

**Guide to the David Sears Papers, 1937-1992
Bulk dates 1972-1986**

(S)*MGZMD 184

Jerome Robbins Dance Division

**The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
New York, New York**

Contact Information

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Jerome Robbins Dance Division
40 Lincoln Center Plaza
New York, New York 10023-7498
Phone: 212/870-1657
Email: dance@nypl.org
Web address: <http://digilib.nypl.org/dynaweb/ead/dance>

Processed by: Leslie Reyman
Date Completed: October 2006

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	David Sears Papers
Collection ID:	(S)*MGZMD 184
Creator:	Sears, David
Extent:	23 linear feet, 52 boxes
Repository:	Jerome Robbins Dance Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Abstract: Research files used by David Sears for writing reviews and articles on dance and theater.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Publication Rights

For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Jerome Robbins Dance Division.

Preferred Citation

David Sears Papers, (S)*MGZMD 184, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Source

The David Sears Papers were donated to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division in 1992 by David Sears.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2006.

Biographical Note

David Sears was a writer on modern dance. He graduated from New York University where he received a teaching degree. He wrote for *Dance News* and *Ballet Review* as well as other lesser-known publications. At the time of his death he was working on a book on Martha Graham and her use of Greek themes in her choreography. He died on June 24, 1992.

Scope and Content Note

The David Sears papers document his research process for articles and reviews about dance. The collection consists mainly of New York area newspaper clippings in a wide range of topics related to both dance and theater. In addition there are press releases and stock photographs from several organizations. There is also some material related to college and English as a Second Language courses taught by Sears among the limited professional papers.

Organization

The collection is organized into 3 series and 2 sub-series. They are:

Series I: Professional Papers

Series II: Research Material

Sub-series 1 – Dance

Sub-series 2 – Theater

Series III: Oversized Material

Series Descriptions

Series I: Professional Papers

4 Boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series contains professional material including correspondence and receipts. There is also material used in teaching courses at both Hunter College and Queens College. Because Sears was involved with the puppet community, there is material from puppetry guilds in the New York City area. Also included are his reviews that appeared in the magazine *Michael's Thing*, as well as other regional magazines.

Series II: Research Material

47 Boxes

This series contains dance and theater-related clippings from newspapers and magazines in the New York City area mainly from the *New York Times* and *The Village Voice*. Also included are press releases and stock photographs. In addition there are handwritten notes.

Sub-series 1 – Dance

35 Boxes

This sub-series contains dance-related clippings from newspapers and magazines in the New York City area mainly from the *New York Times* and *The Village Voice*. Also included are press releases and stock photographs from dance related organizations in the New York City area. When Sears attended performances, his notes used to write reviews are included in the folders. There is also an extensive section of material based upon the work of Joseph Campbell. This material was used for research for the proposed book about Greek influences used in Martha Graham's choreography. He was working on this book at the time of his death.

Sub-series 2 – Theater

12 Boxes

This sub-series contains theater-related clippings from newspapers and magazines in the New York City area mainly from the *New York Times* and *The Village Voice*. These folders are mostly about playwrights and directors. There are extensive reviews and essays about the career of playwright and actor, Robert Ludlam, who used puppetry in his theatrical productions. Also of note is research material based on plays by Shakespeare and George Bernard Shaw.

Series III: Oversized Material

2 Boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series contains mostly souvenir programs from ballet performances that David Sears attended. There is also some artwork, magazines and calendars.

Series I: Professional Papers

Box 1

- F 1 Address Books, undated
- F 2 Class notes on ancient Greek, 1988
- F 3 Clippings, 1984-1986
- F 4 Correspondence, 1983-1985
- Date book, 1969-1984
- F 5 1969
- F 6 1979
- F 7 1984
- English as a Second Language, 19889-1990, undated
- F 8 Handouts, undated
- F 9 Schedule and insurance, 1989-1990
- F 10 *Georgia O'Keefe*, by Lisa Mintz Messenger, undated

Box 2

- F 1 Hunter College, 1986-1988
- F 2 *Labyrinth*, ca. 1986 (comic book)
- F 3 Melville, Herman, clippings, 1984-1986
- F 4 New York Public Library call slips, undated
- F 5 New York University commencement program, 1971
- F 6 Personal ads, 1987

Box 3

- F 1 Poe, Edgar Allen, clippings, 1981-1984
- F 2 Puppetry Guild of Greater New York, undated
- F 3 Puppetry Journal, 1983, Sept.
- F 4 Queens College, undated
- F 5 Receipts, 1974-1984
- F 6 Resume and vita, undated
- Writings
 - Ballet Review*
 - F 7 1984, Fall
 - F 8 1986, Fall
 - F 9 *The Boston Symphony Orchestra: Changing the Elitist Image*, by David Sears, undated
 - F 10 *A Coach Filled with Dance Drama*, *New York Times*, 1982, Feb. 21 by David Sears
 - F 11 *Dance Ink*, 1990, Dec.
 - F 12 *Dance Magazine*, 1984, Dec.
 - F 13 *Dancing on the Next Wave*, *INPerformance*, 1983 Jan/Feb., by David Sears
 - F 14 *Eastside Courier*, 1976
 - F 15 Gay-themed clippings, 1976-1977
 - F 16 *InPerformance*, 1983 Oct.
 - Michael's Thing*
 - F 17 1975
 - F 18 1976
 - F 19 1977
 - F 20 1978

Box 4

- F 1 1979
- F 2 1980
- F 3 Puppetry, 1974-1981
- F 4 *Showbusiness*, 1975
- F 5 *Topman*, 1980

- F 6 *The Villager*, 1973-1975
- F 7 *When Fantasy Reigned*, 1980 Spring. and *The Treasures of Tramp Art*, 1981, Summer, by David Sears
- F 8 Slides, undated
- F 9 Wall calendar, 1991
- F 10-11 Various material, undated

Series II: Research Material

Sub-series 1: Dance

Box 5

- F 1 Areodance, 1976-1984
- F 2-3 Ailey, Alvin, 1977-1986
- American Ballet Theatre
- F 4 Baryshnikov, Mikhail, 1979-1985
- F 5 Clippings, 1978-1984
- Dance performances, 1980-1987
- F 6 *Bayadere*, 1980-1987
- F 7 *Cinderella*, 1984-1985
- F 8 *Coppelia*, 1977-1985
- F 9 *Don Quixote*, 1979-1984
- F 10 *Giselle*, 1979-1983
- F 11 *Nutcracker*, 1976-1979
- F 12 Essays, 1981-1983
- F 13 Personalities, 1975-1986

Box 6

- F 1 Personalities, 1975-1986
- F 2 Photographs, undated
- F 3 Press Releases, undated
- F 4 Programs, 1964-1965
- F 5 Souvenir programs, 1976-1980
- F 6 ABT II choreographic workshop, 1984
- F 7 American Dance Festival, 1984
- F 8 *Ancestral Footsteps, Complete works of N.H.*, Vol. II, 1888
(photocopy)
- F 9 Anthony, Mary, 1979-1980
- F 10 Armitage, Karole, 1984-1987
- F 11 Asakawalker Dance Company, 1978
- F 12 The Asia Society, 1981-1986
- F 13 Asian, 1979-1981

Box 7

- F 1 Atlanta Ballet and Atlanta Contemporary Dance Co., 1984-1987
- F 2 Attitude: The Dancers' Magazine, 1989-1990
- F 3 Australian Ballet, 1976
- F 4 Balanchine, George, 1983
- F 5 Balasaraswati School of Music and Dance, 1985
- F 6 Bali, 1985
- F 7 Balkans, undated
- F 8 Ballet Hispanico of New York, 1980-1984
- F 9 Ballet Nacional de Cuba, 1977-1978
- F 10 Ballet Nacional Espanol, ca. 1983
- F 11 *Ballet Review*, 1982-1984
- F 12 Ballet West, 1980
- F 13 Basel Ballet, 1983-1985
- F 14 Bausch, Pina, 1982-1985

- F 15 Beals, Margaret, 1976-1982
- Box 8**
- F 1 Bejait Ballet, 1980-1985
- F 2 Benjamine, Fred, undated
- F 3 Berlin Opera Ballet/Panovs, 1978-1980
- F 4 Bhutan, 1980
- Bolshoi Ballet, 1968-1987
- F 5-6 Clippings, 1978-1987
- F 7 Program, 1968
- F 8-9 Boston Ballet, 1978-1984
- F 10 Bower and Bruggeman, 1979-1983
- F 11 Boyce, Johanna, 1980-1985
- Box 9**
- F 1 Brazil, undated
- F 2 *Breaking Down Harmonica Breakdown*, undated
- F 3 British Isles, (England, Scotland, Ireland), undated
- F 4 Broadway Dance, 1978-1986
- F 5-6 Brown, Trisha, 1977-1986
- F 7 Bryan, Julien, ca. 1977
- F 8 Butoh and Sankai Juku, 1984-1986
- Campbell, Joseph
- F 9 *1000 Falls*, undated
- F 10 Clippings, 1986-1987
- Box 10**
- Transcripts
- F 1-2 *The Experience of Mystery*, 1983, Apr. 23-24
- F 3 Introductions to *Inner Reaches*, *The Way of Art and Myth and the Body*, undated
- F 4 *James Joyce and Pablo Picasso*, 1982, dec. 18-19
- F 5 *Myth and the Body*, 1982 Oct. 27 and *Kundalini Yoga*, 1982, Nov. 3
- F 6 *Myths and Mysteries of the Great Goddess*, 1983, Apr. 21-22
- F 7-8 *The Perennial Mythology from a Hindu-Buddist Point of View*, 1983, Jan. 22-23
- F 9 *The Woman's Journey*, 1984
- Box 11**
- F 1 Canada, 1983-1986
- F 2 Canyon Records Production, Inc., ca. 1989
- F 3 Capezio National Dance Week, 1982-1985
- F 4 Caribbean and Cuba, 1980
- F 5 Caumsett, ca. 1984
- F 6 Center Dance Collective, undated
- F 7 Central and South America, 1983-1985
- F 8 Central Ballet of China, 1986
- F 9 Charlip, Remy, 1977-1982
- F 10 Childs, Lucinda, 1977-1986
- F 11 China, 1975-1978
- F 12 Chinese, 1980-1984
- F 13 Chinese Dance Company of New York, 1979-1980
- F 14 *Chronique* by St. John Perse, translated by Robert Fitzgerald, undated
- F 15 Cleveland Ballet, 1979-1982
- Box 12**
- F 1 *A Cloister Beastiary* prepared by Richard H. Randal Jr., 1960

F 2	Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, ca. 1979
F 3	Cohen, Ze'Eva, 1984
F 4	<i>Communication and Society: Traditional Forms of Communication and the Mass Media in India</i> by Madhu Malik, undated
F 5	Craske, Margaret, 1980-1984
F 6-7	<i>Creative Evolution</i> by Henri Berson, undated
F 8	The Cullberg Ballet Company, 1982
F 9	Cunningham, James, 1978-1984
F 10-12	Cunningham, Merce, 1978-1985
Box 13	
F 1	Dance Critics Association, 1984
F 2	Dance Festivals, 1987
	Dance Groups, 1977-1986
F 3	A, 1980-1983
F 4	B, 1981-1985
F 5-6	C and D, 1980-1986
F 7	E and F, 1977-1986
F 8	G, 1979-1982
F 9	H, 1983-1984
F 10	I and J, 1980-1985
F 11	L, 1981-1986
Box 14	
F 1-2	M 1982-1986
F 3	N and O, 1981-1983
F 4	P and Q, 1977-1986
F 5	R, 1980-1986
F 6	S, 1978-1985
F 7-8	T – Z, 1980-1986
Box 15	
F 1	<i>Dance in America, Great Performances</i> , 1979
F 2	<i>Dance Ink</i> , 1990-May-June
F 3	<i>Dance News</i> , 1981-1983
F 4	<i>The Dance of the Shiva</i> by Ananda K Coomaraswami, undated
F 5	Dance photography and artwork, undated
F 6	Dance programs, undated
F 7-8	Dance Theatre of Harlem, 1979-1986
F 9	Dance scenery postcards, ca. 1987
F 10	Dance various material, undated
F 11	<i>Dancing: A Ford Foundation report</i> by Elizabeth Kendal, 1983
F 12	Danish Royal Ballet, 1979-1986
Box 16	
F 1	De Groat, Andy, 1977-1982
F 2	De Mille, Agnes, 1976-1985
F 3	Dean, Laura, 1980-1986
F 4	Denby, Edwin, 1983-1986
F 5	Dickinson, Emily, 1976-1980
F 6	Dlugoszewskik Lucia, 1983, Dec. 12
	Dudley, Jane
F 7	1983-1989
F 8	<i>Then and Now Dances</i> , 1988
F 9	Transcript, 1982 Dec. 31
F 10	Transcript, 1983, Jan. 3
F 11	Erdman, Jean, video project, 1989

F 12	European, 1976-1979
Box 17	
F 1	Fenley, Molissa, 1983-1988
F 2	Film and TV, 1975-1978
F 3	Flamenco, 1983-1985
F 4	Fonaroff, Nina, 1983 (transcript)
F 5	Forti, Simone, 1979-1984
F 6	French, 1979-1983
F 7	Gades, Antonio, 1985
F 8	German Dance, 1985
F 9	Gillis, Maggie, 1982
F 10	<i>God the Revealer. The Way of Dionysus</i> , 1992
F 12	Gordon, David, 1979-1986
F 13	Goslar, Lotte, 1984
	Graham, Martha, 1980-1986
Box 18	
F 1-2	60 th Anniversary, 1986
F 3	Center of Contemporary Dance Photos, undated
F 4-7	Clippings, 1980-1983
F 8	Composers
F 9	Conference, 1983
F 10	Dance company press packet with notes by David Sears, 1988
F 11	Dancer timeline, undated
F 12	Dancers, 1980-1985
Box 19	
F 1	Guggenheim foundation, 1983
F 2	Interviews and studies, ca. 1983
F 3	<i>Martha Graham</i> by Merle Armitage, undated
F 4	Movie notes, undated
	Notes, undated (Titled by David Sears)
F 5	code a
F 6	code b
F 7	code c
F 8	code d
F 9	code e
Box 20	
F 1	code f
F 2	code g
F 3	undated
F 4	Photographs, undated
F 5	Press Releases, undated
F 6	Programs, 1985
F 7	Research material, undated
F 8	<i>The Tribute to Martha Graham</i> , 1984
F 9-10	Greek drama, 1977-1984
Box 21	
F 1	Hamburg Ballet, 1983-1985
	Hawkins, Erick
F 2-5	1980-1984
F 6	1987
Box 22	
F 1	<i>The Aesthetic Biography of Erick Hawkins</i> , undated
F 2	Chronology of premieres, 1937-1984
F 3	<i>Erick Hawkins Speaks His Mind in Dance</i> by David Sears, 1984,

Oct. 7

- F 4 *On the Dance of Erick Hawkins*, undated
- F 5 Programs,
- F 6 Susan Bloch and company, 1985-1986
- F 7 Theory and class notes, undated
- F 8 *Total Theatre Hawkins-Style* by David Sears, undated
- F 9 Transcript, 1985 June 9
- F 10 Hispanic and American Indian, 1982-1986
- Horst, Louis, 1950-1984, undated
- Centennial Celebration, 1984
- F 11 Clippings
- F 12 Committee
- F 13 Correspondence
- F 14 Julliard
- Box 23**
- F 1 *Louis Horst: A Centennial Compendium* edited by David
- Sears, ca. 1984
- F 2 Notebook I and II
- F 3 Transcripts, 1984
- F 4 Clippings, 1984
- F 5 Dissertation by Mary Kulynitch, 1950
- F 6 Photographs and negatives, undated
- F 7 Houston Ballet, 1981-1987
- F 8 HRH Construction Corp. 1986
- F 9 Humphrey, Doris, 1978-1985
- F 10 Ice skating, 1978-1987
- F 11-12 India, 1979-1985
- Box 24**
- F 1 Indonesia, 1984
- F 2 The Inner City Ensemble, 1985
- F 3 International Ballet Competition, 1982
- F 4 International Ballet of Caracas, 1982-1983
- F 5 International Film Foundation Catalog, 1984-1985
- F 6 Irish National Ballet, undated
- F 7 Israel Ballet, 1983-1986
- F 8 Italy, 1981-1985 (Carolyn Carlson, Carla Fracci, La Scala)
- F 9 Japan Society, 1980-1983
- F 10 Japanese, 1979-1984
- F 11 Jaroslow, Risa, 1985
- Joffrey Ballet, 1976-1988
- F 12 City Center, ca. 1988
- F 13 1976-1981
- F 14 Photographs, undated
- F 15 Programs, 1976-1981
- F 16 The Joffrey II (ballet co.), 1981-1984
- Box 25**
- F 1 Joyce Trisler Dance Co., 1983-1985
- F 2 Ka Buki and Noh, 1978-1984
- F 3 The Kirov Ballet, 1977-1987
- F 4 Korean, ca. 1980-1984
- F 5 Lang, Pearl, 1982-1983
- F 6 Lichtenstein, Harvey, 1981 Aug. 31
- F 7 Marcus Schulkind Dance Company, 1979-1980
- F 8 Martins, Peter, 1980-1986
- F 9 McDonald, DJ, 1984

F 10	<i>Michio Ito the Dancer and his Dances</i> , by Helen Caldwell, 1977
F 11	Mimi Garrad Dance Theatre, 1980-1986
F 12	<i>The Mise-en-scene of Jacques Copeau the Vieux Colombier</i> by Susan Aaron, undated
F 13	Morality essay, undated
F 14	Morris, Mark, undated
F 15	Motherwell, Robert, 1983-1985
Box 26	
F 1	Music, 1987-1988
F 2	National Ballet of Canada, 1977-1986
F 3	National Dance Theatre Company of Jamaica, 1983
F 4	Near East, 1977-1987
	New York City Ballet, 1972-1986
F 5	1980-1984
F 6	Books, ca. 1982-1985
F 7-9	Clippings, 1972-1987
Box 27	
F 1	Clippings, 1972-1987
F 2	Newsletters, 1977-1983
	Repertory dances
F 3	<i>Bournonville Divertissements</i> , 1978-1982
F 4	<i>Coppelia</i> , 1983
F 5	<i>Don Quiote</i> , 1978
F 6	<i>Flag Ballet</i> , 1978-1983
F 7	<i>Jewels</i> , 1983
F 8	<i>The Nutcracker</i> , 1980-1984
F 9	<i>Raymonda</i> , 1975
F 10	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , 1984-1986
F 11	<i>Sleeping Beauty</i> , 1978
F 12	<i>Swan Lake</i> , 1976-1985
F 13	<i>La Sylphide</i> , 1977-1983
F 14	Programs, 1977-1985
F 15	Photographs, undated
Box 28	
F 1-2	Press releases, 1978-1985
F 3	Saratoga Springs, undated
F 4	Season schedules, 1978-1985
F 5	Subscription schedule, 1975-1985
F 6	Tudor, Antony, 1985-1986
F 7	New York International Ballet Competition, 1984
F 8	Next Wave Festival, BAM, 1987
F 9	No Fault, 1984-1990
F 10	Noguchi, Isamu, ca. 1982-1985
F 11	North America Native Americans/Eskimo, 1985
	Notebooks, 1980-1985, undated (David Sears titles)
Box 29	
F 1	<i>Bestiary</i> , undated
F 2	<i>Corn I and II</i> , undated
F 3	<i>Dickinson</i> , undated
F 4	<i>Dudley</i> , undated
F 5	<i>Edgar Poe's Shadow Show</i> , undated
F 6	<i>Greek</i> , undated
F 7	<i>Harvey, Susan</i> , undated
F 8	<i>Hawkins, Erick</i> , undated

Box 30

- F 1 *Howells, Jack*, undated
- F 2 *Maslow*, 1985
- F 3 *MOMA*, undated (Dali)
- F 4 *N/C*, undated
- F 5 *One Year Tues*, undated
- F 6 *Open World Puppet Festival*, undated
- F 7 *El Peuit*, undated
- F 8 *Shakespeare*, undated
- F 9 *Speech anatomy*, undated
- Untitled
- F 10 1980-1981
- F 11 1982

Box 31

- F 1-4 undated
- F 5 *Notes on Contemporary American Dance*, Harvey Rochlein, undated
- F 6 Obituaries, 1976-1987
- F 7 Ohio Ballet, 1978-1988
- F 8 Peking Opera, ca. 1984
- F 9 Perez, Rudy, 1976-1985

Box 32

- F 1-2 Personalities, 1983-1985
- F 3 Peru, undated (encyclopedia article)
- F 4 Philadelphia Dance Company, undated
- F 5 Pilobus, 1977-1987
- F 6 Politi, Victor, 1977-1986
- F 7 Pomare, Eleo, undated
- F 8 Posin, Kathryn, 1979-1985
- Press Releases
- F 9 1984-1986
- F 10 undated
- Programs
- F 11 Ballet Theatre, undated
- F 12 Performances, 1977-1985
- F 13 Stuttgart Ballet, 1971
- F 14 *Tribute to Doris Humphrey*, 1988
- F 15 Rambart Ballet and Marie Rambart, 1982-1987

Box 33

- F 1 Rauschenberg, Bob, 1982-1986
- F 2 Rauschenberg and Brown, 1982
- F 3 Redlich, Don, 1978-1984
- F 4 Reitz, Dana, 1980-1986
- F 5 Richardson, David, 1981-1984
- F 6 Richardson, Larry, 1986
- F 7 Rinker, Kenneth, 1979-1984
- F 8 Rioja, Pilar, ca. 1983
- F 9 Riverside Dance Festival, 1982-1986
- F 10 Roan, Barbara, undated
- F 11 Robbins, Jerome, 1979-1986
- F 12 Rodgers, Rod, 1977-1979
- F 13 Ross, Bertran, transcript, 1985, July, 21
- The Royal Ballet, 1967-1986

Box 34

F 1-2	Clippings, 1979-1986
F 3	Programs, 1967-1976
F 4	Royal Danish Ballet, undated
F 5	Royal Winnipeg Ballet, 1978-1984
F 6	Rubin, Milton, undated
	Rudko, Doris, 1983-1985
F 7	1983-1985
F 8	Transcript, undated
F 9	Rudner, Sara, 1977-1981
F 10	Russian Ballet, undated
F 11	Russian/Soviet Union, 1988
F 12	Sachiyo Ito, 1980-1981
F 13	Sansardo Troupe, 1977-1985
	San Francisco Ballet, 1978-1986, undated
F 14	1978-1986
Box 35	
F 1	undated
F 2	Satoru Shimazaki, and Michio Ito, 1978-1983
F 3	School of American Ballet, 1984-1985
F 4	Self, Jim, 1980-1985
F 5	<i>Septad</i> by Harry Kelber, undated
F 6	Serious Fun @ Lincoln Center, 1987
F 7	Shanghai Ballet, 1979
F 8	Small, Robert, 1978-1984
F 9	Sokolow, Anna, 1977-1985
F 10	Solomons, Gus, undated
F 11	Southeast Asia, 1980-1985
F 12	Spain, 1984
F 13	Spanish Dance Arts Company, 1983
F 14-15	Sparling, Peter, transcripts, 1985, June 15
F 16-17	Stein, Gertrude, 1977-1984
	Stravinsky Festival, 1979-1984
Box 36	
F 1-3	1982
F 4	Irving, Robert, 1979-1984
F 5	Stravinsky, Igor, 1975-1987
F 6	Streb, Elizabeth, ca. 1985
F 7	Stuttgart Ballet, 1977-1984
F 8	Sydney Dance Company, 1981-1985
F 9	Summerfare @ SUNY Purchase, 1987, Jul/Aug
F 10	Takei, Kei, 1976-1985
F 11	Tango Argentino, undated
F 12	Tap Dance, 1979-1983
F 13	Taras, John, 1981 (<i>Firebird</i>)
Box 37	
F 1-3	Taylor, Paul, 1977-1986
F 4-6	Tchaikovsky Festival, 1981
F 7-8	Tharp, Twyla, 1976-1984
F 9	Theatre Dance Collection, 1977
F 10	Trockadero Ballet, 1973-1986
Box 38	
F 1	Tseng, Muna, 1983-1985
F 2	Tulsa Ballet, 1983
F 3	University Press of America, 1987

- F 4 Urban Bush Women, 1984-1985
- F 5 Utah Repertory Dance Theatre, 1976-1980
- F 6 Vale, Denise, 1989, June 23 (transcript)
- F 7 Wagoner, Dan, 1979-1984
- F 8 Waltzes, ca.1984
- F 9 Waring, James and Aileen Passloff, 1984
- F 10 Washington Ballet, 1980-1984
- F 11 Weidman, Charles, 1986
- F 12 Weiner, Nina, 1982-1986
- F 13 Whirling Dervishes, 1978
- F 14 Wong, Mel, 1979-1983
- F 15 Various material, undated

Sub-series II: Theatre

Box 39

- F 1 The Actor's Studio, 1979-1984
- F 2-3 African-American drama, 1975-1986
- F 4 Albee, Edward, 1976-1984
- F 5 Anderson, Maxwell, 1984
- F 6 Anouilh, Jean, 1975-1977
- F 7 Artand, Antonin, 1978
- F 8 Ayckbourn, Alan, 1985-1986
- F 9 Babe, Thomas, 1983-1985
- F 10 Beckett, Samuel, 1976-1986
- F 11 Behan, Brendan, 1981
- F 12 Behrman, S.N., 1980-1986
- F 13 Bond, Edward, 1979
- F 14 Boston Theatre, 1979-1987
- F 15 Brecht, Bertolt, 1976-1985
- F 16 Brook, Peter, 1979-1984
- F 17 Bucher, Georg, 1983-1985
- F 18 Bulgakov, Mikhail, 1978-1981
- F 19 Bullins, Ed, 1976
- F 20 Burroughs, William, 1977-1978
- F 21 Camus, Albert and Jean-Paul Satre, 1976-1986

Box 40

- F 1 Canadian Theatre, 1974-1983
- F 2 Carmines, Alan, 1978
- F 3 Chaiken, Joseph, ca 1975
- F 4-5 Chekov, Antonin, 1967-1986
- F 6 China Theatre, 1979-1983
- F 7 Christofer, Michael, 1977-1986
- F 8 Churchill, Caryl, 1981-1984
- F 9 Coburn, D.L., 1979
- F 10 Cocteau, Jean, 1978-1984
- F 11 *Comedians* by Trevor Griffiths, 1976
- F 12 Copland, Aaron, 1979-1987
- F 13 Coward, Noel, 1979-1985
- F 14 Crumb, George, 1984-1985
- F 15 DeGhelderode, Michael, undated
- F 16 Durang, Christopher, 1975-1986
- F 17 Duras, Marguerite, 1976-1987
- F 18 Durrenmatt, Friedrich, undated
- F 19 Eastern Bloc Theatre, 1977-1987
- F 20 Eliot, T.S., 1980-1985

F 21	Feydeau, Georges, 1978-1979
F 22	Foreman, Richard, 1975-1987
Box 41	
F 1	French drama, 1979-1984
F 2	Frisch, Max, 1979-1980
F 3	Fugard, Athol, 1980-1984
F 4	Gelber, Jack, 1976
F 5	Genet, Jack, 1976-1986
F 6	German drama, 1979-1985
F 7	Giraudoux, Jean, 1985
F 8	Gogal, Nicolai, 1975-1980
F 9	Gorky, 1979-1985
F 10	Grass, Gunther, 1980-1982
F 11	Gray, Amlin, 1982
F 12	Gray, Simon, 1977-1987
F 13	Gray, Spalding, 1978
F 14	Guare, John, 1977-1986
F 15	Gurney, John, 1982-1986
F 16	Hampton, Christopher, 1979-1984
F 17	Handke, Peter, 1977-1979
F 18	Hare, David, 1976-1985
F 19	Harrison, Lou, 1985
F 20	Hawthorne, Nathaniel, 1980-1984
F 21	Hellman, Lillian, ca. 1978-1986
F 22	Henley, Beth, 1982-1984
F 23	Henze, Hans Werner, 1977-1986
F 24	Hindesmith, Paul, 1983-1986
F 25	Horovitz, Israel, 1981-1987
F 26	Ibsen, Henrik, 1976-1986
F 27	India drama, 1985
F 28	Inge, William, 1977-1986
Box 42	
F 1	Innaurato, Albert, 1977-1986
F 2	Ionesco, Eugene, 1978
F 3	Irish drama, 1976-1986
F 4	Italian drama, 1977-1986
F 5-6	Japan, 1978-1987
	1978-1987
	Music in Japan Symposium, 1985-1986
F 7	1985
F 8	<i>Handing Down the Tradition</i> , 1986, Feb. 22
F 9	<i>Japanese Music and its Impact on American Culture</i> , 1985, Apr. 13
F 10	<i>Modern Music Education</i> , 1986 Feb. 21
F 11	<i>Music in Japan Today</i> , Ikira Ueno, 1985, Apr. 8
F 12	Panel Discussion, 1986 Feb. 21
F 13	Jarry, Alfred, 1976
F 14	Jesurun, John, 1984
F 15	Jewish, 1982-1985
F 16	Jones, Preston, 1982
Box 43	
F 1	Joyce, James, 1982-1986
F 2	Kafka, Franz, 1984-1986
F 3	Kaufman, George S. and Moss Hart, 1979

F 4	Keefe, Barrie, 1977-1983
F 5	Ketron, Larry, 1978-1986
F 6	King, John, 1984-1985
F 7	Kingsley, Sidney, 1978-1979
F 8	Kohout, Pavel, 1976-1977
F 9	Kopit, Arthur, 1984
F 10	La Mama, E.T.C. with Ellen Stewart, 1976-1981
F 11	La Russo, Louis, 1975-1978
F 12	Latin America, 1977-1983
F 13	Living Theatre, 1984-1986
F 14	Lorca, Federico Garcia, 1976
F 15	<i>Loves Labor Lost</i> , 1985
F 16	Lowell, Robert, 1976-1978
	Ludlam, Charles
F 17-19	Clippings, 1974-1986
Box 44	
F 1	Obituaries, 1987
F 2	Photographs, undated
	Plays, 1972-1985
F 3	<i>Bluebeard</i> , 1979
F 4	<i>Le Bourgeois Avant-Garde</i> , 1983
F 5	<i>Camile</i> , 1974
F 6	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> , 1979
F 7	<i>The Enchanted Pig</i> , 1979
F 8	<i>Eunuchs of the Forbidden City</i> , 1972
F 9	<i>Galas</i> , 1983
F 10	<i>The Grand Tarot</i> , 1968
F 11	<i>Irma Vep</i> , 1984
F 12	<i>Reverse Psychology</i> , 1982
F 13	<i>Salamambo</i> , 1985
F 14	<i>Stage Blood</i> , 1974
F 15	Theatre review by David Sears, 1978 June 5-12
F 16	Santa Fe Opera, 1985
F 17	Mabou Mines, 1983-1987
F 18	Mamet, David, 1976-1984
Box 45	
F 1	McClure, Michael, 1976-1980
F 2	McNally, Terence, 1986
F 3	<i>Measure to Measure</i> , 1976-1985
F 4	Melfi, Leonard, 1976-1982
F 5	Miller, Arthur, 1979-1987
F 6	Moliere, 1978-1985
F 7	Molnar, Ferenc, 19778-1984
F 8	<i>Moonchildren</i> , 1987
F 9	Munk, Erika, 1979-1985
F 10	Nichols, Peter, 1985
F 11	Norman, Marsha, ca. 1983-1984
F 12	O'Casey, Sean, 1976-1981
F 13	Odets, Clifford, 1981-1984
F 14	O'Neill, Eugene, 1982-1985
F 15	O.O.B., 1986-1987
F 16	Orton, Joe, 1978-1986
F 17	Orwell, George, 1984-1986
F 18	Osborne, John, 1977-1981

F 19	Papp, Joseph, 1975-1982
Box 46	
F 1	Personality, 1977-1986
F 2	Pinter, Harold, 1976-1986
F 3	Pomerantz, Bernard, 1979-1981
F 4	Rabe, David, 1976-1985
F 5	Ribman, Ron, 1977
F 6	Rice, Elmer, 1976-1977
F 7	Rudkin, David, 1976-1977
F 8	Russian, 1978-1984
F 9	Sainer, Arthur, 1980
F 10	Saroyan, William, 1976-1985
F 11	Satie, 1977-1984
F 12	Scandinavia, ca. 1979
F 13	Scriabin, 1977-1987
F 14	Schaffer, Peter, 1974-1981
	Shakespeare, William, 1965-1987, undated
F 15	Anthology, Stratford festival 1976-1984
F 16	Clippings, 1986-1987
F 17	Elizabethan, ca. 1986
F 18	Literature, 1979-1984
	Plays
F 19	<i>All's Well that Ends Well</i> , 1978-1983
F 20	<i>Anthony and Cleopatra</i> , 1976-1986
F 21	<i>As You Like It</i> , 1986
F 22	<i>Coriolanus</i> , 1979-1985
F 23	<i>Comedy of Errors</i> , 1975-1984
F 24	<i>Cymbeline</i> , 1984
F 25	<i>Hamlet</i> , 1982-1986
F 26	<i>Henry IV</i> , 1981-1982
F 27	<i>Henry V</i> , 1981-1984
F 28	<i>Julius Caesar</i> , 1984-1987
F 29	<i>King Lear</i> , 1979-1986
F 30	<i>Macbeth</i> , 1977
F 31	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i> , 1981-1987
Box 47	
F 1	<i>Merry Wives of Windsor</i> , 1978-1982
F 2	<i>Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , 1965-1985
F 3	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> , 1984-1987
F 4	<i>Othello</i> , 1979-1982
F 5	<i>Parade</i> , 1981
F 6	<i>Pericles</i> , 1984-1987
F 7	<i>Richard II</i> , 1976-1979
F 8	<i>Richard III</i> , 1979-1983
F 9	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i> , 1977-1980
F 10	<i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> , undated
F 11	<i>The Tempest</i> , 1984-1986
F 12	<i>Timon of Athens</i> , ca. 1980
F 13	<i>Titus Andronicus</i> , 1980-1985
F 14	<i>Troilus and Cressida</i> , 1976-1987
F 15	<i>Twelfth Night</i> , 1978-1982
F 16	<i>Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> , 1976-1984
F 17	<i>A Winters Tale</i> , 1978-1980
F 18	Restoration, 1982-1984

F 19	<i>Shakespeare Bulletin</i> , 1983, Nov. Dec
F 20	Stratford Festival, Canada, 1976-1977
	Shaw, George Bernard
F 21	Festival, 1977-1982
F 22	Literary, 1977-1986
	Plays, 1976-1985
F 23	<i>Androcles and the Lion</i> , undated
F 24	<i>Arms and the Man</i> , 1985
F 25	<i>Caesar and Cleopatra</i> , 1976
F 26	<i>Candida</i> , 1981
F 27	<i>Devil's Disciple</i> , 1977-1982
F 28	<i>Great Catherine</i> , 1977
F 29	<i>Heartbreak House</i> , 1979-1986
F 30	<i>Major Barbara</i> , 1978-1980
F 31	<i>Man and Superman</i> , 1977-1979
F 32	<i>Misalliance</i> , 1977-1981
F 33	<i>The Millionairess</i> , 1977
F 34	<i>Mrs. Warren's Profession</i> , 1976-1985
F 35	<i>The Philanderer</i> , 1976
F 36	<i>Pygmalion</i> , undated
F 37	<i>St. Joan</i> , 1976-1977
F 38	<i>Widower's House</i> , 1977
F 39	Smaller plays, date
Box 48	
F 1	Shepard, Sam, 1975-1986
F 2-3	Sherman, Stuart, 1978-1983
F 4	Simon, Neil, 1978-1985
F 5	Spanish, 1978-1984
F 6	Stitt, Milan, 1979
F 7-8	Stoppard, Tom, 1979-1986
F 9	Story, David, 1975-1984
F 10	Strindberg, August, 1985
F 11	Synge, J.M., 1978-1986
F 12	Talking Band, 1984-1985
Box 49	
F 1	Terry, Megan, undated
F 2	Tesich, Steve, 1979-1985
F 3	Theatre Awards, 1976-1985
F 4	Thomas, Dylan, 1976-1986
F 5	Turgenev, Ivan, 1975-1977
F 6	Vaccaro, John, 1979-1986
F 7	Von Horvath, Odon, undated
F 8	VonKleist, Heinrich, 1976-1983
F 9	Wanshel, Jeff, 1977
F 10	Wedekind, Frank, 1981-194
F 11	Weiss, Peter, 1980
F 12	Weller, Michael, 1979-1981
F 13	Wesker, Arnold, 1978-1986
F 14	Whitman, Robert, 1979
F 15	Whitman, Walt, 1980-1986
F 16	<i>Why Noah Chose the Dove</i> by Isaac Bashevis Singer, 1973
F 17	Wilde, Oscar, 1979-1984
F 18	Wilder, Thornton, 1979-1986

Box 50

- F 1-2 Williams, Tennessee, 1975-1984
- F 3 Wilson, Lanford, 1976-1985
- Wilson, Robert
- F 4 Clippings, 1977-1985
- Plays
- F 5 *The Civil Wars, A Tree is Best Measured When its Down, Act V the Rome Section*, 1986
- F 6 *The Knee Plays*, 1986
- F 7 Robert Wilson Group, 1980-1984
- F 8 Witkiewicz, Stanislaw, 1987
- F 9 Yeats, W.B., 1984-1986
- F 10 Zaloom, Paul, 1986-1987

Series III: Oversized Materials, 1935-1991

Box 51

- F 1 Artwork, undated
- F 2 Calendar, 1991
- F 3 *Life Magazine*, 1944
- F 4 NYCB List of Premiere Performances, 1935-1973
- Souvenir Programs, undated
- F 5 Alvin Ailey Center Dance Theater
- F 6 Bejait, Maurice
- F 7 Berlin Ballet
- F 8 Bolshoi Ballet
- F 9 The Hamburg Ballet
- F 10-11 The Royal Ballet

Box 52

- F 1-3 The Royal Ballet
- F 4 The Royal Danish Ballet
- F 5 Russian Festival
- F 6 The Stuttgart Ballet
- F 7 The Urasenke Tradition of Tea, undated

Separated Materials

Autographed Ballet Slipper

Audio tapes

- Cycles—Native American Flute Music
- Graham
- Jeanette Schlotthmauer (L. Horst)
- David Sears, Jersey City 1992, Mar. 25

Books

- Maria Tallchief: American Ballerina by Adele deLeeuw
- On the Four Quartets of T.S. Eliot by Constance de Masirevich
- John Martin's Book of the Dance