



Guide to the Estelle and Julia Elliott oral history interview

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Elliott, Estrellita
Creator:	Elliott, Julieta
Contributor:	Reflections: The Las Vegas Asian American and Pacific Islander Oral History Project
Title:	Estelle and Julia Elliott oral history interview
ID:	OH-03821
Date:	2021 December 02
Physical Description:	3 Digital Files (0.185 GB) MP3, JPG
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Oral history interview with Estelle and Julia Elliott conducted by Vanessa Concepcion and Stefani Evans on December 2, 2021 for Reflections: The Las Vegas Asian American and Pacific Islander Oral History Project. Twins Estrellita "Estelle" and Julieta "Julia" Elliott share their personal histories growing up in Cebu City, Philippines with their grandparents. They discuss moving to the United States to live with their parents after the death of their grandfather, and how they preserved their "tricultural" Castilian Spanish, Filipino, and American identities. After graduating from Stevens College, an art and academic school in Missouri, Estelle recounts marrying her husband and moving to Las Vegas where she gave birth to her daughter. Julia shares how she followed Estelle a few years later to Las Vegas, and the two women share their experiences as entertainers on the Las Vegas Strip. Both Estelle and Julia joined Minsky's Burlesque before becoming a permanent act in Siegfried and Roy's show at the Frontier Hotel. They also discuss their performances with Kirby VanBurch at the Aladdin's Abracadabra Show, dancing at the Playboy Mansion, and how Siegfried and Roy helped to diversify Las Vegas entertainment by incorporating dancers and performers of color, like the King Charles Troupe, into their shows.

Preferred Citation

Estelle and Julia Elliott oral history interview, 2021 December 02. OH-038210. [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 Estelle and Julia Elliott conducted by Vanessa Concepcion and Stefani Evans on December 2, 2021 for Reflections: The Las Vegas Asian American and Pacific Islander Oral History Project. Twins Estrellita "Estelle" and Julieta "Julia" Elliott share their personal histories growing up in Cebu City, Philippines with their grandparents. They discuss moving to the United States to live with their parents after the death of their grandfather, and how they preserved their "tricultural" Castilian Spanish, Filipino, and American identities. After graduating from Stevens College, an art and academic school in Missouri, Estelle recounts marrying her husband and moving to Las Vegas where she gave birth to her daughter. Julia shares how she followed Estelle a few years later to Las Vegas, and the two women share their experiences as entertainers on the Las Vegas Strip. Both Estelle and Julia joined Minsky's Burlesque before becoming a permanent act in Siegfried and Roy's show at the Frontier Hotel. They also discuss their performances with Kirby VanBurch at the Aladdin's Abracadabra Show, dancing at the Playboy Mansion, and how Siegfried and Roy helped to diversify Las Vegas entertainment by incorporating dancers and performers of color, like the King Charles Troupe, into their shows. Digital audio and photographs available; no transcript available.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

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Acquisition Note

This interview was conducted 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 2021. Kelsey Mazmanyman wrote the collection description. Access copies were created for born-digital audio and photograph files.

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Names and Subjects

- Oral histories (document genres)
- Manila (Philippines)
- Cebu City (Philippines)
- Maryland
- Columbia (Mo.)
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Las Vegas Strip (Nev.)
- Twins
- Women
- Spaniards
- Spanish language
- Filipinos
- Filipino Americans
- Performing arts
- Dance
- Dancers
- Entertainment -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Entertainers
- Showgirls
- Burlesque (Theater)
- Diversity in the workplace
- Minsky, Harold, 1915-1977
- Siegfried and Roy
- Fischbacher, Siegfried, 1939-2021
- Horn, Roy Uwe Ludwig, 1944-2020
- New Frontier Hotel and Casino
- VanBurch, Kirby

- Hefner, Hugh M. (Hugh Marston), 1926-2017
- The King Charles Troupe