



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Harkness Ballet Company photographs

1964-1970

*MGZEB 21-0028

Processed by Heather Lember in 2021.

Summary

Creator: Harkness Ballet

Title: Harkness Ballet Company photographs

Date: 1964-1970

Size: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by the Harkness Ballet in 1970.

Abstract: The Harkness Ballet (1964-1975) was a dance company founded by the American philanthropist, Rebekah Harkness. The collection contains photographs of Harkness Ballet performances, dancers, and of Rebekah Harkness.

Preferred citation: Harkness Ballet Company photographs, *MGZEB 21-0028. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Heather Lember in 2021.

Creator History

Rebekah Harkness founded the Harkness Ballet in 1964 with money inherited from her husband's investments in the Standard Oil Company. A former financial backer of the Joffrey Ballet, Harkness decided to found her own dance company when the Joffrey Ballet refused to change its name in her honor, and hired many of Joffrey's dancers to perform with the Harkness Ballet.

The Harkness Ballet's debut performance was in Cannes, France in 1965. They continued to perform throughout Europe before making their New York debut in 1967. The company showcased many prominent dancers including Maria Eglevsky, Lone Isaksen, Judith Jamison, Finis Jhung, Lawrence Rhodes, Brunilda Ruiz, and Helgi Tomasson. The Harkness Ballet performed its final season in 1974 at the recently established Harkness Theatre, which Rebekah Harkness had purchased and renovated two years prior. The Harkness Ballet officially dissolved and ceased performances in 1975.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains mostly undated photographs of Harkness Ballet performances and dancers. The performances depicted include *After Eden*, *Canto Indio*, *Firebird*, *Madrigalesco*, *Monument for a Dead Boy*, *Sebastian*, *Souvenirs*, *Stages and Reflections*, *Sylvia Pas De Deux*, *Time Out of Mind*, and *Variations for Four*. Among the dancers appearing in these photographs are Salvatore Aiello, Elisabeth Carroll, Marina Eglevsky, Hester Fitzgerald, Alexis Hoff, Lone Isaksen, Finis Jhung, Bonnie Mathis, Lawrence Rhodes, Brunilda Ruiz, Helgi Tómasson, and Dennis Wayne. The collection also holds numerous photographs of Rebekah Harkness, including some in which she is depicted with Salvador Dalí. The photographs are all arranged alphabetically by production title or individual name. Dancers appearing in production photographs are noted when the print is labeled.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet

Ballet dancers -- Photographs

Dance companies

Occupations

Dancers.

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Names

Eglevsky, Marina

Harkness, Rebekah West (-1982)

Rhodes, Lawrence

Ruiz, Brunilda

Tomasson, Helgi, 1942-

Harkness Ballet

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 1967
Contains assorted unlabeled photographs of performances.
- b. 1 f. 2 *A Season in Hell*
- b. 1 f. 3 *Abyss*
Contains photographs of Lawrence Rhodes and Lone Isaksen.
- b. 1 f. 4 *After Eden*
Photograph depicts the dancers Lawrence Rhodes and Lone Isaksen.
- b. 1 f. 5 Aiello, Salvatore
- b. 1 f. 6 *Canto Indio*
Includes photographs of Elisabeth Carroll and Helgi Tomasson.
- b. 1 f. 7 Carroll, Elisabeth 1967
- b. 1 f. 8 Eglevsky, Marina
- b. 1 f. 9 Fitzgerald, Hester
- b. 1 f. 10 *Firebird*
- b. 1 f. 11 *Grand Pas Espagnol*
- b. 1 f. 12-13 Harkness, Rebekah 1967
- b. 1 f. 14 Hoff, Alexis
- b. 1 f. 15 Isaksen, Lone
- b. 1 f. 16 Jhung, Finis
- b. 1 f. 17 *Madrigalesco* 1967
Includes photographs of Helgi Tomasson, Lone Isaksen, Elisabeth Carroll, and Finis Jhung.
- b. 1 f. 18 Mathis, Bonnie
- b. 1 f. 19 *Monument for a Dead Boy*
- b. 1 f. 20 *Night Song*
- b. 1 f. 21 Rhodes, Lawrence
- b. 1 f. 22 Ruiz, Brunilda
- b. 1 f. 23 *Sebastian*
- b. 1 f. 24 *Souvenirs*
- b. 1 f. 25 *Stages and Reflections*
- b. 1 f. 26 *Sylvia Pas De Deux*
Photograph depicts Elisabeth Carroll and Helgi Tomasson.
- b. 1 f. 27 *Time Out of Mind*
- b. 1 f. 28 Tomasson, Helgi
- b. 1 f. 29 *Variations For Four*
- b. 1 f. 30 Wayne, Dennis
- b. 1 f. 30 *Youth*