

Sexual Representation Collection

Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies

University College, University of Toronto

### **Carlyle Jansen Collection**

#### **Feminist Porn Awards & Toronto's Women & Trans Bathhouse**

#### **Research Guide**

##### **Series Codes:**

JANS.01-03

##### **Accession numbers:**

2013.002.001.001-170; 2013.002.002.001-613; 2013.002.003.001-081; 2013.002.004.001-064;  
2013.002.005.001-022; 2013.002.006.001-032; 2013.002.007.001-005

2014.003.001.001-005; 2014.003.002.001-081; 2014.003.003.001-003

2021.10.21.15.01- 2021.10.21.16.01, 2021.10.21.20.01

2024.001.008.001-086

##### **Extent:**

254 digital files

1491 colour digital photographs

8cm textual records

11 colour photographs

13 posters

2 buttons

11 Trophies

18 Mini DV Cassettes

81 DVDs

**Date Range:**

1993-2016; predominantly 1997-2014

**Biographical History:**

Carlyle Jansen is the founder and owner of Good for Her, a sex-positive sex toy store which operated near Harbord and Bathurst in Toronto from 1997 to 2023. Jansen initially became interested in sexuality and sex education for women from her personal experiences of discovering her orgasm. She gave her first sexual education workshop to her sister, a United Church Minister, and her friends in 1995. During her time facilitating workshops at the YMCA, Jansen observed that many women desired a comfortable, safe space in which to explore such intimate topics, as well as the growing demand for sex-positive workshops. Thus, Good for Her was established.

Good For Her opened in 1997 at 181 Harbord St., with Jansen its sole staff. The original store was open five days a week, its stock limited to a dozen styles of vibrators, five adult DVD titles, and a handful of books. In 1999, after a positive review in Chatelaine Magazine, the store became much busier and moved to a larger location, just three doors down, at 175 Harbord St. Good for Her expanded to include the widest variety of sexuality workshops in Canada, a much larger staff base, and a comprehensive online shop.

In 2001, Chanelle Gallant, Chatelaine's sex expert of over three years, joined Good for Her as its first manager. In 2006, Gallant founded the Feminist Porn Awards in collaboration with and support of Good for Her. Upon Gallant's departure, Jansen continued to support the event while subsequent managers of the shop spearheaded its organization, becoming the Good for Her Feminist Porn Awards in 2008. Alison Lee took over as the manager of Good for Her

and the Director of the Feminist Porn Awards from 2008 through 2011, developing the awards for an international scale and procuring extensive sponsorships. In 2012, Carla Henderson co-directed the awards with Lorraine Hewitt, a longtime employee of Good for Her and burlesque performer under the pseudonym CoCo La Crème. In 2013, Hewitt co-directed the awards with JP Robichaud. Good for Her remained as the core organizing body for the Feminist Porn Awards and formed a committee to manage the event's organization and the jury panel.

Jansen has also been involved in the Toronto Women's Bathhouse Committee since its inception in 1998 following a proposal written in collaboration with the AIDS Committee of Toronto. Later renamed the Toronto Women's and Trans Bathhouse Committee, Good For Her sponsored many of the organization's events, and Jansen remains an active committee member.

Carlyle Jansen is extensively connected to the sex-positive and queer community within Toronto and at large. Her partner, Helen Kennedy, is the executive director of Égale Canada. Good for Her has also sponsored subsidiary events in affiliation with the Feminist Porn Awards, such as the Feminist Porn Conference with Tristan Taormino, and workshops/events with Madison Young and Buck Angel.

### **Custodial History:**

The fonds was donated to the Sexual Representation Collection by Carlyle Jansen, and formerly belonged to Jansen and Good For Her. Respecting the anonymity of the Toronto Women and Trans Bathhouse Committee, restrictions have been placed on sensitive materials such as committee minutes after review by the available former and current committee members. The Feminist Porn Awards trophies were donated to the collection with the consent of their winners.

**Scope & Content:**

The collection consists of photos, textual records, audiovisual recordings, electronic media and artifacts related to Carlyle Jansen's involvement with The Feminist Porn Awards, the Toronto Women and Trans Bathhouse Committee, and Good for Her. Materials include posters and other promotional materials, ephemera such as tickets and buttons, press, programs, internal documents, photographs, and motion pictures on DVD, DVD-R, and Mini DV.

This collection addresses two major Toronto, ON events that cater to sex-positive, feminist, and queer women/trans\* communities: The Feminist Porn Awards and the Toronto Women and Trans Bathhouse Committee. Both events are affiliated with Good For Her, a prominent sex toy store in Toronto founded by Carlyle Jansen.

Records concerning the Toronto Women and Trans Bathhouse reflect the public face of the organization and news coverage of its legal battles following the 2000 raid, as well as private internal records of the organization, such as committee meeting minutes and volunteer guidelines. These materials provide a textual glimpse into the Bathhouse and its organization as it evolved over the late 90s and 2000s, not only in response to legal challenges but also to calls for greater racial, sexual and gender-based inclusion.

**System of Arrangement & Housing:**

This collection was arranged into series based on subject, revising a prior arrangement – which was based on both subject and medium – while retaining the order in which items had been arranged as much as possible. The types of materials include digital textual records, photographs, electronic media, audiovisual materials, and objects.

Materials from the 2013 accession concern the Feminist Porn Awards (FPAs), trophies from the FPAs, and the Toronto Women and Trans Bathhouse Committee. A 2014 donation added more electronic media concerning both the FPAs and the Bathhouse, as well as a few flyers and audiovisual materials. In 2024, Jansen donated books and audiovisual materials as well as two large posters and several additional trophies from the FPAs.

All textual records, all colour photographs, all Mini-DV cassettes, and 4 DVDs are stored in a Neutracor box, Box 1. Trophies can be found in Box 2, a Hollinger box, and the remaining DVDs are kept in three media storage boxes, Box 3-Box 5. Large posters are in oversize storage. All electronic media files including digital photos is accessible through SharePoint. Moving images from Series 1 have been digitized, and were copied onto DVD-R along with all electronic media and photographs. All materials are presently available on-site.

**Subject Access Points:**

- Toronto, ON
- Pornography:
  - o Feminist
  - o Awards
  - o Celebrity
  - o Queer/Trans\*/POC/Ableism
  - o Canadian
  - o Academic Discussion (Feminist Porn Conference)

- Sex-Positive
- Bathhouses
  - o Women/Queer/Trans\*
  - o Toronto, Canada
  - o Rules/Regulations
  - o Legal Issues
- Community-led Events and Promotional Materials
- Sex Toy Stores

**Notes on access and restrictions:**

The collection is open to researchers. A complete spreadsheet listing all materials is available upon request. Researchers wishing to reproduce materials must obtain permission from the Sexual Representation Collection. Patrons interested in records concerning the Toronto Women's and Trans Bathhouse Committee meeting minutes must consult the curator for access.

**Links to Other Collections:**

Other materials related to Feminist Porn Awards participant Tristan Taormino are available in the Tristan Taormino Collection.

An oral history with Carlyle Jansen is accessible as part of the Oral History Collection in audio and video formats.

**Series 1: Feminist Porn Awards**

**Date Range:** 2006-2014

**Extent:**

3 cm textual records

11 posters

2 buttons

11 Trophies

18 Mini DV Cassettes

6 DVDs

1421 digital photographs

170 electronic media files

### **Scope & Content:**

Series consists of textual records, photographs, large posters, objects, moving images and electronic media related to the Feminist Porn Awards, from its first event in 2006 (then called Vixens and Visionaries) through the Ninth Annual Feminist Porn Awards in 2014. Materials primarily consist of promotional materials and visual documentation from the awards ceremony. These records generally reflect the public face of the event, where and when it occurred, and who attended, as well as internal petitions for sponsorships and commitments to diversity and intersectional feminist sex-positive pornography.

### **Series 2: Toronto Women and Trans Bathhouse**

**Date Range:** 1998-2016

#### **Extent:**

3 cm textual records

3 posters

84 electronic media files

**Scope and Content:**

Series consists of textual records and electronic media related to the Toronto Women and Trans Bathhouse from its inception in 1998 until 2016. Records concerning the Toronto Women and Trans Bathhouse reflect the public face of the organization and news coverage of its legal battles following the 2000 raid, as well as private internal records of the organization, such as committee meeting minutes and volunteer guidelines. These materials provide a textual glimpse into the Bathhouse and its organization as it evolved over the late 90s and 2000s, not only in response to legal challenges but also to calls for greater racial, sexual and gender-based inclusion.

**Series 3: Good For Her & Misc.**

**Date Range:** 1993-2014

**Extent:**

2 cm textual records

75 DVDs

**Scope and Content:**

Series consists primarily of textual records and audiovisual materials formerly belonging to Carlyle Jansen and Good for Her, predominantly books and DVDs sold at Good for Her's location at 175 Harbord St. prior to its closure in 2023. Some audiovisual materials may include motion pictures screened at the FPAs or featuring people associated with the FPAs.