



Guide to the Karen Carmichael oral history interview

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Summary Information

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| Repository: | University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives. |
| Creator: | Carmichael, Karen, 1952- |
| Contributor: | Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project |
| Title: | Karen Carmichael oral history interview |
| ID: | OH-03652 |
| Date: | 2019 December 09 |
| Physical Description: | 81 Digital Files (0.337GB) MP3, PDF/A, JPG |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Abstract: | Oral history interview with Karen Carmichael conducted by Stefani Evans on December 9, 2019 for the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project. In this oral history Carmichael discusses the world of professional dancing in the 1970s through the 1990s. She discusses her start in the industry and a variety of Las Vegas shows she participated in including: the Union Plaza Can Can, the American Dream Festival, Dasin' Dirty, and Babes Ahoy. She also goes into great detail behind her vision for Skyline, her adagio act, and the many celebrities she encountered throughout her career. Carmichael also discusses her second career in jewelry design, and her experiences working with art galleries on the Las Vegas strip. She details the experiences of starting off at traveling art festivals, working her way up to award winning designs, and the art of jewelry photography. She also discusses the process of researching and publishing history for her book. She ends the interview with a discussion of what it means to be an artist and role of creativity in her life and those around her. She also discusses the ways in which others such as Betty Francisco, Hedy Jo Star, Debbie Reynolds and Sammy Davis Jr. had shaped her life. |

Preferred Citation

Karen Carmichael oral history interview, 2019 December 09. OH-03652. [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 Karen Carmichael conducted by Stefani Evans on December 9, 2019 for the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project.

In this oral history Carmichael discusses the world of professional dancing in the 1970s through the 1990s. She discusses her start in the industry and a variety of Las Vegas shows she participated in including: the Union Plaza Can Can, the American Dream Festival, Dasin' Dirty, and Babes Ahoy. She also goes into great detail behind her vision for Skyline, her adagio act, and the many celebrities she encountered throughout her career.

Carmichael also discusses her second career in jewelry design, and her experiences working with art galleries on the Las Vegas strip. She details the experiences of starting off at traveling art festivals, working her way up to award winning designs, and the art of jewelry photography. She also discusses the process of researching and publishing history for her book. She ends the interview with a discussion of what it means to be an artist and role of creativity in her life and those around her. She also discusses the ways in which others such as Betty Francisco, Hedy Jo Star, Debbie Reynolds and Sammy Davis Jr. had shaped her life.

Digital audio, transcript, and photographs available.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

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Acquisition Note

This interview was conducted and transcribed by the Oral History Research Center (OHRC) which is part of the UNLV University Libraries Special Collections and Archives Division.

Processing Note

Interview materials were processed by UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives in 2019 and 2021. Emily Lapworth wrote the collection description. Access copies were created for born-digital audio and transcript files.

Bound Transcript Availability

A bound transcript is available for use in UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives. See call number: CT247 .C36 2019

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Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Dancers
- Performing arts
- Jewelry -- Design
- Las Vegas (Nev.)