



## Guide to the José Luis Viñas Papers

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Viñas, José Luis
<b>Title:</b>	José Luis Viñas Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00468
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	approximately 1960-2000
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.63 Cubic Feet (1 box and 1 flat file)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2.09 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The collection contains drawings, photographs, and posters featuring costumes designed by José Luis Viñas, a Spanish costume designer active in Las Vegas, Nevada, from 1960 to 2000. Viñas is best known for his costume designs for <i>Vive les Girls</i> (1962-1975) and <i>Casino de Paris</i> (1963-1982), both long-running shows at the Dunes Hotel and Casino, as well as for Siegfried and Roy's show at the Frontier Hotel in the mid-1980s. Viñas also did some costume designs for an unidentified show in Sun City, South Africa in the late 1970s and later a show called <i>Circus Cabaret</i> at the Lady Luck Casino Hotel in Downtown Las Vegas.

### Preferred Citation

José Luis Viñas Papers, 1960-2000. MS-00468. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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José Luis Viñas was born in Barcelona, Spain, in the mid-1920s. His father was born in Cuba, but went to Spain to study medicine and remained in the country after marrying a local woman. During the Spanish Civil War Viñas studied at a Jesuit school, where he learned to draw. After working in fashion design in Madrid, Viñas moved in 1957 to Paris, France where he found work as a costume designer for *La Nouvelle Eve*, a famous Parisian cabaret show. The show

eventually was brought to Las Vegas, Nevada, and while he designed the costumes for the American production of the show, he stayed in Paris. He eventually came to Las Vegas in 1960, when the show *La Parisienne* was brought to the Dunes Hotel and Casino from Paris. During the show's run, Viñas met Frederic Apcar, who expressed an interest in having him design costumes for his shows.

After returning to Europe and finding work with a television production company in Rome, he was contacted by Apcar. This began a long professional relationship in which Viñas designed costumes for Apcar's shows *Vive les Girls* (1962-1975) and *Casino de Paris* (1963-1982), both long running shows at the Dunes Hotel and Casino. At the same time, Viñas continued to work outside Las Vegas. In the early 1960s, Viñas designed costumes for a number of shows at the Casino de Lebanon in Beirut, Lebanon. In the late 1970s, he designed costumes for shows in Sun City, South Africa. During the mid-1980s, he designed costumes for Siegfried and Roy and was also involved in designing costumes for a non-Apcar show at Circus, Circus. This led to a rift between Apcar and Viñas. They did not speak to each other for many years, until one final meeting just before Apcar's death. In 1992, Viñas developed his own show *Cabaret Circus* at the Lady Luck Hotel and Casino, but after a three month run it closed. In 2007, Viñas moved back to Spain.

Source:

Viñas, José Luis, Interview, 2003 May 27, OH-01880. Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project, Special Collections and Archives University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The collection contains drawings, photographs, and posters featuring costumes designed by José Luis Viñas, a Spanish costume designer active in Las Vegas, Nevada, from 1960 to 2000. Included in the collection are his costume designs for *Vive les Girls* (1962-1975) and *Casino de Paris* (1963-1982), both long-running shows at the Dunes Hotel and Casino, as well as for Siegfried and Roy's show at the Frontier Hotel in the mid-1980s. The collection also includes his costume designs for an unidentified show in Sun City, South Africa in the late 1970s and later a show called *Circus Cabaret* at the Lady Luck Casino Hotel in Downtown Las Vegas.

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## Arrangement

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Material is grouped by size and then arranged according to show or format.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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### Acquisition Note

Materials were received periodically from 2002 to 2003; accession numbers 2002-035 and 2003-010.

### Processing Note

In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Chris Bruce rehoused and arranged the materials, and revised the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Viñas, José Luis, Interview, 2003 May 27, OH-01880. Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project, Special Collections and Archives University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Showgirls -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Revues -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Show costume -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Casino de Paris (Las Vegas, Nev.) – History
- photographs
- Costume design
- Siegfried and Roy
- Apar, Frederic, 1914-2008
- Dunes Hotel and Casino (Las Vegas, Nev.)

## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Casino de Paris - Photographs of costumed performers in Chicago and Roman scenes, 1970	box 01
Casino de Paris - Photographs (1st ed.) of costumed performers on stage, 1963	box 01
Casino de Paris - Programs, 1969	box 01
Programs for shows with costumes designed by Bill Campbell, undated	box 01
Siegfried and Roy at Frontier Hotel - Costume sketches, mid-1980s	box 01
Unidentified show - Sketches of brown and pink costumes, undated	box 01
Vive les Girls - Photographs of costumed performers on stage, undated	box 01
Vive les Girls - Photographs of costumed performers on stage and of costume design sketches, undated	box 01
Vive les Girls - Sketches of silver and pewter costumes with feathers, undated	box 01
Casino de Paris - Photographs of costume designs for Chicago, brides and Roman scenes, undated	box 01
Oversized brochures, costume design sketches, photos of shows, and posters for Casino de Paris, Siegfried and Roy, Vive les Girls, and Circus Cabaret, 1961-2000	flat file 02