

Jason Farrell collection

Special Collections in Performing Arts
University of Maryland Libraries

Processed by: John Davis

Date Processed: April 2016

Size: 2.50 linear feet

Inclusive Dates: 1985-2007

Bulk Dates: 1987-1998

Collection No.: 2016-104-FARRELL-SCPA

SCPA shelf location: L9-3-2, Map cases

Abstract

Jason Farrell (b. December 24, 1969) is a musician, graphic designer, and filmmaker who currently lives in Los Angeles, CA., but also spent several decades as a part of the punk music subculture in the Washington, D.C. area. The Jason Farrell collection contains items that span the years 1985 to 2007; the bulk of the materials date from 1987 to 1998 when Farrell was a member of the bands Swiz and, later, Bluetip. The materials in this collection primarily consist of show fliers and posters that Farrell designed for his bands.

Important Information for Users of the Collection

How to Use This Collection: Please contact the curator at vnovara@umd.edu to arrange access to the materials.

Restrictions: There are no restricted files in this collection.

Preferred Citation: *Jason Farrell collection*, Special Collections in Performing Arts, University of Maryland Libraries.

Publication Rights: All intellectual property remains with Jason Farrell and, as such, the materials in this collection can only be used within the restrictions of U.S. Copyright Law.

Status: This collection is PROCESSED

Historical Note

Jason Farrell (b. December 24, 1969) is a musician, graphic designer, and filmmaker who currently lives in Los Angeles, CA., but also spent several decades as a part of the punk music subculture in the Washington, D.C. area. Born in Washington, D.C. and raised in the suburb of Bethesda, MD., Farrell joined the local punk and skateboarding subcultures as a teenager. Following a brief stint in the mid-1980s as a guitarist/bassist for the band Bells Of, Farrell made his initial mark as the guitarist in Swiz, a hardcore band that existed from 1987 to 1990. Swiz was notable in the D.C. punk scene at the time for straddling a line between the melodic, yet experimental, strain of punk that had come to embody much of D.C.'s then-current punk scene and the more punishing, aggressive hardcore sound that still was prevalent in American punk.

Following the break-up of Swiz, Farrell eventually founded the band Bluetip in early 1995. The band played a brand of punk that was simultaneously tuneful and abrasive, which was consistent with other peer bands from the D.C. punk scene like Fugazi and Kerosene 454. Bluetip saw Farrell stepping forward to sing lead, in addition to his guitar duties, for the first time. Following three albums on Washington, D.C.'s Dischord Records, as well as hundreds of performances around the world, Bluetip disbanded in January 2002.

Newly settled in New York City, Farrell then founded the band, Retisonic. Expanding on Bluetip's sound, Retisonic released a handful of EPs and an LP during the band's brief time together in the mid-2000s. Although the members of Swiz had already reunited once before in the short-lived mid-1990s band Sweetbelly Freakdown, another partial reunion arose in the late

2000s with the formation of Farrell's latest band, Red Hare. Red Hare brought Farrell back together with three of his longtime collaborators -- singer Shawn Brown (Swiz, Sweetbelly Freakdown, Dag Nasty), bassist Dave Eight (Swiz, Sweetbelly Freakdown, Bluetip) and drummer Joe Gorelick (Bluetip, Retisonic). Red Hare continues to both record and perform and stands as Farrell's latest contribution to the punk culture that sprung up from the Washington, D.C. area and has thrived for more than four decades.

Farrell, who graduated from the University of Maryland in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts in advertising design, has also provided graphic design and art direction for nearly two hundred releases from punk labels such as Dischord and Jade Tree Records, along with design work for his own musical projects. He has also written and directed several short films and commercials, as well as music videos for artists like Flag, Bonnie Raitt, and Ted Leo.

Scope and Contents of Collection

The Jason Farrell collection covers the period from 1985 to 2007; the bulk of the materials date from 1987 to 1998. The collection consists of posters, fliers, and ephemera related to Farrell's work as a musician, including his work with bands such as Swiz, Bluetip, and Retisonic.

Custodial History and Acquisition Information

Purchase from Farrell and subsequent gift of Vincent J. Novara, curator of Special Collections in Performing Arts, received in March 2016.

Arrangement of Collection

This collection is organized into five series.

- Series I: Swiz
- Series II: Fury
- Series III: Bluetip
- Series IV: Retisonic
- Series V: Other projects

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Swiz, 1987-1989, undated (12 items)

This series contains posters and fliers that Farrell designed and illustrated for his band, Swiz. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Subseries 1.1: Fliers, 1987-1989, (8 items)

This subseries contains fliers designed by Farrell to promote concerts by his band, Swiz.

Subseries 1.2: Posters, Undated–1989, (4 items)

This subseries contains posters designed by Farrell to promote concerts by his band, Swiz.

Series 2: Fury, 1989 (1 item)

This series contains a flier that Farrell designed and illustrated to promote a concert by his band, Fury. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Subseries 2.1: Fliers, 1989, (1 item)

This subseries contains a flier designed by Farrell to promote a concert by his band, Fury.

Series 3: Bluetip, 1995-2001 (9 items)

This series contains posters and fliers that Farrell designed and illustrated for his band, Bluetip. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Subseries 3.1: Fliers, 1995-1998, (5 items)

This subseries contains fliers designed by Farrell to promote concerts by his band, Bluetip.

Subseries 3.2: Posters, 1995–2001, (4 items)

This subseries contains posters designed by Farrell to promote concerts and recordings by his band, Bluetip.

Series 4: Retisonic, 2007, undated (3 items)

This series contains posters and ephemera that Farrell designed and illustrated for his band, Retisonic. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Subseries 4.1: Posters, 2007, (2 items)

This subseries contains posters designed by Farrell to promote concerts by his band, Retisonic.

Subseries 4.2: Ephemera, undated, (1 item)

This subseries contains ephemera designed by Farrell to promote his band, Retisonic.

Series 5: Other Projects, 1985-1996 (2 items)

This series contains other creative efforts from Farrell. Materials are arranged chronologically.

Subseries 5.1: Posters, 1985-1993, (1 item)

This subseries contains posters designed by Farrell for bands he was not a member of.

Subseries 5.2: Recordings, 1996 (1 item)

This subseries contains recordings related to Farrell's work as a filmmaker and musician.

Box Inventory

Series 1 – Swiz, 1987-1989 (12 items)

Subseries 1 – Fliers, 1987-1989

Box 1

Folder 1	June 25, 1987 – Washington, D.C. – d.c. Space – w/Honor Role (2 copies)
Folder 2	November 18, 1987 – Washington, D.C. – 9:30 Club – w/Dag Nasty and One Word
Folder 3	February 4, 1988 – Washington, D.C. – d.c. Space – w/Eight Ball
Folder 4	June 28, circa 1988 - Washington, D.C. – Hung Jury Pub – w/Ignition, The Motives, Silence After
Folder 5	July 18/25, circa 1988? – Washington, D.C./Baltimore – DC Space/Johns Hopkins University – w/Soul Side, Scream, Kingface, 3
Folder 6	January 23, 1989 – Washington, D.C. – d.c. Space – w/Ulysses (2 copies)
Folder 7	January 23, 1989 – Washington, D.C. – d.c. Space – w/Ulysses (alternate design)
Folder 8	July/August 1989 – United States/Canada tour

Subseries 2 – Posters, 1987-1990

Box 1

- Folder 9 September 26, 1987 – Washington, D.C. – St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church – w/ Fugazi, Darkness at Noon
- Folder 10 September 9 (circa 1988) – Washington, D.C. - 9:30 Club – w/Adolescents and Youth of Today (2 copies)
- Folder 11 November 26, 1988 – Washington, D.C. – Safari Club – w/ Gorilla Biscuits, In Your Face (artist unknown)
- Folder 12 August 3, 1990 – Norwalk, CT. – The Anthrax – w/ Supertouch, American Standard (2 copies)

Series 2 – Fury, 1989 (1 item)

Subseries 1 – Fliers, 1989

Box 1

- Folder 13 April 8, 1989 – Washington, D.C. – Safari Club – w/Underdog, American Standard, and Cut Instinct

Series 3 – Bluetip, 1995-2001 (9 items)

Subseries 1 – Fliers, 1995-1998

Box 1

- Folder 14 October 25, 1995 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat – w/Flagships, B-Bender
- Folder 15 December 23, circa 1995 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat – w/Kepona and Kerosene 454
- Folder 16 February 3, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat – w/The Warmers and The Delta ‘72
- Folder 17 April 25, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat – w/Trans Am and Sideshow
- Folder 18 August 7, 1998 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat – w/The Most Secret Method and Grand National (artwork by Ryan Nelson)

Subseries 2 – Posters, 1995-1998

Box 1

- Folder 19 October 25, 1995 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat – w/Flagships, B-Bender
- Folder 20 United States tour, Fall 1996
- Folder 21 European tour, 2001
- Folder 22 Groningen, Netherlands – Vera - May 13, 2001 (artist unknown)

Series 4 – Retisonic, 2007, undated (3 items)

Subseries 1 – Posters, 2007

Box 1

- Folder 23 Levittown EP promotional poster, 2007
- Folder 24 European Tour 2007

Subseries 2 – Ephemera, undated

Box 1

Folder 25 Stickers, undated

Series 5 – Other Projects, 1985-1993, undated (2 items)

Subseries 1 – Posters, 1985-1993

Box 1

Folder 26 Lungfish – Rainbows From Atoms promotional poster, 1993

Subseries 2 – Recordings, 1996

Box 1

Folder 29 “North Rt. 1” short film, VHS tape, 1996

Related Material

- Bluetip, *Dischord No. 101*, compact disc:
<https://umaryland.on.worldcat.org/oclc/39974064?databaseList=638>
- Sharon Cheslow Punk Fliers, 1979-1991
- John Davis Collection
- D.C. Punk and Indie Fanzine Collection ([finding aid](#))