Vandeventer Nites Manuscript  
(S0880)

Collection Number: S0880

Collection Title: Vandeventer Nites Manuscript

Dates: 1988

Creator: Rabushka, Jerrold

Abstract: The Vandeventer Nites Manuscript contains the 1988 manuscript of *Vandeventer Nites: A Tale of Gay Life in the Midwest (and a party you won’t want to miss)* by Jerrold Rabushka.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot  
(1 folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis. If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Vandeventer Nites Manuscript (S0880); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Ian Darnell on July 19, 2010 (Accession No. SA3904).

Processed by: Processed by AJ Medlock and Isaac Alexander, September 2023

Biographical Note:

Jerrold (Jerry) Rabushka, a St. Louis native, is an award-winning playwright, author, musician, and composer. In 1982, he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Missouri - St. Louis. Rabushka worked as a caseworker for the Missouri Division
of Family Services for four years following graduation. From 1992 to 2018, he worked as editor-in-chief and associate publisher for The Paint Dealer Magazine.

In 1997, Rabushka founded Ragged Blade Productions, a theater company which he wrote original plays for until 2008. In 1998, Rabushka started publishing plays under Jerry Rabushka and pen name Kelly Meadows for Brooklyn Publishers and Heuer Publishing. Rabushka also published several novels and short stories, including Star Bryan and The Prophesy. His plays were performed nationally and internationally, and his written works appeared in Saints & Sinners festivals, an internationally recognized LGBTQ+ literary event.

Rabushka published over 100 plays for Brooklyn Publishers and continues to do so. He serves as managing editor for American Painting Contract. Since 2007, he tours with his band The Ragged Blade Band. The band specializes in 1895-1920 jazz, ragtime, and blues music. The band also plays Rabushka’s originals. Rabushka sings and plays piano for the band. He composes solo music and plays in the duo “Cherry and Jerry” as well.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into one folder.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The folder contains a 33-page manuscript of the 1988 fictitious novelette Vandeventer Nites: A Tale of Gay Life in the Midwest (and a party you won’t want to miss) written by Jerrold Rabushka and published by New Universe Productions. The story begins following narrator Terry Starks and his date Jeffie Travers as they attend a gay wedding in St. Louis’s West End. The novelette is sectioned by people Starks knows from nights out in Vandeventer, a St. Louis neighborhood. Starks gives his opinion on those people and how they relate to the local gay community. Sections jump time to discuss the formation of Starks and Travers’ relationship, describe the parties they attend, and recount Starks’ time in the hospital with hepatitis. The novelette touches on topics such as race in the gay community, sexual assault, police relations, and the AIDS epidemic. The manuscript is missing its last section.

**Container List:**

f. 1 Vandeventer Nites manuscript, 1988

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