# Lewis M. Allen:

## An Inventory of His Papers for The Queen (1968) at the Harry Ransom Center

### **Descriptive Summary**

Creator: Allen, Lewis M., 1922-2003

**Title:** Lewis M. Allen Papers for *The Queen* (1968)

**Dates:** 1967-2001, undated

**Extent:** 5 document boxes, plus an additional 12 folders located in 5 other

document boxes (2.62 linear feet)

**Abstract:** Executive producer Lewis M. Allen's files for the documentary film

The Queen (1968)—a behind-the-scenes look at the 1967 Miss All-American Camp Beauty Pageant in New York City—include correspondence, publicity materials, financial and legal records, and visual materials. The files document the film's production, original domestic release, international distribution, reception, censorship, film festival showings, 25th anniversary re-release and screenings,

and video release.

Call Number: Film Collection FI-00059

**Language:** English with some items written in French, German, Italian, or

Spanish

**Note:** This finding aid describes only part of the Lewis M. Allen Papers,

namely the files documenting Allen's role as executive producer for *The Queen* (1968). These files are now also available as a <u>digital</u> <u>collection</u> created for a collaborative project led by the <u>Digital</u> <u>Transgender Archive</u> with support from the <u>Council on Library and Information Resources</u>. Please contact the <u>Ransom Center</u> for further

information about the rest of the Lewis M. Allen Papers.

**Access:** Open for research. Researchers must create an online Research

Account and agree to the Materials Use Policy before using archival

materials.

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confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations. Researchers are advised that the disclosure of certain information pertaining to identifiable living individuals represented in the collections without the consent of those

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#### **Administrative Information**

Preferred Lewis M. Allen Papers for *The Queen* (1968) (Film Collection

**Citation:** FI-00059). Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin.

**Acquisition:** Gifts, 2004-2006

**Processed by:** Finding aid created by Dr. Amy Fast, Cristina Liendo, Cameron

Pirzadeh, Jesse Trussell, 2006; Hagan Barber, 2012 (for the Lewis M. Allen Papers); Joan Sibley, 2024 (for the Lewis M Allen Papers for

The Queen (1968)).

**Repository:** Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

## **Scope and Contents**

Lewis M. Allen (1922-2003) was an American film and Broadway producer, best known for producing film versions of *The Connection* (1961), *Fahrenheit 451* (1966), and *Lord of the Flies* (1963 and 1990), as well as stage productions of the Tony Award-winning shows *Annie* (1977), *I'm Not Rappaport* (1986), and *Master Class* (1996).

The Lewis M. Allen Papers contain Allen's files for *The Queen* (1968), which include correspondence, publicity materials, financial and legal records, and visual materials. The files document the film's production, original domestic release, international distribution, reception, censorship, film festival showings, 25th anniversary screenings, and video release.

The Queen is a behind-the-scenes look at the 1967 Miss All-American Camp Beauty Pageant in New York City, which was organized by LGBTQ icon and activist Flawless Sabrina (Jack Doroshow, 1939-2017). The competitors included Harlow (Richard Finocchio, later known as Rachel Harlow) and Crystal LaBeija (who later formed the House of LaBeija featured in *Paris Is Burning*, 1990). Among the contest judges were Andy Warhol, Edie Sedgwick, Larry Rivers, Terry Southern, and several others.

When entertainment lawyer Si Litvinoff was approached with the idea of filming a documentary of the pageant, he enlisted Lewis Allen as executive producer. They were joined by director and cinematographer Frank Simon, producer Don Herbert, and executive producer John Maxtone-Graham. *The Queen* became the first film distributed by Grove Press's new film division.

Best represented among the correspondents are Lewis M. Allen, Don Herbert, Si Litvinoff, John Maxtone-Graham, and Chris Robinson (who booked 25th anniversary and other screenings, 1993-1994). Jack Doroshow's original announcement of the 1967 Nationals is present, along with correspondence from Ellen Fisher Turk (director of *Split*, 1994, a portrait of International Chrysis), Linda (Les) Simpson, and several fan letters written to Rachel Harlow. There are also two brief handwritten manuscripts by Harlow, titled "After the Club" and "New York A Safe Place."

For more information about *The Queen* and the 2020 Kino Lorber restoration, see:

Harry Ransom Center. <u>All hail *The Queen!* An interview with drag historian Joe E.</u> <u>Jeffreys</u>. *Ransom Center Magazine*, June 26, 2020.

Wilson, Steve. *The Queen*. Ransom Center Magazine, June 8, 2020.

#### **Related Material**

New York University, Fales Library and Special Collections: <u>Jack Doroshow / Flawless Sabrina Papers</u>, 1937-2018.

# **Separated Material**

Materials in the Ransom Center's Moving Image Collection for Lewis M. Allen include extensive holdings for *The Queen*. The Center's original 16mm camera negatives and numerous outtakes were used to create Kino Lorber's 4K restoration (2020), building on work done by UCLA Film & Television Archive, Outfest UCLA Legacy Project, and the Harry Ransom Center.

#### **Index Terms**

#### **People**

Allen, Lewis M., 1922-2003.

Doroshow, Jack.

Harlow, Rachel.

Herbert, Don.

LaBeija, Crystal.

Litvinoff, Si.

Maxtone-Graham, John.

Robinson, Chris.

# **Organizations**

Grove Press.

Lewis Allen Productions.

Vineyard Films.

#### **Subjects**

Beauty contests -- United States.

Cannes Film Festival (21st: 1968).

Crossdressers.

Documentary films -- Censorship.

Documentary films -- Distribution.

Documentary films -- Finance.

Documentary films -- Production and direction.

Documentary films -- Reviews.

Drag queens.

Film festivals.

Gender identity -- United States -- 20th century.

LGBTQ+ people.

Queen (Motion picture: 1968).

Transgender people.

# **Document Types**

Advertisements.

Clippings.

Correspondence.

Film stills.

Financial records.

Legal documents.

Manuscripts.

Photographs.

Press kits.

Press releases.

Reviews.

38.2

# Series I. Files for *The Queen*, 1967-2001, undated:

Titles given below in single quotation marks are original folder titles.

**Container** Correspondence 1993; clippings, publicity, press reviews, 1967-1968. 38.1

Correspondence from Jack Doroshow representative, 1979 enclosing clippings, 1978-1979; proposed Queen sequel with Rachel Harlow: preliminary budget, Container undated; Lewis Allen's handwritten draft; financial and legal papers, 1967, 1975, undated; After the Club, 3-page handwritten text by Harlow with clipping re Harlow, undated; correspondence 1975-1979; notes.

Cannes publicity, 1968, written in French; advertisements and press clippings, Container 1967-1968, 1972, undated. 38.3

Correspondence, press clippings, publicity, key to stills, 1967-1969, 1975, 1991; Container 1993, undated. Some items written in French. 38.4

Press clippings, 1967-1968. Container 38.5

New York A Safe Place, 5-page handwritten text by Rachel Harlow (references Container 1971 film A Safe Place by Henry Jaglom), undated; correspondence, 1968; press 38.6 clippings, 1967-1969. Some items written in French.

'Australia': correspondence, invoices, censorship screening, distribution rights, Container agreements, 1968-1971 38.7

Container 'De Luxe Labs' print orders, correspondence, invoices, 1968-1969. 38.8

Container 'Certificate of origin': correspondence, legal forms, 1968. 38.9

'France': correspondence, accounting, invoices, contracts, 1967-1975. Some items Container written in French. 38.10

'Denmark': correspondence, destruction certificate, invoices, agreements, Container 1968-1972. 38.11

Container 'Great Britain': correspondence, invoices, financial reports, 1968-1978. 38.12

**Container** 'Germany Austia': correspondence re distribution and rights, 1968-1971. 39.1

Container

Container

40.2

40.3

**Container** 'Finland': correspondence, invoices, agreement, 1968-1969. 39.2 'Cannes' Film Festival: program pages, correspondence, invoices, shipping Container documents, publicity with Italian and German synopses for The Queen, 1968. Some 39.3 items written in French, German, or Italian. 'Photos': film stills, 1967 and publicity, undated; Invitation for the Miss All-American Camp Beauty Pageant, 20 February 1967; Invitation for Paris **Container** screening 13 November 1968. Some items written in French. Some stills with 39.4 publicity for 19 March 1993 premiere for 25th anniversary screenings. 'Press' Cannes Film Festival: publicity materials, clippings, photo list, press list, program pages, correspondence, 1968-1969, some items written in French; Container Invitation/RSVP card for 13 November 1968 Paris showing; Film Forum, New York 39.5 City: John Sorensen letter, activities list, notes, publicity materials with edits, 1992. 'Los Angeles': correspondence, 1994. Container 39.6 Container 39.7 'Portugal offer': correspondence, 1995. 'Random letters': screenings, including New York Film Forum Actors Fund of Container America AIDS benefit, 1993-1995. 39.8 **Container** 'Balfour': Jane Balfour Films, correspondence, invoice, 1993-1994. 39.9 'Queer Screen' Ltd. and Mardi Gras Film Festival, Australia: correspondence, **Container** clippings, program pages, 1994-1995. 39.10 'Rejection slips from cable channels': submission forms, press releases, Dove Audio Container contract, 1992-1994. 39.11 'Other cities': film festivals and showings (Washington DC, Tampa, Minneapolis/St. Container Paul, Baltimore, Brookline), correspondence, forms, 1993. 39.12 'Old letters' Film Fest DC: registration, press clippings, correspondence, box office **Container** statement, notes, 1993. 39.13 'Film Forum', New York City: correspondence, gross receipts, press clippings, press Container release, media list, ticket order forms, flyers, 1992-1993. 40.1

'Foreign' Overseas sales: correspondence, Grove Press sales, The Queen Company

'Sex is... info': bookings and press release; theatre contact list; Last call at Maud's

notes to financial statements, miscellaneous notes, 1968, 1993.

exhibition schedule; 1993, undated.

'Split' and The Queen: publicity materials including ads and press clippings; photographs and film stills; correspondence, 1993.	Container 40.4
'One-sheet' poster for The Queen: correspondence and samples, 1993.	Container 40.5
'Memos and correspondence': re-release: press clipping, copyright information 1992-1995.	Container 40.6
'Chicago': box office report, correspondence, 1993.	Container 40.7
'Landmark' Theatres, Los Angeles: correspondence, press clipping, 1993-1994	Container 40.8
'Lypsinka short' (John Epperson) Anything Goes: correspondence, 1994.	Container 40.9
Video: correspondence, Frameline distribution catalog, press clippings, 1992-	1993. <b>Container</b> 40.10
'San Francisco': press clippings, box office reports, invoices, correspondence, publicity materials, 1967-1968, 1993-1994.	Container 40.11
Boston: press clippings, correspondence, 1993-1994.	Container 40.12
'That French video thing' France: God Save the Queens: contract, invoices, correspondence, 1994-1995.	Container 40.13
'Spain guy (Charles Heppell)': invoices, correspondence, 1995. Some items wi in Spanish.	ritten Container 40.14
'Art House (British video deal)': Art House Productions, United Kingdom correspondence, agreements, statements, invoices, insolvency papers, 1994-19	Container 40.15
'Box office to be filed': invoices, checks, box office receipts, correspondence, House Productions film catalog, 1994.	Art Container 40.16
'Information (account numbers, etc.) and memos': correspondence, invoices, clippings, advertisements, 1993-1994.	hecks, Container 40.17
Finance: expenses for Lewis M. Allen, 1984?	Container 163.3
Press clippings, 1968.	Container 297.9

Photographs: film stills; contact sheets and prints by Howard Kanovitz (most approximately 8x10), 1967.	Container 367.1
Photographs: prints (4x6, 5x7), negatives, Film Forum party, 1993?	Container 367.2
Photographs: paper copies of contact sheets, prints, 1967?	Container 367.3
Film Forum, New York City: correspondence, press clippings, 1992-1993, 1997.	Container 367.4
Chris Robinson: correspondence/reports to Lewis Allen, 1994.	Container 367.5
Art House Productions: correspondence, insolvency papers, director's report to creditors, 1994, 1996-1997.	Container 367.6
Miscellaneous: correspondence, 1989, 1993, 1994-1996; box office reports, 1994; The Queen quarterly royalties, 1995-2000; checks, 1998-2001.	Container 367.7
Financial: box office reports, 1994; The Queen quarterly royalties, 1995-2000; checks, 1998-2001.	Container 367.8
'Press/reviews' Film Forum: copies of earlier press clippings and publicity materials (1967-1969) gathered for premiere/re-release in 1993, some items written in French correspondence, press clippings, press releases, advertisements, press stills list for premiere/re-release, 1992-1993.	
Grove Press: agreements, 1967; correspondence, 1967-1981; financial reports, 1967-1976; statements, 1977-1981; royalty checks, 1979-1981; profit/loss statement 1991-1995.	Container 367.10
Mounted logo models: The Queen, 1993.	ainer 367.11
Fan letters to Harlow, 1973, 1975, undated.	tainer 368.1
Résumé (Alex de Laszlo), correspondence re distribution, 1984-1985.	Container 368.2
Review clippings, sample quotes, publicity, 1967-1968, 1993-1994, undated.	Container 368.3
Press kit master, includes invitation (Miss All-American Camp Beauty Pageant), publicity, advertisements, logo, press clippings, press contacts list, 1967-1968, 1993-1994, undated.	Container 368.4

Cannes guide, 1968; publicity materials, press contacts list, 1968, undated; correspondence, 1992, 1996; First Run Features home video catalog, 1996. Some items written in French, German, or Italian.

Container 368.5

Spare press clippings, publicity, 1993-1994.

Container 368.6

Press clippings, publicity, correspondence, 1967-1969, 1972-1973, 1980-1982, 1994-1996, undated. Some items written in French, German, or Italian.

Container 368.7

Financial reports, tax forms, correspondence, 1968-1979; Harlow preliminary budget, undated.

Container 406.5

Agreements with Hale Matthews, Nationals Academy, 1967.

Container 406.6

Correspondence, 1967.

Container 406.7

Correspondence, 1968. Some items written in French, German, or Italian.

Container 406.8

Correspondence, 1969.

Container 406.9

Correspondence, 1970-1975.

Container 406.10

Correspondence, press clippings, photographs, publicity, 1968-1969, 1991-1995. Some items written in Italian.

Container 406.11

Photographs: film stills (duplicate set with extras).

Container 407.6

Photographs: film stills (duplicate set).

Container 407.7

Partial continuity or transcript, typed, 30 pages, undated (1967-1968?).

Container 434.5

#### **Index of Correspondents**

Names given in parentheses below are letterhead names.

- Tony (Annie A New Musical) -- 406.10
- Aaeng, Max (Triangel Film) -- 406.9
- Ailes, Roger (The Mike Douglas Show) -- 38.1
- Albu, Carolyn (Gay People's Chronicle) -- 40.6, 368.3
- Allan, Shirley -- 368.1
- Allen, Jay Presson, 1922-2006 -- 406.11
- Allen, Lewis M., 1922-2003 -- 38.1, 38.2, 38.10, 38.12, 39.1, 39.3, 39.8, 39.11, 39.13, 40.2, 40.4, 40.6, 40.7, 40.10, 367.4, 367.5, 367.8, 367.10, 368.2, 406.5, 406.7, 406.8, 406.9, 406.10, 406.11
- Anderson, Rex (Rexclusive) -- 40.15
- Antholis, Kary (HBO) -- 406.11
- Balfour, Jane (Jane Balfour Films Limited) -- 40.2
- Bardet, J. (Hotel Majestic, Cannes) -- 39.3, 406.8
- Baum, Maurice (National Film Distributors, Ltd.) -- 38.12
- Brann, Helen (Helen Brann Agency, Inc.) -- 368.2
- Breen, Dermot (Cork Film Festival) -- 38.12
- Browning, Barbara (Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) -- 406.8
- Calvo, Orlando (Universal International Films, Inc.) -- 406.9
- Campos, Christophe (Bandits Productions) -- 40.13
- Canfield, Gabrielle -- 368.7
- Carroll, Kent (Grove Press) -- 38.4, 367.10
- Cook, Sarah -- 38.2
- Cooper, Charles, 1910-2001 (Contemporary Films, Ltd.) -- 38.12
- Cooper, Kitty (Mrs. Charles) (Contemporary Films, Ltd.) -- 38.4
- Cooper, Karen (Film Forum) -- 367.4
- Corwin, Norman, 1910-2011 (Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) -- 406.7, 406.8
- Cummings, Richard (Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival) -- 39.8
- Daigremont, Jean-Claude -- 38.10
- Davies, Mary (Jane Balfour Films Limited) -- 367.7
- Deeble, Helen (Art House Productions, Ltd.) -- 41.15, 367.6, 367.7
- Decaris, Yvonne (Les Films Y. D.) -- 38.10
- Diamond, Jeff -- 40.11
- Diedrich, Heinz (K.-G. Inter-Verleih Film Gesellschaft) -- 39.1
- Discovery Communications, Inc. -- 39.11
- Doroshow, Jack (Sabrina) -- 38.2 (written by unidentified representative); 38.6 (announcement of 1967 Nationals)
- Doyle-Peel, Carole, 1934-2016 (Carol Doyle-Peel Portraits) -- 38.4
- Drouth, Edouard (Bulletin du Festival Internationale de Cannes) -- 39.3
- Edson, Barry (Film & Video Consultant) -- 367.6
- Epstein, Betty (Contemporary Films, Ltd.) -- 38.12
- Fisher Turk, Ellen (Split/William to Chrysis/Portrait of a Drag Queen) -- 39.8, 40.4, 40.12, 368.3
- Fortin, Diana (Dove Audio) -- 39.11
- Fraser, Woody (The Mike Douglas Show) -- 38.4
- Freeman, Martin (Griffins Chartered Accountants) -- 40.15, 367.6
- Frêne, Valérie (Bandits Productions) -- 40.13, 40.15
- Gagnon, Renée (UniPortugal) -- 39.7, 40.6

- Gallen, Richard T. (Attorney-at-Law) -- 406.8
- Gasser, Yves (Panora Films Geneve) -- 38.12
- Gershator, Phillis (Grove Press, Inc.) -- 406.8
- Gil, David (Film producer) (Commonwealth United Entertainment, Inc.) -- 406.8
- Glenville, Peter, 1913-1996 -- 38.6
- Golden, Tom (Solters & Sabinson, Inc., Publicity-Public Relations) -- 38.4, 368.5, 368.7
- Goldstein, Bruce, 1952- (Film Forum) -- 367.4
- Golinski, Pamela M. (Kaufmann, Feiner, Yamin, Gildin & Robbins) -- 38.1, 40.6, 367.7, 406.11
- Granozio, Jennifer (Film Forum Annex) -- 40.2
- Green, Alan G. (Films Incorporated) -- 368.2
- Grieco, D. Marie (International Film Seminars, Inc.) -- 406.8
- Grunden, Christopher P. (HBO) -- 39.11
- Gubbins, Ray A. (Woodrow Corporation, Pty. Ltd.) -- 38.7, 39.5, 406.11
- Hall, John (Filmfest DC) -- 39.12
- Hasard, Jerry -- 367.11
- Heilbronn, Eliane (Samuel Pisar, Law Offices: Kaplan, Livingston, Goodwin, Berkowitz & Selvin, Law Offices) -- 38.10
- Hellyer, Jeffrey S. (Picture Start) -- 39.11
- Helman, Laurence (Outsider Productions) -- 40.12
- Herbert, Don -- 38.4, 38.9, 38.12, 406.8, 406.9, 406.10
- Himberg, Pertti, 1928-2010 (Lii-Filmi) -- 39.2
- Hine, A1 -- 406.8
- Hodgdon, Dana (New Year Films) -- 38.2, 367.10
- Hoffman, Shirley (Lewis Allen Productions) -- 38.12, 367.10, 368.7, 406.5, 406.10
- Houston, Jan (Jane Balfour Films Limited) -- 39.9
- Iannucci, Dino -- 368.1
- Jalborg, J. (Palladium) -- 38.11
- Jeal, Tim -- 38.4
- Jordan, Anne (Dove Audio) -- 40.6, 40.10, 367.7
- Jordan, Michael -- 368.1
- Juroe, Charles, -2021 (Paramount Pictures Corporation) -- 38.12
- Kanis, Kurt E. (De Luxe Laboratories, Inc.) -- 38.8
- Kaufman, Walter J. (Screen Gems International) -- 406.9
- Kelly, Pam (Camera Cinemas) -- 40.16
- Kohlhagen, Tove -- 38.11
- Kolodner, Eva (Kalin Vachon Productions, Inc.) -- 39.8, 367.7
- Kronhausen, Eberhard, 1915-2009 (Film-Centralen-Palladium) -- 38.4, 38.11
- Laemmle, Greg (Laemmle Theatres, Los Angeles) -- 39.6, 40.16, 367.7
- Laemmle, Robert (Laemmle Theatres, Los Angeles) -- 39.8
- Lake, Bruce I. (John J. Stephenson, Lake, Pty. Ltd.) -- 38.7
- Lange, Harold (De Luxe Laboratories, Inc.) -- 406.8
- Lecareux, R. (Rapid Universal Transport) -- 39.3
- Larcombe, Richard (Art House Productions, Ltd.) -- 40.15, 367.6, 367.7
- Laszlo, Alex de (Holland Film Week, Inc.) -- 368.2
- Levy, S. David, -2004 (Key Theatre Enterprises) -- 39.12
- Lewis, Harold G. (ATA Trading Corp.) -- 38.7
- Library of Congress. Copyright Office -- 40.6, 367.7, 406.11
- Litvinoff, Si -- 38.2, 38.4, 38.6 (letter to the editor), 38.9, 38.10, 38.12, 39.13, 367.10, 368.5, 406.5, 406.7, 406.8, 406.9, 406.10, 406.10
- Lowenberger, Leo W. (Lowenberger, Gitter & Morse) -- 406.8

- Lucovich, Jean-Pierre de -- 406.8
- Makovski, Claude, 1936-2021 -- 38.10
- Marcorelles, Louis, 1922-1990 -- 38.4, 39.3
- Martin, Peter (Nova magazine) -- 38.4
- Matthews, Hale (Hale Matthews Enterprises) -- 406.7, 406.8
- Maxtone-Graham, John -- 38.3, 38.4, 38.6, 38.7, 38.8, 38.9, 38.10, 38.11, 38.12, 39.1, 39.2, 39.3, 367.9 (letter to the editor), 367.10, 406.7, 406.8; 406.9, 406.10
- Michaelides, Victor (Damaskinos & Michaelides) -- 406.8
- Mink, Irving (Associated Musicians of Greater New York) -- 406.8
- Mitchell, Jeff (Queer Screen Ltd., Australia) -- 39.10, 367.7
- Montgomery, Robert H., Jr., 2000 (Paul, Weiss, Goldberg, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison) -- 367.10, 406.8
- Moskowitz, Gene, 1920-1982 (Variety, Paris Office) -- 39.3
- Neuwirth, Francis (Pinto, Winokur, & Pagano, Certified Public Accountants) -- 38.2, 38.8, 367.10, 406.7, 406.8, 406.9, 406.10
- Nielsen, Ellen (Film-Centralen-Palladium) -- 38.11
- Nissen, Inge (Danmarks Radio) -- 38.11
- Norstad, Norman (University of Pennsylvania. Department of Psychology) -- 368.1
- Novogroder, Frances (Grove Press, Inc.) -- 368.2
- Obrentz, Bert N. (Paramount Pictures Corporation) -- 406.9
- Ollgaard, M. (Film-Centralen-Palladium) -- 38.11
- Olsen, Ken (Leoram, Inc.) -- 367.7
- Pelosi, Julia (Film Fest DC) -- 39.13
- Pieterse, André (Ster Films Pty. Limited) -- 406.8
- Pieterse, Philo (Ster Films Pty. Limited) -- 406.8
- Pleskow, Eric, 1924- (United Artists Corporation) -- 406.9
- Podhorzer, Nathan (United Film Enterprises, Inc.) -- 367.10
- Radzig, N. (Titra Film) -- 39.3
- Richards, Lisa (Art House Productions, Ltd. -- 40.15, 367.7
- Riccio, Melissa (Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation) -- 39.12, 40.12
- Rivera, Judith (P.O.V.) -- 39.11, 367.5
- Robb, Jerry L. (Thomson & Thomson) -- 406.11
- Robinson, Chris (Lewis Allen Productions) -- 38.1, 39.7, 39.8, 39.9, 39.10, 39.11, 39.12, 39.13, 40.4, 40.5, 40.6, 40.7, 40.8, 40.9, 40.11, 40.12, 40.13, 40.14, 40.15, 40.16, 40.17, 367.5, 367.6, 367.7, 406.11
- Rosenberg, Bernard P. (Pinto, Winokur & Pagano) -- 406.7
- Rosenkrantz, Edmund R. (Edwin Gettinger & Peter Gettinger, Attorneys at Law; Edmund R. Rosenkrantz, Attorney-at-Law) -- 38.10, 38.11, 39.1, 39.2, 39.3, 406.8, 406.9
- Roth, Jane (Lewis Allen Productions, Inc.) -- 38.3, 39.13, 40.1, 40.6, 40.7, 40.10, 367.4, 367.7
- Salter, Jean (Contemporary Films, Ltd.) -- 38.12
- Saunders, Liz (American Program Service) -- 39.11
- Savada, Elias (Motion Picture Information Service) -- 40.14
- Schmidt, John (Miramax Films) -- 406.11
- Schorr, Jose (Solters & Sabinson, Inc., Publicity-Public Relations) -- 38.4, 39.5, 368.5, 368.7, 406.11
- Schultz, Reed B. (Facets Multimedia, Inc.) -- 40.7, 367.9
- Sendroff, Mark D. (Gottlieb, Schiff, Bergman, & Sendroff) -- 40.9
- Shepard, Joel (University Film Society/Minnesota Film Center) -- 39.12
- Silverstein, Maurice, 1910-1999 (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer International, Inc.) -- 406.9
- Simpson, Les (also known as Simpson, Linda) -- 406.11
- Skouras, Daniel P., 1936-2009 (American International Pictures) -- 406.9

- Sorensen, John -- 39.5, 40.1
- Spencer-Davison, Garwin, 1955- (Chain Production, Ltd.) -- 367.6
- Srebalas, John (Landmark Theatre Corporation) -- 40.8
- Stafford, David -- 39.13, 406.11
- Stimler, Michael (Water Bearer Films) -- 39.8
- Stone, Shelby, 1958- (Holland Film Week, Inc.) -- 368.2
- Sultan, Roger H. (Allied Artists International Corporation) -- 406.9
- Taylor, Marian (Goodtimes Enterprises, Ltd.) -- 38.12, 406.8
- Thon, Kjell (Action Film) -- 38.12
- Unifrance film international (Organization) -- 39.3
- Vannier, Alain (Orly Films, S. A.) -- 38.10
- Vaughn, J. W. K. (Vaughan-Rogosin Films Limited) -- 38.12
- Viner, Michael (Dove Audio) -- 40.10
- Vineyard Films -- 38.9, 38.11, 38.12, 39.3, 39.5
- Weinberg, Herman G. -- 38.4, 38.10, 39.3
- Wachs, Robert D. (Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison) -- 367.10, 406.7, 406.8
- Weening, Sieg (Film Distributor Representative) -- 406.8
- White, Connie (Brattle Theatre) -- 40.12
- Wilk, Andrea (Lewis Allen Productions, Inc.) -- 367.7
- Williams, Lili (Contemporary Films, Ltd.) -- 38.12, 39.1
- Winberg, Nils (Meridian-Films) -- 39.2
- Wishman, Seymour (First Run Features) -- 368.5
- Wolfe, Pam (Arts & Entertainment Network) -- 39.11
- Yip, Derek (Film Forum Annex) -- 367.9