

Folies Bergere archive donated to Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas



The Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas announced that the New Tropicana Las Vegas has donated its *Folies Bergere* archive to the Museum's permanent collection. The massive donation includes thousands of costumes, headdresses and accessories worn on stage from 1959 through 2009. This is the Museum's most significant acquisition of historic Las Vegas entertainment memorabilia to date. The Museum is currently cataloging, conserving, researching and processing the archive into the permanent collection while developing a large-scale exhibition planned to debut in 2019.

Karan Feder, Guest Curator of Costumes & Textiles, brokered the acquisition with the New Tropicana Las Vegas and will be overseeing the development of the signature collection and its exhibition. Feder, president of Entertainment Exhibitions, has extensive training and experience in costume and textile preservation and exhibition. Karan serves in elected and appointed leadership positions within the Costume Society of America and is a voting member of the Television Academy (Emmys).



The development of the *Folies Bergere* collection is projected to take four years of curatorial research and assessment and will require extensive fundraising to finance the project. The estimated cost for initial phases of conservation work and storage fabrication is \$600,000.



In addition to solicitation for strategic underwriters and sponsors, the Museum will partner with community institutions to produce an annual fundraising event for its costume & textile fund. The first of these premier events is scheduled for November 2015 and will serve as a public preview the *Folies Bergere* archive.

Integral to the development of the *Folies Bergere* collection is the participation of the Las Vegas community. The museum is asking those who had an affiliation with the stage show to assist the curator with identification and dating of costumes. Photographic documentation and other ephemera related to the local show are also being sought. To this end, former *Folies* performers, wardrobe staff, designers and crew are encouraged to contact the Museum.



Dennis McBride, Director of the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas views the *Folies Bergere* collection as an opportunity to engage the entire community in its development and to create a source of community pride and ownership. The unique Las Vegas entertainment history that this collection represents will become an important and popular draw for tourists and locals alike.

Photos courtesy of Michael Feder