



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Hazel Wallack papers

1905-1977

(S) *MGZMD 391

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014

Summary

Creator: Wallack, Hazel

Title: Hazel Wallack papers

Date: 1905-1977

Size: .67 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by Marianne Field, 1990.

Abstract: Hazel Wallack was an American dancer and dance teacher. The Hazel Wallack papers (1905-1977) document Wallack's career and her relationship with Ted Shawn.

Conditions Governing Access:

Researchers wishing to view the printing block should contact the Jerome Robbins Dance Division (dance@nypl.org) in advance to inquire about its availability.

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Preferred citation: Hazel Wallack papers, (S) *MGZMD 391. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

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Creator History

Hazel Wallack was an American dancer and dance teacher. She launched her career on the vaudeville circuit in 1908, where she became known for classical dances. Around the same time, she taught children's dance classes at Elitch's Gardens, an amusement park in Denver, Colorado. Wallack was Ted Shawn's first dance teacher and his dance partner for a short time. From the 1910s through the 1920s, Wallack toured with her own company, the Hazel Wallack Dancers.

Scope and Content Note

The Hazel Wallack papers (1905-1977) document Wallack's career as a dancer and dance teacher, as well as her relationship with Ted Shawn. The collection contains programs, promotional material, clippings, publications, letters, contracts, ephemera, photographs, and writings by Wallack.

Dance programs, promotional material, and publicity for Hazel Wallack and the Hazel Wallack Dancers date from 1905 to 1937. Programs span 1905 to 1937, but date primarily from 1908 to the 1910s. The collection also contains correspondence and contracts for bookings of Wallack and the Wallack Dancers, dating from 1916 to 1925. Publications include issues of *The Child's Companion*, a weekly newsletter published by Elitch's Gardens, dating from 1908 to 1910. The newsletters contain notices and articles about Wallack's classes and performances. A scrapbook holds clippings about Wallack from 1908 and 1909.

Photographs in the collection date from the 1910s to 1965, with the bulk dating to the 1910s. Photographs depict Wallack, her dancers, and Ted Shawn.

The collection contains Ted Shawn's letters to Wallack, dating from 1966 to 1971. Wallack's handwritten reminiscences, which are six pages long and were written in 1977, contain memories of her early career and her relationship with Ted Shawn.

The collection includes an undated copper printing block, with an image of Wallack. Researchers wishing to view the printing block should contact the Jerome Robbins Dance Division (dance@nypl.org) in advance to inquire about its availability.

Key Terms

Geographic Names

Elitch Gardens (Denver, Colo.)

Names

Shawn, Ted, 1891-1972

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-13 1905-1977
- b. 2 f. 5-9 The Child's Companion 1908-1910
- b. 1 f. 14 Photographs circa 1910s-1938, 1965
- b. 2 f. 1-3 Photographs circa 1919-1920s
- b. 2 f. 4 Scrapbook 1908-1909