



## Guide to the Babe Pier Papers

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This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on January 16, 2024. 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/f1xj4h>

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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>	Pier, Babe
<b>Title:</b>	Babe Pier Papers
<b>ID:</b>	MS-01150
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	approximately 1962 to 2012
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4.03 Cubic Feet (4 boxes, 1 oversized box)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4.86 Linear Feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	297 Digital Files (2.750 GB) JPG, M4V, MP3
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Babe Pier Papers (approximately 1962-2012) include promotional materials, photographs, and audiovisual materials documenting the career of Las Vegas, Nevada-based comedian and impressionist, Babe Pier. Materials include Pier's show reels, fliers, posters, and photographs of Pier as a solo entertainer and as part of comedy groups such as the Vagabonds and the Happy Jesters. The collection includes recordings of Pier's appearances on television shows like the Mike Douglas Show and Milton Berle's comedy special as well as his comedic boxing charity fights. Materials also contain personal photographs of Pier and his family, including his wife, Cindy Raft, who managed an entertainment agency and was also an entertainer in Las Vegas.

### Preferred Citation

Babe Pier Papers, approximately 1962-2012. MS-01150. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1n78f>

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## Biographical Note

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Comedian and celebrity impressionist Babe Pier grew up in New London, Connecticut. Pier started his comedic career in the 1950s as a member of the comedy group the Vagabonds and performed primarily at the 500 Club in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Pier left the Vagabonds and began performing with another comedy act, the Happy Jesters, at the Stardust Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada around the 1960s. Pier eventually ventured out as a solo comic in Las Vegas and performed for both stage and screen throughout his career. A devout fan of boxing, Pier also helped organize and participate in comedic boxing fights to help fund the Nevada Boxing Hall of Fame.

In 1987, Pier married Cindy Raft, a fellow Las Vegas entertainer and talent manager. Babe Pier passed away at the age of 82 on July 31st, 2012 after battling cancer.

Sources:

"An Interview with Babe Pier," Classic Television Showbiz, September 9, 2012. <https://classicshowbiz.blogspot.com/2012/09/an-interview-with-babe-pier.html>

"Babe Pier," Obituary Dignity Memorial, Accessed January 5, 2024. <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/las-vegas-nv/babe-pier-5191885>

Johnson, Norm, "Babe Pier," The Norm, August 2, 2012. <https://vegas-to-you.com/TheNorm/babe-pier/>

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Babe Pier Papers (approximately 1962-2012) include promotional materials, photographs, and audiovisual materials documenting the career of Las Vegas, Nevada-based comedian and impressionist, Babe Pier. Materials include Pier's show reels, fliers, posters, and photographs of Pier as a solo entertainer and as part of comedy groups such as the Vagabonds and the Happy Jesters. The collection includes recordings of Pier's appearances on television shows like the Mike Douglas Show and Milton Berle's comedy special as well as his comedic boxing charity fights. Materials also contain personal photographs of Pier and his family, including his wife, Cindy Raft, who managed an entertainment agency and was also an entertainer in Las Vegas.

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## Arrangement

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Materials remain as they were received.

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## Administrative Information

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### 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

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### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated by Terry Simmons in 2023; accession number 2023-035.

### Appraisal

Acquired by Claytee White, Director of the Oral History Research Center, as part of UNLV Special Collections and Archives holdings in entertainment history in Las Vegas. Claytee White and curator Su Kim Chung reviewed and selected audiovisual materials for inclusion in the collection. Tammi Kim performed minimal appraisal on the digital media and digital files. Temporary files were deleted and duplicative media were removed. Finally, software that was not necessary to render files was also deleted.

### Processing Note

In 2024, Tammi Kim processed the collection and created the finding aid in ArchivesSpace. Materials were reboxed and digital files were transferred off of original source media and access copies were created.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Entertainers
  - photographs
  - Comedians -- Las Vegas
  - Video tapes
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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Babe Pier stand up shows and appearances around Las Vegas, Nevada, approximately 1976 to 2003 Physical Description: 18 VHS Tapes Physical Description: 3 U-Matic Videotapes	box 01
Babe Pier appearances on <i>The Mike Douglas Show</i> , 1978 Physical Description: 2 VHS Tapes Physical Description: 1 U-Matic Videotapes	box 01
Babe Pier appearance on <i>The Renshaw Report</i> , 2008 December 04 (MS_01150_014) Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (0.488 GB) M4V	digital file 00
Babe Pier on Milton Berle's HBO special, approximately 1995 Physical Description: 3 VHS Tapes	box 01
Babe Pier's show reels, approximately 1987 to 2000 Physical Description: 3 Items Hi8 videotape Physical Description: 2 Items 8mm video cassette tapes	box 01
Babe Pier's show reels, approximately 1987 to 2000 Physical Description: 6 VHS Tapes	box 02
Babe Pier's show reels, 2002 (MS_01150_001-002) Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (0.110 GB) M4V, MP3	digital file 00
Backing tracks for Babe Pier's performances, approximately 2000 to 2008 (MS_01150_004-008, MS_01150_011) Physical Description: 16 Digital Files (0.044 GB) MP3	digital file 00
"Babe Pier and Friends", approximately 1980 to 2000 Physical Description: 2 VHS Tapes Physical Description: 1 U-Matic Videotapes	box 02
Babe Pier boxing videos, approximately 1976 to 2000	box 02

Physical Description: 5 VHS Tapes

Babe Pier recorded commercials, approximately 1980 to 2000 Physical Description: 1 Audio Cassettes	box 01
Soundtracks and recordings for Babe Pier's performances in <i>The Fame Game</i> , Las Vegas Legends, and the Vagabonds, approximately 2006 to 2010 (MS_01150_003, MS_01150_009-10, MS_01150_012-13) Physical Description: 26 Digital Files (0.140 GB) MP3	digital file 00
Babe Pier show fliers, programs, and headshots, 1994 to 2010	box 03
Personal family photographs and correspondence, clippings and brochures for Palm Springs Follies, approximately 1962 to 2008	box 03
Babe Pier boxing and The Happy Jesters: photographic prints and contact sheets, 1962 to 2012	box 03
The Happy Jesters featured in <i>Ken's Spotlight on Las Vegas</i> and flier for Palace Station performanc, 1962, 1970-1989	box 03
Cindy Raft business cards and photographic prints, approximately 1987 to 1999	box 03
Babe Pier and family: photograph albums, approximately 1987 to 1997	oversized box 05 box 04
Babe Pier's Halloween parties and contest: digital photographs, 2009 to 2010 (MS_01150_016-017) Physical Description: 252 Digital Files (1.980 GB) M4V, MP3	digital file 00
Babe Pier scrapbook with press clippings, approximately 1978 to 1987	box 04