Face”, hailed as a “breakthrough for New Poetry”. This was the first national network airing for spoken word poetry. His “mini-epic poem” 1990 was currently on A&M Records. He published five books of poetry including “Panic DJ”. At the time, he was considered “guru” of the New York Poetry scene. (1994 biography)

This video includes Bob Holman’s performance at Action Poetry ’94.

1. [See the world] (2:08)
2. [I got a rock and roll mythology] (4:00)
3. I can’t believe it’s not a poem (10:25)
4. [Lift bliss from the piss stained] (1:00)
5. The perfection of chaos (1:38)
6. Post0modern lovers [Short Poems?] (0:08)
7. How to wake up (0:06)
8. Ten things I do every day (0:04)
9. Night fears (0:07)
10. Neal Cassidy (4:47)
11. [When you’re crazy] (3:24)
12. [The point is] (5:01)
13. My shirt (0:07)
14. [Once a long, long time ago] (4:33)
15. The impossible rap (5:06)

Physical description: 1 VHS (52 min)

1 U-Matic (52 min)

1 mp4 file (52 min)

Note [generalNote]:

Note: Previous number was tape #117, accno 1994-65.2/13.

Digitized copy is ACP6_014.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.015 - Wendy Berner : Action Poetry performacneTitle: Wendy Berner : Action Poetry performacneID: ACP-6-.015Date: 18 April 1994 (date of creation)Scope and content:

Wendy Berner was a versatile Canadian storyteller. Her story telling took her across Canada and overseas to Britain and France. She was described as a dynamic and giving storyteller. Committed to promoting and teaching the art and oral tradition of storytelling, Wendy was the founder of Calgary's Storytelling Association. Wendy's background included work in theatre, role drama, and arts educations as a writer, educator and consultant. (1994 biography)

This video includes Wendy Berner's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. [Long ago in Japan] (3:36)
2. Mulla Nasruddin] (4:00)
3. [About a woman and her four children] (2:05)
4. [Preamble] (1:47)
5. Wisdom and luck (12:34)
6. [Truth] (4:18)

Physical description: 1 VHS (28 min, 20 sec)

1 U-Matic (28 min, 20 sec)

1 mp4 file (28 min, 20 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Tape skips at various times throughout. No audio from 25:49-26:03. Previous number was tape #118, accno 1994-65.2/14.

Digitized copy is ACP6_015.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.016 - Tim Lander : Action Poetry performanceTitle: Tim Lander : Action Poetry performanceID: ACP-6-.016Date: 20 April 1994 (date of creation)Scope and content:

Tim Lander had been reciting poetry on the streets, in coffee houses and other public venues. Described as gentle, thoughtful and articulate, Tim was born in the UK and arrived in Canada in 1964. He attended UBC and obtained a BA in Edmonton. For years he had scribbled “chapbooks”; “chap” meaning cheap. Poets could afford to buy or sell these chapbooks. His early publications included: “Like Stepping Above the Traffic” (1987) and “Street Heart Poems” (1933). (1994 biography)

This video includes Tim Lander’s performances at Action Poetry ’94.

1. [Who will tell secrets] (1:11)
2. [At this edge and beyond us] (0:50)
3. [Among the great injustices] (1:24)
4. Poems from the heart (7:40)
5. Mea Culpa (11:31)
6. [I open to the darkness of your breath] (0:28)
7. [You fill my space] (0:22)
8. [You fill my space] (0:21)
9. [The wind has blown about my body] (0:26)
10. [And Ronnie Walker] (4:58)
11. [The crazy gods] (10:29)
12. Evidence (3:58)

Physical description: 1 VHS (43 min, 32 sec)

1 U-Matic (43 min, 32 sec)

1 mp4 file (43 min, 32 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Previous number was tape #119, accno 1994-65.2/15

Digitized copy is ACP6_016.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.017 - Adeena Karasick : Action Poetry performance

Title: Adeena Karasick : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.017

Date: 20 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Adeena Karasick was completing her PhD at York University in Toronto, exploring the interplay of “poetic” and “theoretic” discourses. Dedicated to “language-centered” writing and gender concerns, she published numerous articles, reviews and dialogues and performed extensively. She was Writer in Residence at the Gutenberg University of Mainz, Germany in 1992, lectured and performed throughout Spain and India. She taught Canadian Studies at York University.

Andeena read and performed her first collection of poetry, "The Empress Has No Closure" to raging audiences throughout the world. (1994 biography)

This video includes Adeena Karasick's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. [No word is anything] (1:08)
2. Audobon cruise (2:28)
3. The Frankfurt Airport (8:55)
4. [Incidentally] (3:23)
5. [Once upon I came to you] (1:42)

Physical description: 1 VHS (17 min, 36 sec)

1 U-Matic (17 min, 36 sec)

1 mp4 file (17 min, 36 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Previous number was tape # 120, accno 1994-65.2/16.

Digitized copy is ACP6_017.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.018 - Greg Young-ing and Gunargie : Action Poetry performance

Title: Greg Young-ing and Gunargie : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.018

Date: 20 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Greg was a poet, publisher and member of the Cree nation. Working out of Penticton B.C., he was the editor of Theytis Books. He performed his poetry to music and had been featured on several compilation cassettes of native poetry, notably "America Fears the Drum" and "Your Silence Will Not Protect You." (1994 Biography)

This video includes Greg Young-Ing and Gunargie's performance at Action Poetry '94.

Guargie:

1. Perishing altering state (1:43)
2. Trade offering (3:22)

Greg Young-ing:

3. A fictional love poem from Michael Ondaatje to Linda Spalding (1:06)
4. Madness (3:22)
5. Vancouver: a history lesson (2:55)
6. More questions still for [Mishoe] (8:52)
7. Aboriginal original (5:11)

Physical description: 1 VHS (29 min, 39 sec)

1 U-Matic (29 min, 39 sec)

1 mp4 file (29 min, 39 sec)

Language of the material:

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.019 - Mary Dalton : Action Poetry performance

Title: Mary Dalton : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.019

Date: 21 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Mary Dalton, was born in Lake View, in the parish of Harbour Main, Conception Bay, Newfoundland. She studied at the University of Toronto, Memorial University, and the University of Liverpool. She lived in St. John's and taught various poetry courses at Memorial. She was one of Newfoundland's poets carrying on the traditions of song and vigorous idioms and marrying them with poetic techniques. Her first book, "The Time of Icicles" won praise across the country. (1994 biography)

This video includes Mary Dalton's performance at Action Poetry '94.

1. Song for dandelion (0:39)
2. The thrift store (2:08)
3. The forties (1:44)
4. Pater familiias 111 (2:09)
5. Larry's nightmare (2:03)
6. Lies for the tourists (0:45)
7. Horsy (0:51)
8. Transylvania (0:54)
9. Medusa and Dracula (0:54)
10. Maiden and dragon (1:30)
11. On not writing the mother (1:03)
12. You, lover (0:38)
13. [Four and forty] (1:01)
14. Dolce stil novo (1:34)
15. Eye (0:18)
16. Dead Indians (0:25)
17. Plastic (1:07)
18. Mr. O'Brien's tea (0:11)
19. As good a gun (0:24)
20. Sparry (0:15)

Physical description: 1 VHS (31 min, 28 sec)

1 U-Matic (31 min, 28 sec)

1 mp4 file (31 min, 28 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Previous number was tape # 122, accno 1994-65.2/18
Digitized copy is ACP6_019.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.020 - T. (Terrence) Crane and Orchestra : Action Poetry performance

Title: T. (Terrence) Crane and Orchestra : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.020

Date: 21 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Terry was a performance poet and musician from Vancouver. He was the vocalist/poet for the band "Bugs Inside". He received his training from Sun Ergos Theatre and Dance and One Yellow Rabbit, both located in Calgary. (1994 biography)

This video includes T. (Terrence) Crane's performances with a human orchestra at Action Poetry '94.

1. [With orchestra] (3:34)
2. [With orchestra] (2:38)
3. [With orchestra] (2:00)

Physical description: 1 VHS (8 min, 12 sec)

1 U-Matic (8 min, 12 sec)

1 mp4 file (8 min, 12 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Previous number was tape #123, accno 1994-65.2/19
Digitized copy is ACP6_020.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.021 - Tom Henihan : Action Poetry performance

Title: Tom Henihan : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.021

Date: 21 and 25 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Tom was an Irish-Canadian poet. He was born in Limberick City, Ireland and immigrated to Canada in 1982. His first poetry collection "Between the Streets" was published in 1992. This video includes Tom Henihan's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. The union cross (1:53)
2. A poem for night and day (1:22)
3. Memory dance (1:35)
4. September (0:48)
5. After the rain (0:45)
6. Resolve (0:55)
7. The west coast of Clare (0:47)
8. Liscanor [?] Bay (0:38)
9. Before your landscape (0:49)
10. Vagrancy (0:41)
11. The bright yellow road (1:18)
12. A poem for Cesar Vellejo (0:44)
13. Between the streets (1:12)
14. Foreigner (1:03)

Physical description: 1 VHS (19 min)

1 U-Matic (19 min)

1 mp4 file (19 min)

Note [generalNote]:

There is a 0.28 second break between #3 and #4 (possibly denoting two performance dates?). Tape flickers briefly at 1:33. Previous number was tape #124, accno 1994-65.2/20.

Digitized copy is ACP6_021.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.022 - Kedrick James : Action Poetry performance

Title: Kedrick James : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.022

Date: 21 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Kedrick had given over 1,000 poetry performances by 1994. He spent six years travelling throughout the world studying oral/musical traditions and religions. He was a violinist, publisher, actor, composer, organizer and playwright. He had performed with such figures as R.Murray Schaffer, Robert Creeley, Jerome Rothenenberg, bp nichol and Anne Waldman. He was described as a powerful performer, full of energy, wit and poetic skill. (1994 biography)

This video includes Kedrick James' performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. [Since I have chosen to reason with my devils] (2:50)
2. [Yesterday a breeding hostility] (3:19)
3. [Where does the fear come from?] (5:56)
4. [Mein soul is mortal but mein deeds return] (3:00)
5. [A mountain made of fists] (1:50)
6. [Do you feel boxed in and freaked out] (0:42)
7. [For a kingdom liveth God] (0:34)
8. [My body splits open] (0:48)
9. [Hallelujah my soul] (1:40)
10. [Hey I feel wonderful today] (0:19)
11. [Manu manu] (3:25)
12. Socialism 101 (2:41)
13. Poetry's new world order (3:49)
14. Home is where the apartheid is (1:33)
15. Poem for a stop sign (2:06)
16. Abattoir of light (2:14)

Physical description: 1 VHS (36 min, 46 sec)

1 U-Matic (36 min, 46 sec)

1 mp4 file (36 min, 46 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Tape quality is poor and flickers throughout. Some flickers are lengthy with no image but audio is present. Number 12 is accompanied by two other performers, one being John Sobol. Number 3 has a different title on the tape. Previous number was tape #125, accno 1994-65.2/21.
Digitized copy is ACP6_022.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.023 - Shawna Dempsey : Action Poetry performance

Title: Shawna Dempsey : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.023

Date: 22 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Shawna Dempsey and Lorri Millan had been collaborating on feminist, costume-based performance art since 1989. These two women form a performance duo, though only one performs while the other writes and directs. They had become known across Canada for such pieces as "Medusa" and "Mermaid in Love". Shawna performed at Action Poetry '94. (1994 biography)
This video includes Shawna Dempsey's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. [I want you to want me] (3:40)

2. [In 1968 in Scarborough] (2:53)
3. [When I bumped my trike against your trike] (5:29)
4. [Definitions] (9:43)
5. [It had been said of all mad women] (6:25)

Physical description: 1 VHS (28 min, 10 sec)

1 U-Matic (28 min, 10 sec)

1 mp4 file (28 min, 10 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Previous number was tape #126, accno 1994-65.2/22

Digitized copy is ACP6_023.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.024 - Clifton Joseph : Action Poetry performance

Title: Clifton Joseph : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.024

Date: 22 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Clifton had performed his verse in dub and out for over a decade, including appearances in London, Antigua and across Canada. He had published "Metropolitan Blues" and released an album title "Oral/TransMissions", which was chosen album of the year by CKLN in Toronto. (1994 biography)

This video includes Clifton Joseph's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. [Wo ho wo ho – when I look at the situation] (2:23)
2. [I've got intense paranoia] (3:15)
3. [Preamble] (2:17)
4. I remember back home (2:23)
5. [Shots shatter, people scatter] (4:32)
6. [Preamble] (1:02)
7. [Song for John Coltrane] (3:17)
8. [Been lookin' lookin'] (4:39)
9. [A chant for Monk] (10:02)
10. [Working at the factory] (1:34)
11. [Pimps] (3:03)
12. [Shots rang out on my block on Eglinton] (8:08)

Physical description: 1 VHS (56 min, 31 sec)

1 U-Matic (56 min, 31 sec)

1 mp4 file (56 min, 31 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Tape flickers at bottom of screen for first 10 minutes or so and then again from 44:43-45:40. Numbers 8, 9, and 12 are accompanied by the band Flex Plan Nine. Previous number was tape #127 accno 1994-65.2/3.
Digitized copy is ACP6_024.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.025 - John Giorno : Action Poetry performance

Title: John Giorno : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.025

Date: 22 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

John was founder of the not for profit production company Giorno Poetry Systems. He founded the Dial-A-Poem idea using telephone service to communicate poetry in a modern idiom. John was considered the most important figure in New York's spoken word renaissance during the late 70's and 80's. (1994 biography)

This video includes John Girono's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. Stretching it wider (5:26)
2. None of them wanted to go (9:15)
3. Sucking mud (2:05)
4. Great anonymous sex: Keith Haring and the Prince Street Toilet (16:10)
5. Berlin and Chernobyl (0:53)
6. Life is a killer (2:57)
7. Scum and slime (2:08)

Physical description: 1 VHS (41 min, 21 sec)

1 U-Matic (41 min, 21 sec)

1 mp4 file (41 min, 21 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

No sound from 30.42-31.02. Previous number was tape #128 accno 1194-65.2/24.
Digitized copy is ACP6_025.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.026 - Harold Carr : Action Poetry performacne

Title: Harold Carr : Action Poetry performacne

ID: ACP-6-.026

Date: 23 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Harold Carr, a grandson of a daughter of a Utah pioneer, was born, raised and rooted in Salt Lake, Utah. Harold was a musician, composer, poet and computer scientist. His “poetry and bass playing” was well known in the Western states. He had been a member of the faculty of the University of Utah Department of Music, Westminster College Department of Music and the University of Utah Department of Computer Science. (1994 Biography)

This video includes Harold Carr’s performances at Action Poetry ’94.

1. Wasatch ridge hike (1:04)
2. [Wild whale] (3:16)
3. [Graffiti of the world unite] (2:06)
4. [Almost blue] (7:32)
5. [I declare that sound of noun] (1:30)

Physical description: 1 VHS (15 min, 28 sec)

1 U-Matic (15 min, 28 sec)

1 mp4 file (15 min, 28 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Previous number was tape #129 accno 1994-65.2/25

Digitized copy is ACP6_026.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.027 - Alex Ferguson : Action Poetry performance

Title: Alex Ferguson : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.027

Date: 23 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Alex is an actor by profession, and has played lead roles in numerous stage productions across Canada. He wrote “The Smoking Man”, produced in March (1994) at Vancouver’s New Play Centre. His pieces were described as direct and very engaging. (1994 biography)

This video includes Alex Ferguson’s performances at Action Poetry ’94.

1. [Foreign language] (1:14)

2. [I'm a smoker and nobody loves me] (2:22)
3. [The future] (2:09)
4. [Giddi] [Kitty?] (0:49)
5. [Executive mantra] (2:23)
6. [The first ruby] (2:00)
7. [Stroke your box of pain] (1:18)
8. [The mad ferret] (1:59)
9. [Last night I dreamed] (0:40)

Physical description: 1 VHS (19 min, 46 sec)

1 U-Matic (19 min, 46 sec)

1 mp4 file (19 min, 46 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Clicks heard on audio throughout due to photographers taking photos. Previous number was tape #130 accno 1994-65.2/26.

Digitized copy is ACP6_027.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.028 - Jayne Cortez : Action Poetry performance

Title: Jayne Cortez : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.028

Date: 23 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Jayne Cortez was one of senior African-American poets, whose recordings with Ornette Coleman, set a standard for the performance of poetry with music. Jayne was born in Arizona, grew up in California and lived in New York City. She was a highly celebrated poet and distinguished author of 8 books and producer of 5 recordings of poetry. She had lectured and read her poetry with and without music throughout the United States, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. (1994 biography)

This video includes Jayne Cortez's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. I got the blues (1:31)
2. Into this time (3:30)
3. So what (0:45)
4. [I am New York City] (1:50)
5. [If the drum is a woman] (1:28)
6. [In Brazil] (2:46)
7. [Me and my people] (2:13)
8. [And what about the poetry of Nicolás Guillén] (3:34)
9. Rape (1:59)

10. [Don't write another word] (0:26)
11. She got, he got (5:06)
12. [These New York City pigeons] (1:59)
13. Cultural operations '92 (2:34)
14. [Everybody wants to be somebody] (1:10)
15. [Hey, be cheerful] (1:20)
16. Everywhere drums (5:17)

Physical description: 1 VHS (41 min, 1 sec)

1 U-Matic (41 min, 1 sec)

1 mp4 file (41 min, 1 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Tape flickers for first 3 minutes, then sporadically afterwards throughout. Previous number was tape #131 accno 1994-65.2/27

Digitized copy is ACP6_028.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.029 - Meryn Cadell : Action Poetry performacne

Title: Meryn Cadell : Action Poetry performacne

ID: ACP-6-.029

Date: 23 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Meryn had released two CD's "bombazine" and "angel food for thought" on Sire/Warner Brothers records. She received a Juno nomination for Best New Artis of 1994 and had performed extensively across Canada and the USA. Her pieces were described as quirky, art-school snapshots, hip and trifle distant. (1994 biography)

This video includes Meryn Cadell's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. [So I am standing at the edge of the world] (3:22)
2. [I'd like to apply for a job] (1:24)
3. Janet Clark (2:17)
4. Room Mate (3:22)
5. The elk (1:42)
6. Same high school, different day (2:23)
7. [Girls go missing like quarters around here] (4:22)
8. [And you say you're sorry] (2:07)
9. [Home Ec] (4:05)
10. [I've got cockroaches in my clock radio (3:09)

Physical description: 1 VHS (26 min, 15 sec)

1 U-Matic (26 min, 15 sec)

1 mp4 file (26 min, 15 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Numbers 3, 6, 7, and 10 are accompanied by members of the Flex Plan Nine. Previous number was tape #132 accno 1994-65.2/28.

Digitized copy is ACP6_029.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.030 - Tracie Morris : Action Poetry performance

Title: Tracie Morris : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.030

Date: 25 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Tracie was one of the leading figures in New York's performance poetry scene. She had been on tour (1994) with the "Nuyorican Poet's Live!" Tracie was past winner of the National Poetry Grand Slam at the Nuyorican Poet's Café. She appeared on the MTV "Spoken Work Unplugged" special and performed with members of the Black Rock Coalition. (1994 biography)

This video includes Tracie Morris' performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. Three haikus (Why I won't wear a tattoo; Black skies; I'm a girl watcher) (0:42)
2. The old days (3:42)
3. The spot (2:42)
4. Project princess (2:03)
5. Ten men (6:50)
6. So what (2:36)
7. Writer [?] (4:13)
8. Pretty feet (5:33)
9. Mother lode [?] (5:08)
10. Handed down (2:40)
11. Born free (8:05)

Physical description: 1 VHS (54 min, 8 sec)

1 U-Matic (54 min, 8 sec)

1 mp4 file (54 min, 8 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Numbers 5-9 are accompanied by members of Flex Plan Nine. Number 11 is accompanied by Flex Plan Nine and Desaz Tempo. Previous number was tape #133 accno 1994-65.2/29.

Digitized copy is ACP6_030.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.031 - Pine Trio : Action Poetry performanceTitle: Pine Trio : Action Poetry performanceID: ACP-6-.031Date: 25 April 1994 (date of creation)Scope and content:

This video includes Pine Trio's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. Introduction and poem (1:53)
2. Interpretations of a twisted pine (8:38)
3. Watching the needle boats at San Saba (1:56)
4. Agenda (3:15)
5. Train going by (2:52)
6. Dreams (4:18)
7. The blue baboon (4:29)
8. Naked lunch (3:07)
9. Dead Weight (4:12)
10. Air (4:06)
11. The garden (3:03)
12. [Love isn't proud enough to hate] (2:17)

Physical description: 1 VHS (54 min, 21 sec)

1 U-Matic (54 min, 21 sec)

1 mp4 file (54 min, 21 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Previous number was tape #134 accno 1994-65.2/30.

Digitized copy is ACP6_031.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.032 - Toung : Action Poetry performanceTitle: Toung : Action Poetry performanceID: ACP-6-.032Date: 26 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This video includes Toung's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. Searching (1:13)
2. [Black Teeth] (0:05)
3. [My dearest, my soul] (0:12)
4. [Vietnamese folk song] (0:53)
5. Big Hunger (0:19)
6. Games (0:38)
7. Civil war (0:45)
8. Preamble (1:03)
9. History lesson (1:49)
10. Preamble (0:47)
11. [My beloved is dead in Vietnam] (1:45)
12. Preamble (0:37)
13. The mad uncle (1:07)
14. [On the road to Nice] (1:19)
15. [Springtime in Victoria] (1:07)

Physical description: 1 VHS (20 min, 27 sec)

1 U-Matic (20 min, 27 sec)

1 mp4 file (20 min, 27 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Previous number was tape #136 accno 1994-65.2/31

Digitized copy is ACP6_032.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.033 - Djewel (Don) Davidson : Action Poetry performance

Title: Djewel (Don) Davidson : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.033

Date: 26 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Djewel had been working as a poet in Calgary since about 1981, primarily as the lyricist/frontman for several different rock n' roll bands (ie. The Will..., Contradictions, Nothing). He had also done readings at such places as Ten Foot Henry's and Acoustic Gaga. (1994 biography)

This video includes Djewel (Don) Davidson's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. [You wanted to kill me] (0:58)
2. [We got booked at the National] (0:19)
3. Deeper than Pat Benetar (0:26)

4. [Girl I'd really like to smash your car] (0:45)
5. [What do we even talk about] (0:41)
6. 'Cause you can't tape 'em (0:09)
7. [A few years earlier] (1:48)
8. [I thought I knew what we were talking about] (0:32)
9. [We got there and I told someone to start cooking] (0:59)
10. [Painful and in silence (0:31)
11. [After about an hour and a half] (0:38)
12. [Don't want to remember] (1:17)
13. [I woke up Monday morning] (0:30)
14. [In the coin operated supermarket car] (0:21)
15. [I'm keeping my shutters shut] (0:43)
16. [It was warm outside] (0:12)
17. [Perhaps I can be excused] (0:45)
18. [Derrick was pleased] (1:54)
19. Film shoot (5:00)
20. [Time will tell] (4:00)
21. [I ran naked through the threshold (2:02)
22. Song for Tamara (3:39)
23. Nice try, now quit (3:29)
24. [You know when you are with me] (3:44)

Physical description: 1 VHS (42 min, 46 sec)

1 U-Matic (42 min, 46 sec)

1 mp4 file (42 min, 46 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Numbers 19 to 24 are accompanied by Flex Plan Nine and another musician. Previous number was tape #137 accno 1994-65.2/32.

Digitized copy is ACP6_033.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.034 - Darryl Keyes : Action Poetry performance

Title: Darryl Keyes : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.034

Date: 26 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Darryl Keyes was a poet, trumpet player, actor and health professional. He was an observer who documented his family and community history; the world society at large. He utilized rhythm,

melody, food, herbs, love, hate, politics, touch, squeezing, shock and fun in his works which made for a “tasty stew.” (1994 biography)

This video includes Darryl Keyes’ performances at Action Poetry ’94.

1. [You can see been wide magazine] [With percussion and horn intro] (6:42)
2. [Don’t move your hips] (6:45)
3. [Incision] [With drum intro] (1:22)
4. [Buying chunks of mama’s walls] (6:42)
5. [At the movies] (8:22)
6. Tiger eye (6:05)
7. On the corner (8:58)

Physical description: 1 VHS (48 min, 32 sec)

1 U-Matic (48 min, 32 sec)

1 mp4 file (48 min, 32 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

All numbers are quite dark. All numbers are accompanied by musicians. There are some long dark periods between numbers. Previous number was tape #138 accno 1994-65.2/33.

Digitized copy is ACP6_034.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.035 - Isobea Miller : Action Poetry performance

Title: Isobea Miller : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.035

Date: 27 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Isobea published a chapbooks, “Imago Mundi”, in 1993, and helped found a poetry series at Juggernaut in Wichita, Kansas. She attended Antioch College’s Peace Studies program and has actively been involved in several peaceful direct action initiatives. (1994 biography)

This video includes Isobea Miller’s performances at Action Poetry ’94.

1. [No I am not safe] (2:36)
2. [The truncheon hung snug at this thigh] (2:38)
3. Spring where I live (3:27)
4. [I take off the locks for her] (2:06)
5. [Raise a woman’s life] (2:29)
6. Blood root, close moon (2:25)
7. [There was nothing left] (3:11)
8. [Near the crumbling legless body] (2:44)

Physical description: 1 VHS (25 min, 55 sec)

1 U-Matic (25 min, 55 sec)

1 mp4 file (25 min, 55 sec)

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.036 - Lori Weidenhammer : Action Poetry performance

Title: Lori Weidenhammer : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.036

Date: 27 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Lori's performances were everything one might expect from a woman hailing from Cactus Lake, Saskatchewan who had studied German Lieder, Butoh, masking, clowning, Lutheran theology and video. She recently funded a theatre school for youth called "The Young People's Theatre Playground" in Saskatoon. (1994 biography)

This video includes Lori Weidenhammer's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. [My friend Donald] (0:35)
2. Music (0:47)
3. [Okay, I've got something I've got to get off my chest (3:17)
4. [Moment of horror] (1:08)
5. [I'm Louise – the 49 ½ foot woman] (4:21)
6. [Cutting vegetables mime] (2:55)
7. [Bus driver] (1:09)
8. [The victim was female] (5:38)
9. [There is a parasite in me] (1:54)
10. [It's Saturday and I've got some skates to sell] (3:20)
11. [A holiday from misogyny] (2:47)
12. [When I was a girl I baked a lo] (0:51)
13. [There is a photograph of me when I was seven] (1:30)
14. [I read about a man in a foreign country] (1:17)
15. [When I was a waitress] (2:51)
16. [Pony, we all love to pony (1:39)
17. [I'm beast] (2:44)

Physical description: 1 VHS (41 min, 52 sec)

1 U-Matic (41 min, 52 sec)

1 mp4 file (41 min, 52 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Number 2 is performed by Flex Plan Nine. The band also accompanies numbers 3, 6, 8, 10 and 15. Number 16 and 17 have multiple and lengthy skipping throughout. Numbers 17 has incorrect title on the tape. Previous number was tape #140 accno 1994-65.2/35.

Digitized copy is ACP6_036.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.037 - Peter McPhee : Action Poetry performance

Title: Peter McPhee : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.037

Date: 27 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Peter McPhee was born and raised in Toronto. He was a poet, performance artist and poetry promoter. His public readings developed a reputation for their music, humor, insight and innovation. His was an integral presence in the city's living poetry community.

This video includes Peter McPhee's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. [Someone stepped on my saxophone] (1:15)
2. [I found Felix on Queen Street] (2:18)
3. Raspberry ripple (1:26)
4. Why the Stegasaurus is my favourite dinosaur (3:15)
5. No shirt, no shoes, no service (0:59)
6. [Canadian Space Agency job application] (0:46)
7. Burroughs in my bathroom (1:06)
8. Lost in translation (4:43)
9. Elmer (0:10)
10. [As you are only four hundred years old] (0:42)
11. [The night Cosby goes off the air] (1:38)
12. First impression of a double rainbow (1:23)
13. [We should live in an amusement park] (0:58)
14. [Leaning on the lamppost at the corner] (2:18)

Physical description: 1 VHS (22 min, 57 sec)

1 U-Matic (22 min, 57 sec)

1 mp4 file (22 min, 57 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Tape skips for first few minutes and then a few times throughout, especially between 13:00 and the end. Numbers 1 and 2 are accompanied by John Sobol on saxophone. Previous number was tape #141 accno 1994-65.2/36.

Digitized copy is ACP6_037.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.038 - Sheri D. Wilson : Action Poetry performance

Title: Sheri D. Wilson : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.038

Date: 28 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Sheri-D had created and appeared in several one-woman shows and had an extensive background as both an actor and writer. Her most recent book "Swerve", had been published by Arsenal Pulp Press and featured two performance texts, "Hugh, Drawn and Quartered" and "Taboo X Two", as well as a series of Poem-o-logues. Sherri D recently performed at the harbour front Author's festival in Toronto. (1994 biography)

This video includes Sheri D. Wilson's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. Preamble (1:20)
2. Taboo x 2 (8:58)
3. Salmon suicide note (4:54)
4. On being a poet (0:11)
5. [He was a hot head] (2:49)
6. Vulva holiday [cyber sex] (8:38)
7. Sin City (4:12)
8. Ovo vie vie perro (3:32)

Physical description: 1 VHS (43 min, 28 sec)

1 U-Matic (43 min, 28 sec)

1 mp4 file (43 min, 28 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Number 2, 6, and 8 are accompanied by John Guillart on guitar. Number 6 includes John Guillart on guitar and John Sobol on saxophone. Previous number was tape #142 accno 1994-65.2/37.

Digitized copy is ACP6_038.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-6-.039 - Stephen Humphrey and Murdock Burnett : Action Poetry performance

Title: Stephen Humphrey and Murdock Burnett : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.039

Date: 28 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Stephen Humphreys from Edmonton was a freelance writer and poet. (1994 biography)
Murdoch Burnett was a Canadian poet born and raised in Calgary. Murdoch started writing poetry in 1971. His first two books were “We are not Romans” (1984) and “The Long Distance and Other Poems” (1987) both published by Westlands. In 1988, Murdoch was invited to perform in at the Calgary Olympic Arts Festival with writers from 27 countries.
This video includes Stephen Humphrey’s performances at Action Poetry ’94.

1. [Writing on Paper] (0:40)
2. Oh Canada, go Canada (5:11)
3. Post Modern thing to do (0:47)
4. Salesman Blues (5:02)
5. Neutron City (6:08)

Murdock Burneett

1. I will love in June (4:14)

Physical description: 1 VHS (26 min, 26 sec)

1 U-Matic (22 min, 12 sec)

1 mp4 file (22 min, 12 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Mp4 digital copy and Umatic do not include Murdock Burnett’s performance that is included on the tape. Previous number was tape #143 accno 1994-65.2/38.

Digitized copy is ACP6_039.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Moving images (documentary form)
-

Item: ACP-6-.040 - Ahdri Mandiela : Action Poetry performance

Title: Ahdri Mandiela : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-6-.040

Date: 28 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Ahdri was a Jamaican-born parent and dub poet from Toronto who had released several cassettes of music and poetry, including “First and Last”, and “Barefoot and Black”. Ahdri is also the creator of “dark diaspora..in DUB”, a staged dub theatre work which attempted to “expand the literary tradition of DUB poetry by producing an integrated stage script composed entirely from dub poems.” (1994 biography)

This video includes Ahdri Mandiela's performances at Action Poetry '94.

1. [I chant, I chant] (0:33)
2. Special request (5:34)
3. [In my country] (1:49)
4. [What is your life made of] (5:12)
5. [She feels blue today] (3:05)
6. Got up this morning] (0:23)
7. [Black Woman] (3:45)
8. [For my sister whose heart broke] (1:19)
9. [In the cane fields] (3:56)
10. [Take a tour through my homeland] (0:33)
11. [In South Africa today] (6:18)
12. [Just send some sun] (0:27)
13. African by instinct (8:09)

Physical description: 1 VHS (51 min, 4 sec)

1 U-Matic (51 min, 4 sec)

1 mp4 file (51 min, 4 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Numbers 2, 7, 10, 11, and 13 are accompanied by Flex Plan Nine. Number 5 is accompanied by Derryl Keyes on trumpet. Number 13 is accompanied by Ahdri Mandiela's daughter. Previous number was tape #144 accno 1994-65.2/39.

Digitized copy is ACP6_040.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Series: ACP-7 - Nat Christie Poetry Day and Poetry Jam : video recordings

Title: Nat Christie Poetry Day and Poetry Jam : video recordings

ID: ACP-7

Date: 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of edited video recordings produced by Action Poetry '94. The video recordings consist of student workshops and informal performances at schools in Calgary, Alberta and performances at the Nat Christie Jam session at the Uptown Stage and Screen in Calgary. The quality of image, lighting and/or sound in some video recordings may be poor.

Physical description: 4 Hi8 tapes (3 hr, 10 min)

4 Umatic tapes (3 hr, 10 min)

4 mp4 files (3 hr, 10 min)

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Moving images (documentary form)
-

Item: ACP-7-.001 - Queen Elizabeth High School : Action Poetry performance

Title: Queen Elizabeth High School : Action Poetry performance

ID: ACP-7-.001

Date: 19 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This video includes informal performances at two different schools in Calgary during the Nat Christie Day.

1. Queen Elizabeth School. Performers included Lorri Millan, Shawna Dempsey, Adeena Karasick and Clifton Joseph. Also included a Q & A period at the end of performances.
2. Plains Indians Cultural Survival School. Performer is Wendy Berner.

Physical description: 1 Hi8 tape (59 min, 32 sec)

1 U-matic tape (59 min, 32 sec)

1 mp4 file (59 min, 32 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Camerawork is very amateur. Tape skip from 43:00-45.10 and audio is heard but there is no visual. Starting at 55:52, the outside of a school is seen [Plains Indians Cultural Survival School] and there is audio until 58:21 and then audio cuts out again at 59:20 to end. Previous title was "Action Poetry Queen Elizabeth, Lori, Shawna, Clifton, etc."

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-7-.002 - Nat Christie Poetry Day performances : [1 of 3]

Title: Nat Christie Poetry Day performances : [1 of 3]

ID: ACP-7-.002

Date: 19 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This video includes informal performances at the Plains Indian Cultural Survival School in Calgary during the Nat Christie Poetry Day. Performers included Greg Young-Ing and Gunargie, and Jeanette Armstrong.

Physical description: 1 Hi8 tape (24 min, 46 sec)

1 U-Matic tape (24 min, 46 sec)

1 mp4 file (24 min, 46 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Camera work is very amateur. Tape skips occasionally. There is no audio from 21:37 to end.

Previous title was "Action Poetry – Survival School. Jeanette, Greg, etc."

Digitized copy is ACP7_002_Action Poetry Survival School Jeanette and Greg.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-7-.003 - Nat Christie Poetry Day performance : [2 of 3]

Title: Nat Christie Poetry Day performance : [2 of 3]

ID: ACP-7-.003

Date: 19 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This video includes student workshops and informal performances at the Ernest Manning School in Calgary during the Nat Christie Poetry Day. The first 25 minutes are of Ahdri Mandiela, Sean "Spaz" Zitello and Lori Weidenhammer working with groups of students on a piece and then students performing.

Physical description: 1 Hi8 tape (55 min, 26 sec)

1 U-Matic tape (55 min, 26 sec)

1 mp4 file (55 min, 26 sec)

Note [generalNote]:

Camera work is very amateur. No audio for first 3 minutes 17 seconds and again from 50:30 to end. Tape skips occasionally. Previous title was "Action Poetry – Ernest Manning."

Digitized copy is ACP7_003_Ernest Manning.mp4

Publication status:

Published

Item: ACP-7-.004 - Nat Christie Poetry Day performance : [3 of 3]

Title: Nat Christie Poetry Day performance : [3 of 3]

ID: ACP-7-.004

Date: 19 April 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

This video includes performances at the Nat Christie Poetry jam at the Uptown Stage and Screen in Calgary. Performers include John Sobol, Clifton James, Meryn Cadell, Terrance Crane, Gunargie, Desaz Tempo, Alex Ferguson, Ahdri Mandiela, Kedrick James, and unidentified students.

Physical description: 1 Hi-8 tape (1 hr, 31 mins)

1 U-matic (1 hr, 31 mins)

1 mp4 file (1 hr, 31 mins)

Note [generalNote]:

Camera work is very amateur. Video editing rough in places with no introductions for performers. No audio for first 0:10 seconds. Tape skips occasionally. Previous title was "Nat Christie [sic] Night."

Digitized copy is ACP7_004_NAT Christy Night

Publication status:

Published

Series: ACP-8 - Action Poetry recordings

Title: Action Poetry recordings

ID: ACP-8

Date: 1994 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of 37 audio DAT tapes containing audio recordings of the performances as part of "Action Poetry '94", includes performances, and studio sessions. Includes some remixes of performances. The file also includes several cue sheets.

Physical description: 37 Audio DAT cassettes and 0.5 cm of textual records

Note [generalNote]:

Originally transferred to the Archives as part of accession 1998-54.

Publication status:

Published

Access points:

- Sound recording (documentary form)
-