



Guide to the Bill Campbell Costume Designs

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Campbell, Bill
Title:	Bill Campbell Costume Designs
ID:	MS-00588
Date [inclusive]:	1954 to 1978
Physical Description:	2.63 Cubic Feet (4 oversized boxes)
Physical Description:	5.42 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Bill Campbell Costume Designs (1954-1978) are comprised of original costume design sketches created by designer Bill Campbell for a number of Donn Arden's stage productions, including <i>Pzazz!</i> , <i>Hello America</i> , and <i>Hello Hollywood Hello</i> that were staged in the Crystal Room at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, Nevada during the 1960s and 1970s. The collection also contains some sketches for other revues held in Los Angeles, California and Reno, Nevada. The majority of items in the collection are original drawings with attached fabric swatches; a number of items are xeroxed reproductions.

Preferred Citation

Bill Campbell Costume Designs, 1954-1978. MS-00588. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Costume designer Bill Campbell created elaborate designs for a number of notable revue shows in Las Vegas, Nevada throughout the 1960s. During this time, Campbell designed extravagantly detailed costumes for two of Donn Arden's revues that were staged in the Crystal Room at the Desert Inn in Las, Nevada. Arden's Las Vegas spectacles included *Hello America*, a wholesome tribute to America that received accolades in the Congressional Record for its positive portrayal

of the United States, and the dynamic *Pzazz!*. These early shows generally featured lines of girls, exquisitely costumed and gracefully elegant. Bill Campbell created a variety of design sketches for the showgirls and dancers in these two shows, often designing custom outfits specifically for each individual dancer.

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Biographical Note

Donn Arden was a choreographer, producer, and director known for creating extravagant production shows that combined spectacular scenery and disaster with sequined and feathered showgirls. In 1958, in collaboration with Frank Sennes and the Paris Lido, Arden brought his Paris Lido show to the newly opened Stardust Resort and Casino on the north end of the Las Vegas Strip. The topless showgirls were a sensation, and Arden became world famous for his extravagant productions. Arden spent more than sixty years in entertainment, working in showrooms all over the world from the 1930s to the 1990s.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Bill Campbell Costume Designs (1954-1978) are comprised of original costume design sketches created by designer Bill Campbell for a number of Donn Arden's stage productions, including *Pzazz!*, *Hello America*, and *Hello Hollywood Hello* that were staged in the Crystal Room at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, Nevada during the 1960s and 1970s. The collection also contains some sketches for other revues held in Los Angeles, California and Reno, Nevada.

The sketches are hand-painted and have detailed notes specifying materials, colors, and construction requirements. Fabric and sequin swatches are attached to the designs with measurements and instructions for construction. All the designs are given generic titles, such as "Female dancers" or "Lead dancers," but some also others have the name of a specific dancer, indicating it was designed specifically for the noted individual.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2012 and 2017 by William Damron; accession numbers 2012-005 and 2017-160. Materials were purchased in 2019 from Joe Ranaudo; accession number 2019-038. Materials were donated by Lesley Bandy in 2020; accession number 2020-005. Materials were donated in 2021 by Greg Campbell and the Campbell family; accession number 2021-143.

Processing Note

In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Sarah Jones created a collection level finding aid in ArchivesSpace. In 2021, Chrziel Childers rehoused the collection, processed additional accessions, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource 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.

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Names and Subjects

- Show costume -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Costume design
- Showgirls -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Entertainment
- Pzazz!
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Hello America (Las Vegas, Nevada)
- Arden, Donn, 1917-1994

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
<p><i>Minsky's Folies</i> at Dunes Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: set designs, 1957 (view online)</p> <p>Physical Description: 3 Items</p>	oversized box 01
<p><i>Ziegfeld Follies</i> at the Sands Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1954 (view online)</p> <p>Physical Description: 1 Items</p>	oversized box 01
<p>The Eleanor Powell revue at the Sahara Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1961 (view online)</p> <p>Physical Description: 3 Items</p>	oversized box 01
<p><i>Almost Paradise</i> revue at the Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1963 (view online)</p> <p>Physical Description: 14 Items</p>	oversized box 01
<p>Possible redesigns for <i>Pzazz! 70</i> at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings (reproductions), approximately 1970 (view online)</p> <p>Physical Description: 22 Items</p>	oversized box 01
<p><i>Pzazz! 70</i> at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1970 (view online)</p> <p>Physical Description: 13 Items</p>	oversized box 01
<p><i>Pzazz! 69</i> at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1969 (view online)</p> <p>Physical Description: 7 Items</p>	oversized box 01
<p><i>Pzazz! 68</i> at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1968</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pzazz! 68</i> at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1968 (view online) 	oversized box 01

- Pzazz! 68 at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1968 ([view online](#))

Physical Description: 2 Files

Pzazz! 67 at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1967 ([view online](#))

oversized
box 01

Physical Description: 4 Items

Hello America! at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1964

oversized
box 02

- Hello America! at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1964 ([view online](#))
- Hello America! at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1964 ([view online](#))
- Hello America! at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1964 ([view online](#))
- Hello America! at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1964 ([view online](#))
- Hello America! at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1964 ([view online](#))
- Hello America! at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1964 ([view online](#))
- Hello America! at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1964 ([view online](#))
- Hello America! at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1964 ([view online](#))
- Hello America! at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1964 ([view online](#))

oversized
box 03

Physical Description: 9 Files

Hello America at Desert Inn and Hello, Hollywood Hello! at MGM Grand Hotel, Reno, Nevada: photograph album, 1964 to 1978 ([view online](#))

oversized
box 03

Hello, Hollywood Hello! at MGM Grand Hotel, Reno, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1978

oversized
box 03

- Hello, Hollywood Hello! at MGM Grand Hotel, Reno, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1978 ([view online](#))
- Hello, Hollywood Hello! at MGM Grand Hotel, Reno, Nevada: costume design drawings, 1978 ([view online](#))

Physical Description: 2 Items

Unidentified show at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, approximately 1960 to 1978 ([view online](#))

oversized
box 04

Physical Description: 5 Items

Donn Arden's *Dames A La Carte* at Ciro's in Hollywood, California: costume design drawings, 1959 to 1961 ([view online](#))

oversized
box 04

Physical Description: 2 Items

Possibly *Pzazz! 70* at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, approximately 1969 to 1970 ([view online](#))

oversized
box 04

Physical Description: 13 Items

Unidentified "Anthony and Cleopatra" inspired show: costume design drawings and reproductions, approximately 1960 to 1970 ([view online](#))

Physical Description: 23 Items	oversized box 04
Possibly <i>Hello, Hollywood, Hello!</i> and <i>Hello America</i> at Desert Inn Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada: costume design drawings, approximately 1969 to 1970 (view online)	oversized box 04
Physical Description: 8 Items	
<i>Hello America!</i> 2nd edition wardrobe book with xeroxed sketches, cast lists, and drawings, approximately 1964 to 1978 (view online)	oversized box 04
Designs drawn for dancer Leslie Bandy in <i>Hello, Hollywood Hello!</i> at MGM Grand Hotel, Reno, Nevada: costume design drawings, approximately 1977 to 1979 (view online)	oversized box 04
Physical Description: 3 Items	