



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Lucile Brahms Nathanson papers**

1954-1974

(S) \*MGZMD 69

Processed by Stormy Brandenberger.

## Summary

**Creator:** Nathanson, Lucile Brahms

**Title:** Lucile Brahms Nathanson papers

**Date:** 1954-1974

**Size:** Approximately 337 items in 27 folders

**Source:** Donated, April 14, 1981.

**Abstract:** The Lucile Brahms Nathanson Papers covers a period extending from 1954-1975. It reflects her activities and involvement, and provides an insight into the development of three main projects that Ms. Nathanson was working on during this span of time. The projects were; The Freda Miller Memorial Fund, The Conferences on Creative Teaching of Dance To Children and The Weidman/Humphrey Book Project. The papers are divided into these three topics (series). The collection is not extensive but there is enough material to provide information about the work and the activities that brought about these projects.

**Preferred citation:** Nathanson, Lucile Brahms. Papers, (S) \*MGZMD 69, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Stormy Brandenberger.

## Creator History

Lucile Brahms Nathanson was an Associate Professor in the Department of Theater and Dance at Nassau Community College in Garden City, New York. She held a B.S. and M.A. in Dance. Ms. Nathanson was the Founder and Director of Department of Teacher Training in Children's Dance 1956-62 and the Chairperson of Dance at the 92nd Street YM-YWHA in Manhattan. She studied dance with Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman until 1974 and was a member of the Charles Weidman Modern Dance Foundation.

Lucile Nathanson was instrumental in initiating, coordinating and attracting quality artists and dance

educators to collaborate in creating effective programs and projects relating to dance and dance education. Three such projects were; The Freda Miller Memorial Fund, The Conferences on Creative Teaching of Dance To Children and The Weidman/Humphrey Book Project. They covered the span of twenty-one years, 1954-1975.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Lucile Brahms Nathanson Papers covers a period extending from 1954-1975. It reflects her activities and involvement, and provides an insight into the development of three main projects that Ms. Nathanson was working on during this span of time. The projects were; The Freda Miller Memorial Fund, The Conferences on Creative Teaching of Dance To Children and The Weidman/Humphrey Book Project. The papers are divided into these three topics (series). The collection is not extensive but there is enough material to provide information about the work and the activities that brought about these projects.

**Arrangement:** I. The Freda Miller Memorial Fund II. Creative Teaching of Dance To Children III. Weidman/Humphrey Project (book)

## **Key Terms**

### **Titles**

Gift of Lucile Nathanson

### **Subjects**

Manuscripts -- Collections

Modern dance -- Technique -- Humphrey

### **Names**

Nathanson, Lucile Brahms

92nd Street Y (New York, N.Y.). Annual Conference on Creative Teaching of Dance to Children

Freda Miller Memorial Fund

## Container List

### I. The Freda Miller Memorial Fund (38 items; 3 folders)

Series I.- *The Freda Miller Memorial Fund* (1960-1962) consists of an announcement pertaining to the Memorial Fund (grant), correspondence of panel and applicants, proposals for choreographic grant, and resumes from applicants.

#### I. Announcement

- f. 1 Copy and Release 1960

#### II. Correspondence

- f. 2 Hanya Holm/LBN 1960
- f. 2 Grace Badorek/LBH 1960
- f. 2 LBN/Stuart Hodes 1961
- f. 2 Stuart Hodes/LBN 1961
- f. 2 Form Letter (contributions) 196?
- f. 2 Louis Johnson/LBN (Rejection) 1961
- f. 2 Jeff Duncan/LBN (Rejection) 1961
- f. 2 LBN/Jeff Duncan 1961
- f. 2 Ron Sequoio/LBN (Rejection) 1961
- f. 2 Philip Corner/LBN (Recipient) 1962

#### III. Resume/Proposal

Beverly Schmidt (recipient) 1961

- f. 3 proposal
- f. 3 Chorographic List
- f. 3 Program
- f. 3 Resume

Louis Johnson 1961

- f. 3 Resume
- f. 3 Proposal

Marvin Gorden 1961

- f. 3 Resume
- f. 3 Proposal

Jeff Duncan 1961

- f. 3 Resume
- f. 3 Choreographic List
- f. 3 Proposal

Ron Sequoio 1961

- f. 3 Resume
- f. 3 Proposal

- f. 3 The Stone Image (Proposal) 1961

## II. The Creative Teaching of Dance To Children (169 items; 11 folders)

Series II.-*The Conferences On Creative Teaching of Dance To Children*(1954-1964) contain programs, agenda and schedules which provide additional information on participants and their biographies, flyers, promotional material, budgets and evaluations on the conferences, two newspaper clippings, memos, announcements, a manuscript and correspondences (mainly business). The correspondences are filed in chronological order with the incoming correspondence.

This series is divided into conferences (1-10), correspondence, budgets and miscellaneous. It is of interest to note the wide variety of artists and educators who participated in these conferences: Margaret H'Doubler, Mary Hinkson, Lucas Hoving, Doris Humphrey, Anna Jooss, Murray Louis, Agnes de Mille, Daniel Nagrin, Jerome Robbins, Bessie Schoenberg and Glen Tetley, just to name a few. Another point of interest is a manuscript pertaining to a panel discussion about Doris Humphrey written by Walter Terry. Mr. Terry was the interviewer, the panel consists of Katherine Litz, Edith Orcutt, Nona Schurman and Helen Tamiris. This took place during the 6th conference.

In the file dealing with the budgets there is a summary covering 1955-1960; it notes that the conferences had to be discontinued due to lack of funding and misappropriation of funds, not by Lucile Nathanson's hands. The conferences were reinstated in 1963 but were discontinued after the 10th anniversary conference, 1964.

### I. Conferences

#### 1st Conference 1955

- f. 4 Jan. 2
- f. 4 Program
- f. 4 Announcement

#### 2nd Conf. 1955

- f. 4 Dec. 27-28
- f. 4 Notice
- f. 4 News Release
- f. 4 Announcement (Participants)
- f. 4 Announcement (Accompanist)
- f. 4 Program Schedule
- f. 4 Final Report

#### 3rd Conf. 1956

- f. 4 Dec. 27-30
- f. 4 Notice
- f. 4 Announcement (Staff/Panel)
- f. 4 Notice (changes/additions)
- f. 4 Program (Revised)
- f. 4 Memo

#### 4th Conf. 1957

- f. 5 "Approaches To Composition"
- f. 5 Dec. 27, 29, 30
- f. 5 Release
- f. 5 Announcement
- f. 5 Program Schedule
- f. 5 Program Outline

#### 5th Conf. 1958

II. The Creative Teaching of Dance To Children (cont.)

I. Conferences (cont.)

5th Conf. (cont.)

f. 5 "The Use of Music in Dance Education"

f. 5 Dec. 28-30

f. 5 Announcement

f. 5 Program Schedule

6th Conf. 1959

f. 6 "The Teaching of Technique" - Weidman/Humphrey

f. 6 Dec. 27-30

f. 6 Release

f. 6 Announcement/copy

f. 6 Program Schedule/copy

f. 6 Flyer

f. 6 Performance Program (in honor of Doris Humphrey)

f. 6 Transcript (Walter Terry)

7th Conf. 1960

f. 7 "Dance and the Related Arts"

f. 7 Dec. 27-29

f. 7 Dec. 26 Concert "Evening of Modern Dance"

f. 7 Announcement

f. 7 Program Schedule

f. 7 Data for Ad.

f. 7 Flyer

8th Conf. 1963

f. 7 Dec. 27, & 29

f. 7 Announcement

f. 7 Program Schedule/copy

f. 7 Resume (Ana Roje - participant)

9th Conf. 1964

f. 7 Dec. 28-30

f. 7 Announcement

f. 7 Flyer

f. 7 Program Schedule

f. 7 Syllabus (Irmgard Bartenieff)

f. 7 Data for Ad

f. 7 Notice

10th Conf. 1965?

f. 7 Notice (for selecting staff)

f. 7 Announcement

II. Correspondence

4th Conf. 1957

f. 8 (Form Letters - Display Space)

f. 8 Frank Barbar

II. The Creative Teaching of Dance To Children (cont.)

II. Correspondence (cont.)

4th Conf. (cont.)

- f. 8 Capezio
- f. 8 James Selva
- f. 8 Ethel Haviland
- f. 8 Fred Gretsches
- f. 8 Kamin Dance Bookshop/Gallery

5th Conf. 1958 - 1959

- f. 8 LBN/Blanche Evan Nov. 29
- f. 8 BE/LBN 1959 May 20
- f. 8 BF/LBN 1959 June 22
- f. 8 LBN/BE 1959 June 25
- f. 8 BE/LBN 1959 June 29

6th Conf. 1959 -1961

- f. 9 Lu/LBN 1959 Sept. 14
- f. 9 Virginia/LBN 1959 Sept. 14
- f. 9 LBN/Virginia Sept. 28
- f. 9 Virginia/LBN Oct. 22
- f. 9 Rousseau/LBN 1959 Oct. 22
- f. 9 Franciska/LBN 1959 Sept. 19
- f. 9 LBN/F Oct. 14
- f. 9 F/LBN Oct. 22
- f. 9 LBN/Charles Weidman 1959 Nov. 30
- f. 9 CW/LBN Nov. 15
- f. 9 CW/LBN Nov. 27
- f. 9 Martha Graham/LBN 1959 Oct. 20
- f. 9 MG/LBN 1960 Jan. 20
- f. 9 Hanya Holm/LBN 1959 Oct. 20
- f. 9 HH/LBN Oct. 23
- f. 10 LBN/May Goldstein 1959 Oct. 23
- f. 10 Martha Myers/LBN 1959 Oct. 19
- f. 10 MM/LBN Oct. 24
- f. 10 Thalea Neara/LBN 1959 Nov. 4
- f. 10 Jose Limon/LBN Nov. 12
- f. 10 Ruth Currier/LBN 1959 Nov. 14
- f. 10 LBN/RC Nov. 21
- f. 10 Edith Orcutt Clurman/LBN 1959 Nov. 14
- f. 10 LBN/Howard F. Deming 1959 Nov. 20
- f. 10 HD/LBN Dec. 4
- f. 10 LBN/Barbara Weinberger 1959 Nov. 30
- f. 10 BW/LBN Dec. 4
- f. 10 BW/LBN 1960 Jan. 20
- f. 10 Eugenie Dancis/LBN 1959 Dec. 4

II. The Creative Teaching of Dance To Children (cont.)

II. Correspondence (cont.)

6th Conf. (cont.)

- f. 10 LBN/Harriet Berg 1959 Dec. 14
- f. 10 LBN/Grace Woody 1960 Jan. 7
- Letters of Thanks 1960):
- f. 10 Anna Jooss/LBN
- f. 10 Mary Hinkson/LBN
- f. 10 Walter Terry/LBN
- f. 11 Letters pertaining to 6th conf.
- f. 11 Carl Urbont/Elizabeth Bernard 1961 Jan. 3
- f. 11 EB/CB Jan. 17
- f. 11 Dear Sir/Debbie Zeff Oct. 17
- f. 11 Dr. Kaladney/Jean Miller Feb. 7
- f. 11 JM/Dr. K 1962 May 14
- f. 11 LBN/Jenny Hunter Groat (attached resume) 1962 May 14

8th Conf. 1963-1964

- f. 11 Anna Roje/LBN 1963 June 20
- f. 11 LBN/AR 1963
- f. 11 AR/LBN Aug. 9
- f. 11 Hans Snoek de Vries/LBN 1963 Sept. 26
- f. 11 LBN/HSV Oct. 6
- f. 11 HSV/LBN Oct. 31
- f. 11 LBN/Ine Rictstap 1964 Sept. 10
- f. 11 HSV/LBN Sept. 25

9th Confer. 1964-1965

- f. 11 Elsa Findlay/LBN 1964 Oct. 13
- f. 11 Emily Genauer/LBN Dec. 17
- Letters of Thanks 1965):
- f. 11 Lucas Hoving/LBN
- f. 11 Anna Roje/LBN
- f. 11 Sorrel/LBN

III. Budget

- f. 12 1st Conf. 1955
- f. 12 2nd Conf. 1955
- f. 12 3rd Conf. 1956
- f. 12 4th Conf. 1957
- f. 12 5th Conf. 1958
- f. 12 6th Conf. 1959
- f. 12 7th Conf. 1960
- f. 12 Summary 1955-1960
- f. 12 8th Conf. 1963
- f. 12 9th Conf. 1964

IV. Publication (Record of Conf.)

II. The Creative Teaching of Dance To Children (cont.)

IV. Publication (Record of Conf.) (cont.)

f. 13 1955-1964

V. Miscellaneous

f. 14 1955-1964

f. 14 Proof for Ad:

4th Conf. 1957 Dec.

7th Conf. 1960 Dec.

9th Conf. 1964 Oct.

Newspapers:

f. 14 New York Times John Martin 1960 Jan. 3

f. 14 8th Conf. unknown N.D.

Magazine:

f. 14 1st Conf. unknown N.D.

f. 14 9th Conf. JOHPER 1964

f. 14 Invitation "Essence of The Dance" (Exhibit of Photograph)

f. 14 Memo: "The Training Program in Children's Dance" (History)

f. 14 Progress Report (Workshops)

f. 14 List of Topics for Workshops and/or Conf.

III. The Weidman/Humphrey Project (Book) 1960-1975 (approx. 130 items; 13 folders)

Series III.-*The Charles Weidman/ Doris Humphrey Project*(1960-197-) consists of correspondence with the Music Publishers Holding Corp. and Lucy Venable, a notator, pertaining to the book on Weidman/Humphrey Technique. There are incomplete and complete drafts on the proposal for the book, a list of advisor's names and biographies, minutes outlining detailed progress of the project, extensive notes, notations and descriptions of the Weidman/Humphrey exercises and accompanying sheet music, both original hand written and printed scores. There is an extensive list made up of dates, place of premiere of each choreographic work and the names of the dancers involved.

The objective of this project was to identify and preserve those techniques of greatest significance (Weidman/Humphrey) as examples of the principles and elements explored through teaching; to notate and describe all chosen techniques; to place each study in its proper historical perspective and identify the aesthetic and movement principles involved; and to detail the dates, dancers' names and place of premiere of each choreographic work.

I. Correspondence

f. 15 Frank Barber/LBN N.D.

f. 15 FB/LBN 1960

f. 15 LBN/Lucy Venable 1960

f. 15 LBN/? Lucy Venable 1962

II. Book Proposal

f. 16 Draft (comp/incomp) 196-

List/Bio:

f. 16 Advisors

f. 16 Investigator LBN

III. Minutes

f. 17 Original/copy 1975

IV. Research Notes

Exercises:



- III. The Weidman/Humphrey Project (Book) (cont.)
- IV. Research Notes (cont.)
  - Exercises: (cont.)
  - f. 18 List
  - f. 18 Description
  - f. 19 Choreographers/Composers 1929-1931
  - f. 19 Dancers 1929-1944
  - f. 19 Places/Dates 1929-1934
- V. Labanotation (Supporting Material)
  - Free Kicks (W) 1961 c
  - f. 20 Notation (comp/incomp)
  - f. 20 Description
  - f. 20 Accompaniment
  - f. 20 Extensions (W) 1961 c
  - f. 20 Notation (comp/incomp)
  - Hop Series (W) I - II -III
  - f. 20 Notation (comp/incomp)
  - Hop Variations (W) I -III
  - f. 20 Notation (comp/incomp)
  - f. 20 Notes on Variation II
  - Push-Ups (W)
  - f. 20 Notation (comp/incomp)
  - f. 20 Notes
  - Successions (W/H)
  - f. 21 Notation
  - New Successions (W/H)
  - f. 21 Description
  - Succession Study (W/H)
  - f. 21 Notation
  - f. 21 Notes
  - Big Successions (W/H)
  - f. 21 Notations
  - f. 21 Notes
  - Succession Bends (W/H)
  - f. 21 Notations
  - Successional Series (Preparation for Falls) (W/H)
  - f. 21 Notations
  - Successional Series (W/H)
  - f. 21 Notes
  - Traveling Stretches (W)
  - f. 22 Notation (comp)
  - f. 22 Notes
  - Knee Bends (W)
  - f. 22 Notations

III. The Weidman/Humphrey Project (Book) (cont.)

V. Labanotation (Supporting Material) (cont.)

Turns (Series I - II - III)

- f. 22 Notation I
- f. 22 Notation II (comp/incomp)
- f. 22 Notes
- f. 22 Notations III
- f. 22 Notes
- f. 22 Description (Series II and III)

Modulations I - II - III

- f. 22 Notations
- f. 22 Notes

Accompaniment:

- f. 22 Sheet Music (original/copy)
- f. 22 Knee Bends
- f. 22 Traveling Stretches
- f. 22 Modulation
- f. 22 Turn Series
- f. 23 Techniques and Studies (Above Listings)
- f. 23 Draft for Printing
- f. 24 Notations (W) comp Pg. 23-25
- f. 24 Notations (H) comp Pg. 26-29
- f. 24 Description of "Wind in The Willows"

Minuet (W)

- f. 24 Notations (comp)
- f. 24 Notes

New Arch (W) 1961 c

- f. 24 Notations (comp)
- f. 24 Description

Old Arch

- f. 24 Notation (incomp)

Side Bend (W)

- f. 24 Notations (comp)
- f. 24 Description

Body Bends (W) 1961 c

- f. 24 Notations (comp)
- f. 24 Description

Study in contrast (W)

- f. 24 Notation (incomp)
- f. 24 Notes

- f. 25 Accompaniment (Above List)

- f. 25 Sheet Music (original/copy/Oversize)
- f. 25 Minuet

III. The Weidman/Humphrey Project (Book) (cont.)

V. Labanotation (Supporting Material) (cont.)

Accompaniment (Above List) (cont.)

- f. 25 Arch Study
- f. 25 Side Bend Series
- f. 25 Body Bends
- f. 25 New Arch
- f. 25 ABA Form
- f. 25 Contrast
- Opposition Study (W) 1962
- f. 26 Notations (incomp)
- f. 26 Notes
- f. 26 Description
- Plie (W)
- f. 26 Notation (incomp)
- Circular Study (H) 1963
- f. 26 Notation (incomp)
- f. 26 Notes
- Dynamic Study 1963
- f. 26 Notations
- f. 26 Floor Patterns
- f. 26 Notes
- Fall and Recovery
- f. 26 Notations (incomp)
- VI. Miscellaneous
- f. 27 Notations (unknown)
- f. 27 Description (not identified)
- f. 27 notebook