Guide to the Bill Campbell Costume Designs

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Summary Information

| Creator: | Campbell, Bill |
| Title: | Bill Campbell Costume Designs |
| ID: | MS-00588 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1954 to 1978 |
| Physical Description: | 2.63 Cubic Feet (4 oversized boxes) |
| Physical Description: | 5.42 Linear Feet |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Abstract: | The Bill Campbell Costume Designs (1954-1978) are comprised of original costume design sketches created by designer Bill Campbell for a number of Donn Arden's stage productions, including Pzazz!, Hello America, and Hello Hollywood Hello that were staged in the Crystal Room at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, Nevada during the 1960s and 1970s. The collection also contains some sketches for other revues held in Los Angeles, California and Reno, Nevada. The majority of items in the collection are original drawings with attached fabric swatches; a number of items are xeroxed reproductions. |

Preferred Citation


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 spectaculars 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.

**Scope and Contents Note**

The Bill Campbell Costume Designs (1954-1978) are comprised of original costume design sketches created by designer Bill Campbell for a number of Donn Arden's stage productions, including *Pzazz!, Hello America*, and *Hello Hollywood Hello* that were staged in the Crystal Room at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, Nevada during the 1960s and 1970s. The collection also contains some sketches for other revues held in Los Angeles, California and Reno, Nevada.

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.

**Arrangement**

Materials remain in original order.

**Administrative Information**

**Access Note**

Collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See Reproductions and Use on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note
Materials were donated in 2012, 2017, 2019, and 2020 by William Damron; accession numbers 2012-005, 2017-160, 2019-038, and 2020-005. Materials were donated in 2021 by Greg Campbell and the Campbell family; accession number 2021-143.

Processing Note
In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Sarah Jones created a collection level finding aid in ArchivesSpace. In 2021, Chriziel Childers rehoused the collection, processed additional accessions, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

Related Materials

Related Collections
The following resource may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:


Names and Subjects
• Show costume -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
• Costume design
• Showgirls -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
• Entertainment
• Pzazz!
• Las Vegas (Nev.)
• Hello America (Las Vegas, Nevada)
• Arden, Donn, 1917-1994
### Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Containers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Hello America!</em> 2nd edition wardrobe book with xeroxed sketches, cast lists, and drawings, approximately 1964 to 1978</td>
<td>oversized box 04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>