

## Guide to the Charles Vanda Collection

---

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 28, 2022. Please contact [special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu) for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1130f>

© 2022 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

**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](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu)

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical Note .....	3
Scope and Contents Note .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Administrative Information .....	5
Related Materials .....	6
Names and Subjects .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	6

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Vanda, Charles
<b>Title:</b>	Charles Vanda Collection
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00299
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	approximately 1955-1987
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.65 Cubic Feet (1 box and 3 oversized boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5.10 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Charles Vanda Collection (1955-1987) is comprised of achievement awards, plaques, and certificates that were presented to Charles Vanda throughout his career as a television and radio writer, director, and producer. Also included are newspaper clippings and articles about Charles Vanda, the performing arts, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), a doctoral hood and a UNLV Runnin' Rebels jacket.

### Preferred Citation

Charles Vanda Collection, 1955-1987. MS-00299. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical Note

---

Charles Vanda (1903-1988) was a writer, director, and producer of television and radio programs. Born June 6, 1903 in New York City, New York, Vanda began his professional career as a press agent in the 1920s. In 1935, Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) Radio New York appointed him to oversee all Hollywood, California radio originations. During World War Two, Vanda served in Army Intelligence; he is credited with co-authoring the plan to create the Armed Forces Radio Services (AFRS). In 1942, he directed the first five episodes of the AFRS program, *Jubilee*, which was designed to present African American artists and their music to armed forces personnel of the United States and allied nations around the world.

In 1946, Charles Vanda moved to Los Angeles, California and began writing and directing television programming, including *Abbott and Costello* and *Rogues Gallery*. During this period he also served as the president of the Directors Guild of America (DGA) in Hollywood. In the mid-1950s, Vanda worked for Philadelphia's WCAU-TV, where he produced live series; he returned to California in 1958 as the J. Walter Thompson Company's agency producer for the Jack Benny, George Gobel, and *Milton Berle Music Hall* shows.

Retiring in 1966, Charles Vanda moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, where he served as an adviser for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), director of the Western Alliance of Arts Administrators, and executive producer of the St. Jude's Ranch for Children's annual event *Night of Stars*. In 1975, then University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) president, Donald Baepler asked Vanda to serve as director of Concert Hall Programming; here he developed and directed programming for the long-running and highly successful Master Series of classical music at the Artemus Ham Performing Arts Center. In 1980, Marjorie Barrick asked Vanda to select the speakers for the newly endowed Barrick Lecture series at the university; using his connections and talents, he brought figures including Walter Cronkite, James Kenneth Galbraith, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, and Carl Sagan to the campus. Charles Vanda died on June 5, 1988 and was interred in Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

Sources:

"Charles Vanda Is Dead; Television Writer, 84," *The New York Times Archive*, accessed February 14, 2019, <http://www.nytimes.com/1988/06/07/obituaries/charles-vanda-is-dead-television-writer-84.html>

"Charles Vanda; Ex-CBS Program Chief," *Los Angeles Times*, accessed February 14, 2019, [http://articles.latimes.com/1988-06-11/news/mn-4160\\_1\\_charles-vanda](http://articles.latimes.com/1988-06-11/news/mn-4160_1_charles-vanda)

"Charles Vanda Honorary Concert," University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Performing Arts Center, accessed February 14, 2019, <http://www.unlv.edu/pac/master-series>

"Barrick Lecture Series," University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Performing Arts Center, accessed February 14, 2019, <https://www.unlv.edu/pac/barrick>

Eugene Moehring, *The University of Nevada, Las Vegas: A History*, (Reno, University of Nevada Press, 2007), 127-129.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents Note

---

The Charles Vanda Collection (1955-1987) is comprised of achievement awards, plaques, and certificates that were presented to Charles Vanda throughout his career as a television and radio writer, director, and producer. Also included are newspaper clippings and articles about Charles Vanda, the performing arts, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), a doctoral hood and a UNLV Runnin' Rebels jacket.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

Materials are arranged by format.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## 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 1988 by Bruce P. Vanda; accession number 88-142.

### Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff in 1988. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, John Grygo revised and enhanced the collection description. In 2019, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Melise Leech rehoused the materials and revised the finding aid in ArchivesSpace to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Related Materials

### Separated Materials

The photographs in this acquisition were removed from the collection and placed in the Charles Vanda Photograph Collection, 1954-1988. PH-00227. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

The books in this acquisition were separated and are described individually in the [University Libraries' catalog](#).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Names and Subjects

- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- Artemus Ham Hall (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)
- University of Nevada Las Vegas. Performing Arts

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Doctoral hood and University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Runnin' Rebels warm-up jacket, undated	oversized box 01
Award plaques, 1971-1986	
Plaque: Nevada Dance Theater, undated	oversized box 02
Plaque: Honorary Coach of University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), men's basketball team, 1985-1986	oversized box 02
Plaque: Southern Nevada Drug Abuse Council to Shirley Vanda, 1975	oversized box 02
Plaque: Sixth Annual St. Jude's <i>Night of Stars</i> , 1971 November 19	oversized box 02
Plaque: Letter of appreciation from director of the National Theater of Korea, 1979 March 12	oversized box 02
Plaque: The Links, Inc. in association with the Allied Arts Council of Las Vegas, first honoree award, 1986	oversized box 02

Plaque: Special version of song <i>My Way</i> , composed by Paul Anka for the Charles Vanda banquet at the Union Plaza Hotel, 1983 October 7	oversized box 02
Plaque: The President's Associates award, UNLV, undated	oversized box 02
Plaque: College of Arts and Letters, UNLV, 1981	oversized box 02
Plaque: Cultural Achievement of the Year, <i>Las Vegas City</i> magazine, 1983	oversized box 02
Plaque: article from the <i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i> "Nevadan", 1986 March 30	oversized box 03
Certificate from Red River Rats, 1973 August 24-25	oversized box 02
Sixth Annual Governor's Arts Award, Nevada State Council on the Arts, undated	oversized box 02
Distinguished Nevadan certificate, 1985 December 05	oversized box 02
Distinguished Nevadan medallion, 1985	oversized box 02
St. Jude's <i>Night of Stars</i> scroll of achievement award, undated	oversized box 03
Honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, UNLV, 1982 May 23	oversized box 03
Silver Plate: Las Vegas Community, 1983 October 07	box 04
Silver Plate: WCAU-TV, Philadelphia, the Bulletin Forum, 1955 January 09	box 04
Desk nameplate, undated	box 04
Letter, Brock Dixon to Charles Vanda, 1980 April 09	box 04
Article from <i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i> , "Rebels Honor New 'Coach' Vanda", 1985 December 02	box 04
Article from <i>Inside Out</i> magazine, "Charles Vanda: Local Impresario", 1980 November	box 04
Article from <i>Arts Alive</i> magazine, "Master Series is Eight in the Year of Vanda", 1983 November-December	box 04
Prayer and invocation given at the Alliance for Women in Media (AWRT) convention, 1972 May 04	box 04
Poem from Bruce Vanda, commemorating Charles Vanda's post-commencement dinner, 1982 May 23	box 04
Small poster, 13th Annual <i>Night of Stars</i> with photograph of Charles Vanda, 1979 November 09	box 04
Certificate of appreciation from the Consolidated Students, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (CSUN), 1977 June 23	box 04

---

Certificate of appreciation from the College of Arts and Letters, UNLV for serving on the Dean's Advisory Council, 1986-1987      box 04

---

Appointment and commission to the Nevada Historical Preservation Review Committee, 1974 January 15      box 04