



## Guide to the Carmella Rickman 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>	Rickman, Carmella, 1929-2008
<b>Title:</b>	Carmella Rickman Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00541
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1955 to 1999
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.94 Cubic Feet (4 boxes, 1 flat file, 2 oversized items)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	11.03 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Carmella Rickman Papers (1955-1999) document Rickman's career as a burlesque dancer as well as her later life in Las Vegas, Nevada. She performed primarily in Washington, D.C. and along the east coast of the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. Materials include promotional photographs of Rickman and newspaper and magazine clippings about her performances, as well as photographs and promotional material for other burlesque dancers. The collection includes one beaded costume worn by Rickman. It also includes photographs of Rickman's life in the 1990s in Las Vegas, Nevada.

### Preferred Citation

Carmella Rickman Papers, 1955-1999. MS-00541. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Biographical Note

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Born December 10, 1929, Carmella Antoinette Rickman lived in the Washington, D.C. area for much of her professional career as a burlesque dancer. Her promotional material claimed she was discovered while working as a hostess at a restaurant. She used the stage name Carmella: The Sophia Loren of Berlesk. Under her agent, Sol Goodman, she performed in Washington D.C. and travelled extensively for engagements along the east coast. She also performed internationally in Panama and Canada. In addition to her dancing, Rickman was a seamstress and made her own

costumes. She performed regularly from the mid- to late-1950s until approximately the late-1960s. Rickman had three children. She lived in Southern Nevada in her later life and passed away in Las Vegas on January 11, 2008.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Carmella Rickman Papers (1955-1999) document Rickman's career as a burlesque dancer as well as her later life in Las Vegas, Nevada. She performed primarily in Washington, D.C. and along the east coast of the United States in the 1950s and 1960s. Materials include promotional photographs of Rickman and newspaper and magazine clippings about her performances, as well as photographs and promotional material for other burlesque dancers. The collection includes one beaded costume worn by Rickman, as well as large cutout of Rickman used to promote her performance. The collection also includes photographs of Rickman's life in the 1990s in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Arrangement

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Materials are arranged by subject.

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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 acquired from the estate of Carmella Rickman; accession number 2008-008.

## Processing Note

In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Angela Moor rehoused and arranged the materials, entered the data into ArchivesSpace, and wrote the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Burlesque (Theater)
- Entertainment
- photographs

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Personal papers	
Rickman family documents, 1958-1963	box 01
Family photographs, 1959-1989	box 01
Photograph portraits of Rickman, undated	box 01
Photographs received from Barbara S. Cline, 1992	box 01
Jokes collected by Rickman, undated	box 01
Color photographs of Rickman with others, 1990s Physical Description: 2 Files	box 01
Cassette tapes: Organ by Art L.; Songs for Carmella from Jerry; Ruth Williams and Down East Boys; unlabeled, undated	box 02
Burlesque materials	
Rickman contracts and performance materials, undated, 1964-1966	box 01
Music scores, undated, 1958	box 01
Rickman performance expenses, 1964	box 01
Correspondence, 1957-1976	box 01

Business cards, Carmela Inc. Costumer, undated	box 01
"Carmela" biography by L.H., typewritten with notes, undated	box 01
Carmella, promotional souvenir magazine, undated	box 01
Rickman performance promotional materials, undated	box 01
Rickman promotional bookmarks, postcards, cards, black-and-white, undated	box 01
Rickman promotional plastic calendars, 1967	box 01
American Guild of Variety Artists contracts and information, 1964 to 1969	box 01
Magazines	
"Blaze Star in Nighttown", Esquire, 1964 July	box 01
Clippings, Current Events, Montreal, Canada, 1965-1966	box 01
Coverage of Rickman's performance, Current Events, Montreal, 1965-1966	box 01
Clippings, 1957-1969	box 01
Clippings, undated	box 01
Newspapers	
Clippings, Baltimore News-Post, 1959-1960	box 01
Clippings, Confidential Flash, 1961	box 01
Clippings, Montreal, Canada, 1975	box 01
Clippings, Spotlight News, The G String Beat by Rita Atlanta, 1969	box 01
Clippings, Washington, D.C., 1958-1975	box 01
Clippings, 1955-1976	box 01
Clippings, undated	box 01
Clippings, Panama newspaper, 1968 November	box 01
Photographs	
Rickman professional images, black-and-white, undated	box 02
Rickman promotional images, black-and-white, undated	box 02
Marquee and poster for Carmella Rickman, black-and-white, 1959 October	box 02
Marquee for Rickman in Spanish, black-and-white, undated	box 02
Burlesque dancers on strike, black-and-white, undated	box 02
Rickman performance images, black-and-white, undated	box 02
Rickman performance images, color, undated	box 02

Rickman performance images, color, undated	box 02
Performers at club including Rickman, undated	box 02
Unidentified people, black-and-white, undated	box 02
Snapshots, unidentified people, color, undated	box 02
Negatives, undated	box 02
Rickman scrapbook pages, undated Physical Description: 4 Files	box 02
Hoey, The Heyday of Burlesque, 1976 edition, photocopy, undated	box 02
Promotional photographs, other performers, undated	box 02
Promotional materials, other performers, undated	box 02
Autographed prints, undated	box 02
Letter and book about Wilbur Mills scandal, undated	box 02
Audio tapes: Carmella Tape #1 (magnetic, cassette); Carmela, I found a million dollar baby (cassette); Carmela, Stocking (cassette), undated	box 02
Cutout of Carmella Rickman, color, approximately 60 inches tall, text: Presenting Carmella, "The Sophia Loren of Burlesk" Limited Engagement, undated	no container 00
Painting: Carmella The Sophia Loren of Burlesk, color, approximately 30x40 inches	no container 00
Beaded costume and photographs of Rickman in costume, undated	box 03
Glass panels advertising Rickman's show, 10x12 inches, undated Physical Description: 3 Items	box 04
Poster advertising Ross & Ross, undated	oversized flat file box 05 SH-080