



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Richard James Allen and Karen Pearlman papers

1991-2006

(S) *MGZMD 357

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014

Summary

Creator: Allen, Richard James, 1960-

Title: Richard James Allen and Karen Pearlman papers

Date: 1991-2006

Size: 1.95 linear feet (6 boxes)

Source: Donated by Richard James Allen, 1996-2006

Abstract: Richard James Allen (b. 1960) is an Australian poet, dancer, and filmmaker. Dr. Karen Pearlman is an Australian writer, filmmaker, educator, and dancer. They are the founders and present artistic directors of the Australian performing arts production company, The Physical TV Company. The Richard James Allen and Karen Pearlman papers date from 1991 to 2006 and document the careers of Richard James Allen and Karen Pearlman, particularly their dance companies That Was Fast, Tasdance, and The Physical TV Company. The collection holds Tasdance company files; clippings and articles; programs and publicity materials; and writings.

Conditions Governing Access:

Access and permission to view selected materials is subject to approval by Richard James Allen. See container list for details. One DVD of the theatrical performance of Thursday's Fiction was present in the collection. That DVD and all other audiovisual material has been separated from the papers and is now part of the Jerome Robbins Archive of the Recorded Moving Image. For further information please contact dance@nypl.org. Audiovisual material will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

Conditions Governing Use: The author/creator retains copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Dance Division at dance@nypl.org.

Preferred citation: Richard James Allen and Karen Pearlman papers, (S) *MGZMD 357. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014

Creator History

Richard James Allen (b. 1960) is an Australian poet, dancer, and filmmaker. Dr. Karen Pearlman is an Australian writer, filmmaker, educator, and dancer. Allen and Pearlman began dancing together in the 1980s, and in 1985 they founded, directed, and danced in their first company, *That Was Fast*, in New York City. They quickly expanded their repertoire to include a combination of dance, theater, poetry, film, and video. In 1995, Allen and Pearlman became the artistic directors of Tasdance, a multimedia performing arts company in Tasmania. Among their several projects at Tasdance was the staging of Allen's epic poem, *Thursday's Fictions*.

In 2009, Karen Pearlman published *Cutting Rhythms: Shaping the film edit*. She currently teaches screen studies at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School. Richard James Allen has written over 9 books of poetry in addition to theoretical works on the intersection of performing arts, film, and media. Richard James Allen and Karen Pearlman are the founders and present artistic directors of The Physical TV Company (est. 1997), an Australian film and video production company for dance and theater arts.

Scope and Content Note

The Richard James Allen and Karen Pearlman papers date from 1991 to 2006 and document the careers of Richard James Allen and Karen Pearlman, particularly with their dance companies *That Was Fast*, Tasdance, and the Physical TV Company. The collection holds Tasdance company files; clippings and articles; programs and publicity materials; and writings.

Tasdance Company files consist of strategic plans, company and project descriptions, press releases, and articles. A limited amount of correspondence and memorandums are also present. The majority of this material is photocopied. Projects discussed in the files include *What to Name Your Baby* and *Thursday's Fictions*, among others.

The bulk of this collection consists of newspaper and magazine clippings and articles, the majority of which are photocopies. Projects represented through this material include the stage and film productions of Richard Allen's epic poetry compilation, *Thursdays Fictions*, and Tasdance's *What to Name Your Baby*. Allen and Pearlman's company, *That Was Fast*, is also represented through clippings and articles, particularly their performances of *Blue Cities* and a residency they held at Pennsylvania State University.

Programs and publicity materials are present in this collection. Materials document projects done by Allen and Pearlman's companies, as well as other Australian performing arts companies, conferences, and festivals. Publicity materials are comprised of press kits, announcements, and pamphlets.

Writings in the collection consist of poetry and creative writing compilations, theses, and scripts and synopses. Scripts and synopses were created for the Physical TV Company by Allen and Pearlman between 1998 and 2001. A company description of the Physical TV Company is also included amongst the writings. Pearlman's thesis, *Cutting Rhythms: Ideas about the shaping of rhythm in film making*, was published in 2006. Allen's thesis, *Out of the Labyrinth of the Mind: Manifesting a Spiritual Art beyond Dualism* (2004), examines the intersection of poetry, performance art, and film within a spiritual context. Other writings in the collection include autographed, published works, such as *The Air Dolphin Brigade*, *New Life on the Second Floor*, and *Performing the Unnamable: an anthology of Australian performance texts*. A ninth draft of Allen's *Thursday's Fiction* is also present.

One DVD of the theatrical performance of Thursday's Fiction is present in the collection. Inquiries regarding audiovisual material in the collection may be directed to the Dance Division at dance@nypl.org. Audiovisual material will be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged into four categories: Tasdance Company Files; Clippings and Articles; Programs and Publicity; and Writings. Material within each group will be arranged chronologically.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Articles
Press kits

Subjects

Dance -- Australia
Dance in motion pictures, television, etc.
Performance Art -- Australia

Names

Pearlman, Karen

Container List

b. 1 f. 1-5 Tasdance Company Files 1995-1996

Clippings and Articles

b. 1 f. 6 1992-1994

b. 2 f. 1-4 1994-2004

Programs and Publicity

b. 2 f. 5-7 1991-1994

b. 3 f. 1-6 1993-2000

Writing

b. 3 f. 7 1992-1993

b. 6 f. 1-3 1995-1996

Researchers must request permission from Richard Allen to access materials in this box.

b. 4 f. 1-4 1995-2006

b. 5 f. 1 2004