

The John Davis collection on punk

Special Collections in Performing Arts
University of Maryland Libraries

Processed by: Vin Novara
Date Processed: May 2016 with continuing accruals
Size: 5.25 Linear Feet
Inclusive Dates: 1980-2017
Bulk Dates: 1994-1999
Collection No.: 16-27-DAVIS
SCPA shelf location: L9-3-4, Map Case

Abstract

John Davis (b 1976, Elmhurst, IL) is an American musician, fanzine editor, librarian, and archivist. The John Davis collection on punk contains items that span the period from 1980 to 2013; the bulk of the material dates from 1994 to 1999 when Davis was editing the fanzines, *Slanted* and *Held Like Sound*. The collection contains concert photographs taken by Davis, fliers advertising punk concerts that Davis collected throughout the 1990s, ephemera related to D.C. punk culture, and posters mostly related to his career as a musician.

Important Information for Users of the Collection

Restrictions: There are no restricted files in this collection.

Preferred Citation: *John Davis collection on punk*, Special Collections in Performing Arts, University of Maryland Libraries.

Publication Rights: Materials from this collection must be used in the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library's Irving and Margery Morgan Lowens Special Collections Room, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Please make an appointment with the curator: Vincent J. Novara Tel: 301.405.9220, Email: vnovara@umd.edu

Status: This collection is PROCESSED

Historical Note

John Davis (b 1976, Elmhurst, IL) is an American musician, fanzine editor, librarian, and archivist. Raised in the Washington, DC area, Davis became a participant in DC's thriving punk subculture as a teenager in the early 1990s. Davis made his initial mark in the local punk community as a guitarist in the band Corm (1992-1997), as well as with his work as a fanzine editor on *Slanted* (1993-1995) and *Held Like Sound* (1996-2002).

From 1998 to 2005, he was the drummer in Q And Not U. The group released three full-length albums and three singles on Dischord Records, the flagship record label for DC's punk scene. Q And Not U performed more than 400 concerts on four continents, and sold in excess of 100,000 copies of its albums, a notable feat for an independent band. Following his tenure in Q And Not U, Davis started the band Georgie James, in which he played guitar and sang. Since Georgie James' breakup in 2008, Davis has released three albums with his solo project, Title Tracks, and has released one album and an EP with Paint Branch, a project formed with his erstwhile Q And Not U bandmate (and current *Washington Post* Pop Critic), Chris Richards.

In 2012, Davis obtained a Master of Science in Library and Information Science degree from the Catholic University of America, which enabled him to embark on a new career as an archivist and special collections librarian. He is currently the Performing Arts Metadata Archivist at the Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library at the University of Maryland. In 2015, he co-created a new fanzine, his first project of the sort in more than a decade, called *Confab*.

Scope and Contents of Collection

The John Davis Photographs and Posters collection covers the period from 1980 to 2013; the bulk of the materials date from 1994 to 1999. The collection consists of photographs and posters mostly related to Davis' work in the punk music subculture, both as a musician and as a fanzine editor. The photographs, all taken by Davis, were taken at various punk concerts in the mid-1990s, primarily in the Washington D.C. area.

Custodial History and Acquisition Information

Gift of John Davis, received in August 2015 with an additional donation in December 2016.

Arrangement of Collection

This collection is organized into three series.

- Series 1: Photographs
- Series 2: Posters
- Series 3: Fliers
- Series 4: Ephemera

Series Descriptions

Series 1. Photographs, 1993-1997 (0.50 Linear Feet)

This series contains photographs taken by Davis at concerts in the mid-1990s. Materials are arranged alphabetically by performer.

Series 2. Posters, 1980-2013 (4.00 Linear Feet)

This series contains posters collected by Davis. Materials are arranged alphabetically by performer.

Series 3. Fliers, 1989-1999 (0.50 linear feet)

This series contains fliers advertising performances for concerts. With a few exceptions, the fliers are advertising concerts held in the Washington, D.C. area and feature D.C. area punk bands. Materials are arranged alphabetically by headlining performer.

Series 4. Ephemera, 1983-2017 (10 items)

This series contains ephemera – ticket stubs, set lists, etc. – collected by Davis. Materials are arranged alphabetically by performer.

Box Inventory

Series 1 – Photographs, 1993-1997

Box 1

Folder 1 - 31 Short - Live at Black Cat, September 1994 (2 photos)

Folder 2 – Antimony - Live at Alternatives Festival, Fall 1994

Folder 3 – Arm - Live at WMUC, 1997

Folder 4 - Branch Manager - Live at 9:30 Club, Fall 1994 (5 photos)

Folder 5 – Chisel - Live at Black Cat, circa 1995 (2 photos)
Folder 6 - Crownhate Ruin, The - Live at Black Cat, circa 1995 (2 photos)
Folder 7 - Crownhate Ruin, The - Live at George Washington University, 1996 (2 photos)
Folder 8 - Crownhate Ruin, The - Live at UMBC, 1996
Folder 9 - Dismemberment Plan, The - Live at American University Tavern, 1996
Folder 10 - Enigk, Jeremy - Live at Black Cat, 1996 (2 photos)
Folder 11 - Ethel Meserve - Live at George Washington University, 1996 (2 photos)
Folder 12 – Fugazi - Live at Black Cat, 1995
Folder 13 - Get Up Kids - Live at Fusebox, 1995
Folder 14 - Gray Matter - Live at Black Cat, September 1994
Folder 15 - Holy Rollers - Live at 9:30 Club, Fall 1994 (5 photos)
Folder 16 - Holy Rollers - Live at Black Cat, September 1994 (4 photos)
Folder 17 – Hoover - Live at Black Cat, April 1994 (7 photos)
Folder 18 – Jawbox - Live at American University Tavern photograph, 1996
Folder 19 – Jawbox - Live at 9:30 Club photograph, 1994
Folder 20 – Jenhitt - Live at WMUC photograph, 1997 (3 photos)
Folder 21 - June of '44 - Live at Black Cat photograph, 1996 (2 copies)
Folder 22 - Kerosene 454 - Live at Black Cat photograph, circa 1996 (2 copies)
Folder 23 - The Make Up - Live at 9:30 Club photograph, 1994
Folder 24 - Norman Mayer Group - Live at Black Cat, September 1994
Folder 25 – Pitchblende - Live at 9:30 Club, Fall 1994 (3 photos)
Folder 26 - Regulator Watts - Live at Black Cat, circa 1996
Folder 27 – Sideshow - Live at Black Cat photograph, April 1994 (2 photos)
Folder 28 - Sunny Day Real Estate - Live at Black Cat, December 1994 (3 photos)
Folder 29 – Tsunami - Live at Black Cat, Summer 1995
Folder 30 - Velocity Girl - Live at American University Tavern, September 1993
Folder 31 – Versus - Live at Black Cat, circa Fall 1994
Folder 32 - Your Majesty - Live at 9:30 Club, Fall 1994

Series 2 – Posters, 1980-2013

Box 2

Folder 1 – Arm – April 12, 1997 – College Park, MD. - WMUC
Folder 2 – The Clash - “Black Market Clash” promotional poster - 1980
Folder 3 – Elvis Costello - “Get Happy” promotional poster – 1980
Folder 4 – Crownhate Ruin, The – July 5, 1995 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 5 – Dismemberment Plan, The – Tour poster – circa 1995
Folder 6 – Ethel Meserve – May 31, 1997 – Arlington, VA. – Galaxy Hut
Folder 7 – The Others – March 7, 1997 – Washington, D.C. – Fort Reno Park
Folder 8 - Q And Not U - July 3, 2003 – Ottawa, ON. (2 copies)
Folder 9 – Q And Not U - Fall 2003 Tour (2 copies)
Folder 10 – Q And Not U - September 15, 2003
Folder 11 – Q And Not U - June 25, 2004
Folder 12 – Q And Not U - October 19, 2004
Folder 13 – Q And Not U - October 21, 2004

Folder 14 – Slant 6 / Jawbox – March 3, 1995 & April 7 1995 – Washington, D.C. – Wilson Center
Folder 15 – Title Tracks - October 10, 2013 – Washington, D.C. – Rock and Roll Hotel
Folder 16 – 12 Tone System – December 14, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – Kaffa House
Folder 17 – White Lodge Spring Fling – State College, PA. – State College VFW Hall
Folder 18 – Wire - November 8, 2002 – Antwerp, Belgium – Hof Ter Loo
Folder 19 – Womens Festival '94 – Washington, D.C. – May 19-24, 1994

Series 3 – Fliers, 1989-1999

Folder 1 – Absolutely Boxspring – December 29, 1999 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 2 – Alternatives Music Festival - October 14, 1995 – Washington, D.C. – Dupont Circle
Folder 3 – Anasarca – June 19, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – George Washington University
Folder 4 – Bikini Kill – February 26, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – George Washington University
Folder 5 – Blast Off Country Style – July 29, 1994 - Arlington, VA. – O'Carroll's
Folder 6 – Bluetip – October 25, 1995 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 7 – Bluetip – November 2, 1996 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 8 – Bluetip – August 7, 1998 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 9 – Boom, The – August 10, 1998 – Washington, D.C. – DCCD
Folder 10 – Braid / Compound Red / Shiner – September 2-4, 1998 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat/Metro Café (three separate concerts listed on one flier)
Folder 11 – Capitol City Dusters – August 9, 1999 – Washington, D.C. – Fort Reno Park
Folder 12 – Chisel – May 26, 1995 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 13 – Chisel – February 25, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – Georgetown University
Folder 14 – Chisel – circa February 15, 1997 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 15 – Circus Lupus – April 24, 1993 – Washington, D.C. – St. Stephen's Church
Folder 16 – Citizen Fish / Lois – April 2 and April 14, 1994 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat (two separate concerts listed on one flyer)
Folder 17 – Corm – December 13, 1993 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 18 – Corm - November 29, 1996 – Annapolis, MD. – House show
Folder 19 – Corm – June 30, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – Happy Hardcore House
Folder 20 – Corm – January 13, 1997 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 21 – Corm – March 24, 1997 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 22 – Crainium, The – circa October 1, 1997 - Washington, D.C. – Project Space
Folder 23 – Crownhate Ruin, The – March 7, 1996 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 24 – Crownhate Ruin, The – December 1, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – SEIU Hall
Folder 25 – Damnation AD – April 26, 1996 – Philadelphia, PA. - First Unitarian Church
Folder 26 – Dead Meadow – December 6, 1999 – Arlington, VA. – Galaxy Hut
Folder 27 – Dismemberment Plan, The – January 8, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 28 – Dismemberment Plan, The - November 21, 1996 – Wheaton, MD. – Phantasmagoria
Folder 29 – Dismemberment Plan, The – September 13, 1997 – Washington, D.C. – St. Margaret's Church (design 1)
Folder 30 – Dismemberment Plan, The – September 13, 1997 – Washington, D.C. – St. Margaret's Church (design 2)
Folder 31 – Dusters, The - November 8 1996 – Arlington, VA. – Go! Compact Discs
Folder 32 – Earthwell – Spring 1996 – upcoming concert schedule from promoter

Folder 33 – Edsel – August 2, 1991 – Washington, D.C. – 9:30 Club
Folder 34 – Edsel - January 13, 1995 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 35 – Fort Reno Concert Series schedule – July 15-August 30, 1993 – Washington, D.C. – Fort Reno Park
Folder 36 – 400 Years - February 6, 1998 – Baltimore, MD. – The Small Intestine
Folder 37 – French Mistake, The – May 8, 1998 – Baltimore, MD. – The Small Intestine
Folder 38 – Frodus – August 5, 1994 – Arlington, VA. – O’Carroll’s
Folder 39 – Frodus – June 16, 1995 – Potomac, MD. – House show
Folder 40 – Frodus – August 10, 1995 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 41 – Frodus – June 1, 1996 - Potomac, MD. – House show
Folder 42 – Frodus – November 23, 1996 – State College, PA. – Penn State University
Folder 43 – Frodus – December 29, 1996 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 44 – Frodus / The Make-Up – June 21 and 27, 1997 - Washington, D.C. - St. Aloysius Church/Foundry Methodist Church (two separate concerts listed on one flyer)
Folder 45 – Frodus – November 28, 1999 – Washington, D.C. – Metro Café
Folder 46 – Fugazi – January 12, 1991 – Washington, D.C. – White House
Folder 47 – Fugazi – April 2, 1993 – College Park, MD. – Ritchie Coliseum
Folder 48 – Fugazi – August 7, 1993 – Washington, D.C. – Sylvan Theater
Folder 49 – Fugazi – November 20, 1994 – Takoma Park, MD. – Long Branch Community Center
Folder 50– Fugazi – March 2, 1995 – Catonsville, MD. – UMBC Ballroom
Folder 51 – Fugazi – May 12, 1998 – Baltimore, MD. – Teamsters’ Union Hall
Folder 52 – Fugazi – July 31, 1998 – Washington, D.C. – Sanctuary Theatre
Folder 53 – Fugazi “Instrument” screening – April 16, 1999 – Washington, D.C. – Sidwell Friends School
Folder 54 – Great Unraveling, The – December 7, 1996 – Washington, D.C. - Kaffa House
Folder 55 – Holy Rollers – October 11, 1989 – Washington, D.C. – D.C. Space
Folder 56 – Holy Rollers – May 18, 1994 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 57 – [Hoover – July 2, 1993 – Washington, D.C. – St. Stephen’s Church](#)
Folder 58 – Hose Got Cable – October 27, 1995 – Philadelphia, PA. – First Unitarian Church
Folder 59 – Impossible Five, The – October 12, 1997 – Bethesda, MD. – River Road Unitarian Church
Folder 60 – Indie Rock Flea Market – July 9, 1994 – Arlington, VA.
Folder 61 – Into Another – July 9, 1993 – Washington, D.C. – St. Stephen’s Church
Folder 62 – Into Another – April 19, 1994 – Washington, D.C. – Nightbreed Lounge
Folder 63 – Jawbox – April 23, 1993 – Hour Haus – Baltimore, MD.
Folder 64 – Jawbox – June 5, 1993 – Washington, D.C. – St. Stephen’s Church
Folder 65 – Jawbox – August 7, 1993 – Washington, D.C. – St. Stephen’s Church
Folder 66 – Jawbox – December 1993-January 1994 – Washington, D.C. – various venues
Folder 67 – Jawbox – December 18, 1993 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 68 – Jawbox – August 7, 1995 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 69 – Jawbox – March 1, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – American University
Folder 70 – Jawbox – September 28, 1996 – College Park, MD. – University of Maryland
Folder 71 – Jawbox / Girls Against Boys – January 24 and 25, 1997 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat (two separate concerts listed on one flyer)

Folder 72 – Juno – November 20, 1999 – Arlington, VA. – Kansas House
Folder 73 – Kepone – December 23, 1995 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat (design 1)
Folder 74 – Kepone – December 23, 1995 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat (design 2)
Folder 75 – Kepone – circa August 30, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 76 – Kerosene 454 – July 7, 1995 – Washington, D.C. – Club Soda
Folder 77 – Kerosene 454 - September 5, 1997 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 78 – Kid Dynamite – December 4, 1999 – Washington, D.C. – Wilson Center
Folder 79 – Lois – February 18, 1994 – Harrisonburg, VA. – James Madison University
Folder 80 – Lungfish – circa 1998 – Washington, D.C. – unidentified location (probably Wilson Center)
Folder 81 – Make-Up, The – August 25, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – SEIU Hall
Folder 82 – Make-Up, The – August 22, 1998 – Washington, D.C. – Sanctuary Theatre
Folder 83 – Mineral – September 9, 1997 – College Park, MD. - WMUC
Folder 84 – Modest Mouse – September 6, 1997 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 85 – Most Secret Method, The – February 26, 1997 – The Cadillac Club
Folder 86 – Most Secret Method, The – September 21, 1997 – Rockville, MD. – Resin House
Folder 87 – Most Secret Method, The – July 2, 1998 – Washington, D.C. – The Metro Cafe
Folder 88 – Norman Mayer Group – February 14, 1994 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 89 – Norman Mayer Group – August 17, 1997 – Wheaton, MD. - Phantasmagoria
Folder 90 – Onespot Fringehead – April 15 and 17, 1994 – Annapolis, MD and Baltimore, MD.
Folder 91 – Others, The – circa January 19, 1998 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 92 – January 16, 1999 – Rah Brahs – Arlington, VA. – Galaxy Hut
Folder 93 – Rachel’s – August 22, 1996 – Kalamazoo, MI. – Club Soda
Folder 94 – Rainer Maria – July 9, 1998 – Baltimore, MD. – The Small Intestine
Folder 95 – Rain Like The Sound of Trains – March 21, 1993 – Washington, D.C. – Washington Peace Center
Folder 96 – Regulator Watts – February 1, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 97 – Regulator Watts – August 11, 1997 – Minneapolis, MN. – Extreme Noise Records
Folder 98 – Remington – July 28, 1996 – Indianapolis, IN. – The Sitcom
Folder 99 – Rollercoaster – February 3, 1994 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 100 – Rondelles – December 17, 1999 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 101 – Sammy - June 23, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 102 – Sarge – May 26, 1997 – Arlington, VA. – Galaxy Hut
Folder 103 – Sea Tiger – March 13, 1999 – Washington, D.C. – American University
Folder 104 – Shift – circa 1996 – Washington, D.C. – House show
Folder 105 – Shudder To Think – April 8, 1993 – Washington, D.C. – Artscience Warehouse
Folder 106 – Sideshow – December 1, 1995 – Lincoln, NE. – Wagon Train Project
Folder 107 – Simple Machines 50th Party – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 108 – Sleepytime Trio – November 5, 1996 – Washington, D.C. - Black Cat
Folder 109 – Sleepytime Trio – December 5, 1999 – Washington, D.C. – Wilson Center
Folder 110 – Smart Went Crazy – October 3, 1996 – College Park, MD. - WMUC
Folder 111 – Spazz – circa June 26, 1998 – College Park, MD. - WMUC
Folder 112 – Thee Flypped Wigs – February 4, 1996 – Springfield, VA. – Record Convergence
Folder 113 – Tilden Shirtwaist Fire, The – February 10, 1996 – Annapolis, MD. – House show

Folder 114 – Tilden Shirtwaist Fire, The – April 20, 1996 – Annapolis, MD. – House show
Folder 115 – Tilden Shirtwaist Fire, The – January 11, 1997 – Annapolis, MD. – Shore Acres Clubhouse
Folder 116 – Trusty / The Volatiles – June 1 and June 4, 1996 – Baltimore, MD. – The Loft and The Shuffle House (two separate concerts listed on one flyer)
Folder 117 – Trusty – July 18, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – Fort Reno Park
Folder 118 – Tsunami – July 5, 1994 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 119 - 12 Tone System – December 14, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – Kaffa House (design 1)
Folder 120 - 12 Tone System – December 14, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – Kaffa House (design 2)
Folder 121 – Vita Bruno – September 13, 1999 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 122 – Vita Bruno – October 18, 1999 – Arlington, VA. – Galaxy Hut (design 1)
Folder 123 – Vita Bruno – October 18, 1999 – Arlington, VA. – Galaxy Hut (design 2)
Folder 124 – Warmers, The – June 6, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – Red
Folder 125 – Warmers, The – November 22, 1996 – Washington, D.C. – First Congregational Church
Folder 126 – WMUC promotional flier – circa 1996 – College Park, MD.

Series 4 – Ephemera, 1983-2017

Folder 1 - Bad Moves – DCPL Punk Archive Basement Show ticket stub – February 2, 2017
Folder 2 - Cupid Car Club – set list - September 1993 – Washington, D.C. – Black Cat
Folder 3 – Fugazi, booklet distributed at concert, April 2, 1993
Folder 4 - Fugazi, booklet distributed at concert, August 7, 1993
Folder 5 - Fugazi ticket stub, September 3, 1997
Folder 6 - Fugazi ticket stub, December 5, 1999
Folder 7 - Give - DCPL Punk Archive Basement Show ticket stub, June 11, 2015
Folder 8 - Jawbox – set list circa 1993 (on back of flier for June 5, 1993 show at St. Stephen's)
Folder 9 - Jawbox – set list circa 1994 (on back of flier for October 30, 1993 show at Black Cat)
Folder 10 - Minor Threat, "Out Of Step" certificate, July 27, 1983
Folder 11 - Simple Machines Farewell Party mailer – 1998

Related Material

- D.C. Punk and Indie Fanzine Collection ([finding aid](#))
- Jason Farrell Flyers & Posters Collection, 1987-2012 ([finding aid](#))
- Sharon Cheslow Punk Flyers Collection, 1979-1991 ([finding aid](#))