

GUIDE TO THE PETE FORNATALE COLLECTION



Collection Overview:

Collection Title: THE PETE FORNATALE COLLECTION

Inclusive Dates: 1960 - 2012

Size: 19 Boxes (12.86 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’s 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) (28 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, 1962
2	Memos, 1963-1967
3	Campus Caravan, 1964
4	Photographs, 1965
5	WFUV World Hunger Year Photos, 2001
6	Promotional materials, 2001-2007
7	WFUV Bulletin Board, 2002
8	Mixed Bag, 2002
9	Leave of absence/ Re-appointment paperwork, 2002
10	Correspondence, undated
11	Miscellaneous Photographs, undated
12	Miscellaneous, undated

Box # 2

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
13	Mixed Bag, 2001
14	Mixed Bag, 2002
15	Mixed Bag, 2003
16	Mixed Bag, 2004
17	Mixed Bag, 2005
18	Mixed Bag, 2006
19	Mixed Bag, 2007
20	Mixed Bag, 2008

Box # 3

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
21	Mixed Bag Music lists
22	Mixed Bag Miscellaneous
23	Mixed Bag Show Notes
24	Mixed Bag Show Notes
25	Mixed Bag Show list and notes
26	Mixed Bag Radio Scripts
27	Mixed Bag Song List Edits
28	Mixed Bag Song Lists

Series II: WNEW (1969-1989); (1997-2001) (31 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, 1969-1988
2	Correspondence, 1970-1997
3	Photographs, 1971-1972
4	Photographs, 1972
5	Photograph and letter from Thom Wolke, 1974

Box #5

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
6	Miscellaneous, 1974
7	Photographs, 1977
8	Photographs, Christmas 1978
9	Photographs, 1978
10	Photographs, 1979
11	Miscellaneous, 1980-1998
12	Employment Contract, 1982
13	1 st Anniversary Photographs and handwritten notes, 1984
14	Photographs, 1987
15	Article about Pete's WNEW time by David Wall, Undated

Box # 6

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
16	Sunday Shows, 1986
17	Sunday Shows, 1987
18	Sunday Shows, 1988
19	Sunday Shows, 1989

Box # 7

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
20	Sunday Shows, 1990
21	Sunday Shows, 1991
22	Sunday Shows, 1992
23	Sunday Shows, 1993
24	Sunday Shows, 1994
25	Sunday Shows, 1995

Box # 8

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
26	Music Sheets I, 1971-1974
27	Music Sheets II, 1975-1978
28	Music Sheets III, 1982-1988
29	Correspondence, 1983
30	Mixed Bag Live with John Scher, March 1984
31	Thanksgiving Show Music List, 1985-2000

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 # 9**

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Song List, 1982-1983
2	Contract, 1989
3	Photographs, 1990
4	Photographs- Earth Day, 1990
5	Employment agreement, 1991
6	Photographs – Be- In Event, 1992
7	Sunday Show, 1992
8	Correspondence, 1993
9	Photographs- Anny party, Undated
10	Miscellaneous, 1994

Series IV: Publications (Folders 25)

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 # 10**

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Where's It All Going, 1977
2	ELFIS: The Elf Who Saved Christmas, Nov. 11, 1996
3	The Story of Elfis
4	50 Licks
5	50 Licks
6	50 Licks
7	A Rock 'N Roll Christmas Carol
8	The Television Chronicles
9	Articles about Pete Fornatale

Box #11

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

Box #12

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
17	Publication Proposal for Boob Tube, Jan. 31, 2001
18	Earworms, 2006
19	Publication Proposal for Hedgerow, 2007
20	Related Published Materials
21	Radio in the Television Age
22	Related Published Materials WRRC
23	FM in the 60's: A Different Kind of Static article proposal
24	Fifty Licks
25	The Book of Rock & Roll Questions

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 # 13**

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Communications Arts 21, 1964
2	Philosophy 23, 1965
3	Communication Arts 183, 1965
4	Radio Show / History of Motion Picture Notebook, 1966-1967
5	Monthly Notes, undated
6	Notebook, undated
7	Miscellaneous Notepads, undated

Box # 14

Miscellaneous Notepads

Box # 15

Miscellaneous Notebooks

Series VI: Miscellaneous (Folders 28)

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

BOX LIST:**Box # 16**

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Miscellaneous College Syllabi, 1961-1974
2	Miscellaneous College Essays, 1965
3	Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1966-2007
4	Photographs, 1969-2004
5	Education Department- Diocese of Rockville Centre, 1969
6	Photographs, 1969
7	Media in America, 1973
8	Rick Nelson Press Kit, 1974
9	Religion Revisited. 1979
10	College Courses, 1981-1984
11	Photographs, 1985
12	Show Ideas 1986-1996

Box # 17

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
13	Dog Stock, 1994
14	Photographs, 2004
15	Chimes of Freedom, 2007
16	David Crosby/ Springfield piece,2010
17	Jury Certificate, 10/1/2010
18	Promotional Photographs
19	United Nations Event Contact Sheets
20	Beatles Photograph
21	Tape Inventory Lists
22	Miscellaneous Notes
23	Miscellaneous Notes
24	Articles and Magazines
25	Song List with Annotations

Box # 18

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
26	Articles, Magazines, and Elvis Trading Cards
27	Show or Article ideas
28	Mick Jagger Shea Tour List

*two books by Pete Fornatale are in this box: Wackronyms and All You Need is Love.

Box # 19 – Oversized

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
N/A	Oversized Posters from Radio Stations