



The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Photographs of Ruth Page

circa 1930-1950

*MGZEB 18-3055

Processed by Tara D. Strongosky, 2018.

Summary

Title: Photographs of Ruth Page

Date: circa 1930-1950

Size: 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift, Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1967.

Abstract: The Photographs of Ruth Page comprise forty 11" x 14" black and white photographs of the iconic dancer and choreographer from circa 1930 to 1950 by photographer Maurice Seymour. The photographs depict Page in character from her various choreographed productions such as *Delirious Delusion* and *Love Song* as well as classic Shakespeare titles such as *Macbeth* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

Preferred citation: Photographs of Ruth Page, *MGZEB 18-3055. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Tara D. Strongosky, 2018.

Separated Materials:

These photographs were separated out from a larger collection encompassing a wide range of performers that was originally held by the Museum of Modern Art.

Creator History

Photographer Maurice Seymour was actually two brothers who made up the Maurice Seymour Studio. Maurice (1900-1993) and Seymour Zeldman (1902-1995), Russian expatriate photographers, formed the studio in 1929 with the intention to focus on ballet dancers. They worked out of the St. Clair Hotel in Chicago until Zeldman moved to New York City in 1950. Throughout their career, they photographed numerous ballet companies including American Ballet Theatre and became the preferred photographer of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

Ruth Page (1899-1991) was an American dancer, choreographer, and director who pioneered modern

dance in the United States. Throughout her career she was employed by and collaborated with some of the 20th century's greatest artists. During the 1930s she frequently co-created ballets with Bentley Stone, her professional partner and fellow choreographer. Page is credited with revolutionizing modern dance with her experimental technique often combining opera, avant-garde, and classical ballet to form unique and original expressions.

Scope and Content Note

The collection comprises forty 11" x 14" black and white photographs by photographer Maurice Seymour of dancer and choreographer Ruth Page circa 1930 to 1950. Most of the photographs depict Page in various costumes from her iconic choreographed productions such as *Iberian Monotone*, *Love Song*, and *Delirious Delusion*. She was also photographed as a number of Shakespeare's female characters such as Katharine from *The Taming of the Shrew*, Lady Macbeth from *Macbeth*, and the title role in *Romeo and Juliet*. Some of her well known co-stars are also pictured including Bettina Rosay, Harold Kreutzberg, and co-choreographer Bentley Stone. Other photographs depict solo studio portraits in addition to two photographs of the dancer in a mask designed by artist and friend Nicolas Remisoff.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet
Ballet dancers
Modern dance -- United States
Performing arts -- Photographs
Women choreographers -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographic prints

Names

Page, Ruth, 1899-1991
Remisoff, Nicolas
Stone, Bentley

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-9 Ruth Page
- b. 1 f. 10-13 Ruth Page and Bentley Stone
- b. 1 f. 14-15 Ruth Page and Bettina Rosay
 - b. 1 f. 16 *Ruth Page in Delirious Delusion*
 - b. 1 f. 17 *Ruth Page in Fugitive Visions*
- b. 1 f. 18 Ruth Page and Harold Kreutzberg
 - b. 1 f. 19 *Ruth Page and Harold Kreutzberg in Iberian Monotone*
- b. 1 f. 20-24 Ruth Page as Juliet
- b. 1 f. 25-33 Ruth Page as Katharine, the Shrew
- b. 1 f. 34-35 Ruth Page as Lady Macbeth
- b. 1 f. 36-37 *Ruth Page in Love Song*
 - b. 1 f. 38 *Ruth Page and Bentley Stone in Love Song*
- b. 1 f. 39-40 Ruth Page in a Mask by Nicolas Remisoff