



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Kayla Zalk papers, Additions

1967-1983

(S) *MGZMD 377

Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2014

Summary

Creator: Zalk, Kayla Kazahn

Title: Kayla Zalk papers, Additions

Date: 1967-1983

Size: 2.1 linear feet (5 boxes)

Source: Donated by Jason Zalk, 2002.

Abstract: Kayla Zalk (1931-2001) was a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and author. The Kayla Zalk papers, Additions hold organizational files; course material; and notes, research, and writings on Rudolf Laban.

Conditions Governing Use: The author/creator retains copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Dance Division at dance@nypl.org.

Preferred citation: Kayla Zalk papers, Additions, (S) *MGZMD 377. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2014

Related Materials:

Kayla Zalk papers, (S) *MGZMD 218. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator History

Kayla Zalk (1931-2001) was a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and author. She earned a degree in English literature from the University of Michigan and took graduate courses in dramatic arts at Columbia University. Zalk studied dance with Doris Humphrey and José Limón before branching out into general movement studies. In 1965, she earned a certificate in the first Effort/Shape training program taught by Irmgard Bartenieff at the Dance Notation Bureau. Zalk continued her association with the Dance Notation Bureau, and went on to study Labanotation and its creator Rudolf Laban in particular.

She served as president of the American Dance Guild, which published *Dance Scope* magazine from 1965 to 1981. *Dance Scope* covered all areas of dance – history, criticism, technique, choreography, education, and philosophy – in addition to interviews and contributions by top dance professionals. Along with Naima Prevots, Zalk worked to contribute to *Dance Scope*'s Laban centenary issue. Zalk was also a member of the American Dance Therapy Association and attended conferences at the Sesame Institute in London.

Zalk was a member of the faculties at New York University, Brandeis University, The State University of New York-Purchase, Lesley College and The University of California at San Diego. She lectured in choreography, movement analysis, Labanotation, and dance for actors. At the time of her death she was on the faculty at The Boston Conservatory.

Scope and Content Note

The Kayla Zalk papers, Additions (1967-1983) hold organizational files, course material, and notes, research, and writings on Rudolf Laban. Zalk's course material files contain handouts, course summaries, class lists, course evaluations by students, official university correspondence, and workshop materials.

Organizational files hold correspondence, drafts of articles submitted to *Dance Scope*, conference materials, and board member lists. American Dance Guild material makes up the bulk of the organizational files. Other organizations represented include the Sesame Institute, the Dance Notation Bureau, and the National Committee for Arts for the Handicapped.

Zalk's Laban files trace her research while working on the Laban centenary article as well as research for lectures, conferences, presentations, and her courses. Materials include correspondence with other Laban scholars, photocopied and annotated articles, reproductions of photographs, drafts of articles, and notes.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by file type.

Key Terms

Subjects

Dance -- Study and teaching
Labanotation

Names

Laban, Rudolf von, 1879-1958
Laban Centre for Movement and Dance

Container List

Course Materials

- b. 1 f. 1 Brandeis University undated
- b. 1 f. 2-3 New York University 1972-1975
- b. 1 f. 4-5 University of California San Diego 1980
- b. 1 f. 6 Washington University 1981
- b. 2 f. 1 Webster College 1983

Organizational Files

- b. 2 f. 2-6 American Dance Guild 1973-1980
- b. 2 f. 7-8 Dance Notation Bureau 1967-1978
- b. 3 f. 1-4 Dance Notation Bureau 1967-1978
- b. 4 f. 1 National Committee on Arts for the Handicapped 1979
- b. 4 f. 2 New York Tea Party undated
- b. 4 f. 3 Sesame Institute 1979
- b. 4 f. 4-7 Laban Research and Writings 1977-1981
- b. 5 f. 1-7 Laban Research and Writings 1977-1981