



"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Use the suggestions below to brainstorm possible names and words on which to base your stage name. Space is provided to record and edit your answers.

- List names/words that sound like or rhyme with your real first or last name.
- List people you are inspired or influenced by.
- List first impressions people have of you based on your appearance or personality.
- List any special skills or talents that you have and/or words related to any special skills or talents that you have.
- List your ethnic background and/or words related to your ethnic background.
- List any personality traits that influence your art and/or words related to any personality traits that influence your art.
- List words that describe how you want to be perceived.
- List random other things that you like.

- Begin combining words from your brainstorm to create a list of possible names. Consider rhymes, alliteration, and puns when making combinations.
- Research combinations online and eliminate options that are already in use by other performers.
 - Put quotes around the name when entering it into search engines to limit search results to specific first and last name combinations.
 - Don't limit your searches to burlesque or vaudeville performers. Check that your names are not in use by roller derby players, drag queens, or other fringe artists as well.
 - If search engines produce no results, verify your name does not appear in any online stage name directories. A popular place to register burlesque stage names in particular is the burlesque names yahoo group (www.groups.yahoo.com/group/stagenames)
- Avoid commonly used burlesque names: Ginger Snaps, Kitten, Kitty, Lola, Vixen, Something von Something Else, Whatever deVille, etc.
- Aim for something unique and memorable. Above all else, your name should be something that you like and that represents you well. Making a name change becomes difficult once you establish yourself as a performer, so take the time to carefully choose something that will stand the test of time.