



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Laura Foreman and John Watts papers

1965-1984

(S) *MGZMD 472

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2017.

Summary

Creator: Foreman, Laura, 1936-2001

Title: Laura Foreman and John Watts papers

Date: 1965-1984

Size: 1.34 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Donated by Laura Foreman, date unknown.

Abstract: Laura Foreman (1937-2001) was a dancer, choreographer, founder of the Laura Foreman Dance Company and director of dance at the New School. John Watts (1929-1982) was an American composer, pioneer of electronic music, and director of The New School. Foreman and Watts frequently collaborated on artistic performances. The collection, dated 1965 to 1984, consists mostly of printed matter generated from Laura Foreman and John Watts' work at The New School's The Composers' and Choreographers' Theatre. The collection holds clippings, flyers, photographs, posters, and programs.

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Creator History

Laura Foreman (1937-2001) was a dancer, choreographer, founder of the Laura Foreman Dance Company and director of dance at the New School.

John Watts (1929-1982) was an American composer and pioneer of electronic music; founder of the Composers Cooperative Society; and director of the New School from 1962 to 1982. Watts also accepted a residency at the Yaddo Colony a fact that he would often publish in biographical press releases.

Foreman and Watts blended their respective companies to form The Composers' and Choreographers' Theatre at the New School, a renowned venue for music and dance.

One of their most remarkable works entitled *Wallwork* was a conceptual piece developed in 1981. A monotone brown poster advertising non existent performances had been posted around New York City. The image for the poster was taken from a Bartush and Shimazaki performance held in the Foreman Theatre in 1977. The *Wallwork* poster led the public to believe that there would be actual performances for two nights. The poster listed a telephone number and in bold red letters the words "Sold Out." The public began to call the telephone number asking about the show.

Their collaborative works continued until Watts' death in 1982. Foreman broadened her skills as a writer and fine artist. She died in New York City in 2001.

Scope and Content Note

The Laura Foreman and John Watts papers, 1965 to 1984, reflect the artistic productions in music and dance of John Watts and Laura Foreman's collaborative work at the New School's *Composers' and Choreographers' Theatre*. The files of mostly printed matter include the *Wallwork* poster, the Bartush and Shimazaki poster; an interview with Watts, press releases, and photographs of dance performances. The collection holds clippings, flyers, photographs, posters, and programs.

Key Terms

Occupations

Choreographers
Dance teachers
Dancers
Directors (performing arts)

Subjects

Choreographers -- United States
Dance companies -- United States
Dance in education -- New York State -- New York, N.Y.
Electronic music

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Flyers
Photographs
Posters
Programs

Geographic Names

New York -- New York (N.Y.)

Names

Watts, John, 1930-1982

Composers & Choreographers Theatre

Laura Foreman Dance Company

New School for Social Research (New York, N.Y. : 1919-1997)

Container List

- (The) Composers' and Choreographers' Theatre 1965-1984
- b. 1 f. 1 Clippings 1970-1982
 - b. 1 f. 2 Concert Artist Participants 1977
 - b. 1 f. 3 Correspondence, Press Releases 1972-1982
 - b. 1 f. 4-5 Courses in the Choreographers and Music Programs 1976-1984
 - b. 1 f. 6 Flyers 1976-1980
 - b. 1 f. 7 Foreman, Laura. Biographical 1978-1982
 - b. 1 f. 8 Notes for Music Programs 1970s-1980s
- Photographs 1970-1976
- b. 2 f. 1 Foreman, Laura Circa 1971
Undated portrait, Galley Proof.

Photographs from Programs
Laura Foreman was the choreographer. Some of the images are proofs.
 - b. 2 f. 2-3 *City of Angels* 1974
Performed at the Kennedy Center. Hank O'Neal was the featured performer.
 - b. 2 f. 4 *Glass and Shadows* 1971
 - b. 2 f. 5 *Laura's Dance* 1971
 - b. 2 f. 6 *Program* 1976
Performed at the Ward-Nasse Gallery in Soho and televised on cable television. John Watts choreographed the music.
 - b. 2 f. 7-8 *Signals* 1970
Performances also includes *Signals II*.
 - b. 2 f. 9 *Spaces* 1973
 - b. 2 f. 10-11 Untitled 1975-1976
The photographs were used to apply for a Guggenheim grant.
 - b. 2 f. 12-13 Unidentified Dances undated
 - b. 2 f. 14 Assorted Photographs 1973
Settings were at different social events.
- Posters 1976-1981
- b. 3 f. 1 *John Watts and Laura Foreman Presents Wallwork* 1981
 - b. 3 f. 2 Laura Foreman Dance Theatre Featuring Roxanne Bartush and Satoru Shimazaki 1977
Original sound score by John Watts.
 - b. 3 f. 3 New Music Concert I 1976
Bucknell University. John Watts presented his work.
 - b. 3 f. 4 (The) Watts Electric Company 1978
Bucknell New Music presented the company.

Works by Hisachika T and Laura Foreman 1979
Sound by John Watts.
- Projects and Music Presentations 1965-1981
- The programs document the musicians and their musical performances at the New School, the annual May festival, and unrelated video projects.
- b. 1 f. 9-11 1965-1980
 - b. 1 f. 12-15 Annual May Festival 1973-1975

(The) Composers' and Choreographers' Theatre (cont.)
Projects and Music Presentations (cont.)

b. 1 f. 16 *Glass and Shadow* 1978
Video project.

b. 1 f. 17 *Timecoded Woman* 1979-1980
Video Project

b. 1 f. 18 *Wallwork* 1981

b. 1 f. 19 *Services* 1975
Services offered to the public.

Watts, John

b. 4 f. 1 *365 Days Of Sodom* 1971

b. 4 f. 2 Biographical, Obituary, Photograph 1975-1982

b. 4 f. 3 *Interview for Mensa* 1981

b. 4 f. 4 Recording Lists 1982

Related Files 1965-1982

b. 4 f. 5 Assorted Music and Dance Publications 1974-1982

b. 3 f. 6 Mock-Up for Theatre Brochure Undated

b. 4 f. 6-8 Venues. A.I.R. Gallery - University of North Carolina 1965-1982
Foreman and Watts performances.