



New Exhibition Featuring Las Vegas Showgirl Costume Design

Icon of Las Vegas, the Spectacular Showgirl: Showgirl Costume Designs from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, University Libraries, Special Collections & Archives Now Open in Las Vegas at Nevada Humanities Program Gallery



Costume Design: Folies-Bergere, Tropicana Hotel and Casino. ent000192. Jerry Jackson Papers, 1953-2009. MS-00573. University of Nevada Las Vegas, University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

An exhibition on display at Nevada Humanities Program Gallery showcasing an array of fashion and costume designers who share their visions for iconic Las Vegas showgirl costumes in drawings that bring the spectacle to life on the stage.

October 6, 2023—LAS VEGAS, NV—Nevada Humanities presents a new exhibition, [Icon of Las Vegas, the Spectacular Showgirl: Showgirl Costume Designs from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, University Libraries, Special Collections & Archives](#), on display from **October 5 – November 22, 2023**, at the Nevada Humanities Program Gallery, which is located at 1017 South 1st Street, #190, in Las Vegas. An **in-person reception** will take place on **Thursday, November 16, 2023**, at 5 - 8 pm PT and at 6 pm PT a discussion and reading from the 2023 [Las Vegas Writes anthology Feather Shows: Las Vegas Writers on Film, TV, and Other Spectacles](#), featuring authors Angela M. Brommel, Jenessa Kenway, and Nancy Wright Hardy. Each author has a story that swirls around the experiences of women in the glittering fabric that is Las Vegas. Space is limited. Register for this event at nevadahumanities.org.

Icon of Las Vegas, the Spectacular Showgirl features the costume drawings from the creative designers that brought the glamorous showgirl on stage in sparkling rhinestones, vast arrays of feathers, shimmering silks and translucent fabrics that dazzled as dancers moved across the stages of shows such as *Jubilee*, *Hallelujah Hollywood*, and *Pzazz!* In showrooms up and down the Las Vegas Strip over the decades these designers brought exciting reviews to audiences from across the globe and into the history and lore of Las Vegas.

“Although the great fishnet and feather production shows are a thing of the past, our collections of colorful and elegant showgirl costume designs are just one of the many unique ways that UNLV Special Collections and Archives documents the history of Las Vegas entertainment. We hope that the designs on display in the gallery provide a small glimpse into the glamorous world of the Las Vegas showgirl, and the minds of creative designers such as Jerry Jackson, Pete Menefee, and Bill Campbell,” says Su Kim Chung, Head of Special Collections Public Services, University Libraries.

“At Nevada Humanities, we are pleased that our latest exhibition, *Icon of Las Vegas, the Spectacular Showgirl*, highlights a different side of Las Vegas history by featuring the designs of the iconic Las Vegas showgirl costumes,” says Christina Barr, executive director of Nevada Humanities. “Las Vegas is not only known for casinos and neon signs, but also the iconic showgirl and their extravagant costumes. This exhibition showcases the talented costume designers along with their intricate designs for the famously flamboyant costumes.”

Icon of Las Vegas, the Spectacular Showgirl opened at the Nevada Humanities Program Gallery in Las Vegas on October 5, 2023, is on display as a virtual exhibition indefinitely at nevadahumanities.org, and is on display at the Program Gallery until November 22, 2023. Viewing hours at the Program Gallery are Tuesdays through Fridays from 1 to 4 pm PT and until 9 pm PT, the first Friday of the month for First Friday events at the Nevada Humanities Program Gallery, 1017 South 1st Street, #190 in Las Vegas. Visitors may also make a viewing appointment by contacting Bobbie Ann Howell at bahowell@nevadahumanities.org or 702-800-4670. Visit nevadahumanities.org to learn more.

About Nevada Humanities: Nevada Humanities is one of 56 independent, nonprofit state and territorial humanities councils that partner with the National Endowment for the Humanities. With offices in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada Humanities creates public cultural programs and supports public cultural projects statewide that define the Nevada experience and facilitate the exploration of issues that matter to the people of Nevada and their communities. For more information about Nevada Humanities visit nevadahumanities.org.

About the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives

The University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) Special Collections and Archives collects, preserves, and provides access to rare and unique materials about UNLV, Las Vegas, southern

Nevada, and gaming to promote learning, discovery, and scholarship. All of our collections can be viewed in person in our reading room. Some of our collection materials have been digitized to provide access to researchers all over the world. Some of our materials have no physical counterpart and exist only in digital form. UNLV Special Collections and Archives uses a digital preservation policy that guides decision-making. To learn more visit library.unlv.edu/specol.

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