

An Introduction to Burlesque

Salomé Cabaret Burlesque Academy

Meet Your Instructors!

The Burlesque Babes of Salomé Cabaret

Salomé Cabaret Burlesque Academy Staff

Professors Kisa von Teasa, Dolinda d'Rabbit, & Tiger Tangerine

Professor Siren Santana

"The Southern Songbird" & "The Cellulite Delight"

When's When

in American Burlesque History

1870 The Folies Bergère opens in Paris.

1875 The first burlesque performance in New York City.

1880 The first burlesque performance in London.

1890 The first burlesque performance in Chicago.

1900 The first burlesque performance in New Orleans.

1910 The first burlesque performance in Los Angeles.

1920 The first burlesque performance in San Francisco.

1930 The first burlesque performance in New York City.

1940 The first burlesque performance in Las Vegas.

1950 The first burlesque performance in New York City.

1960 The first burlesque performance in New York City.

1970 The first burlesque performance in New York City.

1980 The first burlesque performance in New York City.

1990 The first burlesque performance in New York City.

Where's Where

in American Burlesque History

France

- Famous for late 19th century cabaret establishments like the Moulin Rouge and the Folies-Bergere
- Can-Can dancing
- Tableau Vivants



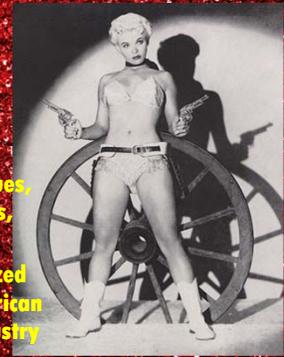
England

- Home of "Classical Burlesque"
- 19th century satire, commonly mocking famous literary or artistic work
- Bawdy song, dance and physical comedy
- Did NOT generally include stripping



United States

- Home of "Burlesque-Striptease"
- Took inspiration from vaudeville, variety revues, cabaret, minstrel shows, classical burlesque, etc
- Evolved into a glamorized buzz word for the American adult performance industry



Who's Who

in American Burlesque History

Lydia Thompson

- British "music-hall" import, made her New York debut in 1868
- Her troupe "The British Blondes" shocked American audiences with their flesh colored tights which, from afar, gave the appearance of naked flesh



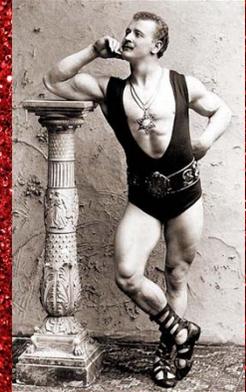
Little Egypt

- Premiered "bellydance" to American audiences at the 1893 "Streets of Cairo" exhibit as part of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago
- Popularized the "Woochee-Coochee"



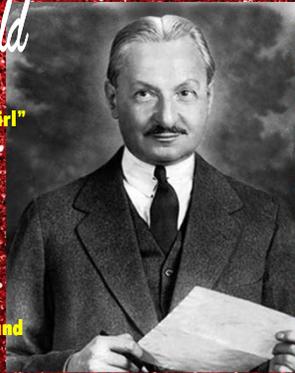
Eugen Sandow

- Also appeared at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, providing "muscle display performances"
- Managed by Florenz Ziegfeld
- Measured Greek and Roman sculptures and built his body to "The Grecian Ideal"



Florenz Ziegfeld

- "Glorified the American-Girl" in his Parisian-inspired revues
- Produced the famously extravagant "Ziegfeld Follies" from 1907-1931
- Worked with prominent composers such as Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and Jerome Kern



Ziegfeld Girls



Anna Held

- Polish-born singer/actress that later became Florenz Ziegfeld's common-law wife
- Known for singing bawdy songs and having a notoriously flirtatious stage presence, including the willingness to bare her legs
- Subject of early Ziegfeld-arranged publicity stunts, rumored to have bathed in milk



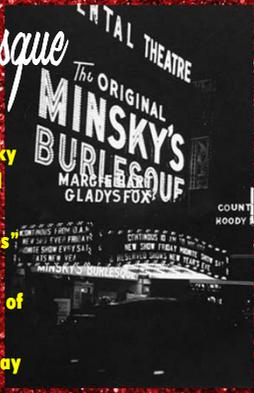
Josephine Baker

- Dropped out of school at age 12 to pursue dance as a vaudeville chorus girl
- Made her Parisian debut in 1925 and quickly became the most successful American entertainer working in France... as the star of the Folies Bergeres



Minsky's Burlesque

- A New York City brand of burlesque produced by the Minsky brothers (Abe, Billy, Herbert and Morton) from 1912-1937
- Known as "the poor man's Follies"
- Routinely raided by the NYPD, increasingly so after the election of Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia
- Home of the first American runway



Minsky's Burlesque



Gypsy Rose Lee

- Became household name after becoming one of the biggest stars of Minsky's Burlesque in 1931
- Noted for her unique and casual style of stripping
- Author of "Gypsy", the 1957 autobiography later turned into a successful Broadway musical and film



Ann Corio

- Another famous Minsky's Burlesque performer
- Later noted for her efforts to keep the art of the striptease alive during burlesque's decline. Her show "This Was Burlesque" began Off-Broadway in 1962 and continued in various incarnations through 1991



Sally Rand

- Silent film star of the 1920's, given the stage name Sally Rand by Cecil B. DeMille
- Famous for her 1933 Chicago World's Fair performances, where she was arrested for indecent exposure



Jennie Lee

- "The Bazoom Girl"
- Founded The Exotic Dancers League of North America in 1955 to rally for nationally comparable pay and working conditions for dancers in L.A.
- Collected burlesque memorabilia that would later become "The Exotic World Burlesque Museum" in Helendale, CA



Dixie Evans

- "The Marilyn Monroe of Burlesque"
- Founder of "Miss Exotic World" Pageant and "Burlesque Hall of Fame" Museum



Dixie Evans

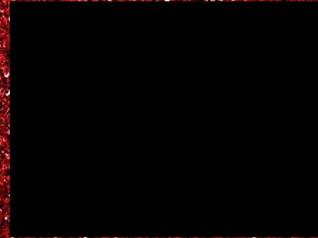


Irving Klaw

- Best known for his mailorder business specializing in bondage photography and films
- Brought burlesque stars to the big screen in Strip-O-Rama (1953), Varietease (1954), Teaserama (1955) and Buxom Beautease (1956)



Irving Klaw



Tempest Storm

- Famous for her outstanding natural physical measurements of 44DD-25-35
- Featured in numerous men's magazines and stage films of the 50's including Irving Klaw's famous "Teasecam" with Bettie Page
- Insured her "moneymakers" by Lloyds of London for one million dollars



Lili St. Cyr

- Hollywood chorus girl turned featured dancer
- 50's tabloid star with stories inspired by her six husbands and rumored suicide attempts
- Used creative and unique "gimmick" acts to gain stage notoriety
- Created the "Undie World of Lili St. Cyr" upon retirement



Blaze Starr

- "The Hottest Blaze in Burlesque"
- Also known for acts based on theatrical gimmicks
- Also known for tabloid attention, famously involved in long-term affair with Louisiana governor Earl Long



What's What

in American Burlesque History

Costumes

- Flattering Fishnets
- Gorgeous Garter Belt and/or Sexy Stockings
- Pretty Panties: G-strings, Bikini Bottoms
- Pendulous Pasties
- Beautiful Bras: Triangle Tops, Buffet Bras
- Glamorous Gloves
- Curve-hugging Corsets
- Everything Embellished: Fringed, Sequined, Glittered, Feathered, Rhinestoned, etc.



Costumes



Props

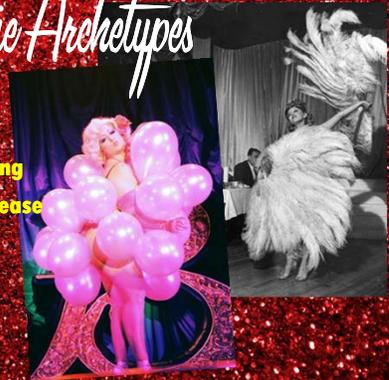
- Feather Boas
- Chairs
- Small number-related props
- Big number-related sets and scenery
- Theatre surroundings: curtains, columns, etc
- THE AUDIENCE

Gore Choreography

- The Strut
- Bump and Grind
- Shimmy and Shake
- The Pause and Pose (Never underestimate the power of stillness!)
- Peel Offs: Gloves and Stockings
- Tassel Twirling

Burlesque Archetypes

- Fan Dance
- Balloon Popping
- Reverse Striptease
- Bubble Act



Burlesque Archetypes



Signature Acts

- "YOU'VE GOTTA GET A GIMMICK!"
- "Signature Acts" are "gimmicks" famously associated with a particular performer
- When "Signature Acts" are performed by artists other than that who made them famous, they are generally billed as "Tribute Performances"
- "Signature Acts" range from the simple clever concept acts to performances requiring significant skill, talent, and training

Signature Acts



Lili St. Cyr's "Glass Bathtub" and "Flying G-string"

Signature Acts



Blaze Starr's "Smoldering Couch" and "Trained Panther"

