Guide to the Bill Campbell Costume Design Sketches

This finding aid was created by Sarah Jones on March 26, 2018.
Persistent URL for this finding aid: http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1h616
Table of Contents

Summary Information ..................................................................................................................................... 3
Biographical Note ............................................................................................................................................ 3
Scope and Contents Note ................................................................................................................................ 4
Arrangement .................................................................................................................................................... 4
Administrative Information ............................................................................................................................. 4
Related Materials ............................................................................................................................................. 5
Names and Subjects ........................................................................................................................................ 5
Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator</td>
<td>Campbell, Bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Bill Campbell Costume Design Sketches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>MS-00588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]:</td>
<td>1960-1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description:</td>
<td>0.78 Cubic Feet (2 oversize boxes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Description:</td>
<td>2.25 Linear Feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language of the Material:</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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, Pzazz! and Hello America, that were staged in the Crystal Room at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, Nevada during the 1960s.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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.

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.

Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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

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 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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents]

---

**Related Materials**

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

[^ Return to Table of Contents]

---

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