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JAMESTOWN

### 2 'I Love Lucy' costumes donated to Ball-Arnaz Center

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JAMESTOWN - Two costumes worn in the classic "I Love Lucy" television series have been donated to the Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Center.

Both costumes, a 13-piece clown outfit and a lion tamer ensemble complete with safari hat and bullwhip, were worn by Pepito Perez, a longtime friend of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz.

Perez was responsible for helping develop Lucy and Desi's 1950 vaudeville act, which toured the country to prove to CBS Television that the American public would accept the couple as a comedy team. The following year, Pepito appeared in the pilot for "I Love Lucy," in which he can be seen wearing the clown costume.

The costumes were recently purchased by William and Mary Rapaport of East Amherst.

The Rapaports, staunch supporters of the Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Center, also recently donated Ball's first Hollywood contracts to the museum.