



ArchivesSpace

Unreleased short film featuring Lenny Bruce

11.MWalB02733

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Brandeis University

415 South St.

Main Library, Goldfarb Level 2

Waltham, MA 02454-9110

ascdepartment@brandeis.edu

URL: <https://findingaids.brandeis.edu/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Brandeis University
Creator:	DePasquale, "Count" Lewis
Creator:	Bruce, Lenny
Title:	Unreleased short film featuring Lenny Bruce
ID:	11.MWalB02733
Date:	circa 1955
Physical Description:	1 Items 1 16mm film in unlabeled paillard film canister
Language of the Material:	English

Preferred Citation

Unreleased film featuring Lenny Bruce, Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections, Brandeis University.

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Content Description

An unreleased, black and white silent film featuring Lenny Bruce as a down-on-his-luck street newspaper salesman. The 12-and-a-half minute 16mm film, most likely created in the mid-to-late 1950s or early 1960s, follows the ups-and-downs — mainly downs — of the main character, including his dreams of owning a motorcycle jacket, his clashes with the landlady of the rooming house where he lives (probably played by Bruce's mother, Sally Marr), a brief romantic meeting with a female stranger, and an accidental, fateful run-in with a drug dealer and the police.

Based on William Karl Thomas's description in his book "Lenny Bruce: The Making of a Prophet," this film bears a striking resemblance to another short film by Bruce called the "Leather Jacket." However, the film at Brandeis is believed to be a collaboration between Bruce and the musician "Count" Lewis DePasquale, a friend of the comedian, who likely contributed the jazz soundtrack.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Access to the collection is in accordance with the policies of the Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections, Brandeis University. Please contact the department for more details.

The film was recorded on 16mm film and has been reformatted to a mov file. Researchers must use digital copy.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests to reproduce or publish material from the collection should be directed to the Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The acquisition of this film was made possible through the support of Ann and Abe Effron Fund - Donor Advised of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Special Collections at Brandeis also houses the Lenny Bruce collection.

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General Note

The original 16mm film was sent to Northeast Historic Film in December 2018. ID number: BL18YL
Title: Unreleased short film featuring Lenny Bruce.

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