

## **Guide to the Larry Billman Papers**

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Billman, Larry
<b>Contributor:</b>	Billman, Tomoko
<b>Title:</b>	Larry Billman Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00577
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1961-1975
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.75 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.0 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Larry Billman Papers (1961-1975) primarily reflect his work in the entertainment industry of Las Vegas, Nevada as a dancer, choreographer, and director. Materials include scripts, photographs, music scores, contracts, ephemera, and magazine and newspaper clippings. The collection also includes two scrapbooks and photographs of Tomoko (Katsuko) Billman performing in shows like "Holiday in Japan" at the New Frontier Hotel and Casino and "Rome Swings" at Caesars Palace in the late 1950s into the mid-1960s as well as photographs of Tomoko and other "Holiday in Japan" performers at various reunions.

### Preferred Citation

Larry Billman Papers, 1961-1975, undated. MS-00577. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada

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## Biographical Note

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Author, choreographer, and dancer Larry Billman began his professional career at the age of 16 in his home town of Hollywood, California. He came to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1961 to be a dancer in the Johnny Mathis Show at the Sahara Hotel. He was a dancer and singer in the "Hello America" productions at the Desert Inn Hotel from 1965 to 1967 and in two Ann Margaret Shows in 1967 and 1969, one in Las Vegas, Nevada and one at Harrah's in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Billman also wrote and directed "Fanny Hill," a lounge show production at the Desert Inn, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Billman wrote two biographies for Greenwood Press about Fred Astaire and Betty Grable and the first encyclopedia detailing the dance artists who made the movies 'move,' which referred to the movement provided by dance. He also directed six additions of the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus and founded the Academy of Dance on Film to document the importance of dance.

In 1969, he was employed by Walt Disney Attractions where he wrote, directed, and produced hundreds of live shows for Disneyland, Walt Disney World, Tokyo Disneyland, and Tokyo DisneySea. Larry Billman retired from the Disney Company in 2007. Billman was married to fellow performer, Tomoko Katsuko Sekiya from 1967 until his death in 2017.

Source: Stephen Schaffer, -Stephanie Stromer. "Larry E. Billman Obituary." Los Angeles Times Obituaries. May 6, 2017. Accessed March 19, 2019. <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/latimes/obituary.aspx?n=larry-e-billman&pid=185310482>.

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## Scope and Contents

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The papers of author, director, dancer, and choreographer Larry Billman (1961-1975) contain materials from the Las Vegas, Nevada shows in which he performed. Materials include music, scripts, photographs, contracts, and clippings, as well as magazine articles about Las Vegas showgirls written under Billman's pseudonym, Lars Bonner. The collection also includes two scrapbooks and photographs of Tomoko (Katsuko) Billman performing in shows like "Holiday in Japan" at the New Frontier Hotel and Casino and "Rome Swings" at Caesars Palace in the late 1950s into the mid-1960s as well as photographs of Tomoko and other "Holiday in Japan" performers at various reunions.

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## Arrangement

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Material is arranged alphabetically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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### Acquisition Note

Material was donated in 2011 and 2015 by Larry Billman; accession numbers 2011-09, 2015-114.

### Additions

Future additions are anticipated.

### Processing Note

Material was processed by Joyce Moore in 2015.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Entertainment -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Choreography
- Photographs
- Desert Inn Hotel and Casino (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- Hello America--Desert Inn Hotel--Nevada--Las Vegas

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Ann Margaret Show, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1967 June-1969 March	box 01
Fanny Hill Show, Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1970	box 01
Hello America Show #1, Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1965 May-1966 February	box 01

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Hello America Show #2, Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1966 March-1967 February	box 01
Johnny Mathis Show, Sarara Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1961 January	box 01
Jazz Dance Steps, 1975	box 01
Magazine articles about Las Vegas, Nevada showgirls, 1968-1969	box 01
Postcards, undated	box 01
Ashtrays from the Hilton Hotel, Caesars Palace Hotel, and Sahara Hotel, undated	box 02
Tomoko (Katsuko) Billman photographs, undated	box 01
Tomoko (Katsuko) Billman scrapbook of shows from 1959 to 1966, undated	box 01

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