



Guide to the Valda and Esper Esau collection on Lido de Paris

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on December 18, 2023. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1dk6z>

© 2023 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

Table of Contents

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

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Esau, Valda, 1937-
Contributor:	Esau, Esper, 1929-
Title:	Valda and Esper Esau Collection on Lido de Paris
ID:	MS-00520
Date [inclusive]:	1954 to 2014
Date [bulk]:	1954 to 1968
Physical Description:	0.50 Cubic Feet (1 box, 1 flat file (shared box))
Physical Description:	2.09 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	4 Digital Files (0.385 GB) MP4
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Valda and Esper Esau Collection on Lido de Paris (1954-2014) mainly consists of newspaper clippings, ephemera, and programs documenting the career of entertainer Valda Esau, who danced in the <i>Lido de Paris</i> show at the Stardust Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada in the late 1950s. Other materials in this collection include show programs for other shows held in France featuring the Bluebell Girls dance troupe such as the original Lido de Paris. The collection also includes invitation and photographs featuring Esper Esau from <i>Pzazz! '70</i> , a show that was produced by Donn Arden at the Desert Inn Hotel.

Preferred Citation

Valda and Esper Esau Collection on Lido de Paris, 1954-2014. MS-00520. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

A native Australian, Valda Boyne Esau moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in the 1950s to become a professional dancer as a member of the Bluebell Girls dance troupe. She starred in the Lido de Paris show, which debuted at the Stardust Hotel and Casino in 1958 and was one of the most popular nightlife attractions in Las Vegas in the late 1950s and 1960s. She danced in the first and third editions of the famed production as well as the first *C'est Magnifique*, a Las Vegas-inspired rendition of the Parisian show. The final Lido shows were held at the Stardust in 1991.

Esper Esau was raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and he learned about commercial and fine art at the Carnegie Institute of Technology. He began working as a crewman building and painting scenery for the theater. He moved to Las Vegas in the 1950s and began working in the Clover Room at the Riviera Hotel and Casino. He eventually worked as a stage manager and as an assistant Director of Entertainment at the MGM Grand Hotel.

Valda Boyne and Esper Esau met while they were both working as part of Lido de Paris. The couple moved to Sedona, Arizona after retiring where they opened up a bed and breakfast inn, the Wishing Well Bed and Breakfast.

Source:

Esau, Esper. *Las Vegas' Golden Era: Memoirs 1954-1974*. Indianapolis: Dog Ear Publishing, 2016.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Valda and Esper Esau Collection on Lido de Paris (1954-2014) mainly consists of newspaper clippings, ephemera, and programs documenting the career of entertainer Valda Esau, who danced in the *Lido de Paris* show at the Stardust Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada in the late 1950s. Other materials in this collection include show programs for other shows held in France featuring the Bluebell Girls dance troupe such as the original Lido de Paris. The collection also includes invitation and photographs featuring Esper Esau from *Pzazz! '70*, a show that was produced by Donn Arden at the Desert Inn Hotel.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials are arranged loosely by topic.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.

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 2006 and 2021 by Valda and Esper Esau; accession numbers 2006-023, 2021-021.

Processing Note

In 2007, materials were processed by Su Kim Chung. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Ian M. Baldwin revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. In 2015, Joyce Moore further revised the collection description and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2017, Karla Irwin transferred files off of one optical disc, created access files, and updated the finding aid. In 2021, Tammi Kim minimally processed the 2021 addition and updated the finding aid.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Separated Materials

Some of the photographs from the 2006 acquisition were removed from the collection and placed in Valda and Esper Esau Photograph Collection, approximately 1958-2006. PH-00348. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Entertainers
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Dancers

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Lido de Paris ephemera, 1958	box 01
Lido Champs Élysées show programs, 1957, 1959	box 01
Nouvelles Messageries de la Presse 10th anniversary party program, 1957	box 01
Final Lido de Paris performance invitation, 1991 February	box 01
Final Lido de Paris performance newspaper clippings, 1991 February	box 01
Lido de Paris collage created by Valda Esau, 2014	oversized flat file box 02 SH-053
Lido de Paris newspaper clippings, 1957, 1991	box 01
Valda Esau in Lido de Paris newspaper clippings, 1958	box 01
Valda Esau in the Bluebell Girls dance troupe newspaper clippings, 1959 to 1960	box 01
<i>Australasian Post</i> magazine featuring Valda Boyne on the cover, 1954 December 23	oversized flat file box 02 SH-053
Lido de Paris show program, 1958	box 01
8mm role of film on Las Vegas, 1965 Physical Description: 1 Reels	box 01
<i>Ca C'est L'Amour</i> film, 1959 to 1960 Physical Description: 4 Digital Files (0.385 GB) MP4	digital file 00
Pzazz! '70 show invitation, 1969 July 09	oversized flat file box 02 SH-053
Pzazz! '70 backstage and performance photographs, 1968 to 1969	box 01

Tivoli show program, 2003

box 01