

Guide to the Bill Campbell Costume Design Sketches

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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.
Creator:	Campbell, Bill
Title:	Bill Campbell Costume Design Sketches
ID:	MS-00588
Date [inclusive]:	1960-1969
Physical Description:	0.78 Cubic Feet (2 oversize boxes)
Physical Description:	2.25 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Bill Campbell Costume Design Sketches (1960-1969) are comprised of forty-one original costume design sketches created by designer Bill Campbell for two of Donn Arden's stage productions, <i>Pzazz!</i> and <i>Hello America</i> , that were staged in the Crystal Room at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, Nevada during the 1960s.

Preferred Citation

Bill Campbell Costume Design Sketches, 1960-1969. MS-00588. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Costume designer Bill Campbell created elaborate designs for a number of notable revue shows in Las Vegas, Nevada throughout the 1960s. During this time, Campbell designed extravagantly detailed costumes for two of Donn Arden's revues that were staged in the Crystal Room at the Desert Inn in Las, Nevada. Arden's Las Vegas spectacles included *Hello America*, a wholesome tribute to America that received accolades in the Congressional Record for its positive portrayal of the United States, and the dynamic *Pzazz!*. These early shows generally featured lines of girls, exquisitely costumed and gracefully elegant. Bill Campbell created a variety of design sketches for the showgirls and dancers in these two shows, often designing custom outfits specifically for each individual dancer.

Donn Arden was a choreographer, producer, and director known for creating extravagant production shows that combined spectacular scenery and disaster with sequined and feathered showgirls. In 1958, in collaboration with Frank Sennes and the Paris Lido, Arden brought his Paris Lido show to the newly opened Stardust Resort and Casino on the north end of the Las Vegas Strip. The topless showgirls were a sensation,

and Arden became world famous for his extravagant productions. Arden spent more than sixty years in entertainment, working in showrooms all over the world from the 1930s to the 1990s.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Bill Campbell Costume Design Sketches (1960-1969) are comprised of forty-one original costume design sketches created by designer Bill Campbell for two of Donn Arden's stage productions, *Pzazz!* and *Hello America*, that were staged in the Crystal Room at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, Nevada during the 1960s.

The sketches are hand-painted and have detailed notes specifying materials, colors, and construction requirements. Fabric and sequin swatches are attached to the designs with measurements and instructions for construction. All the designs are given generic titles, such as "Female dancers" or "Lead dancers," but some also others have the name of a specific dancer, indicating it was designed specifically for the noted individual.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Portions of this collection are digital and available online at <http://d.library.unlv.edu/digital/collection/showgirls>

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2012 and 2017 by William Damron; accession numbers 2012-005 and 2017-160.

Processing Note

In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Sarah Jones wrote the finding aid and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:
Donn Arden Papers, 1918-1994. MS-00425. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Show costume -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Costume design -- 20th century
- Renderings (drawings)
- Showgirls -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Entertainment