Guide to the Larry Billman Papers

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Table of Contents

Summary Information ..................................................................................................................................... 3
Biographical Note ............................................................................................................................................. 3
Scope and Contents ......................................................................................................................................... 4
Arrangement .................................................................................................................................................... 4
Administrative Information ............................................................................................................................. 5
Names and Subjects ........................................................................................................................................ 5
Collection Inventory ....................................................................................................................................... 5
Summary Information

Creator: Billman, Larry
Contributor: Billman, Tomoko
Title: Larry Billman Papers
ID: MS-00577
Date [inclusive]: 1961-1975
Physical Description: 0.75 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
Physical Description: 1.0 Linear Feet
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: 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

Biographical Note

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.


Scope and Contents

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.

Arrangement

Material is arranged alphabetically.
Administrative Information

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.

Names and Subjects

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

Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Containers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ann Margaret Show, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1967 June-1969 March</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fanny Hill Show, Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1970</td>
<td>box 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hello America Show #1, Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1965 May-1966 February</td>
<td>box 01</td>
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<td>Title</td>
<td>Box</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>Hello America Show #2, Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1966 March-1967 February</td>
<td>01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnny Mathis Show, Sarara Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, 1961 January</td>
<td>01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jazz Dance Steps, 1975</td>
<td>01</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magazine articles about Las Vegas, Nevada showgirls, 1968-1969</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postcards, undated</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashtrays from the Hilton Hotel, Caesars Palace Hotel, and Sahara Hotel, undated</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomoko (Katsuko) Billman photographs, undated</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomoko (Katsuko) Billman scrapbook of shows from 1959 to 1966, undated</td>
<td>01</td>
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</tbody>
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