



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Don Redlich papers

1893-2019 [bulk 1940s-2019]

(S) *MGZMD 498

Processed by Matthew Snyder in 2019.

Summary

Creator: Redlich, Don

Title: Don Redlich papers

Date: 1893-2019 [bulk 1940s-2019]

Size: 9.42 linear feet (24 boxes, 1 volume, 1 tube)

Source: Donated by Don Redlich, 2013 and 2019.

Abstract: Don Redlich (born in 1929) is a dancer, choreographer, and pedagogue. The Don Redlich papers, dating from 1893 to 2019 (the bulk dates from the 1940s onward), document Redlich's life and career through written descriptions and videos from The Legacy of Hanya Holm: Don Redlich Remembers project; manuscripts and interviews for an unpublished memoir; Don Redlich Dance Company files; Dance Notation Bureau files; Redlich's teaching files; files devoted to Redlich's teachers; letters; school files; photographs; scrapbooks; programs and reviews; posters; datebooks; address books; drawings; family history papers; and audio and moving image recordings, which hold many performances by the Don Redlich Dance Company. The papers also contain a small set of photographs and letters from the collection of the dance critic Arthur Todd.

Conditions Governing Access:

Inquiries regarding audio and moving image materials in the collection may be directed to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division (dance@nypl.org). Audio and moving image materials will be subject to preservation assessment and migration prior to access.

Preferred citation: Don Redlich papers, (S) *MGZMD 498. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Matthew Snyder in 2019.

Creator History

Don Redlich (born in 1929) is a dancer, choreographer, and pedagogue closely associated with Hanya Holm (1893-1992).

Born in Minnesota, he attended Winona State University, where he began studying dance. During summers, he attended programs at Colorado College to study with Hanya Holm. After graduating in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science in education (with concentrations in art and theater), Redlich went on to do graduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he studied theater and speech. There, he received further dance training with Margaret H'Doubler and Louise Kloepper, and attained his Masters degree in 1953.

The following year, Redlich moved to New York City, where he studied dance as a scholarship student at the Martha Graham and Hanya Holm dance schools, and found work in an Off-Broadway production, *The Golden Apple*. Over the next decade, he mixed professional theater work with performances of his own choreography. In 1966, he launched the Don Redlich Dance Company, which featured Holm's work as well as his own.

Redlich's choreography straddled modern and post-modern dance; his collaborators included Holm, Paul Taylor, and Merce Cunningham. His work includes *Passin' Through* (1959), *Earthling* (1963), *L'Histoire du Soldat* (1966), *Stigmata* (1971), *Patina* (1974), *Lake of Fire* (1975), *Traces* (1975), *Disposal* (1981), *Signals/Alarms* (1984), and *Kurt Weill Songs* (1994).

Redlich taught at Sarah Lawrence College from 1964 to 1981, and at New York and Rutgers Universities in the 1980s and 1990s. He also taught at Adelphi University and the Hanya Holm School of Dance. In 1996, he established the Don Redlich Dance School, which sent his dancers into public schools to run programs and workshops for children.

In 2010, Redlich took part in *The Legacy of Hanya Holm: Don Redlich Remembers*, a documentary project supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the University of New Mexico, in which he taught master classes on Holm techniques and choreography. The final product consisted of video and written descriptions of these classes, combined with video interviews with Redlich.

Redlich was also active with the Dance Notation Bureau, and he collaborated with Beth Soll to produce a memoir (never published) with input from his former students and colleagues.

Scope and Content Note

The Don Redlich papers, dating from 1893 to 2019 (the bulk dates from the 1940s onward), document Redlich's life and career through written descriptions and videos from *The Legacy of Hanya Holm: Don Redlich Remembers* project; manuscripts and interviews for an unpublished memoir; Don Redlich Dance Company files; Dance Notation Bureau files; Redlich's teaching files; files devoted to Redlich's teachers; letters; school files; photographs; scrapbooks; programs and reviews; posters; datebooks; address books; drawings; family history papers; and audio and moving image recordings, which hold many performances by the Don Redlich Dance Company. The papers also contain a small set of photographs and letters from the collection of the dance critic Arthur Todd.

The Legacy of Hanya Holm: Don Redlich Remembers is documented in project descriptions and indexes to the video recordings, as well as raw and edited video of master classes by and interviews with Redlich.

The files for Redlich's unpublished memoir hold recordings and transcripts of Beth Soll's interviews with Redlich, as well as with Redlich's colleagues, including Kathryn Appleby, Gladys Bailin, Robyn Cutler, Irene Feigenheimer, Ruth Davidson Hahn, Barbara Roan, Ellen Robbins, Luly Santangelo, and Billy Siegenfeld. Soll and Redlich produced a manuscript narrative of Redlich's life and career drawn from the interviews; this is present in more than one draft. The files also have correspondence with Beth Soll and Marcia Siegel about the proposed memoir, including Soll's initial proposal for the book.

The Don Redlich Dance Company Files contain brochures, programs, choreography notes, light plots, and business records. The company's "Artists in the School" program is documented by a program description, syllabi, programs, and photographs.

The Dance Notation Bureau Files include correspondence between the Bureau, Redlich, and other choreographers, as well as notation for four dances by Hanya Holm and one by Redlich (all notated and published in the mid to late 1980s).

The Teaching Files hold programs, brochures, and honors from Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts, including letters and photographs regarding a performance tribute to Redlich titled "From The Horse's Mouth." Other contents include notes and programs for dance festivals for which Redlich served as a judge; a set of notes for a class Redlich taught at Syracuse University; notes for a series of Redlich workshops presented at New York University; and biographies and CVs dating from the 1980s.

Redlich kept files for several of his teachers, including Shirley Genther (his music instructor at the University of Wisconsin), Margaret H'Doubler, Hanya Holm, and Louise Kloepper. These files hold letters, clippings, programs, photographs, and writings. The Holm content includes an essay by Redlich titled "Thoughts On Hanya Holm," and notes, light plots, and costume designs for his 2008 production of Holm's *Rota*.

The Letters are from dance teachers, students and colleagues, including Margaret H'Doubler, Hanya Holm, Bessie Schoenberg, and Billy Siegenfeld; Redlich's parents and other family; and friends. Also present are letters from Ralph Lee, a designer and director. These include face masks Lee created for Redlich's *Estrange*.

Redlich's School Files contain papers, theses, and other written work completed at Winona State University and the University of Wisconsin, as well as yearbooks and reunion photographs. There is also correspondence between Redlich and the Winona State University Foundation. See the container list for further description of these files.

The Photographs, in the form of loose prints and albums, are in four divisions: Don Redlich, Don Redlich Dance Company, Choreography, and Colleagues and Students. Photographs can also be found in other files in the collection, including the scrapbooks, programs, and reviews. (see below).

The first division has imagery of Redlich from his childhood through his years at the University of Wisconsin; headshots from throughout his career; photographs of Redlich teaching students; shots of solo performances; an album of performances, teaching, and headshots; an album of family, friends, and colleagues; and photographs of Redlich's trips to India and the American southwest.

The Don Redlich Dance Company photographs span the 1960s to the 1980s, and consist primarily of performance imagery. The Choreography division has performance or publicity photographs of 24 dances performed by Redlich and his company, almost all choreographed by Redlich. These include *Alice and Henry*, *Cahoots*, *Cantata Profana* (by Hanya Holm), *Earthling*, *Estrange*, and *Traces*.

Featured dancers include Kathryn Appleby, Gladys Balin, Irene Feigenheimer, Gerri Glover, Elina Mooney, Luly Santangelo, and others.,

The Colleagues and Students division includes photographs of Hanya Holm, Arthur Todd, Gladys Bailin, Elina Mooney, Luly Santangelo, Meredith Monk, Yvonne Rainer, Twyla Tharpe, Merce Cunningham, Erick Hawkins, Paul Taylor, and José Limón, among others.

The Scrapbooks hold photographs, flyers, and clippings. The earlier books document the lives of Redlich's parents (see also the Family History Files, below). Some of the largest photograph prints in the collection are in the scrapbooks.

The Programs and Reviews offers comprehensive coverage of Redlich's career, including his Off-Broadway and Broadway appearances; early performances of his choreography; the Don Redlich Dance Company; and performances at the schools where he taught. Photographs are also present in some of these files.

The Posters and Poster Designs advertise performances of the Don Redlich Dance Company. The Datebooks offer nearly comprehensive coverage of Redlich's activities from 1959 to 1995, and spottier documentation thereafter.

The Arthur Todd file holds photographs, some autographed, of Ted Shawn, Ruth St. Denis, Rudolf Nureyev, and Martha Graham, as well as letters from Graham and the dancer Tamara Karsavina.

The Drawings, in pencil, are by an unidentified artist, and include depictions of Hanya Holm and Martha Graham.

The Family History Files contain photographs and clippings (similar in content to the earliest scrapbook), documenting Redlich's parents, Walter and Kathryn Redlich.

Audio and Moving Images in the collection hold the raw and edited videos from *The Legacy of Hanya Holm: Don Redlich Remembers*; audio interviews of Redlich; audio interviews with Hanya Holm; film and video of rehearsals and performances of the Don Redlich Dance Company from the 1960s to the 2000s, including choreography by both Redlich and Hanya Holm; video of performances at Rutgers University; video of tributes to and a documentary about Hanya Holm; audio interviews with Holm; an interview with Redlich regarding his 2008 recreation Holm's *Rota*, and video of the performance; and audio recordings of music used for Redlich's choreography.

Redlich works appearing in film or video include *Dance for One Figure, Four Objects and Film*; *Patina*; *Disposal*; *Traces*; *Vintage*; *Harold II*; *Lake of Fire*; *Signals/Alarms*; and *L'Histoire du Soldat*. Hanya Holm works in film or video include *Jocose*, *Rota*, *Ratatatat*, and *Cantata Profana*.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Address books

Clippings (information artifacts)

Interviews

Posters

Programs (documents)

Scrapbooks

Sound recordings
Video recordings (physical artifacts)

Subjects

Appointment books
Choreographers -- United States -- 20th century
Choreography -- Study and teaching -- United States -- 20th century
Dance companies -- United States
Dance notation
Dance teachers -- United States
Modern dance -- History -- 20th century

Occupations

Dancers.

Names

H'Doubler, Margaret Newell, 1889-
Holm, Hanya, 1893-1992
Kloepper, Louise, 1910-1996
Redlich, Don
Todd, Arthur
Dance Notation Bureau (New York, N.Y.)

Container List

The Legacy of Hanya Holm: Don Redlich Remembers Project Documentation

2010-2012

Inquiries regarding audio and moving image materials in the collection may be directed to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division (dance@nypl.org). Audio and moving image materials will be subject to preservation assessment and migration prior to access.

- b. 1 f. 1 Fundamentals of the Dance Technique of Hanya Holm, as Taught by Don Redlich
Contains notation by Mary Corey.
- b. 1 f. 2-3 Video Catalog and Content Lists
- b. 1 f. 4 Supplementary Materials
With a project description and final grant report for the National Endowment for the Arts.

Memoir

Inquiries regarding audio and moving image materials in the collection may be directed to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division (dance@nypl.org). Audio and moving image materials will be subject to preservation assessment and migration prior to access.

- b. 1 f. 5-7 Letters and Notes 2003-2005, 2016
Letters from Beth Soll and Marcia Siegel about the memoir and its potential.

Interviews

All interviews are by Beth Soll unless noted otherwise.

Transcripts and Notes

- b. 1 f. 8 Appleby, Kathryn 2004
- b. 1 f. 9 Balin, Gladys 2004
- b. 1 f. 10 Cutler, Robyn 2004
- b. 1 f. 11 Feigenheimer, Irene 2003
- b. 1 f. 12 Finkelstein, Joan 2004
- b. 1 f. 13 Glover, Gerri 2005
- b. 2 f. 1 Hahn, Ruth Davidson 2004
- b. 2 f. 2 Mooney, Elina 2003-2005
A written interview, not recorded.
- b. 2 f. 3 Moore, Ellen 2005
Notes from an untaped phone interview.
- b. 2 f. 4 Parsons, Sally Ann 2004
- b. 2 f. 5-11 Redlich, Don 1993, 2004-2005, 2016-2018
The 1993 interview was carried out for the Oral History Project of the Dance Division of The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. The 2016-2018 interviews were carried out by Mary Anne Santos Newhall.
- b. 2 f. 12 Roan, Barbara 2003
- b. 2 f. 13 Robbins, Ellen 2004
- b. 2 f. 14 Santangelo, Luly 2014
- b. 2 f. 15 Siegenfeld, Billy 2005
- b. 2 f. 16 Zakkai, Jennifer 2003
- b. 2 f. 17-18 Manuscripts
- b. 3 f. 1-4
- b. 3 f. 5-9 Don Redlich Dance Company Files 1966-1991
- b. 4 f. 1-2 Includes light plots for *Vintage*, *Harold II*, *Traces*, and *Patina*.

Dance Notation Bureau Files

Dance Notation Bureau Files (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 3 Correspondence 1962, 1985-2017
Includes a photograph of dancers Kip Kiernan and Winifred Gregory.

Notations

- b. 4 f. 4 *Capers by Hanya Holm* 1985, 1988
b. 4 f. 5 *Title by Hanya Holm* 1989
b. 4 f. 6 *Ratatat by Hanya Holm* 1985
b. 4 f. 7 *Rota by Hanya Holm* 1988
b. 5 f. 1 *Passin' Through by Don Redlich* 1986

Teaching Files

- b. 5 f. 2 Adelphi University 1967, 1990s
b. 5 f. 3 Dance Festival Adjudications 1989-2001
b. 5 f. 4 New York University Tisch School of the Arts Choreographic Workshop 2005-2011

Rutgers University

- b. 5 f. 5 Programs and Brochures 1991-2014

Awards

- b. 5 f. 6 1991
b. 6 f. 1 1994
b. 5 f. 7 *From The Horse's Mouth Tribute Program* 2017
b. 5 f. 8 Syracuse University 1966-1968
Notes on Don Redlich classes by Glen Mack.

- b. 5 f. 9 Biographies and CVs 1980s

Teacher Files

- b. 5 f. 10 Genther, Shirley 2005
b. 5 f. 11 H'Doubler, Margaret 1973, 1982
b. 5 f. 12-14 Holm, Hanya 1983-2008
b. 16 f. 1 Includes an essay by Redlich titled "Thoughts on Hanya Holm"; the transcript of a speech Redlich gave about Holm in 1983; light plots for Redlich's 2008 production of Holm's *Rota*; and notes and designs for costumes for *Rota*.
b. 7 f. 1 Kloepper, Louise 1997
b. 7 f. 2 Schoenberg, Bessie 1985, 1997

Letters

Teachers, Students, and Colleagues

- b. 7 f. 3-4 1955-2009
Writers include Margaret H'Doubler, Bessie Schoenberg, and Hanya Holm.
b. 7 f. 5 Lee, Ralph 1971-1998
b. 8 Box 8 contains custom face masks created by Lee and used by dancers performing Redlich's *Estrange*.
b. 7 f. 6 Siegenfeld, Billy 1992-2012
Contains an essay by Siegenfeld describing his time with Redlich's company in the 1970s.
b. 7 f. 7 Family 1985-1982
b. 7 f. 8 Friends 1954-1995
b. 7 f. 9 The New York Public Library 1977, 1988, 2013
b. 7 f. 10 Parr, Rita 1965-1967
Primarily contains Parr's poetry.

School Files

- b. 7 f. 11 **Certificates 1943-1951**
- b. 7 f. 12 **Winona Senior High School 1945-1947, 1997**
- b. 9 f. 1 Includes yearbooks and a reunion photograph.
- Winona State University**
- b. 9 f. 2-3 **Foundation 2009-2016**
Includes photographs of a workshop conducted by Redlich at the University in 2009, and an award given to Redlich by the Foundation.
- b. 9 f. 4 **Gift 2013**
Correspondence and clippings regarding Redlich's gift to the university of his collection of Native American art.
- b. 10 f. 1-3 **Yearbooks 1948-1950**
- b. 10 f. 4-5 **University of Wisconsin-Madison 1948-1965, 1996, 2018**
- b. 11 f. 1-3 Includes papers and other school work for the Department of Physical Education for Women, and for Margaret H'Doubler. Also contains an essay by a friend regarding Redlich's dancing and choreography during his time at the university.

Photographs

Don Redlich

- b. 11 f. 4 **Childhood and High School 1929-1946**
- b. 11 f. 5 **University of Wisconsin Early 1950s**
Contains photos of Redlich dancing to music by Dave Brubeck.
- b. 11 f. 6 **Headshots 1950s-2010s**
- b. 11 f. 7-8 **Teaching 1967-2007**
Includes Redlich teaching workshops at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and at the American Dance Festival.
- b. 11 f. 9 **Solo Performances 1950s-1960s**
- b. 12 **Performances, Teaching, and Headshots 1940s-1992**
- b. 11 f. 10 **Family, Friends, and Dance Colleagues 1950s-1980s**
- v. 1 **India and Havasupai Trips 1990**
- b. 11 f. 11 **Family and House 1930s-1996**
- b. 13
- b. 11 f. 12 **Don Redlich Dance Company**
- b. 14
- b. 16 f. 2

Choreography

All choreographed by Redlich unless noted otherwise. Most feature Redlich and members of his company.

- b. 15 f. 1 ***Air Antique*** Early 1970s
Performed by Gladys Bailin and Luly Santangelo.
- b. 15 f. 2 ***Alice and Henry*** Circa 1972
- b. 15 f. 3 ***Balloon Dance*** 1973
Unidentified choreographer. Rehearsal at Adelphi University.
- b. 15 f. 4 ***Cahoots*** 1972
- b. 15 f. 5 ***Cantata Profana*** 1981
Choreographed by Hanya Holm. Performance at Colorado College.
- b. 15 f. 6 ***Couplet*** 1972
- b. 15 f. 7 ***Dance for One Figure, Four Objects and Film*** 1979
- b. 15 f. 8 ***Earthling*** 1963

Photographs (cont.)

Choreography (cont.)

- b. 15 f. 9 *Estrange* 1971
- b. 15 f. 10 *Everybody's Doing It* 1973
Outdoor performance on Lincoln Center Plaza.
- b. 15 f. 11 *From the Horse's Mouth* 2017
A performance at Rutgers University in which Redlich's works were performed and dancers recounted stories about Redlich.
- b. 15 f. 12 *L'Histoire du Soldat* 1980s
Performed at Rutgers University.
- b. 15 f. 13 *Jibe* 1972
- b. 15 f. 14 *Lake of Fire* Circa 1976
- b. 15 f. 15 *Passin' Through* Circa 1972
- b. 15 f. 16 *Patina*
- b. 15 f. 17 *Pierrot Lunaire* 1987
- b. 15 f. 18 *Reacher* 1969
- b. 15 f. 19 *Rota* 1975
Choreographed by Hanya Holm.
- b. 15 f. 20 *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* Circa 1972
- b. 15 f. 21 *Three Bagatelles*
- b. 15 f. 22 *Three Voices of Delusion* 1964
- b. 15 f. 23 *Threnody* 1979
- b. 15 f. 24 *Traces* 1981
- b. 15 f. 25-28 *Colleagues and Students* Circa 1910-1980s
Including Hanya Holm, Mary Wigman, Elsa Rainer, Arthur Todd, Meredith Monk, Yvonne Rainer, Twyla Tharpe, Merce Cunningham, Erick Hawkins, Martha Graham, Paul Taylor, José Limón, Jamie Cunningham, Laurie Archer, Debbie Choate, Elina Mooney, Luly Santangelo, Gladys Bailin, Annabelle Gamson, Phyllis Lambut, Clarice Marshall, and Joan Grant Schwartz.

Scrapbooks

- b. 6 f. 2 1939-1984
- b. 16 f. 3 1948-1965
- b. 16 f. 4 1965-1968
- b. 6 f. 3 India International Dance Festival 1990

Programs and Reviews

- b. 17 f. 1-23 1948-2013
Folder 13 contains a 1968 letter from Joan Didion regarding *Slouching Toward Bethlehem*, and a 1968 statement by Redlich titled "A Concept of Dance and How I Relate it to Contemporary Life."
- b. 18 f. 1-20 1985-1999
- b. 19 f. 1-5 1998-2013
- b. 20 f. 1-2 t. 1 Posters and Poster Designs 1960s-2008

Datebooks

- b. 21 1959-1976
No book is present for 1972.
- b. 22 1977-1994
No books are present for 1988 and 1991.
- b. 23 1995, 2008, 2014-2015
- b. 19 f. 7 Address Books 1950s-1990s

- b. 6 f. 4 Arthur Todd Letters and Photographs 1953-1970
- b. 19 f. 6 Drawings
- b. 24 f. 1-2 Family History Papers 1893-1987