



The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Domy Reiter-Soffer papers

1964-2008 [bulk 1974-1990]

(S)*MGZMD 324

Compiled by Jennifer A. Ferretti, Pratt Institute 2014, 2013 Additional materials were received and processed by Heather Lember in 2015. New files are in boxes 2-3.

Summary

Creator: Reiter-Soffer, Domy

Title: Domy Reiter-Soffer papers

Date: 1964-2008 [bulk 1974-1990]

Size: 1.3 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Gift of Domy Reiter-Soffer, 2004 and 2013.

Abstract: Domy Reiter-Soffer (b. 1950, Tel Aviv) is a choreographer, actor, director, dancer, painter, and stage designer working for ballet, opera, musical, and play productions as well as television and film. The Domy Reiter-Soffer papers (1964-2008) contain biographical articles, correspondence, photographs, reviews, and programs mostly pertaining to ballet performances Reiter-Soffer choreographed for American, European, and Asian dance companies.

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Creator History

Domy Reiter-Soffer was born in Tel Aviv, Israel on October 24, 1950. He is a choreographer, actor, director, dancer, painter, and stage designer working for ballet, opera, musical, and play productions as well as television and film.

Reiter-Soffer began his career as a dancer and studied with Anna Sokolow. In 1959 he joined the Israeli Opera Ballet. From 1962 through 1970, he danced for companies in Ireland, London, and Scotland before becoming artistic advisor and choreographer to the Irish National Ballet Company from 1974 to

1989. Reiter-Soffer choreographed the ballet *Equus* (1980), which is an adaptation of the play of the same name written by Peter Shaffer (1973). *Equus* was premiered by the Maryland Ballet and in 1981 Reiter-Soffer choreographed its revival by the Dance Theatre of Harlem. The 1981 revival was awarded Best Ballet of the Year Award by *New York Daily News*. Another production of note is *Paradise Gained* (1980), a three act ballet performed by the Irish National Ballet (revived by the Louisville Ballet in 1988 and 1993) based on the life of French novelist Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette.

Reiter-Soffer is best known for his work with the Bat-Dor Dance Company based in Tel Aviv, Israel, for which he was involved with over twenty-five ballets from 1971 to 1996. He has staged ballets for American, European, and Asian companies including the Ballet Metropolitan (Ohio), Finnish National Ballet, Australian Ballet, and Hong Kong Ballet.

Source: "About Domy Reiter-Soffer," Domy Reiter Soffer, accessed September 11, 2013, <http://www.domyrs.com/en/About.aspx>.

Scope and Content Note

The Domy Reiter-Soffer papers cover the years 1964 through 2008 and contain biographical information, correspondence, photographs, reviews, and programs, mostly pertaining to ballet performances Reiter-Soffer choreographed. The articles, reviews, and correspondence are photocopies from originals and the performance programs are originals with some exceptions.

Among the biographical information is a short biography of Reiter-Soffer, including details of his training, studies, acting career, dancing career, directorial career, opera staging, choreography, television and film work, painting career, and stage design. The files also hold a list of ballets he's choreographed, which includes the title, musical composer, company, and date. Biographical articles review his work as an international choreographer for companies such as the Irish Ballet Company, Ballet Metropolitan, and the Bat-Dor Company.

Domy Reiter-Soffer's correspondence provides a general discussion of his work with companies such as the Dance Theatre of Harlem, Australian Ballet, and the Irish National Ballet. The correspondence particularly focuses on his ballet *Equus*. The correspondence also mentions *Lady of the Camellias* (1978) performed by the Irish National Ballet and *Chariots of Fire* (1978).

The reviews and programs include documentation from 1964 to 2008 on Domy Reiter-Soffer choreographed productions. Most reviews are in English with one in German and another in Croatian. There are varying amounts of material for each production and the files do not cover all of Reiter-Soffer's work. The material is arranged by title and includes documentation of multiple productions by different dance companies. In some cases there is very little documentation of the production. Of particular interest to researchers will be documentation of the production *Equus* (1980), performed by the Maryland Ballet (1980), Dance Theatre of Harlem (1981), the Australian Ballet (1984), and the Alberta Ballet (1992). The file for *Paradise Gained* contains reviews, programs, and a synopsis along with a copied letter from Colette's daughter, Colette de Jouvenel to Domy Reiter-Soffer (May 31, 1980) in which she describes her first meeting with Reiter-Soffer and his love for her mother.

Photographs of rehearsals and production stills accompany the reviews and programs for some productions.

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts' Research Collection holds a video recording of *Equus*, choreographed by Domy Reiter-Soffer. Additional materials related to Reiter-Soffer can be

found by performing a keyword search for "Reiter-Soffer, Domy" in the library's catalog.

Selected correspondence and reviews within these papers can be found on Domy Reiter-Soffer's website: <http://www.domyrs.com>.

Arrangement: The Domy Reiter-Soffer papers are arranged according to document type: biographical articles, correspondence, and reviews and programs. The reviews and programs are arranged together by production title.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet
Choreographers

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs
Programs (documents)

Names

Dance Theatre of Harlem
Irish National Ballet

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical Articles 1974-1998
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence 1979-1986
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- b. 3 f. 1-16 1964-2005