

The Guide to the UNLV University Libraries Collection on Las Vegas Show Costume Design

This finding aid was created by Special Collections staff, Kayla McDuffie, and Angela Moor on January 29, 2019.

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**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections
and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Collector:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Contributor:	Devlyn, Jean, 1903-1968
Contributor:	Guertin, Anne
Contributor:	Merritt, Larry
Contributor:	Ladd, active mid 20th century (Costume designer)
Contributor:	Spinedi, Josephine
Contributor:	Colabucci, Corrado, 1935-2002
Title:	UNLV University Libraries Collection on Las Vegas Show Costume Design
ID:	MS-00422
Date [inclusive]:	1940s-1970s
Physical Description:	3.41 Cubic Feet (1 box, 4 oversized boxes)
Physical Description:	6.37 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The UNLV University Libraries Collection on Las Vegas Show Costume Design is comprised of work from several designers who created costumes for various Las Vegas, Nevada shows. The designs are undated but appear to date from the 1940s to 1970s. The collection includes works from the following designers: Jean Devlyn, Anne Guertin, Larry Merritt, Ladd, Josephine Spinedi, Corrado Colabucci, and also includes unsigned designs from unknown artists. The collection also designs for Matt Gregory Productions. Most of the designs do not include show information.

Preferred Citation

UNLV University Libraries Collection on Las Vegas Show Costume Design, 19640s-1970s. MS-00422. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Scope and Contents Note

The UNLV University Libraries Collection on Las Vegas Show Costume Design is comprised of work from several designers who created costumes for various Las Vegas, Nevada shows. The designs are undated but appear to date from the 1940s to 1970s. The collection includes works from the following designers: Jean Devlyn, Anne Guertin, Larry Merritt, Ladd, Josephine Spinedi, Corrado Colabucci, and also includes unsigned designs from unknown artists. The collection also designs for Matt Gregory Productions. Most of the designs do not include show information. Formats include pencil tissue drawings, ink on board, and paint and pastel designs.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged by designer.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were compiled by UNLV Special Collections staff to create this collection. Materials come from various sources including a purchase from Matt Gregory; accession number 1996-022, and a purchase from Bob Coffin; accession number unknown.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Special Collections staff. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Kayla McDuffie revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance

with current professional standards. Subsequently Kayla McDuffie entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Angela Moor rehoused and arranged the materials and revised the finding aid.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Matt Gregory Entertainment Collection, 1959-1986. MS-00381. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada

Matt Gregory Photograph Collection, 1959-1985. PH-00308. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada

Minsky's Burlesque Records, 1922-1978. MS-00290. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Showgirls -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Costume design -- 20th century
- Show costume -- Nevada -- Las Vegas

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Jean Devlyn designs, approximately 1940s-1950s	
Biographical Note: Jean Devlyn (1903-1968) was primarily known as a choreographer. She managed the Jean Devlyn Dancers who performed in Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada, as well as other locations in the United States. Devlyn also sketched many costume designs. She lived in Las Vegas, Nevada and choreographed the Las Vegas Press Club's annual variety show. She passed away in 1968.	
Tissue paper drawings, undated	box 01
Drawings on notebook paper, undated	box 01

Postcard with notes on costume designs, 1945 August 08	box 01
Los Angeles Mirror article on Las Vegas entertainment, 1950 May 01	box 01
Costume drawing on tissue, pen with paint, undated	box 01
Drawings of completed costumes on tissue, undated	box 01
Ink drawings of figures, undated	box 01
Photographs of costumed performers on stage, black-and-white, undated	box 01
Drawings on tissue, pencil and paint, undated	box 01
Tissue drawings, pencil, undated	box 01
Matt Gregory Productions designs, approximately 1970s	
Biographical Note: Matt Gregory (1921-2000) came to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1953 and began working in public relations for Moe Dalitz at the Desert Inn and the Showboat. He also worked as a talent manager, managing several lounge acts and produced many shows in Las Vegas and elsewhere. He staged his productions on a smaller scale, allowing them to be performed in smaller venues. He passed away in 2000.	
Photographs of costumed performers, undated	box 01
Slides of costume drawings, undated	box 01
Uniform designs for International Hotel, undated	box 01
James Weiss, unidentified show costume designs, on board, undated	box 03
Joey Skilbred, unidentified show, on board, undated	box 03
Unidentified artist, unidentified show, on board, undated	box 03
B. Whiting, unidentified show costume designs, undated	box 03
Anne Guertin designs, undated	
Biographical Note: Anne Guertin worked as a costume designer for Las Vegas and Reno productions. No further information is available.	
Ink and paint costume designs on board, undated	box 02 box 05
Ladd designs, undated	
Biographical Note: The designs are signed only with the name of Ladd. No further information is available.	
Costume designs on board, paint, 10 x 15 inches, undated	box 03
Larry Merritt designs, undated	
Biographical Note: Larry Merritt was a choreographer and designer. No further information is available.	
Designs on paper, marker, 11.5 x 17.5 inches, undated	box 03
Corrado Colabucci designs, approximately 1960s-1970s	

Biographical Note: Corrado Colabucci (1935-2002) was born in Verona, Italy and worked as costume designer in Italy. He later worked internationally, including at the Moulin Rouge in Paris and as a costume designer for Italian television shows. He passed away in Verona in 2002.

Costume designs on paper, undated	box 03
Josephine Spinedi designs, approximately 1960s-1970s	
Biographical Note: Josephine Spinedi studied classical ballet and art at the Arts Educational School Ltd. in London, England. She began her dancing career in Italy at 16 years old. While a dancer, she used her artistic talent to assist the costume designers. She later came to Las Vegas with her dance troupe and began designing costumes for shows including "Mad, Mod World" and "Fancy That."	
"Fancy That," Harrah's Reno, color drawings, undated	box 04
"Feminine Touch," Harrah's Reno, color drawings, undated	box 04
"Mad, Mod World," Sahara, undated	box 04
Unidentified costume designs, tissue, undated	box 04
Misky, Thunderbird drawings, undated	box 04
Employee uniforms, International Hotel, drawings on paper, undated	box 04
Unidentified show designs, undated	box 04
Physical Description: 4 Files	
"Kanpai," drawings, undated	box 04
"Chicken in the Basket," drawing, undated	box 04
Barmaid costume, drawing, undated	box 04
"Puss in Boots," drawing, undated	box 04
Unidentified show, photographs, undated	box 04
Drawings, undated	box 04
Unidentified show drawings, on paper, undated	box 04
Harold Minsky, Aladdin, on paper, undated	box 04
Photo negatives of costume designs, undated	box 04
Unidentified shows designs, on board, undated	box 05
Physical Description: 2 Files	
"Pony Express," dancer design, undated	box 05
"Fancy That" drawings on tissue, undated	box 05
"Mad, Mod World," on board, undated	box 05
Silver Slipper, lead nude, on board, undated	box 05
Drawings of performers, promotional for shows, on board, undated	box 05
unidentified show designs, undated	

box 05

unidentified show designs, pastel on board, undated	box 05
"Pony Express," costume designs, undated	box 05
unidentified show designs, on board, undated	box 05
"Mad Mod World," on board, undated	box 05
Designs for Patti and dancers, undated	box 05
"Cinderella," drawing, undated	box 05