



# The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

## **Eugene Loring photographs**

1936-1970s

\*MGZEB 21-0012

Processed by Nathan Evans in 2021.

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Loring, Eugene

**Title:** Eugene Loring photographs

**Date:** 1936-1970s

**Size:** .80 linear feet (2 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

**Source:** Donated by the University of California, Irvine in 2001.

**Abstract:** Eugene Loring (1911-1982) was an American choreographer, teacher, and dancer best known for his ballet, *Billy the Kid*. The Eugene Loring photographs, dated 1936 to the 1970s, contain photographs, programs, and a poster that primarily document his choreography for dance companies.

**Preferred citation:** Eugene Loring photographs, \*MGZEB 21-0012. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Nathan Evans in 2021.

### **Creator History**

Eugene Loring was an American choreographer, teacher, and dancer. Born on August 2, 1911 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Loring began his career dancing and choreographing for various New York City companies. During his tenure at the Ballet Caravan from 1936 to 1938, he choreographed his first works: *Harlequin for President*, *Yankee Clipper*, and his most famous ballet, *Billy the Kid*. After a short stint with the Ballet Theatre (later American Ballet Theatre), Loring formed the Dance Players with Lew Christensen in 1941, serving as its director and principal dancer until the company disbanded after a year.

His career thereafter largely focused on film and television choreography and teaching. Loring's film credits include *The Mark of the Renegade*, *Silk Stockings*, and *Funny Face*. In 1947, he founded the American School of Dance where he taught and led its semi-professional troupe, the Dance Players (named after his old company), until the 1970s. Loring also served as chairman for the Dance

Department at University of California, Irvine from 1965 to 1981, teaching and staging works for students. He died in 1982.

## Scope and Content Note

The collection contains photographs, several programs, and a poster that primarily document ballets choreographed by Eugene Loring from 1936 to the 1970s. It is arranged by: Early Ballet Companies; Later Choreography; Portraits; Other Dancers; and Printed Matter.

The Early Ballet Companies group includes production shots from Ballet Caravan, Ballet Theatre, and Dance Players. Loring is featured in some photographs, but they mostly depict other dancers such as Janet Reid. Dance Players is well-represented, with shots of *Harlequin for President*, *Billy the Kid*, and *Prairie*, as well as a few costume illustration prints.

Later Choreography contains rehearsal and performance photographs of American School of Dance productions from the 1950s and 1960s, with emphasis on Loring's *Portrait of a Woman*. Also included are some photographs of Loring choreographing rehearsals for the films *Buttro Square* and *The Mark of the Renegade*, and a performance shot of his 1966 ballet, *The Sisters*, staged for the San Diego Ballet Company.

Portraits of Loring, mainly headshots, date from the 1930s to the 1970s.

The Other Dancers group features several photographs of dancers in productions not choreographed by Loring. Janet Leigh, Marge Champion, and Joan Collentine are notable examples.

Printed Matter includes a brochure about Loring from 1941, a Dance Players poster advertising its 1942 season, and three American School of Dance programs.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged in the following groups: Early Ballet Companies; Later Choreography; Portraits; Other Dancers; and Printed Matter.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Ballet dancers

Choreographers -- United States -- 20th century

Dance companies -- United States

### Occupations

Dancers.

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Posters

Programs (Publications)

### Names

Loring, Eugene

American Ballet Theatre

American School of Dance (Los Angeles, Calif.)  
Ballet Caravan, Inc. (New York, N.Y.)  
Dance Players (Dance company)

## Container List

### Early Ballet Companies

- b. 1 f. 1 Ballet Caravan 1936-1937
- b. 1 f. 2 Ballet Theatre 1940
- b. 1 f. 3-4 Dance Players 1941-1942
- b. 2 f. 1-3
- b. 1 f. 5-7 Later Choreography 1950s-1966
- b. 1 f. 8 Portraits 1930s-1970s
- b. 2 f. 4
- b. 1 f. 9 Other Dancers 1940s-1960s
- b. 1 f. 10 o. 1 Printed Matter 1941-1970