

James Egan Collection of John Waters Interviews MS48

Finding aid prepared by Joan M. Wolk

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
2012

<http://www.prattlibrary.org/>

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Summary Information

Repository	Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
Creator - Donor	Egan, James, 1950-
Creator - Cinematographer	Waters, John, 1946-
Title	James Egan Collection of John Waters Interviews
Date	1965-2012
Extent	0.417 Linear feet
Language	English

Biographical/Historical note

John Samuel Waters, Jr. (April 22, 1946-present) is an American film director, who wore many hats as screenwriter, author, actor, stand-up comedian, journalist, visual artist, and art collector. He won acclaim in the early 1970s as a director of modern satires. Waters was raised in an upper middle-class Roman Catholic family, and educated at Calvert School, Towson Jr. High School, and Calvert Hall College High School; he graduated from Boys' Latin School of Maryland. His first film, *Hag in a Black Leather Jacket*, was shown only once in Baltimore. Waters then entered New York University, but it proved not to be a good fit for his interests. In January 1966, he was forced out of his dormitory for smoking marijuana. He then moved back to Baltimore, Maryland where he completed two short films. Waters was influenced by several notable filmmakers, including: Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Herschell Gordon Lewis, Federico Fellini, William Castle and Ingmar Bergman. Waters' films are characterized by sleazy characters in a campy world. Waters continued to win acclaim, and the Mayor of Baltimore declared February 7, 1985, John Waters Day.

James Egan (1950-present) began his career as a filmmaker after working for his father's insurance company in Baltimore, Maryland. After meeting John Waters at a birthday party, Waters contacted him about insurance for his upcoming film. As a result of this, and Egan's presence on Waters' subsequent movie sets, Egan decided to pursue his own career in filmmaking. With the encouragement of Waters, Egan went on to complete a master's degree at the UCLA School of Film and Television. James Egan moved on to become an award-winning filmmaker and founder of Wild at Hearts Film. He is a professor at the University of California Graduate School of Cinematic Arts. Egan remains friends with Waters and visits him at his homes in Baltimore and San Francisco. Egan's experience and friendship with Waters developed into the book, *John Waters Interviews*, for the series, *Conversations with Filmmakers*.

Scope and Contents note

The collection consists of 120 articles about John Waters from a variety of different sources that were gathered by James Egan in preparation for his book, *John Waters: Interviews*, published by the University of Mississippi Press in 2011. The articles cover the period from 1965-2012. Although John Waters authored several of the articles, most can be divided between interviews with him and critiques of his films. The content of Waters work is focused in Baltimore, Maryland, and can be characterized as satirical of American life. The collection is divided into four series: articles used in the writing of the book, and a collection of articles that were not included in the final publication but formed part of Mr. Egan's research.

Arrangement note

The collection is arranged chronologically as articles used or unused in Egan's book, John Waters Interview.

Series I: Used articles, 1965-2011 Series II: Unused articles, undated Series III: Unused articles, 1965-2012 Series IV: Unused articles in digital format, 1973-2012

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections 2012

Revision Description

Entered into Archivist's Toolkit by Joan M. Wolk January, 2015

Conditions Governing Access note

Unrestricted, open by appointment.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

In July of 2012, James Egan donated 120 articles about John Waters to the Special Collections department of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. The articles comprise the bulk of research for Egan's book, John Waters: Interviews.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Conversations with filmmakers series

- Documentary films
- Filmography
- newspapers
- Television
- Writings

Geographic Name(s)

- Baltimore (Md.)
- Maryland (state)

Occupation(s)

- Actors
- Art--Collectors and collecting
- Male authors, American
- Motion picture producers and directors--United States.
- Screenwriters
- Visual artist
- Voice actors and actresses

Personal Name(s)

- Divine, 1945-1988
- Milstead, Harris Glenn, 1945-1988

Subject(s)

- Biographers
- Boys' Latin School of Maryland
- Calvert Hall College High School
- Calvert School, Baltimore
- Edge Award
- Enoch Pratt Free Library
- New York University
- Towson High School
- University of California Graduate School of Cinematic Arts
- University of California, Los Angeles. Department of Film and Television

Series I: Articles used in Interviews, dated

Collection Inventory

Series I: Articles used in Interviews, dated 1965-2011	Box	Folder
	1	1-3
	Box	Folder
Early John Waters & Hag in a Black Leather Jacket, the Baltimore Evening Sun October 20, 1965	1	1
Pink Flamingos & The Filthiest People alive? Danny Fields and Fran Lebowitz May 1973	1	1
The Divine World of John Waters, The Late Show 1974	1	1
A lot of people were upset that we put the baby in the refrigerator...an Interview with John Waters by Louis Postel 1977	1	1
Still Waters, David Chute 1981	1	1
John Waters' Divine Comedy, Scott MacDonald, missing January, 1992	1	1
Waters: I've Always Tried to Sell Out, Claude Brooks 1982	1	1
Hairspray gets a 'shocking' PG as Waters looks back to '62, Kevin Lally, The Film Journal February-March 1988	1	1
The Domestication of John Waters, Pat Aufderheide, American Film April, 1990	1	1

Series I: Articles used in Interviews, dated

Artist in Dialogue, John G. Ives 1992	1	1
He Really Can't Help Himself, James Grant, Los Angeles Times April 10, 1994	1	2
John Waters in Provincetown, Gerald Peary, Provincetown Arts 1997	1	2
Pecker, Gerald Peary 1997	1	2
What Price Hollywood? J. T. Leroy, Filmmaker 2000	1	2
Demented at Heart, Jamie Painter Young August 3, 2000	1	2
Interview with John Waters, Todd Solondz in John Waters: Change of Life by John Waters 2004	1	2
The artist's Voice Since 1981, Dnnis Cooper, BOMB Magazine Spring 2004	1	2
A Dirty Shame, Jenny Stewart, PlanetOut.com 2005	1	2
This Filthy Word, Steve Appleford, Los Angeles CityBeat 2007	1	2
Love and Frogs: Dating John Waters, Michael Franco, PopMatters February 14, 2007	1	2
John Waters, an Appreciation, Everett Lewis 2010	1	2

Series II: Unused articles, undated

Where will John Waters be Buried? James Egan, Missing March 19, 2010	1	2
John Waters Interview with James Egan 2011	1	2
Series II: Unused articles, undated	Box	Folder
	1	3
	Box	Folder
An Interview with John Waters, Stage and Screen, undated	1	3
At Home with John Waters, Kestutis Nakas, In Touch for Men, undated	1	3
Dirty Waters, Areola, undated	1	3
Disney Girls, Diane Worthington, Provincetown Magazine, undated	1	3
Divine Comedy: John Waters interviewed, Eric Wittmerhaus, Flagmak.com, undated	1	3
From Prince to Poe An Interview with John Waters, Dantenet.com, undated	1	3
From the Underground: Divine & John Waters, GayTimes, undated	1	3
Hairspray Flamingos' Rogue John Waters at Home, Anka Radakovich, undated	1	3
John Water's Evolutionary Acceptance: Has Trash Become Innocent? Heather L. Marcelynas, Undated	1	3

Series III: Unused articles, dated

John Waters Filmmaker, Marsha Gordon, undated	1	3
John Waters, the King of Baltimore Filmmakers, Enid Sefcovic	1	3
Talking Trash with John Waters, author unknown, undated	1	3
The interview, John Waters, The Boston Globe	1	3
Waters's Theater of Nausea, R. H. Gardner, undated	1	3
Series III: Unused articles, dated 1965-1998	Box 1	Folder 4-7
	Box	Folder
Mr. Peep's Diary, The Evening Sun October 20, 1965	1	4
Competing for Title of "Filthiest People Alive" in Movie, James Dilts, Baltimore Sun December 11, 1973	1	4
Waters, Cool and Amiable, Comments on Latest Flick, Neal McGarity, The Retriever October 28, 1974	1	4
Talking with John Waters and Divine, Tracy Young, The Soho Weekly News February 20, 1975	1	4
I Call on John Waters (and Also Divine), Glenn O'Brien, The Village Voice March 3, 1975	1	4

Series III: Unused articles, dated

Baltimore's King of Repulsion, Kenneth Turan, Washington Post April 20, 1975	1	4
'Troubles' and trash float past the fans of polluted Waters, Gene Siskel, Chicago Tribune October 19, 1975	1	4
Interview: John Waters-Is He Brilliant or Truly "The Filthiest Filmmaker Alive?" Maralyn Lois Polak, the Philadelphia Inquirer May 23, 1976	1	4
John Waters, Donald von Wiedenman, The Advocate June 16, 1976	1	4
An Interview with Filmmaker John Waters, Tom Hosier, Modern Correspondence Magazine #6 1978	1	4
John Waters, George Morris, Take One March, 1978	1	4
I'd Like to be a Dog Catcher or Will John Waters Ever Mke the Great American Comedy, Brandon Judell, Gaysweek March 1978	1	4
Beyond Bad Taste, Randi Henderson, Moving Pictures May 16, 1978	1	4
The Fine Art of Filmmaking, Waters, Style, Mike Giuliano, City Paper December 1, 1978	1	5
Interview, City Paper December, 1978	1	5
Filmmaker Waters to Take on Suburbia, Author unknown, The Sun August 17, 1980	1	5

Series III: Unused articles, dated

Polyester poorly knit of cheap stuff, Carol Herwig, News American May 19, 1981	1	5
Polyester: Best of John Waters, R. H. Gardner, The Sun May 19, 1981	1	5
Seeing Smelling, Laughting at Problems, Tara Fass, Baltimore Sun June 7, 1981	1	5
Front Runners, Seth Cagin, US June 23, 1981	1	5
John Waters, Sally A. Lodge, Publishers' Weekly July 17, 1981	1	5
John Waters: A Successful black sheep is tickled pink over bad taste, Jack Veasey, Gay News August 21-September 3, 1981	1	5
Talking shock with John Waters, Gary Janis, GayLife September 1981	1	5
Murky Waters, Randi Henderson, The Sun September 13, 1981	1	5
John Waters on South Street, Jack Veasey, South St. Star October 29, 1981	1	5
Shock Value, William Owen, Gary Hankins, Bay Area Review November, 1981	1	5
John Waters, Michael Mills, The Wallpaper Journal December 9, 1981	1	5
Pink Flamingos An Exercise in Poor Taste, ArtForum January, 1982	1	5

Series III: Unused articles, dated

John Waters Interview, Stevenson, The Living Color March-April 1982	1	5
Checking In, Scott Cohen, Playboy April, 1982	1	5
Interview: John Waters-The Filthiest Filmmaker in the World Comes clean, Larry Sloman, High Times January, 1983	1	5
John Waters, Filmdom's Bad Boy, Getting a "Career Retrospective," Charles Paul Freund August 5, 1983	1	5
Author unknown, undated, [John Waters] May 31, 1984	1	6
The Pia Zadora Story, John Waters, American Film: a Journal of the Film and Television Arts July/August, 1984	1	6
Q&A, Russ Smith and John Strausbaugh, Q&A City Paper December 21, 1984	1	6
John Waters, Two Masters 1985	1	6
John Waters, Interview, Joe Dolce December, 1986	1	6
The Most Moral Man in America: An Interview with John Waters, Michael Simmons, Heavy Metal July, 1987	1	6
Sleazemeister, Iain Blair, Chicago Tribune February 14, 1988	1	6
Untitled, Author Unknown, Morning Report February 18, 1988	1	6

Series III: Unused articles, dated

Stanley Kubrick Wouldn't do This: The Mellowing of John Waters, Michael Dare, Movieline Magazine February 19, 1988	1	6
Hairspray, Amy Lawrence, Reader February 26, 1988	1	6
A Shock Artist Goes Mainstream, David Ansen, Newsweek February 29, 1988	1	6
John Waters: Giving Bad Taste a Good Name, Alex Demyanenko, Village View February 26-March 3, 1988	1	6
From Odorama to the Sweet smell of Success, Kenneth Turan, GQ March, 1988	1	6
Entretien avec John Waters, Helene Merrick, Le Revue Du Cinema, No. 439 June, 1988	1	6
John Waters Interview of September 30th-1988, J. stevenson, Pandemonium September, 1988	1	6
In Middle Age, Teen for a Day, Katrine Ames and Rom Givens, Newsweek July 17, 1989	1	6
I Like Waters, Gary Indiana, Interview Magazine February, 1990	1	7
Cry-Baby, Helen Knode, L.A. Weekly April 6, 1990	1	7

Series III: Unused articles, dated

The Good-Natured Camp of Waters's Cry-Baby, Henry Sheehan, Reader's Guide April 6, 1990	1	7
Parting the Waters, Helen Knode, L.A. Weekly April 13, 1990	1	7
Cry-Baby's Warped Director Tells why It's Appetizing to Have Bad Taste, Sean Plattner, US April 30, 1990	1	7
Strange Film Series Begins with Apt Subject: a John Waters Interview, Steve McKerrow, The Sun February 2, 1991	1	7
Camping Out in Hollywood, David Hockney April 1994	1	7
John Waters: Portrait of a Serial Director, Dave Parker, and David E. Williams, Film Threat April, 1994	1	7
Q&A, Ryan Murphy, US April, 1994	1	7
This Man Look Like a Child Molester? Eve Golden, Movieline April, 1994	1	7
John Waters' Undyingly Loyal Friends Double as Baltimore's First Family of Film, Stephen Hunter, the Sun April 15, 1994	1	7
John Waters, Mim Udovitch, Details May, 1994	1	7
Making a Bigger Splash, David Hockney, The Observer June 12, 1994	1	7

Series III: Unused articles, dated

Cannes Briefs, Author Unknown, Variety May 29, 1995	1	7
Untitled, Author Unknown, Screen International April 12, 1996	1	7
John Waters in Provincetown, Gerald Peary, Provincetown Magazine 1997	1	7
The Drive-In Lives! Gamille Sweeney, New York Times July 6, 1997	1	7
High School Confidential, Steve Proffitt, LA Weekly March 4-10, 1998	1	7
John Waters' "Pecker" Lindsey Bishop, Venice September 1998	1	7
To Hearst, the Taste is Familiar, Deborah Bach, The Sun August 3, 2000	1	8
Hollywood on a Skewer, Ann Hornaday, the Sun August 11, 2000	1	8
Two Birds of a Feather, Mark Miller, Newsweek August 14, 2000	1	8
Not-So-Still Waters Runs Deep, Screen International August 18, 2000	1	8
Urbane Guerrilla, Rob Brunner, Entertainment Weekly September 8, 2000	1	8
Eccentrics Who Live Way Beyond the Fringe, John Waters, New York Times November 5, 2000	1	8
Hard to Avoid John Waters, John Waters, The Guardian December 15, 2000	1	8

Series III: Unused articles, dated

John Waters, Gerald Peary 2002	1	8
John Waters and his Dreamlanders in P-Town, Gerald Peary 2002	1	8
A Bad Boy Goes Broadway, J. Wynn Rousuck, The Sun July 7, 2002	1	8
Finally, Footlights on the Fat Girls, John Waters, New York Times August 11, 2002	1	8
Hey, Hon! It's John Waters-Sun editorial: Marylander of the Year, The Baltimore Sun January 18, 2003	1	8
John Waters, Selma Blair, Interview March, 2004	1	8
The Godfather of Trash: John Waters the original Jackass, and proud of it Tacky Hairspray movie inspired hit stqge musical May 5, 2004	1	8
John Waters, Dennis Cooper, BOMB Magazine Spring, 2004	1	8
John Waters' Farcical Sex Comedy Merits NC-17 Rebuke from MPAA, Laura DeBrizzi, Entertainment Today September 17, 2004	1	8
A Dirty Shame, Peter Rainer, The Week: Movies September 27, 2004	1	8
A Dirty Shame, Gloria Tatlock, www.aintitcool.com September 27, 2004	1	8
Waters: A Fresh Start, Author Unknown, untitled September 10, 2004	1	8

Series III: Unused articles, dated

Interview: John Waters Talks About His annual Christmas Party, simon Scott, NPR: Weekend Edition December 18, 2004	1	8
Shock Value, Unknown Author, Two Masters 2005	1	9
Checking in with...Mandi Bierly, Entertainment Weekly June 24, 2005	1	9
True Talking, Dick Cavett, DVDX Academy July , 2005	1	9
An Exclusive Skinterview with John Waters, J. R. Taylor, Skinterview December 23, 2005	1	9
Waters Urges Letting Imaginations Run Wild; Review A, Michael Sragow, The Sun November 17, 2006	1	9
The Kindness of a Stranger, John Waters, New York Times November 19, 2006	1	9
John Waters, Leah Greenblatt, Entertainment Weekly March 30, 2007	1	9
Re-release of "Pink Flamingos", Beth Accomando, http://blogs.kpbs.org July 20, 2007	1	9
Distinguished in Sleaze, Ken Hanke, Mountain Xpress September 12-September 18, 2007	1	9
Tailoring the '50s for 'Cry-Baby,' Mary Carole McCauley, The Sun November 18, 2007	1	9

Series III: Unused articles, dated

Waters' Edge October 11-October 2007	1	9
Quick Takes, 'Cry-Baby' goes to Broadway, Author Unknown Associated Press January 15, 2008	1	10
Cry-Baby, Gary Indiana, Interview Magazine May, 2, 2008	1	10
Interview: John Waters, Ken Plume, Quickstopentertainment.com July 1, 2008	1	10
Leslie Van Houten: A Friendship, Parts 1-5, John Waters, Excerpted from the book Role Models by John Waters August 3-August 7, 2009	1	10
Still Filthy, Still Fun, Lisa Provence, The Hook November 5-11, 2009	1	10
Waters World: Baltimore's legendary John Waters reveals his festive side during the holiday season, Randy shulman, MetroWeekly December 3, 2009	1	10
John Waters Talks Trash about Mom, Mansons, Muni, Peter Hartlaub, SF Chronicle June, 2010	1	10
It's Economic Censorship, Author Unknown, Cuts in Films July 8, 2010	1	10
John Waters: Trash, Taboos, and Transgressions, Rebecca M. Alvin, Provincetown Magazine August 12, 2010	1	10
Mondo Balto, Susie Powell Currie, Weekly Standard October 18, 2010	1	10

Series IV: Unused articles, dated, digital files on flash drive

Divine Trash, Diane Krieger, USC Trojan Family Magazine Winter 2011	1	10
John Waters: Subversive Success, John Jurgensen, Wall Street Journal March 30, 2012	1	10
John Waters Miked and Taped, Matthew Hays, The Gay and Lesbian Review May-June 2012	1	10
Series IV: Unused articles, dated, digital files on flash drive 1973-2012	Box 1	Folder 11
Arrangement note		
Series IV is an inventory of unused, dated articles that can be located in the S: drive>Collection Information>Unprocessed Collections>James Egan/John Waters Collection>Unused digital articles.		
'Pink Flamingos' to Land in Baltimore, Enid Sefcovic, News American April 24, 1973		
Desperate living: Not a Pretty Picture, Michael Musto, SoHo Weekly October 20, 1977		
Slimy Waters, Mike Giuliano, LA Reader May 25, 1979		
Talking Heads: John Waters smells Success, Guy Trebay, Village May 20-26, 1981		
John Waters runs deep, Owen Gleiberman, Phoenix June 23, 1981		
John Waters Schleppting through Suburbia with Cinema's Naughty Box, John Engstrom, Advocate July 9, 1981		

Series IV: Unused articles, dated, digital files on flash drive

Checking In, Author Unknown, Playboy April, 1982

The man who makes those strange films, Steven X. Rea, Philadelphia Inquirer January 7, 1983

Nothing Troubled about this Waters, Jack Veasey, South Star March 21, 1985

101 Things I Love by John Waters, Author Unknown, Rolling Stone 1986

John Waters, Joe Dolce, Interview December, 1986

A man obsessed: A talk with John Waters, Author Unknown, By Windows February 6-February 12, 1986

Waters Breaks, Author Unknown, Vanity Fair March, 1990

Divine Waters, Tom Hincely, Philly City Paper April, 1988

On the Beltway and back streets, John Waters bypasses Baltimore's renowned tourist attractions for a potholed trip down memory lane, Gerald L'Ecuyer, Drive April, 1990

The King of Camp, David Ford, SF Weekly April 4, 1990

A Face Only A Serial Mom Could Love, Tom Crow, LA Village View April 8-14, 1994

John Waters: Serial Film Maker, Entertainment Today April 15-21, 1994

John Waters: Ex-bad boy? Jay Carr, Boston Globe April 19, 1990

Series IV: Unused articles, dated, digital files on flash drive

John Waters A Polyester Sleaze Czar Turns Juvenile Delinquent with Cry-Baby, Iain Blair, BAM April 20, 1990

John Watera: Misfits' Messiah, Maureen Dowd, Rolling Stone May 17, 1990

Water's World, Kevin Maynard, Manhattan File November, 1996

Divine Director: Brando's my guy, New York Post, December 13, 1996

John Waters on Tennessee, Author Unknown, Out March, 1997

Still Filthy after all these Years, Dennis Bermody, Details April, 1997

Love that Dirty Waters, James Ireland Baker, Time Out April 10-17, 1997

Still Waters, Sono Motoyama, Boston Phoenix April 11, 1997

From Odorama to the Sweet Smell of Success, Kenneth Turan, GQ March, 1998

Pecker Head, Gerald Peary, the Boston Phoenix August 6-13, 1998

John Water' Pecker, Lindsay Bishop, Venice September, 1998

John Waters, Unknown Author November 17, 1998

John Waters as a Legitimate (but Please, not respectable) Photographer, Mim Udovitch, New York Times February, 2004

Series IV: Unused articles, dated, digital files on flash drive

John Waters, Tulsa Kinney, City Beat December 9-15, 2004

John Waters: Dirty Shame Director talks about his films, career and achieving the American dream, Geoff Berkshire, Campus Circle July 20, 2005

The 'Pope of Trash' basks in the Joy of Holiday Madness, Pat Sherman, City Beat December 14, 2005

John Waters Interview, Dennis, The Cult May 23, 2008

SIFF Take: Siff Interviews John Waters, Chris B., SIFF June, 2008

What Frightens John Waters, Drew Taylor, New Haven Advocate May 14, 2009

John Waters: The Interviews, James Egan, The Bottom Line Magazine December 30, 2011-January 12, 2012