

Chris Maver archive

Accession number 32740

Date 1970-2015

Author / Creator

Maver, Chris, 1958-2015 performer.

Abstract Archive of Brisbane performer Chris Maver. Includes papers, photographs, brochures, posters, ephemera, scripts, clippings and audio-visual material describing Maver's career as a performer and writer in and around Brisbane. This collection includes drafts of scripts, poetry, songs and stories; copies of reviews by and about Maver; photographs of performances and parties and flyers and programs for productions Maver was in.

System of arrangement Arranged into 5 series

Description 2 boxes correspondence, clippings, photographs, ephemera ; 1 album photographs ; 5 posters; 2 boxes of audio visual material.

Administrative / Biographical history "Brisbane-based theatre performer, film-maker, community arts officer and playwright, Christopher Maver grew up in the Brisbane migrant working class suburb of West End. Maver had a fine singing voice and an ability to mimic popular singers. His many years of performing arts experience began when he worked with the Twelfth Night Theatre and the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. His first professional engagement was with the Royal Queensland Theatre Company in Hello Dolly! This was followed by employment as a community arts officer with issue-based performing arts companies including the Popular Theatre Troupe. Since then he has been employed by La Boite, Twelfth Night, Queensland Theatre Company, the Institute of Modern Art and the Brisbane Powerhouse. Maver has performed at the Livid Festival, Woodford Folk Festival, the Brisbane Cabaret Festival, the Valley Fiesta, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, Melbourne Pride Festival, the ENERGEX Brisbane Festival and the Brisbane Fringe Festival. He has created solo and group shows including The Venus Envy trilogy. As a writer/advertising manager, Maver spent seven years with Queensland Pride and Brother/Sister magazines writing about entertainment, reviews and interviews on a local, national and international level. He has been an activist in the gay rights movement in Queensland and presented Doric Wilson's A Perfect Relationship, the first play performed in Brisbane to explore the nature of gay male relations." -- from AustLit website:

<https://www.austlit.edu.au/austlit/page/A68292>, viewed 20/10/2021.

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

Copyright status In copyright.

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32740, Chris Maver archive, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

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Series 1: Personal Papers (1993-2007)

Series number 1

Series title Personal Papers

Date 1993-2007

Scope and content

Clippings, correspondence and invitations pertaining to the life and career of performer and writer Chris Maver.

Description

Description 2 folders

Items in this series:

Clippings about Chris Maver (1994-2007)

Unit ID 32740/1

Date 1994-2007

Scope and content

Reviews and interviews in Brother and Sister, Queensland Pride, West End neighbourhood news. Reviews of Chris Maver in Zen & Now ; La Boite Theatre's 'Happy End' ; 'Fings Aint What They Used To be'; 'Downstair Relations' ; La Boite Theatre's 'Little Shop of Horrors'.

Description

Description 1 folder

Locate OMBOX Box 9945

Correspondence (1997-2003)

Unit ID 32740/2

Date 1997-2003

Scope and content

- Oil painting with a birthday message on the back gifted from a friend.
- Correspondence with organisations including; Brisbane Festival and Queensland Performing Arts Trust.
- Resume including past performance history to 2001.

Description

Description 1 folder

Locate OMBOX Box 9945

Invitations (1993-1994)

Unit ID 32740/3

Date 1993-1994

Scope and content

2 invitations.

- Australian premier of 'A Chorus Line' at Lyric Theatre, hard plastic mirrored surface.
- 'Face the Music', open night gala at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre, hard plastic in the shape of an Ice skate.

Description

Description 2 invitations

Locate OMBOX Box 9945

Series 2: Written work (1977-2003)

Series number 2

Series title Written work

Date 1977-2003

Scope and content

Manuscripts and clippings of reviews, short stories, interviews and poetry by Chris Maver.

Author / Creator

Maver, Chris, 1958-2015

Description

Description 5 folders

Items in this series:

Short story manuscripts (1991-1994?)

Unit ID 32740/4

Date 1991-1994?

Scope and content

Short stories by Chris Maver: Only Leasing; Lies, Lies and more Lies; Rosecliffe Street, 1992; Shiva Diva; An Easter tale; De Cat (or Mr Maynards Tale), 1991; The Green Psychic .

Description

Description 1 folder

Locate OMBOX Box 9945

Poetry (1977-1983)

Unit ID 32740/5

Date 1977-1983

Scope and content

Poetry by Chris Maver: Copy of poetry collection 'Suburbia or Bust' by Chris Maver; extracts

from 'Semper', 1981-1983; 9Poets, 1981, 'The Boarder Issue', 1977-1978; 'Image' Vol. 4, no. 1&2 [1981?]

Description

Description 1 folder

Locate OMBOX Box 9945

Scripts (1989)

Unit ID 32740/6

Date 1989

Scope and content

2 manuscript of scripts. Beware the afterglow, 1989; Julio and the Chopper Chick, undated.

Description

Description 1 folder

Locate OMBOX Box 9945

Clippings of Interviews by Chris Maver (1994-1995)

Unit ID 32740/7

Date 1994-1995

Scope and content

Clippings of Interviews by Chris Maver with: Judith Lucy; Tony Maw; William Yang; Todd McKinney, 1995; James Thane, 1994; Scott Silverman, 1995; Helen Walsh, 1995; Darryl Lovegrove, 1994; Constantine Koukias, 1995; Eugene Guilfedder, 1994; Anthony Babicci, Mare Cunningham, 1995; Wendy Stapleton, 1995; David Atkinson; Rhonda Birchmore, 1995; Stanton Welsh, 1995.

Description

Description 1 folder

Locate OMBOX Box 9945

Clippings of reviews by Chris Maver (1993-2003)

Unit ID 32740/8

Date 1993-2003

Scope and content

Reviews of theatre and other performance: Carlotta- Not that kind of girl, 2003; Thunderbirds a go-go; Crisis of Conscience, 1994; Melting Pot; Coriolanus; Top Cats; Cosy Cosi; Compromising Venus; The Wedding Banquet, 1993; Forbidden Broadway; Romeo and Julliet by Queensland Theatre Company; Stonewall (Film); The Dusty Springfield Show; Tap Dogs, 1995; Fairytale, 1995; Gecko's Restaurant; Hello Dolly, 1995; Jamon Jamon, Bigas Luna (film); Cats; Les Recheurs de Perles, The Pearl Fishers; Orlando (film) 'What Sex Will You Be In Your Next Life Darling'; Le Triomphe de l'amour , Lyric Opera of Queensland; Dance, Dangerously Diverse, Expressions Dance Company; Hello Girls, 1995; Dancing at Lughnasa, 1994; Fractals, 1994; Yellow Wallpaper; Gothic Banquet; The Fall of the House of Usher; An inspector Calls; One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, 1995 (theatre); Thunderbirds FAB: the Next Generation; The Living End (film); The Winter's Tale by Queensland Theatre Company, 1994; Carmen by Lyric Opera of Queensland, 1995; Rigoletto by Lyric Opera of Queensland, 1994. Reviews of local restaurants including: Sitting Duck, Lyre Bird Restaurant, Loaves and Fishes Restaurant, The Eight Plates Restaurant, Franco's in West End Markets.

Description

Description 1 folder

Locate OMBOX Box 9945

Series 3: Performance papers (1979-2009)

Series number 3

Series title Performance papers

Date 1979-2009

Scope and content

Records, ephemera, artwork and posters pertaining to the career of Chris Maver.

Description

Description 11 folders, packets, posters, ephemera, artworks

Items in this series:

Venus Envy papers (1994-2003)

Unit ID 32740/9

Date 1994-2003

Scope and content

Papers relating to Chris Maver's Venus Envy character including:

- Draft scripts; Venus Envy - A comedy, 1994; Memoirs of a Sexual Deviant.
- Notes for song lyrics. Photocopies of photographs from a Venus Envy performance.
- Review of 'Fuse' Brisbane's second fringe festival.
- Flyer for O'Week 2000 at QCA, including Chris Maver.
- Draft DVD cover for Chris Maver in Venus Envy eXpostfactor.
- Cassette tape cover for Venus Envy - A Comedy.

Description

Description 1 folder

Locate OMBOX Box 9945

Performance ephemera (1981-2006?)

Unit ID 32740/10

Date 1981-2006?

Scope and content

Programs and flyers for performances that included Chris Maver including: Club Bent, 1996. 'Last of Faithful' (play). 'The loves of Cass McGuire' (play). Film Feast, Film Festival. 'Zen & Now' - A TN! Theatre co-production. 'Happy End' (play), 1988. Queensland Theatre Company presents 'Hello Dolly', 1981. 'Little Shop of Horrors' (play), 1990. 'Carmen in Camera', 1989. 'Vampire Lesbians of Sodom', 1990? 'The Girl in the Lime Green Bikini'. 2002?. 'Daily Grind', 1994. 'Starbuck believe it: the musical'. 'Closer to Heaven', 2006? 'The Dark', 1995. 'A fall from

grace', PrideArt (exhibition), 1991. Photographic exhibition of Chris Maver retrospective in conjunction with Pride, 2005.

Description

Description 1 folder

Locate OMBOX Box 9945

Festival programs (1992-2007)

Unit ID 32740/11

Date 1992-2007

Scope and content

Programs for festivals and events that included Chris Maver including:

- Brisbane fringe, 1995.
- Brisbane Pride Festival, 2005; 2003.
- Livid, 1994.
- Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, May-Aug, 2007.
- Adelaide Feast Festival Guide, 1999; 2000.
- Brisbane International Film Festival, 1992.

Description

Description 1 folder

Locate OMBOX Box 9945

Miscellaneous papers (1996?)

Unit ID 32740/12

Date 1996?

Scope and content

Various papers pertaining to performances: 'song list for intermezzo'; runsheet for unknown event; evaluation report for 'Scene performers masterclass' created by the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities; 'Closer to Heaven' script, 2001

Description

Description 1 packets

Locate OMBOX Box 23248

Lanyards (1996)

Unit ID 32740/13

Date 1996

Scope and content

3 lanyards likely to be performer or backstage passes: '1996 Adelaide, Potato Crispt, Festival Wanker'; '1996 Brisbane festival, Valley Streetlife party'; 'Beelzebub Barbies, Late X'

Description

Description 3 lanyards

Locate OMBOX Box 23248

Artworks (1979; 1981)

Unit ID 32740/14

Date 1979; 1981

Scope and content

2 artworks:

- Draft sketch by John Beamish for illustrations done in Chris Maver poetry collection 'Suburbia or Bust', 1979.
- Coloured sketch of person dressed in corset and fishnets stockings captioned 'Rocky Honus', signed 'Balicci, '81', 1981.

Description

Description 2 artworks

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23283 O/S

Posters (1983-2007?)

Unit ID 32740/15

Date 1983-2007?

Scope and content

3 large posters advertising performances:

- 'Soft Targets la Bamba', 1987? Poster for performance at La Boite Theatre's. Endorsed by Queensland Aids Association. 73 x 51 cm
- 'Fruit Tingle Cabaret', 2007? Poster for performance. Chris Maver productions & Judith Wright Centre. 84 x 59 cm
- 'Homonuerotic Cabaret', 2009? Poster for performance. Chris Maver productions & Judith Wright Centre. 84 x 59 cm

Description

Description 3 posters

Locate OMCABINET

Mounted posters

Unit ID 32740/16

Scope and content

2 posters mounted on board.

- 'Gay Dance: Refectory QLD Uni', undated. 63 x 45 cm.
- 'Gay Review '83, Shonell Downstairs', 1983. 64 x 45 cm.

Description

Description 2 mounted posters

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23301 O/S

Series 4: Photographs (1970?-2015?)

Series number 4

Series title Photographs

Date 1970?-2015?

Scope and content

Photographs of the personal life and career of Chris Maver.

Description

Description 4 album, packet

Items in this series:

Performance photographs (Undated)

Unit ID 32740/17

Date Undated

Scope and content

Album of performance photographs. Album of photographs of Chris Maver in various performances including 'Starbuck believe it: the musical' as Shall Bizarre and as his Venus Envy character in various performances. Also includes contact sheets of professional head shots and performance photographs.

Description

Description 1 album

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23155 O/S

Miscellaneous photographs (Undated)

Unit ID 32740/18

Date Undated

Scope and content

2 albums of photographs of social occasions, holidays and performances and 1 album of photographs in celebration of Chris Maver's 50th birthday in 2008.

Description

Description 1 packet

Locate OMBOX Box 23248

Performance photographs in frame (undated)

Unit ID 32740/19

Date undated

Scope and content

4 black-and-white photographs set in a mount board frame featuring Chris Maver as Venus Envy.

Description

Description 1 mount board frame

61 x 39 cm

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23301 O/S

Series 5: Audio visual material (1985-1996?)

Series number 5

Series title Audio visual material

Date 1985-1996?

Scope and content

25 videocassettes, 3 audio reel tapes and 1 audiocassette.

Author / Creator

Maver, Chris, 1958-2015

Description

Description 29 audio visual material (video cassettes, audio reel tapes and audiocassette)

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S; Box 23154 O/S

Items in this series:

Venus envy (1998)



Unit ID 32740/20

Date 1998

Scope and content

One videocassette entitled Venus Envy. It is 6 minute short film by Chris Maver, 1998. The film starts with Chris Maver describing his first Mardi Gras in Sydney in similar terms as he does in his act Venus Envy. He goes on to talk about the genesis of Venus Envy as the film shows scenes from Mardi Gras.

Description

Description 1 VHS

6 mins. duration

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Venus Envy + Autobiographical documentary (1995?; 1996?)



Unit ID 32740/21

Date 1995?; 1996?

Scope and content

One videocassette entitled Venus Envy + Autobiographical documentary, 26 minutes long. The first 15 minutes shows Chis Maver's show Venus Envy. The second part of the film is a short documentary about Maver's life. There is a focus throughout the documentary on how West End as a community influenced Maver's performances and identity. This film is in copyright and can only be viewed on site at the State Library of Queensland.

Description

Description 1 VHS

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

Rushes from Sydney Mardi Gras (1996?)

Unit ID 32740/22

Date 1996?

Scope and content

1 videocassette:

Rushes from Sydney Mardi Gras. Some footage included in Venus Envy short film.

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S

"My Wings, My Wings" #1 (Undated)

Unit ID 32740/23

Date Undated

Scope and content

One videocassette.

Edited footage and rushes for a short film set in West End based on Chris Maver's Venus Goes Bung performance.

Also some home movie footage from the 1970s.

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S

"My Wings, My Wings" #2 (Undated)

Unit ID 32740/24

Date Undated

Scope and content

1 videocassette: Edited footage and rushes for a short film set in West End based on Chris Maver's Venus Goes Bung performance.

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S

"My Wings, My Wings" rough cut (Undated)

Unit ID 32740/25

Date Undated

Scope and content

1 videocassette

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S

"My Wings, My Wings" final cut (Undated)



Unit ID 32740/26

Date Undated

Scope and content

One videocassette, title card reading My Wings, My Wings, a film by Chris Maver. A short film based on Chris Maver's Venus Goes Bung performance. The film is set in West End and includes Chris Maver singing in and narrating the story. The footage shifts between colour and black and white and Maver plays a the main character in the story. The work was written and produced by Chris Maver and the guitar featured in the background is played by Chris Anderson. There are other people credited in the production but the credits are difficult to decipher.

Description

Description 1 VHS

Additional format Digital copy available

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S

[View the items](#)

[View the item](#)

"Bad Trip" (Undated)

Unit ID 32740/27

Date Undated

Scope and content

1 videocassette: Short comedy film by Chris Maver and Chris Anderson. Stars Chris Maver. Involves Chris Maver catching a taxi to a party, having a conversation with the taxi driver and then singing a song with him.

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S

"Legs, Lace and Lingerie" (1998)

Unit ID 32740/28

Date 1998

Scope and content

1 videocassette: Film documentary traces the history of lingerie featuring Chris Maver in an acting role. RWB Production. Director: Noel Smith.

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S

Compilation of Chris Maver performances used for promotion (1985-1986)

Unit ID 32740/29

Date 1985-1986

Scope and content

1 videocassette:

Begins with a credits still of biographical details. Includes stage performance 'Zen and Now' for TN Theatre Company featuring a monologue and song; a number of very short skits featuring Chris Maver acting; and a Giants of Discount Liquor advertisement (1985) featuring Chris

Maver in an acting role.

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S

"Take Heart" (undated)

Unit ID 32740/30

Date undated

Scope and content

1 videocassette: Short film about actors and a director rehearsing featuring Chris Maver in an acting role. Director Steve Pohlner.

Description

Description 1 VHS

12 mins. duration

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S

"No Such Thing As Vampyres" (1988)

Unit ID 32740/31

Date 1988

Scope and content

1 videocassette: Short film about a vampire featuring Chris Maver in an acting role. Director/Writer Cameron Dunn.

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S

"Enemy of the State" (undated)

Unit ID 32740/32

Date undated

Scope and content

1 videocassette: Performance by Chris Maver, spoken word and music, at a Fringe Festival

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23153 O/S

Segments of a short film "The Transformation of Norrie-May Welby" (undated)

Unit ID 32740/33

Date undated

Scope and content

1 videocassette: Written and Directed by Jeddah Jakobsen. The segments feature songs performed by Chris Maver : 'Men' and 'What makes a man a man'.

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

Live performance by Chris Maver in character, accompanied by guitar. (undated)

Unit ID 32740/34

Date undated

Scope and content

1 videocassette

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

Live performance featuring Chris Maver involving dance, projection, poetry (undated)

Unit ID 32740/35

Date undated

Scope and content

1 videocassette

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

Footage of Chris Maver in character at Livid Festival (undated)

Unit ID 32740/36

Date undated

Scope and content

1 videocassette Footage of Chris Maver in character at Livid Festival, walking among and interacting with the crowd.

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

Footage of Valley Streetlife Party (undated)

Unit ID 32740/37

Date undated

Scope and content

1 videocassette Footage of Chris Maver and others setting up and a performing music at the Valley Streetlife Party, a street concert in Fortitude Valley.

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

"Independently Blue" (1997)

Unit ID 32740/38

Date 1997

Scope and content

1 videocassette Directed by Sarah Neal, a short experimental film featuring Chris Maver in a minor role.

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

Live musical stage performance including a Michael Jackson 'Thriller' parody. (undated)

Unit ID 32740/39

Date undated

Scope and content

1 videocassette

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

Educational films (undated)

Unit ID 32740/40

Date undated

Scope and content

1 videocassette University of Queensland Faculty of Psychology educational films 'Stress at work and home' and 'Stress Management Prog.' featuring Chris Maver and others acting out scenarios.

Description

Description 1 VHS

52 mins. duration

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

Springwood Mitsubishi advertisement featuring Chris Maver (1987)

Unit ID 32740/41

Date 1987

Scope and content

1 videocassette

Description

Description 1 VHS

1 min. 30 secs. duration

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

Two advertisements (undated)

Unit ID 32740/42

Date undated

Scope and content

1 videocassette: featuring Chris Maver:

- QBD book shop
- Heritage Building Society

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

Giants of Discount Liquor advertisement featuring Chris Maver (1985)

Unit ID 32740/43

Date 1985

Scope and content

1 videocassette

Description

Description 1 VHS

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

"Music to watch girls by" (1985?)

Unit ID 32740/44

Date 1985?

Scope and content

1 audio reel tape Chris Maver singing 'Music to watch girls by' probably in 1985. Recorded for demonstration purposes at Wildlife Studios in Milton.

Description

Description 1 audio reel tape

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

"Codiene" (1985)

Unit ID 32740/45

Date 1985

Scope and content

1 audio reel tape Chris Maver singing "Codiene" in 1985. Recorded for demonstration purposes at Wildlife Studios in Milton.

Description

Description 1 audio reel tape

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

Recording of Chris Maver singing (1985)

Unit ID 32740/46

Date 1985

Scope and content

1 audio reel tape Chris Maver singing probably in 1985. Recorded for demonstration purposes.

Description

Description 1 audio reel tape

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

"Venus Envy - A comedy" (1993)

Unit ID 32740/47

Date 1993

Scope and content

1 audiocassette: Tagline "Discovering the Goddess within". Side 1: Venus Envy - "Discovering the Goddess Within". "...and more importantly, attitude. Vain, vulgar, self absorbed and violating the ten commandments of feminine behaviour." Side 2: My Venus Goes Bung - The Sequel. "...my wings, my wings, where are my wings?" ; Tomorrow May Not Lie.

Description

Description 1 audiocassette

28 mins. 26 secs. duration

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

"Soft Targets" (1988)

Unit ID 32740/48

Date 1988

Scope and content

1 videocassette: Possibly recording of "Soft Targets" performed at La Boite Theatre, Brisbane. Director credited on La Boite Theatre website is Ian Leigh-Cooper but on the videocassette direction is credited to Martin Daley. Set and costume design is credited to Chris Maver.

Description

Description 1 VHS (Item is damaged at the start. Still watchable.)
60 mins. duration

Locate OMOSBOX Box 23154 O/S

(3 digital)