



# The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

## **Rosa Rolanda photographs**

1920s-1950s

\*MGZEB 22-0019

Processed by Heather Lember in 2022.

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Covarrubias, Rosa, 1895-1970

**Title:** Rosa Rolanda photographs

**Date:** 1920s-1950s

**Size:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Source of acquisition is unknown.

**Abstract:** Rosa Rolanda was a Mexican-American artist, dancer, choreographer, and photographer. Her collection holds photographs depicting dancers and dance performances, many of which were likely shot by Rolanda.

**Preferred citation:** Rosa Rolanda photographs, \*MGZEB 22-0019. 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 2022.

### **Creator History**

Rosa Rolanda (also known as Rosa Covarrubias) was born in Azusa, California in 1895. She began her performance career in New York City in 1916, where she danced in Broadway revues and appeared in two films, *The Blue Bird* (1918) and *Woman* (1918). In 1924, after beginning a relationship with the artist, Miguel Covarrubias, the couple traveled to Mexico, where Rolanda began taking photographs and painting. Her photographs were later published in *Island of Bali* (1937) and *Mexico South: Isthmus of Tehuantepec* (1946). Covarrubias and Rolanda were married in 1930, and moved permanently to Mexico city. They divorced in 1952, and Rolanda remained in Mexico until her death in 1970.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The collection dates from the 1920s to 1950s, and contains an assortment of mostly unlabeled photographs and contact sheets which are arranged by topic. The images depict dancers and dance performances, as well as some shots of individuals in Mexico.

In addition to performance photographs, the Dance Escudero files also include a 1954 flier for a performance called *Escudero and his Spanish Dancers and Musicians* and a few clippings about Vicente Escudero. The photographs of José Limón also include some images in which Rolanda is pictured with Limón. All of the Walter Nicks and Company images are unlabeled, but are exclusively photographs of dance performances. Most of the photographs in the collection are not credited, but were likely shot by Rolanda.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Contact sheets

Photographs

### **Subjects**

Dance -- Mexico

Dance -- Photographs

Mexican American artists

### **Occupations**

Dancers.

Photographers.

### **Names**

Covarrubias, Rosa, 1895-1970

Limo\_n, Jose\_

## **Container List**

- b. 1 f. 1    1920s-1954  
Contains unidentified images, a photograph of a Marion Morgan Dancer, and an inscribed photograph of Krishna Kripalani.
- b. 1 f. 2    Dance Escudero 1954-1955
- b. 1 f. 3-4   José Limón
- b. 1 f. 5-7   Mexico 1950s
- b. 1 f. 8    Mexico Dance Musicians
- b. 1 f. 9    Walter Nicks and Company