

TITLE: Louis Anthony Russo Photograph Collection

DATE RANGE: 1970s -2000

CALL NUMBER: FP FPC #18

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3 linear foot (3 boxes)

PROVENANCE: Donated by Merlyn and Donita Albright, 2001 (personal friends and producers of the Star Theater). Donated to the Arizona Historical Society in 2012 by the Arizona Historical Foundation.

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RESTRICTIONS: This collection is unrestricted.

CREDIT LINE: Louis Anthony Russo Photograph Collection, FP FPC #18, Arizona Historical Society-Papago Park.

PROCESSED BY: Rebekah Tabah, December, 2009

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Louis Anthony Russo was a teacher, director, performer, and mentor. Russo was the founder of the Star Theater in Scottsdale where he developed the improv troupe, "The Oxymoron'Z" and taught stand-up comedy. He also played Lord Mayor at the annual Renaissance Festival in Apache Junction from its inception in 1989 until 1998. Russo's performing arts career spanned four decades where he worked as an actor, voice-over artist, director, producer, and writer. Russo died in December of 2000 from heart complications.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

This collection consists of over 250 photographs, ranging from good to excellent condition. They are organized alphabetically by subject. The bulk of the photographs represent Russo's work with the Oxymoron'Z and the Renaissance Festival. In addition, the photographs are identified by the different characters Russo played for theater productions and events. Negatives, slides, and transparencies are sleeved and found in the folders with their corresponding photographs. There is one album from the 1993 Renaissance Festival. This collection also contains various awards, certificates, and memorabilia from Russo's acting, the Star Theater and the Renaissance Festival.

For more information see the biography file Russo, Louis Anthony FB BIO-1775.

CONTAINER LIST:

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	Photographs: The Oxymoron'z, Group Portraits	1997-1999
	2	Photographs: The Oxymoron'z, Individual Portraits	1997
	3	Photographs: The Oxymoron'z, Negatives	1997-1999

	4	Photographs: Renaissance Festival (various people/characters)	1982-1998
	5	Photographs: Russo, Louis Anthony As The Christmas Spirit (includes negatives and slides)	ND
	6	Photographs: Russo, Louis Anthony As Dickens	ND
	7	Photographs: Russo, Louis Anthony As The Great Mugh Ahmand, Magi of Persia (includes transparencies)	1983
	8	Photographs: Russo, Louis Anthony As Lord Mayor, Arizona Renaissance Festival	1989-1998
	9	Photographs: Russo, Louis Anthony As Louie the XIV	ND
	10	Photographs: Russo, Louis Anthony In Costume (various characters) (includes negatives)	ND
	11	Photographs: Russo, Louis Anthony Portraits and Headshots (includes negatives)	1980s-1990s
	12	Photographs: Signed Portraits (includes Rose Mofford and Herb Drinkwater)	ND
	13	Photographs: Star Theater Construction and Grand Opening	1997
	14	VHS Louis Anthony Russo's Fast Funnies	2000
	OV	Album: Renaissance Festival	1993
2	OV	Awards and Memorabilia: Renaissance Festival 10 years of participation award, Oxymoron'Z t-shirt, Sporrان from Lord Mayor Costume, various acting plaques and awards	1980s-1990s
3	OV	Awards and Memorabilia: Various awards and certificates, memorabilia from the Star Theatre and the Oxymoron'Z	1980s-1990s