

GUIDE TO THE PETE FORNATALE COLLECTION



Collection Overview:

Collection Title: THE PETE FORNATALE COLLECTION

Inclusive Dates: 1960 - 2012

Size: 16 Boxes (5.01 l.f.)

Source: Gift of Peter Thomas Fornatale

Accession Number: 2016.03

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Repository: Port Washington Public Library Local History Center

Collection Abstract: For nearly four decades Pete Fornatale was an award-winning broadcaster, author, music historian and humanitarian whose voice resonated across New York's radio airwaves. The Pete Fornatale Collection includes photographs, negatives, notebooks pertaining to "Mixed Bag" radio show, copious handwritten notes and notebooks, handwritten song lists, correspondence and publication drafts.

Biographical History: Pete Fornatale was one of the architects of Progressive Rock FM in the 1960s, and he has one of the most recognizable voices in rock radio. He has been a fixture on the New York dial for four decades, starting his career at in November 1963 at WFUV as a Fordham undergraduate hosting "Campus Caravan," and then moving on to WNEW-FM in 1969 and K-Rock in 1989. Upon Pete's passing, he was the host of "Mixed Bag", broadcast on Saturdays from 4-8pm on WFUV 90.7 in New York. The long-running show started as a Sunday morning program in late December of 1982 on WNEW. On a humorous note, Pete remembers getting a fan letter the following week from a then unknown singer-songwriter named Suzanne Vega. She would eventually become a recurring guest on the show.

Pete is the author of several books about media, pop culture and music, including "The Rock Music Source Book," "Radio in the Television Age," "The Story of Rock 'n' Roll"

and "All You Need Is Love." He was also the primary writer of "The Elvis Collection," a 600 trading card series on the life of Elvis Presley.

Pete conceived, wrote and narrated the nationally syndicated radio feature "Rock Calendar." He also wrote seven episodes of the MTV series "Rock Influences," and served as a consultant, writer and voice-over announcer for "Deja View," a series of specials distributed internationally by All-American Television from 1984-1985.

Pete co-hosted the 1991 HBO telecast of "Paul Simon Live in Central Park," and he regularly served as an expert guest commentator on PBS specials featuring The Bee Gees, Bobby Darin, Bob Dylan, John Fogerty, The Grateful Dead, Jimi Hendrix, The Mamas and The Papas, The Moody Blues, Roy Orbison, Peter, Paul and Mary, Simon and Garfunkel, James Taylor and The Weavers.

Pete won numerous awards during his lengthy and diverse career: The New York Council of Churches Award for Broadcast Excellence (1976), the coveted Armstrong Award for Excellence in Musical Programming (1983), The New York Folk Festival Special Folks Award (1984), The World Folk Music Association Award for Making a Difference in Broadcasting (1992) and The New York AIR Award for Achievement in Radio in (1998). Pete was also presented with the AFTRA Media and Entertainment Excellence award (The AMEE) in 2012. He was a proud Board member of World Hunger Year, the organization co-founded by Harry Chapin, and he has served as a co-anchor of the annual *Hungerthon* broadcasts for many years. He also serves on the Honorary Board of the Long Island Music Hall of Fame.

Career Timeline:

1963-1970/ On-Air Personality, WVUV-FM (of Fordham University) in New York - Creator of "Campus Caravan", the station's first rock/ pop music show (1964).

Fornatale's On-air debut may be Aug. 1963, though it is often noted as Nov. 1963. Many sources claim that Fornatale continued to host "Campus Caravan" during the first few years of his tenure at WNEW-FM (*see below*).

1969 (July 26) / 1989- On-Air Personality, WNEW-FM Radio (Commercial Station) in New York. Creator of "Mixed Bag" which premiered in December 1982.

1989/1997- On-Air Personality, WXRK-FM ('K-Rock', Commercial Station) in New York. "Mixed Bag" relaunched as 'The Sunday Show' in 1991.

1997/2001- On-Air Personality, WNEW-FM Radio (Commercial Station) in New York. Part of the station's 'Classic Rock with Classic Jocks' format. 'Mixed Bag' returns to WNEW.

2001/2012 (April) - On-Air Personality, WVUV-FM Radio (of Fordham University) in New York. 'Mixed Bag' title transfers to WFUV, and show begins to run in the 4-8 pm time slot on Saturday evening.

NOTE: Pete Fornatale's syndicated show "Mixed Bag Radio", produced with Chris Hall was carried on XM Satellite Radio.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The Peter Fornatale Collection consist of correspondence, photographs, articles, notebooks, hand written notes, music lists, “Mixed Bag” radio show ideas ranging from 1970s to 2000s. Peter Fornatale was a longtime Port Washington resident, and a well-known figure in the community. His son Peter Thomas Fornatale donated the collection to the library to share his father love for music and legacy.

ORGANIZATION:

The collection is arranged into six series: Series I through IV are organized chronologically.

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:

- SERIES I: WFUV**
- SERIES II: WNEW**
- SERIES III: K-Rock**
- SERIES IV: Publications**
- SERIES V: Notebooks**
- SERIES VI: Miscellaneous**

Series I: WFUV (1963-1970); (2001-2012) (11 Folders)

Includes materials from “Campus Caravan” and “Mixed Bag” including correspondence, song lists, photographs and radio monologue drafts.

BOX LIST:

Box # 1

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Radio Station Report
2	Memos
3	Campus Caravan
4	Photographs
5	Promotional materials
6	WFUV Bulletin Board
7	Mixed Bag
8	Leave of absence/ Re-appointment paperwork
9	Correspondence
10	Miscellaneous Photographs
11	Miscellaneous

Box # 2

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Mixed Bag, 2001
2	Mixed Bag, 2002
3	Mixed Bag, 2003
4	Mixed Bag, 2004
5	Mixed Bag, 2005
6	Mixed Bag, 2006
7	Mixed Bag, 2007
8	Mixed Bag, 2008

Box # 3

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Mixed Bag Music lists
2	Mixed Bag Miscellaneous
3	Mixed Bag Show Notes
4	Mixed Bag Show Notes
5	Mixed Bag
6	Mixed Bag Radio Scripts
7	Mixed Bag Song List Edits
8	Mixed Bag Song Lists

Series II: WNEW (1969-1989); (1997-2001) (20 Folders)

Includes Mixed Bag correspondence, most notably the transfer of ownership of Mixed Bag to WFUV. Also included are items relating to the World Hunger Festival.

BOX LIST:

Box #4

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Miscellaneous
2	Correspondence
3	Miscellaneous
4	Photographs
5	Photographs
6	Photographs
7	Photographs
8	Photographs
9	Employment Contract
10	Photographs

Box # 5

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Sunday Shows 1986
2	Sunday Shows 1987
3	Sunday Shows 1988
4	Sunday Shows 1989

Box # 6

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Music Sheets I
2	Music Sheets II
3	Music Sheets III
4	Mixed Bag Live with John Scher
5	Thanksgiving Show Music List
6	Correspondence

Series III: K-Rock (1989-1997) (10 Folders)

“Mixed Bag” relaunched as “The Sunday Show” in 1991. Also includes photographs of NYC Earth Day events with former New York Mayor David Dinkins.

BOX LIST:

Box # 7

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Song List
2	Contract
3	Photographs
4	Photographs
5	Employment agreement
6	Photographs
7	Sunday Show
8	Correspondence
9	Photographs
10	Miscellaneous

Series IV: Publications (17 Folders)

This series contains drafts of published works including *Elfis* (also includes book illustration drafts), *Simon and Garfunkel, Back to the Garden : The Story of Woodstock*, and *50 Licks: Myths and Stories from Half a Century of the Rolling Stones*.

BOX LIST:

Box # 9

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Where's It All Going
2	ELFIS: The Elf Who Saved Christmas
3	Publication Proposal for Boob Tube
4	Publication Proposal for Hedgerow
5	Related Published Materials
6	Related Published Materials WRRC
7	Radio in the Television Age
8	50 Licks
9	50 Licks
10	50 Licks
11	A Rock 'N Roll Christmas Carol
12	Articles about Pete Fornatale

Box # 9

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
11	Earworm
12	Back to the Garden the Story of Woodstock
13	Woodstock
14	Woodstock
15	All you need is Love
16	Woodstock Oral Histories
17	Articles written by Pete Fornatale

Series V: Notebooks (7 Folders)

Includes handwritten notepads and bound notebooks detailing Fornatale's Fordham University education as well as radio show ideas.

BOX LIST:

Box # 10

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Communications Arts 21
2	Philosophy 23
3	Communication Arts 183
4	Radio Show / History of Motion Picture Notebook
5	Monthly Notes
6	Notebook
7	Miscellaneous Notepads

Box # 11

Miscellaneous Notepads

Box # 12

Miscellaneous Notebooks

Series VI: Miscellaneous

Information from courses Fornatale taught at NYIT, Fordham, and Adelphi University. Also includes promotional kits and various photographs.

BOX LIST:

Box # 13

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Miscellaneous Correspondence
2	Education Department- Diocese of Rockville Centre
3	Photographs
4	Photographs
5	Photographs
6	Photographs
7	Rick Nelson Press Kit
8	Dog Stock
9	Religion Revisited
10	Media in America
11	College Courses

12 Television Chronicles
13 Chimes of Freedom

Box # 14

Folder

Content

1 College Syllabi
2 Promotional Photographs
3 United Nations Event Contact Sheets
4 Beatles Photograph
5 Tape Inventory Lists
6 Miscellaneous Notes
7 Book Rock & Roll Questions
8 Notes