



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Sonia Arova collection

1946-2013

(S) *MGZMD 507

Processed by Valerie Wingfield in 2019.

Summary

Creator: Arova, Sonia

Title: Sonia Arova collection

Date: 1946-2013

Size: 0.84 linear feet (2 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

Source: Therese Laeger donated the collection in 2019.

Abstract: The Sonia Arova collection, dating from 1946 to 2013, documents her career as a ballerina and artistic director of the San Diego Ballet and the Alabama Ballet. The collection holds printed matter, photographs, correspondence, audio and video media originals.

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: Sonia Arova collection, (S) *MGZMD 507. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Valerie Wingfield in 2019.

Creator History

Sonia Arova (née Sonia Errio, 1927-2001) was a Bulgarian-born international ballet star and artistic director. Trained in Paris and England, she danced in Ballets Russes, the London Festival Ballet, the Royal Ballet and the American Ballet theatre among others. In 1966, Arova was appointed artistic director and ballerina for the Norwegian Ballet in Oslo, where her American husband Thor Brian Sutowski (1945 -) was a principal. Within four years, she left Europe with her husband for the United

States. Their first appointment was as artistic directors of the San Diego Ballet Company. In 1976, an opportunity arose in Birmingham, Alabama for both to teach at the Alabama School of Fine Arts. Concurrently, Arova received the appointment of artistic director of the Alabama Ballet. In 1996, the couple returned to San Diego, where Arova was appointed artistic advisor to the California Ballet.

Arova died on February 4, 2001.

Scope and Content Note

The Sonia Arova collection, dating from 1946 to 2013, documents her career as a ballerina and artistic director. The collection focuses on her career mostly in the United States.

The files include articles about ballet productions; Arova's handwritten notes for classes taught at the Australian Ballet; business letters regarding her work and teaching; and photographs of Arova, ballets and related events. There are also programs featuring her performances in Europe and the United States and her and Sutowski's work with the San Diego Ballet and the Alabama Ballet.

Media originals are cassette tapes and video relating to class rehearsals and ballet performances.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet companies -- Photographs

Ballet dancers -- Photographs

Choreographers -- United States -- 20th century

Dancers -- 20th century

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Sound recordings

Theater programs

Video recordings (physical artifacts)

Names

Arova, Sonia

Sutowski, Thor

Container List

Printed Matter 1946-2013

Articles

- b. 1 f. 1-6 1978-2013
- b. 1 f. 7-8 Obituary and Tribute 2001

Serial Publications 1952, 1956

- b. 1 f. 10 *Ballet* 1952
Portraits-8: Sonia Arova.
- b. 1 f. 11 *Ballet Theatre* 1956
Autographed copy of the publication by several dancers.
- b. 1 f. 12 *Ballet Today* 1952
Sonia Arova and Nathalie Leslie featured on cover.
- b. 1 f. 13 *Dancing Times* 1952
Two different publications.
- o. 1 *World Pictorial News* 1952

Theatre Programs 1946-1995

- b. 1 f. 14-16 Alabama Ballet 1980-1985
- b. 1 f. 17 American Festival Ballett 1958
Program was published in German.
- b. 1 f. 18 The Atlanta Ballet 1983-1990
- b. 1 f. 19 *Ballet Hawaii Presents Cinderella* 1985
- b. 1 f. 20 Ballet 1994
- b. 1 f. 21 Ballet Spectular 1974
- b. 1 f. 22 Les Ballets des Champs Elysees
Cambridge Theatre, London.
- b. 1 f. 23 *Le Lac Des Cygnes* 1962
Royal Opera House, Convent Garden.
- b. 1 f. 24 London's Festival Ballet 1952
- b. 1 f. 25 Original Ballet Russe
- b. 1 f. 26 Ruth Page's Chicago Opera Ballet
- b. 1 f. 27 *Sadler's Wells Ballet Rambert* 1946
- b. 1 f. 28 Sonia Arova in Japan 1952
- b. 1 f. 29 *Swan Lake* 1995
Ballet South.
- b. 1 f. 32 Miscellaneous Press, Postcards, Leaflets

Correspondence and Notes 1979-1996

- b. 1 f. 30 Correspondence 1979-1996
- b. 1 f. 31 Notes For Classes Taught at the Australian Ballet 1994

Photographs 1960s-2000s

Arovo, Sonia

- b. 2 f. 1-2 Ballet Theatre Troupe
- b. 2 f. 3 National Ballet 1965
Publicity shot.

Photographs (cont.)
Arova, Sonia (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 4 With Rudolf Nureyev in Rehearsal 1962
- b. 2 f. 5 *With Rudolf Nureyev in Flower Festival in Genzano*
- b. 2 f. 6 *Scheherezade*
- b. 2 f. 7 *Swan Lake* 1965
National Ballet.
- b. 2 f. 8 *Les Sylphides*
- b. 2 f. 9 Tokyo, Japan 1952
Publicity shot.
- b. 2 f. 10 Publicity Shots With Other Dancers 1962
Assorted Images
- b. 2 f. 11 Alabama School of Fine Arts
- b. 2 f. 12 Teaching Students in Oslo, Norway
- b. 2 f. 11 Arova With Alabama School of Fine Arts Students 1980s
- b. 2 f. 12 Arova Teaching Students in Oslo, Norway
- b. 2 f. 13 Arova With Officials at Ballet Event 1980
- b. 2 f. 14-15 Students at rehearsal with Thor Sutowski
- b. 2 f. 16 Arova and Sutowski 1980s
- b. 2 f. 17 Performance Honoring Arova and Sutowski 2000
- b. 2 f. 18 Arova Greets Robert F. Kennedy

Audio and Moving Image

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.