

National Ballet Records

An inventory of National Ballet at DC Public Library

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Stage

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	4
Collection Inventory	4
Series 1: Trustee Minutes, 1964-1974	4
Series 2: Ballets Performed, 1962-1974	5
Series 3: Biographical Files, 1972-1974	7
Series 4: Programs and Promotional Material, 1963-1972	7
Series 5: Traveling Performances, 1973-1974	8
Series 6: Publicity, 1963-1975	8
Series 7: Stage Direction, ca. 1962-1974	9
Series 8: Audiovisual Materials, ca. 1964-1974	9
Subseries 1: Audio and Video Recordings, ca. 1964-1974	9
Subseries 2: Microfilm, ca. 1971	11
Subseries 3: Photographs, ca. 1970s	11
Series 9: Administration, 1966-1974	12
Series 10: Stage Design, ca. 1962-1974	12
Series 11: Musical Scores, ca. 1962-1974	13
Series 12: Scrapbooks, 1940, 1962-1974	14

Summary Information

Repository:	Stage
Title:	National Ballet Records
ID:	034
Date [inclusive]:	1962-1974
Physical Description:	50 linear feet; 91 boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	English

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The National Ballet was founded in 1962 by Jean Riddell as the resident ballet company of the Nation's capital. It gave its first performance on January 3, 1963 at Lisner Auditorium. During its 12 years, the company presented 1000 performances in Washington, D.C. and in 275 cites, including the U.S., Canada and Mexico. In the District, the Company performed first at the Lisner Auditorium and then the Kennedy Center. In 1974 the Company disbanded due to financial problems.

Frederick Franklin was the artistic director of the company from its beginning. Ben Stevenson joined Mr. Franklin as artistic director in 1971 whose first staged ballet was *The Sleeping Beauty* in observance of the inaugural season of the Kennedy Center. The company had a strong classical repertory, including *Cinderella*, *Giselle*, *Coppelia*, *La Sylphide*. Contemporary works it performed included *Harlequinade*, *Bartok Concerto*, and *Three Preludes*. Dancers who appeared regularly with the company included Christine Knobloch, Michelle Lees, Kirk Peterson, Fredric Strobel, and Dennis Poole. Famous guest artists included Margot Fonteyn, Violette Verdy, and Edward Villella.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

The records consist of trustee minutes, programs, advertisements, press releases, clippings, biographical files, promotional materials, and scrapbooks regarding the promotion and administration of the Ballet. The collection also contains musical scores, hanging plots, stage directions, board studies, set designs, videotapes, audiotapes, microforms, and photographs which document its artistic work. The records are arranged into 12 series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Stage

Custodial History

Jean Riddell donated the records to the Library in 1976.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Arts
- Washington (D.C.)
- Music
- Performing Arts

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Trustee Minutes, 1964-1974

Scope and Contents

Contains minutes of the Board of Trustees of the National Ballet.

Title/Description

Instances

Minutes, 1964-1974

Box 1

Folder 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Ballets Performed, 1962-1974

Scope and Contents

Contains primarily photographs from performances of the National Ballet as well as a few programs. The folders are arranged alphabetically by title of the performance. The series also contains a chronology of the National Ballet Repertory from 1962-1967 prepared by Debra Devoe, which appears at the end of the series.

Title/Description

Instances

Bachianas, Undated

Box 2

Folder 1

Bartok Concerto, Undated

Box 2

Folder 2

Cinderella, Undated

Box 2

Folder 3

Black Swan, Undated

Box 2

folder 4

"The Catalyst", Undated

Box 2

folder 5

Cinderella, Undated

Box 3

Folder 1

Cinderella, Undated

Box 4

Folder 1

Combat, Undated

Box 4

Folder 2

Con Amore, 1968-1969

Box 4

Folder 3

Concerto Barocco, Undated

Box 5

Folder 1

Coppelia, 1969

Box 5

Folder 2

Le Corsaire, Undated

Box 5

Folder 3

Don Quixote, Undated

Box 6

Folder 1

Early Voyagers, Undated

Box 6

Folder 2

Eaters of Darkness, Undated

Box 6

Folder 3

Four Temperaments, Undated

Box 6

Folder 4

Giselle, Undated

Box 7

Folder 1

Graduation Ball, Undated

Box 8

Folder 1

Harlequinade, Undated

Box 8

Folder 2

Homage, Undated

Box 8

Folder 3

Jeu de Cartes, Undated	Box 9	Folder 1
Jungle, Undated	Box 9	Folder 2
Midsummer Nights Dream, Undated	Box 10	Folder 1
Night, Undated	Box 10	folder 2
Nutcracker, Undated	Box 10	Folder 3
Nutcracker, Undated	Box 11	Folder 1
Out of Darkness, Undated	Box 11	Folder 2
Paquita, Undated	Box 11	Folder 3
Paquita, Undated	Box 12	Folder 1
Pas de Quatre, Undated	Box 12	Folder 2
Peter and the Wolf, Undated	Box 12	Folder 3
Prodigal Son, Undated	Box 13	Folder 1
Rhythm 3, Undated	Box 13	Folder 2
Seranade, Undated	Box 13	Folder 3
Serenade, Undated	Box 14	Folder 1
Sleeping Beauty, Undated	Box 14	Folder 2
Sleeping Beauty, Undated	Box 15	Folder 1
La Sonnambula, Undated	Box 15	Folder 2
Swan Lake, Undated	Box 15	Folder 3
Swan Lake, Undated	Box 16	Folder 1
Les Sylphides, Undated	Box 17	Folder 1
Les Sylphides, Undated	Box 18	Folder 1
Three Preludes, Undated	Box 18	Folder 2
Tribute, Undated	Box 18	Folder 3
Through the Edge, Undated	Box 18	Folder 4
Variations for Four, Undated	Box 19	Folder 1
Water Study, Undated	Box 19	folder 2
Witch Boy, Undated	Box 19	Folder 3
Chronology of National Ballet repertory by Debra Devoe, 1962-1967	Box 19	Folder 4

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Biographical Files, 1972-1974

Scope and Contents

Folders in the series contain files on certain dancers who performed with the National Ballet. The folders are arranged alphabetically first by name of the performer. Biographies and critics quotes for use by the press for certain performers as well as advance sheets appear at the end of the series.

Title/Description	Instances	
Leslie Adres - Marilyn Burr, Undated	Box 20	Folder 1
Marilyn Burr - Joanne Danto, Undated	Box 21	Folder 1
Ottavio Derosa (conductor) - Peter Farmer, Undated	Box 22	Folder 1
Dame Margot Fonteyn, Undated	Box 23	Folder 1
Frederic Franklin (co-artistic director) - Edward Haynes, Undated	Box 24	Folder 1
Paul Higginbotham - Desmond Kelly, Undated	Box 25	Folder 1
Christina Knoblach (principal dancer) - Kevin McKenzie, 1972-1973	Box 26	Folder 1
Roni Mahler - Dennis Pool, Undated	Box 27	Folder 1
Andrea Price – Frederic Strobel, Undated	Box 28	Folder 1
Robert Troll – Elizabeth Wade, Undated	Box 29	Folder 1
Biographies and critics quotes for use by the press, Undated	Box 30	Folder 1
Biographies and critics quotes for use by the press, Undated	Box 30	Folder 2
Advance Sheets, Undated	Box 30	Folder 3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Programs and Promotional Material, 1963-1972

Scope and Contents

This series contains primarily programs, flyers, and other promotional materials for productions of the National Ballet. The materials are arranged chronologically by date of the performance.

Title/Description	Instances	
Untitled, 1963-1968	Box 31	Folder 1
Untitled, November 1968-March 1969	Box 32	Folder 1
Untitled, April 1969-March 1970	Box 33	Folder 1
Untitled, October 1971-January 1972	Box 34	Folder 1
Untitled, 26390	Box 35	Folder 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Traveling Performances, 1973-1974

Scope and Contents

This series includes correspondence, contracts, internal memoranda, stage information questionnaires, rehearsal and performance schedules, technical information sheets, reviews, and clippings regarding traveling performances of the Ballet. Performances took place in every region of the U.S. including such states as North Carolina, California, Alabama, New York, Texas, and Kansas. Handwritten log books maintained on the road to record schedules, staging requirements, and other notes on the performances appear first with the remainder of the materials arranged alphabetically by title of the performance.

Title/Description	Instances	
Untitled, 1973-1974	Box 36	Folder 1
Akron, OH - Brooklyn College, Undated	Box 37	Folder 1
Carbondale, IL - Fredericksburg, VA, Undated	Box 38	Folder 1
Greensboro, NC - Lawrence, KS, Undated	Box 39	Folder 1
Lawton, OK - Mobile, AL, Undated	Box 40	Folder 1
Muncie, IN - Ocala, FL, Undated	Box 41	Folder 1
Olean, NY - Salisbury, MD, Undated	Box 42	Folder 1
San Antonio, TX - Toledo, OH, Undated	Box 43	Folder 1
Torrence, CA - Yakima, WA, Undated	Box 44	Folder 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Publicity, 1963-1975

Scope and Contents

This series contains press releases, editions of Ballerina: the National Ballet News, subscription flyers, and clippings regarding performances. A book containing clippings of advertisements for National Ballet performances is also contained in the series.

Title/Description	Instances	
Advertising Book, 1963-1965	Box 45	Folder 1
Advertising Book, 1973-1975	Box 45	Folder 2
Ballerina: National Ballet News, Undated	Box 46	Folder 1
Subscription flyers, Undated	Box 46	Folder 2
Press releases, Undated	Box 46	Folder 3
Clippings, Undated	Box 46	Folder 4

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Stage Direction, ca. 1962-1974

Scope and Contents

Handwritten stage directions for each play as well as some musical scores are contained in this series. Folders are arranged alphabetically by title of the ballet.

Title/Description	Instances	
"Bachianas" to "Concerto in D Minor", Undated	Box 47	Folder 1
"Creation" to "Legend of the Pearl", Undated	Box 48	Folder 1
"Night" to "Swan Lake", Undated	Box 49	Folder 1
"Tango-Chikane" to "Warm Up", Undated	Box 50	Folder 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 8: Audiovisual Materials, ca. 1964-1974

Scope and Contents

This series contains audiotapes, a videotape, microfilm of musical scores, and photographs. The materials are further arranged into subseries by format.

Subseries 1: Audio and Video Recordings, ca. 1964-1974

Scope and Contents

Contains 93 reel-to-reel audiotapes of ballets performed by the National Ballet. The series also contains a video film of a February 1973 performance on WTTG television by the company and tapes of interviews with members of the company, including Frederick Franklin and Ralph Black. The tapes are loosely arranged alphabetically by title with interviews and duplicates in other formats at the end.

Title/Description	Instances	
Con Amore, Undated	Box 51	Folder 1
Coppelia, Undated	Box 51	Folder 2
Barocco, Undated	Box 51	Folder 3
Cinderella, Undated	Box 51	Folder 4
Bachianas, Undated	Box 51	Folder 5
Bartok Piano Concerto No.3, Undated	Box 51	Folder 6
Conversations, Undated	Box 51	Folder 7
Catalyst, Undated	Box 52	Folder 1

Concerto Barocco, Undated	Box 52	folder 2
Courante, Undated	Box 52	folder 3
Creation of the World, Undated	Box 52	folder 4
Dance Brillante, Undated	Box 52	folder 5
Don Quixote, Undated	Box 52	folder 6
Eaters, Undated	Box 52	folder 7
Legend of the Pearl, Undated	Box 52	folder 8
Giselle, Undated	Box 53	Folder 1
Jeu de Cartes, Undated	Box 53	Folder 2
Night, Undated	Box 53	Folder 3
Nutcracker, 1967	Box 53	Folder 4
Homage, Undated	Box 54	Folder 1
Jungle, Undated	Box 54	Folder 2
La Peri and Fanfare, Undated	Box 54	folder 3
Prodigal Son, Undated	Box 54	folder 4
Raymonda, Undated	Box 54	folder 5
Seeds, Undated	Box 54	folder 6
Serenade, Undated	Box 55	Folder 1
Sleeping Beauty, Undated	Box 55	Folder 2
La Sonnambula, Undated	Box 55	Folder 3
Streetcar, Undated	Box 55	Folder 4
Swan Lake, Undated	Box 55	Folder 5
Les Sylphides, Undated	Box 56	Folder 1
La Sommabula, Undated	Box 56	Folder 2
Tango Chicane, Undated	Box 56	Folder 3
Tempraments, Undated	Box 56	folder 4
Tribute, 1971	Box 57	Folder 1
Variations for Four, 1964	Box 57	Folder 2
Warm Up, Undated	Box 57	folder 3
Witch Boy, Undated	Box 57	folder 4
Britton's Young Persons Guide to the Orchestra, Undated	Box 57	folder 5
Tapes of interviews and unidentified tapes, Undated	Box 57	folder 6

Paquita, Undated	Box 58	Folder 1
Pas de Deux "Gayne", Undated	Box 58	Folder 2
Pas de Quartre, Undated	Box 58	Folder 3
Interviews, Undated	Box 58	folder 4
WTTG video film tape, February 1973	Box 61	Folder 1
"Night" 16 mm film, Undated	Box 61	folder 2

Subseries 2: Microfilm, ca. 1971

Scope and Contents

Contains microfilm of selected scores from ballets performed by the company. The microfilm containers are loosely arranged by title of the ballet.

Title/Description	Instances	
Bartok (2 containers), Undated	Box 62	Folder 1
Black Swan, Undated	Box 62	Folder 2
Cinderella (5 containers), Undated	Box 62	Folder 3
Combat, Undated	Box 62	folder 4
Copelia Con Amore Pas de Deux, Undated	Box 62	Folder 5
Gayeneh, Undated	Box 62	Folder 6
Othello, Undated	Box 63	Folder 1
Paquita and Raymonda (4 containers), Undated	Box 63	Folder 2
Paquita and Seeds (4 boxes), Undated	Box 63	Folder 3
La Sylphide, Undated	Box 63	Folder 4
Witch Boy (2 boxes), Undated	Box 63	Folder 5
Unidentified, Undated	Box 63	Folder 6

Subseries 3: Photographs, ca. 1970s

Scope and Contents

Contains snapshots, proofsheets, a photo album commemorating the first 4 years of the company, and other photographs from rehearsals, performances, and the academic school of the National Ballet.

Title/Description	Instances	
4 Ballerinas (Barr, Fulton, Lipinski, and Le Comte with Frederick Franklin), Undated	Box 64	Folder 1
Photo album,, Undated	Box 64	Folder 2
Snapshots and proofsheets, Undated	Box 64	Folder 3

Kennedy Center, Undated	Box 64	Folder 4
Photographs, snapshots, and proofsheets, Undated	Box 64	Folder 5
Photographs, snapshots, and proof sheets, Undated	Box 65	Folder 1
Photographs, snapshots, and proof sheets, Undated	Box 66	Folder 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 9: Administration, 1966-1974

Scope and Contents

This series contains a small amount of records regarding the finances, history, and general administration of the company. Items include a history of the National Ballet, sample form letters, press book, Kennedy Center information, brochures worksheet, New York publicity, and printed material of the Ballet.

Title/Description	Instances	
Brochures, Undated	Box 67	Folder 1
Floor Plans, Undated	Box 67	folder 2
History of the Company, Undated	Box 67	Folder 3
Kennedy Center Info, Undated	Box 67	Folder 4
Petty Cash Forms, Undated	Box 67	Folder 5
Press book, Undated	Box 68	Folder 1
Requests for Information, Undated	Box 68	Folder 2
Sample Form Letters, Undated	Box 68	Folder 3
SM Q-sheets, Undated	Box 68	Folder 4
Stencils, Undated	Box 68	Folder 5
Three Preludes, Undated	Box 68	Folder 6
Travel Orders, Undated	Box 68	Folder 7
Printed Materials, Undated	Box 69	Folder 1
New York Publicity, Undated	Box 69	Folder 2
Publicity Brochures, Undated	Box 69	Folder 3
Light Plot Q Sheets, Undated	Box 69	Folder 4

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 10: Stage Design, ca. 1962-1974

Scope and Contents

This series contains hanging plots, board studies, and set designs for selected performances of the National Ballet. The materials are loosely arranged alphabetically by title of the ballet.

Title/Description	Instances	
Hanging Plots and board studies for: Nutcracker, Graduation Ball, Concerto Baccaccio, Coppelia, Gisele, Homage, Les Sylphide, Prodigal Son, Swan Lake, Tango, and Witch Boy, Undated	Box 70	Folder 1
Line plots, set design, etc. for Streetcar, Cinderella, Les Sylphide, Undated	Box 71	Folder 1
Line plots, set design, etc. for Bartok Concerto, Blossom, Jacob's Pillow, Jungle, La Sonnambula, Les Sylphides, Meadow Brook, and Water Study, Undated	Box 72	Folder 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 11: Musical Scores, ca. 1962-1974

Scope and Contents

This series contains marked scores of music for ballets performed by the National Ballet. The scores are arranged alphabetically by title of the ballet.

Title/Description	Instances	
Legend of the Pearl, Undated	Box 73	Folder 1
Legend of the Pearl, Undated	Box 74	Folder 1
Legend of the Pearl, Undated	Box 75	Folder 1
Othello, Undated	Box 76	Folder 1
Othello, Undated	Box 77	Folder 1
Le Maure De Venise (Othello), Undated	Box 78	Folder 1
Raymonda, Undated	Box 79	Folder 1
Romeo and Juliet, Undated	Box 80	Folder 1
A Streetcar Named Desire, Undated	Box 81	Folder 1
Touch and Go (Dance Variation for Piano), Undated	Box 82	Folder 1
Touch and Go (Dance Variation for Piano), Undated	Box 83	Folder 1
Witchboy, Undated	Box 84	Folder 1
Witchboy, Undated	Box 85	Folder 1
Miscellaneous, Undated	Box 86	Folder 1
Miscellaneous, Undated	Box 87	Folder 1

Miscellaneous, Undated	Box 88	Folder 1
Miscellaneous, Undated	Box 89	Folder 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 12: Scrapbooks, 1940, 1962-1974

Scope and Contents

Includes scrapbooks of clippings, programs, invitations, press releases, and other memorabilia compiled to document the company's activities from 1962 through 1974. The series also contains two scrapbooks of clippings of magazine and newspaper articles from the 1940s about composers and conductors of the period such as Toscanini, Shostakovich, and Rachmaninoff.

Title/Description	Instances	
Scrapbooks, 1940s	Box 91	Folder 1
Scrapbooks, 1940s	Box 91	Folder 2
Unboxed scrapbooks, 1962-1963	Box 92	Folder 1
Unboxed scrapbooks, 1963-1964	Box 92	Folder 2
Unboxed scrapbooks, 1964-1965	Box 92	Folder 3
Unboxed scrapbooks, 1966-1967	Box 92	Folder 4
Unboxed scrapbooks, 1967-1968	Box 92	Folder 5
Unboxed scrapbooks, 1969-1970	Box 92	Folder 6
Unboxed scrapbooks, 1969-1971	Box 92	Folder 7
Unboxed scrapbooks, 1972	Box 92	Folder 8
Unboxed scrapbooks, 1973-1974	Box 92	Folder 9

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)