

The Guide to the Margaret Kelly Collection on the Bluebell Girls

This finding aid was created by Tom Sommer, Kayla McDuffie, and Christina Lamoureux on February 28, 2019.

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Kelly, Margaret, 1910-2004
Title:	Margaret Kelly Collection on the Bluebell Girls
ID:	MS-00604
Date [inclusive]:	1935-1997
Physical Description:	9.37 Cubic Feet (2 boxes and 21 oversized boxes)
Physical Description:	22.94 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Margaret Kelly Collection on the Bluebell Girls (1935-1997) includes personal scrapbooks created by Margaret Kelly, programs from international shows featuring the Bluebell Girls dance troupe, and photographs of the Bluebell Girls. The scrapbooks include newspaper clippings covering Kelly's work at the Folies-Bergère and Lido de Paris, Paris, France, and her long career as creator and manager of the world famous Bluebell Girls. Also included are materials from 1958 about the Bluebell Girls shows in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Preferred Citation

Margaret Kelly Collection on the Bluebell Girls, 1935-1997. MS-00604. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Dancer Margaret "Miss Bluebell" Kelly was born in Dublin, Ireland on June 24, 1910. According to an oft-repeated anecdote, she received her nickname as a young girl from a doctor who was mesmerized by her clear blue eyes. In 1930, she began dancing in Paris for Folies-Bergère. By 1932, she created her own line of dancers called the Bluebell Girls while at the Folies-Bergère. She married Marcel Leibovici, a pianist and composer at the Folies-Bergère in 1939, and they had four children: Patrick, Francis, Florence and Jean-Paul. During World War II, Leibovici was imprisoned by the Germans during the Nazi occupation of Paris. Following his escape from a concentration camp, the couple went into hiding for almost two and a half years.

In 1947, Kelly began her life-long collaboration with the American choreographer and producer, Donn Arden, at the Lido de Paris. She was well-known for her high standards; to be a Bluebell Girl meant that one had passed a rigorous audition process. The Bluebell Girls went on to become a global organization by the end of the 1950s, and appeared in variations of the Lido de Paris all over the world. They first came to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1958 as part of the Lido de Paris show at the newly-opened Stardust Hotel. By 1974, the shows *Hallelujah Hollywood* and later *Jubilee!* at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas would take this troupe to the pinnacle of its fame. Margaret Kelly was awarded an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) in 1996, as well as the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor for her 72 years of professional work in dancing. Kelly passed away in 2004, and is buried in Paris' Montmartre Cemetery.

Sources:

"Margaret Kelly." *Guardian*. Accessed January 23, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2004/sep/16/guardianobituaries.france>

Goodwin, Joanne. "Margaret Kelly." Online Nevada Encyclopedia. Accessed January 23, 2019. <http://www.onlinenevada.org/articles/margaret-kelly>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Margaret Kelly Collection on the Bluebell Girls (1935-1997) includes personal scrapbooks created by Margaret Kelly, programs from international shows featuring the Bluebell Girls dance troupe, and photographs of the Bluebell Girls. The scrapbooks include newspaper clippings covering Kelly's work at the Folies-Bergère and Lido de Paris, Paris, France, and her long career as creator and manager of the world famous Bluebell Girls. Included are materials from 1958 about the Bluebell Girls shows in Las Vegas, Nevada. The collection also includes newspaper clippings, brochures, and numerous programs from the Lido de Paris, Folies-Bergère and other international production shows for which Kelly provided dancers.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series:

Series I: Scrapbooks, 1935-1997;

Series II: International show programs, 1935-1994;

Series III. Photographs and publicity, 1949-1980s.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were acquired in 2013; accession numbers 2014-003 and 2014-051.

Processing Note

Material was minimally processed by Tom Sommer in 2014. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Kayla McDuffie and Dallas Reiber revised and enhanced the collection description and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2019, as part of a backlog elimination project, Christina Lamoureux rehoused the collection and revised the description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources 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.

Donn Arden Photograph Collection, 1920s-1994. PH-00328. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Paris, France Show Programs Collection, 1950-2000. MS-00641. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada..

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Names and Subjects

- Lido de Paris
- Revues - France - Paris
- Revues - Nevada - Las Vegas
- Entertainers
- Folies-Bergère
- Photographs
- Dancers

Collection Inventory

Scrapbooks, 1935-1997

Physical Description: 9.14 Cubic Feet (1 box and 21 oversized boxes)

Physical Description: 22.73 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The scrapbooks series (1935-1997) primarily contains scrapbooks with newspaper clippings covering the work of Margaret Kelly at the Folies-Bergère and Lido de Paris, and her long career as creator and manager of the world famous Bluebell Girls. Included are materials from 1958 about the Bluebell Girls shows in Las Vegas, Nevada. The series also contains a scrapbook with newspaper clippings, photographs, and show programs.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Containers
Scrapbook, 1935-1957	oversized box 01
Scrapbook, 1939-1960	oversized box 02
Scrapbook, 1952, 1953, 1958	oversized box 03
Scrapbook, 1953-1954	oversized box 04
Scrapbook, 1955-1956	oversized box 05
Scrapbook, 1956-1957	oversized box 06
Scrapbook, 1957	

	oversized box 07
Scrapbook, 1957-1958	oversized box 08
Scrapbook, 1958	oversized box 09
Scrapbook, 1958-1959	oversized box 10
Scrapbook, 1960-1961	oversized box 11
Scrapbook, 1961-1963	oversized box 12
Scrapbook, 1962, 1964-1968	oversized box 13
Scrapbook, 1963	oversized box 14
Scrapbook, 1966	oversized box 15
Scrapbook, 1967	oversized box 16
Scrapbook, 1968-1971	oversized box 17
Scrapbook, 1972-1974	oversized box 18
Scrapbook, 1975-1979	oversized box 19
Scrapbook, 1980-1983	oversized box 20
Scrapbook, 1984	oversized box 21
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, photographs, and show programs, 1984-1997	box 22

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International show programs, 1935-1994

Physical Description: 0.46 Cubic Feet (1 box)

Physical Description: 0.42 Linear Feet

Language of the Material: Materials are in English and French.

Scope and Contents Note: The international show programs series (1935-1994) contains programs, brochures, and posters from the Lido de Paris, Folies-Bergère and other international production shows for which Kelly provided dancers.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged alphabetically.	
Title/Description	Containers
Bal du Moulin Rouge, 1958	box 22
Black and White program, 1951	box 22
Boeuf Sur Le Toit program, 1951	box 22
Boeuf Sur Le Toit: Bruxelles program, undated	box 22
Boeuf Sur Le Toit: Porte De Namur program, undated	box 22
Daddy's Here Again souvenir brochure, undated	box 22
Daddy's Here Again program, undated	box 22
Das Casino brochure, 1951	box 22
Diner De Gala, 1964	box 22
Doppio Rosa...Al Sex program, undated	box 22
Emporium Night Club brochure, undated	box 22
Femme's en Folie, 1935	box 22
Folies-Bergère program, 1939	box 22
Folies-Bergère: En Super-Folies program, undated	box 22
Folies-Bergère: La Folie D' Amor program, 1936	box 22
Folies-Bergère: Folie en Fleurs program, 1935	box 22
Folies-Bergère: Femme's en Folie program, 1935	box 22
French Revue Bluebells brochure, 1984	box 22
Gran Baldoria program, undated	box 22
Il Diavolo Custode program, undated	box 22
Knokke Le Zoute, undated	box 22
La Belle Epoque, 1959	box 22
La Belle Epoque Night Club program, 1950	box 22
La Famille Pont-Biquet, 1935-1936	box 22
La Spettacoli Errepi: Black and White, 1951	box 22
La Spettacoli Errepi: Attanasio, Cavallo Vanesio program, undated	box 22
La Spettacoli Errepi: Made in Italy program, undated	box 22
La Spettacoli Errepi: I Fanatic, 1952-1953	box 22
La Spettacoli Errepi: Alvaro, Piuttosto Cosaro program, 1954	box 22
Le Nouveau Gaity program, undated	box 22

Lido Buenos Aires, undated	box 22
Lido Champs-Elysees Paris program: Cocorico, 1976	box 22
Lido Champs-Elysees Paris program: Normandie, 1990	box 22
Lido Champs-Elysees Paris program: Brauissimo, undated	box 22
Lido Champs-Elysees Paris program, 1950	box 22
Lido Champs-Elysees Paris program: Enchantement, 1957	box 22
Lido Champs-Elysees Paris program: Prestige, 1977	box 22
Lido Champs-Elysees Paris program: Panache, 1985	box 22
Physical Description: 2 Items	
Lido Champs-Elysees Paris posters, 1994	box 22
Physical Description: 3 Items	
Lido de Paris program, undated	box 22
Moulin Rouge Bar program, undated	box 22
Pasapoga Club Brochure-Madrid, Spain, 1958	box 22
Pasapoga program, 1953-1954	box 22
Riviera Follies, 1946-1947	box 22
Roof Garden Brochure-Sanremo Casino Municipale, undated	box 22
Royal Performance program, 1967	box 22
Scala Barcelona, undated	box 22
Sea Club, 1964	box 22
Shirley Maclaine Au Lido, 1979	box 22
Soiree Tudor, 1960	box 22
Une Nuit au Sido de Paris, 1956	box 22
Villa Rosa, 1953	box 22

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Photographs and publicity, 1949-1980s

Physical Description: 0.23 Cubic Feet (1 box)

Physical Description: 0.21 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The photographs and publicity series (1949-1980s) primarily contains color and black-and-white photographic prints of the Bluebell Girls performing in European cities and Las Vegas, Nevada. Candid photographs of the Bluebell Girls and Margaret Kelly are also included, as well as a small portion of publicity materials for a show at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. The series also includes headshots and resumes for several male dancers.

Arrangement: Materials remain in original order.

Title/Description	Containers
Bluebell Girls in Monte Carlo: performance photographs, undated	box 23
Bluebell Girls in Stockholm: performance photographs, undated	box 23
Bluebell Girls in Bruxelles: performance photographs, undated	box 23
Bluebell Girls in Marrakech: candid photographs, 1949	box 23
Bluebell Girls in Biarritz: performance photographs, undated	box 23
Bluebell Girls in Vichy: rehearsal photographs, undated	box 23
Bluebell Girls on stage at the Las Vegas Stardust and candid photographs of Margaret Kelly, undated	box 23
Bluebell Girls in Marrakech: performance photographs, undated	box 23
Las Vegas MGM: Show program and newspaper clipping, 1978	box 23
Head shots and resumes for male dancers, 1980s	box 23

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