



Guide to the Lavern Cummings and Tony Midnite oral history interview

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Cummings, Paul Lavern, 1927-2018
Creator:	Midnite, Tony, 1926-2009
Contributor:	Las Vegas Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Archives Oral History Project
Title:	Lavern Cummings and Tony Midnite oral history interview
ID:	OH-00456
Date:	2000 August 29
Physical Description:	4 Digital Files (0.113 GB) MP3
Physical Description:	0.01 Cubic Feet (1 folder)
Physical Description:	0.10 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Oral history interview with Lavern Cummings and Tony Midnite conducted by Dennis McBride on August 29, 2000 for the Las Vegas Gay Archives Oral History Project. In the interview, Cummings and Midnite discuss their work as female impersonators in Las Vegas, Nevada during the late 1960s and 1970s. They also talk about other impersonators and performance venues in Las Vegas and around the United States. They explain the distinctions between transgender and straight performers, and the perceptions of transgender and straight audience members. Other subjects Cummings and Midnite cover include their early lives and arrivals to Las Vegas, and the history of sex reassignment surgeries beginning in the 1930s.

Preferred Citation

Lavern Cummings and Tony Midnite oral history interview, 2000 August 29. OH-00456. [Cite format consulted: Audio recording or Transcript.] Oral History Research Center, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Scope and Contents Note

Oral history interview with Lavern Cummings and Tony Midnite conducted by Dennis McBride on August 29, 2000 for the Las Vegas Gay Archives Oral History Project. In the interview, Cummings and Midnite discuss their work as female impersonators in Las Vegas, Nevada during the late 1960s and 1970s. They also talk about other impersonators and performance venues in Las Vegas and around the United States. They explain the distinctions between transgender and straight performers, and the perceptions of transgender and straight audience members. Other subjects Cummings and Midnite cover include their early lives and arrivals to Las Vegas, and the history of sex reassignment surgeries beginning in the 1930s. Digital audio available; print transcript available.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

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Acquisition Note

This interview was conducted by Dennis McBride. Materials from this oral history project were donated to UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives on an ongoing basis ending in 2016.

Processing Note

Interview materials were processed by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives in 2017. Jimmy Chang wrote the collection description. The audio cassette(s) for this interview have been reformatted by an external vendor into a digital format. MP3 files of the audio are available for research use. The audio has been minimally reviewed and all readily available information has been included in the description.

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Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Sex change
- Female impersonators
- Transgender people
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Entertainers
- Nightclubs