



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**André Eglevsky papers**

1929-1989

(S) \*MGZMD 411

Processed by Robyn Hjermstad in 2019.

## Summary

**Creator:** Eglevsky, Andre\_

**Title:** André Eglevsky papers

**Date:** 1929-1989

**Size:** 3.54 linear feet (11 boxes)

**Source:** Unknown

**Abstract:** André Eglevsky (1917-1977) was a Russian-born ballet dancer and teacher. The collection dates from 1929 to 1989 and contains photographs, scrapbooks, choreography, and correspondence.

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**Preferred citation:** André Eglevsky papers, (S) \*MGZMD 411. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Robyn Hjermstad in 2019.

## Creator History

André Eglevsky (1917-1977) was a Russian-born ballet dancer. He studied under Alexandre Volinine and Maria Nevelskaya in France, and with Nikolai Legat in London, among others. At the age of fifteen, Eglevsky began dancing professionally with Wassily de Basil and René Blum's Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. He also danced with the Grand Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas (also known as the Grand Ballet de Monte Carlo), Ballet International, American Ballet Theatre, and the New York City Ballet, working extensively under George Balanchine with several of the companies. Eglevsky married ballet dancer Leda Anchutina in the late 1930s, and together they performed in the Broadway production *Great Lady* (1938). As Eglevsky's dancing career began to wind down in the late 1950s, the couple opened the Eglevsky Ballet School in Massapequa, New York and later, the Eglevsky Ballet Company. Their daughter, Marina Eglevsky, also became a professional dancer and ran the company for a number of

years. André Eglevsky died in 1977.

## Scope and Content Note

The André Eglevsky papers (1929-1989) are comprised of dancing files and teaching files. Material dating from 1978 to 1989 was created by Leda Eglevsky following her husband's death in 1977. This material consists of her teaching notes and photocopies of some choreographic material and dance notes not otherwise present in the collection.

Dancing files span Eglevsky's entire dancing career and consist of photographs, scrapbooks, ephemera, and choreographic notes. The photographs document Eglevsky's work with the New York City Ballet from 1950 to 1959 and with Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo during the 1930s and 1940s. Many of the photographs are headshots or portraits of Eglevsky and other dancers, such as Maria Tallchief, Alicia Markova, Aleksandra Danilova, and Leda Anchutina. There are a limited number of rehearsal and performance stills of several ballets, including the New York City Ballet's productions of *Scotch Symphony* (1952), *Swan Lake* (1953), and *The Nutcracker* (1958); and Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo's 1939 productions of *Rouge et Noir* and *Capriccio Espagnol*. Photographs of Leda Anchutina are also present and mostly consist of portraits from the 1930s and 1940s. Early photographs are portraits of Eglevsky and a class photo from Alexandre Volinine's school in the 1920s. His work with Maria Tallchief at the New York City Ballet is extensively documented through the photographs as well as the scrapbooks. The scrapbooks chiefly date from the 1940s through the 1950s and document Eglevsky's dancing with Ballet Russe, Ballet Theatre, Ballet International with Viola Essen and Rosella Hightower, the New York City Ballet, and his performance with Leda Anchutina in the Broadway production of *Great Lady* (1938). The scrapbooks are comprised almost entirely of reviews and articles of his performances, with a limited amount of programs and photographs. Photographs are present in the scrapbook for Ballet Theatre between 1940 and 1946. Scrapbooks also hold materials documenting Eglevsky's late dancing career from 1958 to 1960, specifically with dancer Melissa Hayden and Eglevsky's small touring company, the Eglevsky Petit Ballet. Ephemera in the dancing files consists of a framed performance announcement for Eglevsky and Tallchief's 1954 performance with the San Francisco Ballet. Choreographic notes are in English and Russian and outline movement sequences and technical details for *Giselle*, and *Le Pavillon d'Armide*, among others. Dance files also contain two drawings of Eglevsky, one by Jean Target.

Teaching files primarily date from the 1960s to 1970s and document the activities of the Eglevsky School of Dance and the Eglevsky Dance Company. Files contain correspondence, choreographic material, class exercise notes, scores, ballet verses, synopses, photographs, a scrapbook, ephemera, and information for students and company dancers on rehearsals, performances, and class guidelines. Articles on the company and a transcript for a 1976 interview between Eglevsky and Donald McDonagh are also included. Correspondence is limited and dates from 1972 to 1977. The letters consist of student inquiries regarding the Eglevsky School's summer dance camp in Nantucket, and general requests for help on other dance-related projects. Choreographic material consists of stage plans, stage movement sequences, and other performance notes for dances such as *The Nutcracker*, *La Forêt Enchantée*, *Swan Lake* and *Don Quixote*. Many of the dances are represented through choreography excerpts or codas; full choreographies are present for *Allegro Brillante* and *Paquita*. Class exercise notes were created by both André and Leda Eglevsky for individual boys and girls classes. Scores include Edward Grieg's *Anitra's Tanz* for Peer Gynt, Minkus's *Pas de Deux* for *Don Quixote*, Eglevsky's Variation of *Black Swan*, and *Swan Lake*. The scores are accompanied by orchestral score orders and rehearsal tape inventories created by Eglevsky. Information for students and company dancers includes fact sheets, class outlines, contact sheets, and stage requirements. It also includes flyers and programs relating to dance classes taught by Ana Roje in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The scrapbook

contains articles and programs that document Eglevsky's transition from actively dancing in 1959 to his teaching and directorship at the Eglevsky School and Ballet Company in the 1960s and 1970s. A limited amount of early material from 1946 is also included in this scrapbook. Also present in the teaching files is a lecture by Eglevsky titled "The Art of the Pas de Deux," which was presented with a performance by his company at a 1977 Town Hall Interludes concert. Eglevsky's notes on Pas de Deux and the concert program are also present.

The majority of the material in the collection is in English, with some documents in Russian.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged into Dancing Files and Teaching Files.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Ballet dancers

Choreography

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Photographs

Scrapbooks

### **Names**

Eglevsky, Andre\_

Eglevsky, Leyda Anchutina, 1916-1989

New York City Ballet

## Container List

### Dancing Files

b. 1 f. 1 Dance Notes and Choreography 1932-1950

b. 7 f. 1 Drawings 1945-1950

Drawings of Eglevsky.

b. 7 f. 5 Ephemera 1954

### Photographs

b. 1 f. 2-9 1929-1959

b. 7 f. 2-4 1930-1950

b. 6 f. 4 circa 1935, circa 1953

### Scrapbooks

b. 5 f. 1 1936-1959

This scrapbook covers Eglevsky's dancing with Léonide Massine and René Blum's Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and the Broadway production *Great Lady*.

b. 5 f. 2-3 1939-1947

This scrapbook covers Eglevsky's dancing with Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and Ballet Theatre (American Ballet Theatre).

b. 6 f. 1 1939-1947

This scrapbook covers Eglevsky's dancing with Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and Ballet Theatre (American Ballet Theatre).

b. 6 f. 2 1944-1950

This scrapbook covers Eglevsky's dancing with Ballet International and Grand Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas.

b. 5 f. 4-6 1951-1959

This scrapbook covers Eglevsky's dancing with the New York City Ballet.

b. 6 f. 3 1958-1960

This scrapbook covers Eglevsky's dancing with Melissa Hayden and the Eglevsky Petit Ballet.

### Teaching Files

b. 2 f. 1-7 Choreography 1960s-1989

b. 2 f. 8-9 Correspondence 1972-1977

b. 2 f. 10-12 Dance Exercises 1960s-1989

b. 3 f. 1 Dance Exercises 1989

b. 7 f. 6 Ephemera 1963

b. 8 f. 2-3 Ephemera 1966, 1970

b. 3 f. 2 Information for Students and Dancers 1974-1979

b. 9 f. 1

b. 3 f. 3 Miscellaneous 1960-1989

b. 3 f. 4 Musical Scores 1967-1978

b. 9 f. 2-5

b. 10 f. 1-3

b. 11 f. 1-4

b. 3 f. 5 Notes and Records 1964-1965

b. 3 f. 6 Photographs 1960s

b. 8 f. 1 Photographs 1965

Eglevsky Ballet Company photographs.

Teaching Files (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 6-8     **Scrapbook 1946-1966**  
This scrapbook covers Eglevsky's late dancing career with Melissa Hayden, the Eglevsky Ballet School, and the Eglevsky Dance Company, with a limited amount of material covering his early career (continues to box 4).
- b. 4 f. 1     **Scrapbook 1967-1969**
- b. 4 f. 2     **Speech 1977**  
"The Art of the Pas de Deux."
- b. 4 f. 3     **Synopses 1977**