DEWEY MICHAELS COLLECTION, LATE 1920s-1967  (.3 cubic feet, 1 DB)

Biography

Dewey Michaels (1898-2003) was owner, director, general manager and producer of the Palace Burlesque Theater in Buffalo, New York until it closed on September 29, 1977, when Michaels was 79 years old.

Michaels started in the business when he was 19 years old. Through the years, he featured Abbott and Costello, Phil Silvers, Jerry Lewis, Red Buttons, and Sammy Davis, Jr. who was then a dancer with the Will Master Trio which included his father and uncle. The Palace Burlesque was part of a 40-city circuit.

Michaels was married in 1919 to Phyllis Boasberg. She died in 1969, leaving two sons and one daughter.

The new Palace Theater opened in 1967, amid considerable nostalgia for the old theater.

On December 4, 1980 Michaels gave a backdrop, used in the theatre, to the Smithsonian. The backdrop was one with a musical theme with a clarinetist and notes rendered in extravagant art nouveau. Michaels was then 83 years old. Other backdrops were distributed to other theatres and collectors. They were 60-100 years old, painted in Diamond Dye, and worth about $1,000 apiece.

Scope and Content

This collection includes newspaper clippings, scripts, advertising brochures, and unmounted black-and-white photographic prints, primarily 10” x 8”, of performers at the theater. There are a few color prints.

Arrangement

Alphabetically by subject’s name

Finding Aids

Preliminary inventory

For additional information, contact the Archives Center at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270
## Container List

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<td>Star, Dawn – Villa, Maria (includes Tempest Storm)</td>
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<td><strong>Male burlesque comedians</strong></td>
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<td>Barker, Johnny – Hayden, Jac (sic)</td>
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<td>King, Billy – Rosin, Jack</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Burlesque novelty acts, including male and female dancers and musicians</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Palace Theatre materials: photoprints, newspaper clippings, etc. including pictures of Dewey Michaels. Includes photographs of the theater from 1946 (in poor condition), 1967, 1977, and 1980, including the opening of the new Palace Theater in 1967 (photoprint of Dewey Michaels with Anne Corio. Includes several newspaper columns by Anne McIlhenney Matthews from the Courier Express.</td>
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WWPPC 943: Rev. by David E. Haberstich, 10/29/1991

See complete item list, following
Female Strip-Tease Dancers: Publicity Photoprints, Etc.

Folder 1: Aurora to Bon-Bon.
The Sparkling Seminole Aurora by Maurice Seymour
Honey Bee, 2 prints of different poses, ink on verso, photographer unident.
Carmen Baby by Maurice Seymour
Tinker Bell, photographer unident.
Tinker Bell as Cleopatra, photographer unident. “The Sins of Cleopatra” in pencil on verso
Tinker Bell as Cleopatra, with snake; photographer unident. “The Sins of Cleopatra” in pencil on verso
Tinker Bell by James Kriegsmann
Virginia Bell (in ink on verso), color print by “Freddy” (gold stamp, lower right)
Bust portrait, Virginia Ding Dong Bell by Gene Laverne, Buffalo, N.Y.
Seated full-figure portrait, “Virginia Bell” by Gene Laverne, Buffalo, N.Y.
Virginia Ding Dong Bell, standing portrait, by Paul Winik of Boston
Dancer with dummy in front of “The Bon Bon Lounge” sign; handwork applied to print
Same dancer in 4 poses on same print, with handwork applied to print
Bon-Bon, composite print of 6 images, stamped “Two-O-Clock Club / 414 E. Balto. St.” on verso

Folder 2: Bruce, Bobbi - Dean, Jeri (includes Camille 2000)
Unidentified dancer by Maurice Seymour
Bobbie Bruce (pencil on verso) by Garbo / Chicago
Camille 2000 by Maurice Seymour
Carmella / The Sophia Loren of Burlesk [sic] by Gene Laverne of Buffalo, N.Y.
--- Cassidy [pencil on verso], photographer unident.
Charmaine [pencil on verso] by Bloom / Chicago
“Charming” Charmaine [sic] by Gene Laverne of Buffalo, N.Y.
Marie Cord [pencil on verso], fully dressed woman with hat, by Bruno of Hollywood, NYC
Marie Cord [pencil on verso] by Bloom / Chicago
Geene [sic] Courtney-James by Bruno of Hollywood
Alice Crystal, photographer unident.
Dolores Dawn [ink on verso] by Bruno of Hollywood
Dolores Dawn [ink on verso] by Bruno of Hollywood, second pose
Dolores Dawn [pencil on verso, plus ink autograph on front: “To Mr. Eisenberg / Just a reminder / Dolores Dawn,” by Bruno of Hollywood, third pose
The Elegance of Miss Jeri Dean by James J. Kriegsmann

Folder 3: Del Raye, Dolores - Doll, Barbi
Dolores Del Raye [pencil on verso] by Maurice Seymour
Dolores Del Raye [pencil on verso] by Maurice Seymour, second pose
Dolores Del Raye [pencil on verso] by Bruno of Hollywood
Rita De Marco [pencil on verso] by Maurice / Chicago; damaged print, loss in upper right corner

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Sheree Denise / The Jungle Goddess by Gene Laverne
Sheree Denise / The Jungle Goddess by Gene Laverne, second pose
Simone De Ville by James J. Kriegsmann
Hope Diamond / The Gem of Exotics by Murray Kovillan [?], N.Y.: standing pose
Hope Diamond / The Gem of Exotics by Murray Kovillan [?], N.Y.: kneeling pose
Hope Diamond / The Gem of the Exotics by Boris Backchy [?], N.Y.: standing pose
Hope Diamond / The Gem of Exotics by Murray Kovillan [?], N.Y.: head only
Hope Diamond by Gene Laverne of Buffalo, N.Y., standing pose
Presenting / Hope / Diamond: folded publicity leaflet with reproductions of photographs
by Gene Laverne, Buffalo, N.Y.
Barbi Doll by Madison Geddes, Cleveland, standing pose
Barbi Doll by Madison Geddes, Cleveland, another standing pose, same costume

**Folder 4: Dolly-Frost**
Rina Dolly / “The European Bombshell” [sic] by Maurice Seymour
The Cherokee Half-Breed / Do May [in Indian headdress with bow] by Maurice Seymour
Domay [sic] The Cherokee Half-breed, by Maurice Seymour; with headdress, no bow
“Legs” DuBarry—the Most (1 print), photog. Unidentified
“Legs” DuBarry—the Most (1 print), standing pose, by Gene Laverne of Buffalo, N.Y.
Ecstasy “The Answer to All Your Dreams” 1 print, photog. unidentified, and 1 print of a
composite of images
Fabulous Fanny by Bruno of Hollywood (1 print each of 3 poses)
Fabulous Fanny by Gene Laverne, Buffalo, N.Y.
Amy Fong (pencil on verso), by Maurice, Chicago.
Amy Fong (ink on verso), by Larry Karns Studio, Cleveland, Oh.
Gladys Fox (pencil on verso) by Bloom
Jennifer Fox (by Maurice?)
Jackie Frost / The Coolest Kid in Town (2 poses) by Gene Laverne, Buffalo, N.Y.

**Folder 5: Fu-Herbert**
Sen Lee Fu / French Indies / Venus or Pretty girl (ink on verso) by Carey[?], Dayton, Oh.
Sen Lee Fu / Oriental Pretty Girl (pencil on verso), by Garbo / Chicago.
Blaze Fury by Park Tower Studio, Detroit
Blaze Fury, photo. unidentified.
Blaze Fury by Gene Laverne, Buffalo, N.Y. (2 prints, 2 poses)
Gilda (pencil on verso: 2 prints, 2 poses, photographer unident.
Amber Hazr by Gene Laverne of Buffalo, N.Y. (2 prints, 2 poses)
Anne Howe (2 prints, 2 poses by Bruno of Hollywood
Eileen Hubert / show / #17 / Palace (pencil on verso). By Bloom, Chicago

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