



# ArchivesSpace

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## **Thomas Iorio Stonewall Vets video recordings15145328**

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Oral History Archives at Columbia
<b>Creator:</b>	Iorio, Thomas
<b>Creator:</b>	Wicker, Randy
<b>Title:</b>	Thomas Iorio Stonewall Vets video recordings
<b>ID:</b>	15145328
<b>ID:</b>	OHAC
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1994-1996
<b>Physical Description:</b>	28 videocassettes (Hi 8)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 videocassettes (VHS)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 item ZIP disk
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	Collection is in English.
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>The Thomas Iorio Stonewall Vets video recordings document LGBTQ culture and heritage in New York City in the mid-1990s. Some footage in the collection was ultimately used in Iorio's short film Stonewall: The March Forward. This film is also found in the collection. Iorio took these videos to connect with LGBTQ history after he came out in the 1990s. The footage has a mixture of oral history interviews and recorded events and activities. Major themes of the collection are the activities of the Stonewall Rebellion Veterans Association (SVA), the lives of unhoused LGBTQ individuals on the piers west of New York City, drag performance, and LGBTQ life in Manhattan in the 1990s. Figures featured include Sylvia Rivera, Williamson Lee Henderson (Willson Henderson), Stephen Van Cline, and Queen Allyson Ann Allante.</p>

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## Biographical / Historical

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Thomas Iorio was a documenter of LGBTQ history in New York City. After coming out in the 1990s, he used oral history interviewing and filmmaking as a mode of self-discovery and means of learning about the community's history. He connected with members of the Stonewall Rebellion Veterans Association (SVA), and collected stories of many individuals who were at the 1969 Stonewall uprising. Iorio used footage to create a short film titled Stonewall: The March Forward. In 1996, the film was submitted for broadcast to the "Short Film and Video Festival on the Air" of the television show In the Life. It was not ultimately aired. Iorio was a 1991 graduate of Columbia College. By the 2010s he was living in Waterbury, Connecticut and London in the United Kingdom.

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## Scope and Contents

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The Thomas Iorio Stonewall Vets video recordings document LGBTQ culture and heritage in New York City in the mid-1990s. Some footage in the collection was ultimately used in Iorio's short film Stonewall: The March Forward. This film is also found in the collection. Iorio took these videos to connect with LGBTQ history after he came out in the 1990s. The footage has a mixture of oral history interviews and recorded events and activities. Iorio is also sometimes the subject of the films. Camera-work is also frequently undertaken by Randy Wicker and occasionally by Stephen Van Cline.

A major theme in the collection is the activities of the Stonewall Rebellion Veterans Association (SVA). The SVA was founded to preserve the history of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, communicate about GLBT issues, and provide assistance to GLBT individuals in need. Iorio's interviews with Stonewall vets document the events of the 1969 uprising and how the community's history was understood and celebrated in the 1990s. There is also footage of the organization's meetings and participation in events. Figures featured include Sylvia Rivera, Williamson Lee Henderson (Willson Henderson), Stephen Van Cline, and Queen Allyson Ann Allante.

Another major theme of the collection is the lives of unhoused LGBTQ individuals on the piers west of Greenwich Village in New York City. Across several videos, Iorio and Wicker record Sylvia Rivera describing life in this community. The videos capture a moment when the city was forcibly removing this community in favor of the gentrifying forces that would follow.

Drag performance also receives considerable attention. The collection contains several recordings of performances and documents performers as they prepare to perform. Performers also speak on practical aspects of performance and their philosophies about the art form. Iorio's videos also offer a more general window into LGBTQ life in Manhattan in the 1990s.

Videos document longstanding events such as the NYC Pride March and Greenwich Village's Halloween parade, interiors of clubs and bars, and informal activities with friends. The collection also includes dubs of commercial films and documentaries found among Iorio's other tapes.

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## Arrangement

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Collection is arranged chronologically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Oral History Archives at Columbia

### Revision Description

2021-08-12 Links to digitized items added. kws

### Conditions Governing Access

Access: Open

### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright by Thomas Iorio or other creators. The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York hold a non-exclusive license to enable library activities.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Thomas Iorio, Gift, 2019

### Processing Information

Collection processed by David A. Olson and Alexander J. Whelan. Collection was processed concurrent with digitization as part of Columbia University Libraries' Mellon Foundation-funded Audio and Moving Image Project, 2020-2021.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Gay liberation movement -- United States -- History
- Stonewall Riots, New York, N.Y., 1969
- Gay community
- Homeless persons -- New York (State) -- New York
- Gay pride parades
- Drag shows
- Gay activists
- Transgender people
- Greenwich Village (New York, N.Y.)
- Oral histories (literary works)
- Interviews
- Rivera, Sylvia, 1951-2002
- Van Cline, Stephen
- Allante, Queen Allyson Ann
- Henderson, Williamson Lee
- Stonewall Rebellion Veterans Association

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## Collection Inventory

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### Thomas Iorio Stonewall Vets video recordings, 1994-1996

Title/Description	Instances
Thanksgiving 1994, 1994 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 videocassettes (Hi 8) <u>Digital Object:</u> <a href="#">Thanksgiving 1994</a> <b>Scope and Contents</b> Iorio shoots footage of Thanksgiving gathering including Gretchen and family, featuring dinner preparation and card-playing	box OHAC C14
Gay Pride 1995, 1995 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 videocassettes (Hi 8) <u>Digital Object:</u> <a href="#">Gay Pride 1995</a>	box OHAC C14

### Scope and Contents

Iorio films the Stonewall Rebellion Veterans Association at the 1995 New York City Pride parade.

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Randy's Gay Pride, 1995

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Randy's Gay Pride](#)

### Scope and Contents

Randy Wicker films the 1995 Pride Parade in New York City. Later in the video, Wicker films a birthday party after the parade ends.

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Gay Pride Parade 1995, 1995

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Gay Pride Parade 1995](#)

### Scope and Contents

Randy Wicker films the 1995 Pride Parade in New York City, including an interview with Queen Allyson Ann Allante about Marsha P. Johnson.

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"Nobody Loves Me," C/FP Distribution, 1995 August 16

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (VHS)

Digital Object: ["Nobody Loves Me," C/FP Distribution](#)

### Scope and Contents

A recording of the 1994 film Nobody Loves Me / Keiner liebt mich, directed by Doris Dörrie.

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Thomas Iorio's Birthday, 1995 August 27

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Thomas Iorio's Birthday](#)

### Scope and Contents

Thomas Iorio and friends are recorded celebrating Iorio's birthday.

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Summer 1995: Gretchen and Walter at Pride, 1995

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Summer 1995: Gretchen and Walter at Pride, 1995](#)

### Scope and Contents

Gretchen and Walter film street scenes at the 1995 New York City Pride parade.

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Wigstock 1995, 1995

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Wigstock 1995](#)

### Scope and Contents

A recording of the Wigstock 1995 concert event, featuring various drag performances

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Sylvia on Piers, 1995 September 4

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Sylvia on Piers](#)

### Scope and Contents

A recording of Sylvia Rivera and her neighbors on the West Side piers.

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Gay and Homeless in Greenwich Village: Sylvia Rivera Gives a tour to Randy Wicker and Tom, 1995 September 21

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (VHS)

Digital Object: [Gay and Homeless in Greenwich Village: Sylvia Rivera Gives a tour to Randy Wicker and Tom](#)

### Scope and Contents

Iorio films Sylvia Rivera talking about her life on the West Side piers and introducing the other members of the community on the piers. Randy Wicker serves as an interviewer to both Sylvia and her neighbors.

---

Randy/Sylvia, 1995 September 21

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Randy/Sylvia](#)

### Scope and Contents

Iorio films Sylvia Rivera at the West Side piers. Around 50 minutes in, Randy Wicker joins Iorio and they travel to see Rivera together.

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Vets on Piers, 1995 September 24

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Vets on Piers](#)

### Scope and Contents

A group of Stonewall vets including Williamson Lee Henderson and Stephen Van Cline visit locations



around New York City which are important to the gay liberation movement. Later, they meet up with Sylvia Rivera on the Christopher Street piers.

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Shopping with Stephen, 1995 September box OHAC  
C14  
Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Shopping with Stephen](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Iorio films Stephen Van Cline in New York City while Stephen shops for an outfit to wear at an upcoming Copacabana Ball. Van Cline occasionally films Iorio himself.

---

Copacabana Ball, 1995 October 9 box OHAC  
C14  
Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Copacabana Ball](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Iorio gets dressed up for a ball, explaining his approach to wearing drag while Stephen Van Cline operates the camera. The second half documents the Copacabana Ball including dancing and live music.

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Stonewall Vets Meeting 1, circa October 1995 box OHAC  
C14  
Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Stonewall Vets Meeting 1](#)

**Scope and Contents**

A recording of a Stonewall Rebellion Veterans Association meeting including Williamson Lee Henderson, Sylvia Rivera, and Stephen Van Cline.

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Stonewall Vets Meeting 2, 1995 October 27 box OHAC  
C14  
Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Stonewall Vets Meeting 2](#)

**Scope and Contents**

A recording of a Stonewall Rebellion Veterans Association meeting including Williamson Lee Henderson, Sylvia Rivera, and Stephen Van Cline.

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Halloween 1995, 1995 October 31 box OHAC  
C14  
Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Halloween 1995](#)

**Scope and Contents**

The first few minutes of footage feature Iorio filming inside his home, followed by preparations for the

annual Halloween party down Sixth Avenue. Iorio accompanies several Stonewall Vets to the parade, documenting the Stonewall Vets Association car in transit.

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Roving Report, 1995 November 3

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (VHS)

Digital Object: [Roving Report](#)

**Scope and Contents**

A taping of the Roving Report news program covering the following topics: sex trafficking of children in the Philippines, a fever outbreak in Nicaragua, Greenpeace, and an anniversary remembrance of the Irish famine.

---

Stephen Van Cline, Williamson Henderson, and Sylvia Rivera, 1995 November 4

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Stephen Van Cline, Williamson Henderson, and Sylvia Rivera](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Iorio films Stephen Van Cline, Sylvia Rivera, and Williamson Lee Henderson watching a news report about the commemoration of the Stonewall rebellion. Later in the recording, Rivera leaves while Van Cline and Henderson discuss topics related to Stonewall Veterans.

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Stephen / Office / Fireplace, 1995 November 19

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 2 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Stephen / Office / Fireplace](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Iorio interviews Stephen Van Cline about his life in his New Jersey office. Later, Van Cline moves beside a fireplace and answers questions.

---

Walk and conversation with Sylvia Rivera on a snowy day, circa 1995

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Walk and conversation with Sylvia Rivera on a snowy day](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Iorio meets Sylvia Rivera on a snowy day and films her as they walk around New York City. Rivera describes her life, her work with unhoused gay and transgender youth, and Marsha P. Johnson. The final

ten minutes capture a conversation between Iorio and a friend about George H. W. Bush and the 1996 presidential race.

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Day in NYC, circa 1995

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Day in NYC](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Recording is a montage of New York City street scenes.

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Tom on Tom - Male Bodies, circa 1995

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Tom on Tom - Male Bodies](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Iorio films a dancer performing a striptease, followed by drag performers singing and lip-syncing. Iorio later interviews performers about the meaning of drag and the shows they host. The video ends with Iorio walking around a nightclub documenting the interiors.

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Williamson Henderson, 1995 December 12

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Williamson Henderson](#)

**Scope and Contents**

Iorio interviews Williamson Lee Henderson about his life, the Stonewall Rebellion, and the legacy of the Stonewall Rebellion Veterans Association.

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SVA Panel, 1996 March 30

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 2 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [SVA Panel](#)

**Scope and Contents**

The first fifteen minutes of footage features various locations around New York City, most of which is silent. Starting at 15:40, Iorio films a panel discussion between several members of the Stonewall Rebellion Veterans Association (SVA).

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Sylvia Leaving Piers, Tom's Tape, 1996 April 2

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Sylvia Leaving Piers, Tom' Tape](#)

### Scope and Contents

Sylvia Rivera takes Iorio on a tour of the piers where she lived and had recently been cleared out by city regulation and urban renewal construction. The footage features interviews with other unhoused New Yorkers speaking about how the community at the West Side piers, as well as footage of New York police and city officials clearing out the piers.

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Thomas Iorio and Bob Storm on WBAI Radio, 1996 April 7      box OHAC  
Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)      C14

Digital Object: [Thomas Iorio and Bob Storm on WBAI Radio](#)

### Scope and Contents

Bob Storm interviews Thomas Iorio for the WBAI program Out-FM about LGBT culture. They discuss Iorio's video documentation of unhoused gay communities.

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Thomas Iorio - Preparing Pride 1996, 1996      box OHAC  
Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)      C14

Digital Object: [Thomas Iorio - Preparing Pride 1996](#)

### Scope and Contents

Iorio films a group of men preparing for the 1996 Pride Parade. Preparations include dress-making and discussions of fashion and accessories.

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Pride with Ivon, circa 1996      box OHAC  
Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)      C14

Digital Object: [Pride with Ivon](#)

### Scope and Contents

Iorio films behind the scenes at a Pride event, interviewing Heritage of Pride organizers, documenting speeches, and following Ivon and Sylvia Rivera. Ivon reflects on being a performer and on the Stonewall Rebellion.

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Southbeach #2, 1996 April 30      box OHAC  
Physical Description: 2 videocassettes (Hi 8)      C14

Digital Object: [Southbeach #2](#)

### Scope and Contents

Content from one of the two tapes was not digitized with rest of collection in 2020 due to poor condition of Hi-8 tape.

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Stonewall: The March Forward

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Stonewall: The March Forward](#)

### Scope and Contents

A documentary by Thomas Iorio about the Stonewall Rebellion Veterans Association and the Stonewall Rebellion. The film is comprised of edited footage from other items in this collection.

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Sat with Ivon 4/20 (plus Tape 2, 4/20 and Tape 3), April 20

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 3 videocassettes (Hi 8)

Digital Object: [Sat with Ivon 4/20 \(plus Tape 2, 4/20 and Tape 3\)](#)

### Scope and Contents

This content was not digitized with rest of collection in 2020 due to poor condition of Hi-8 tapes.

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Queen Allyson Ann Allante, undated

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (VHS)

Digital Object: [Queen Allyson Ann Allante](#)

### Scope and Contents

Iorio interviews Queen Allyson Ann Allante about her favorite music and her routines at the Stonewall. The rest of the footage is a montage of Allante performing in various locations.

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Outrage, undated

box OHAC  
C14

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (VHS)

Digital Object: [Outrage](#)

### Scope and Contents

Episode 1 "Outrage" of the documentary "The Question of Equality". Features interviews with Randy Wicker and Sylvia Rivera about the lead-up to the Stonewall Rebellion. The video also covers the tumultuous period in the years following Stonewall. Produced by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

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ZIP Disk, undated

box OHAC  
C14

**Scope and Contents**

Unlabeled ZIP disk. An attempt to read contents in 2020 was unsuccessful.

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