



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Job Sanders papers**

1946-2008

(S) \*MGZMD 359

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Sanders, Job, 1929-2008

**Title:** Job Sanders papers

**Date:** 1946-2008

**Size:** 4.9 linear feet (13 boxes, 1 oversized folder)

**Source:** Gift of Nadja Sanders, 2009.

**Abstract:** The Job Sanders papers date from 1946 to 2008 and document the ballet dancer and choreographer's career through photographs, programs, articles, and choreographic notes.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:  
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

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**Preferred citation:** Job Sanders papers, (S) \*MGZMD 359. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014 Original order was maintained.

## Creator History

Job Sanders (1929-2008) was a Dutch ballet dancer, choreographer, and dance instructor. Born in Amsterdam, he and his family moved to the United States in 1939. Sanders studied under George Balanchine and eventually joined his company, Ballet Society, in 1946. He danced with several different companies around the world, including Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, Kovach and Robavsky, the American Ballet Theatre, the Chicago Opera Ballet, and Nederlands Dans Theater. In the 1970s, Sanders began exclusively teaching and choreographing at companies and schools, including Ballet

Classico de Bellas Artes, the Pennsylvania Ballet, the North Carolina School of Art, the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, and the Rotterdam Dance Academy.

After he retired, Sanders danced and taught tango in The Hague from 1990 until his death in 2008.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Job Sanders papers date from 1946 to 2008 and document his career in dance, choreography, and teaching through photographs, programs, articles, and choreographic notes. The collection consists of files for dance companies, ballets, and subjects. The degree to which each dance company, ballet, or subject is represented varies, though files typically hold photographs, programs, and articles.

The best-represented dance companies in the collection are the American Ballet Theatre (ABT), Nederlands Dans Theater, and Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Sanders' professional relationship with his first wife, dancer Sonia Arova, is represented through photographs and programs for their performances together with ABT and the American Festival Ballet. Other ABT photographs document a company trip and performances in Chile, summer classes Sanders taught in Denver, Colorado, and stills and performance shots for Giselle and Lilac Garden. Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo material primarily consists of programs and photographs from 1948 to 1950 documenting Sanders in several performances, most notably his role in Paquita (1951). Correspondence and publicity material for the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo's 2000 annual reunion celebration is present. Nederlands Dans Theater files document Sanders' performance and choreography with the company during the 1960s and contain photographs, programs, posters, reviews, and scrapbooks. Other companies represented in the collection include Ballet Society, the Chicago Opera Ballet, the North Carolina Dance Theater, and Ballet Clasico de Bellas Artes.

Sanders' choreography is represented through programs, reviews, and rehearsal and performance photographs. Among the several ballets covered in the collection are Impressions (1967), Summernight (Norway, 1968), Threater Piece (1972), and Idylle (Holland, 1988). Sanders' ballets were frequently performed by multiple companies, such as Screenplay (1965), performed by Nederlands Dans Theater, Ballet Nacional Chileno, and the North Carolina School of Arts. Choreographic notes and ballet scripts are also present for some works, such as The Careless Burghers (1957), Soleriana (1963), En L'Air (1970), and multiple unidentified dances.

The collection also holds student-related materials, tango programs and articles, and personal photographs. Student-related materials date from the 1970s to the 1980s and consist of performance and studio photographs and programs for shows put on by the North Carolina School of Arts, the Royal Conservatory at The Hague, and The Rotterdam Dance Academy. Many of the personal photographs are portraits taken by Sanders of friends and other dancers in casual, outdoor settings.

The collection is chiefly in English and Dutch, with some materials in Spanish, Hebrew, Italian, and Japanese.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged alphabetically by dance company, ballet, or subject.

### **Key Terms**

**Subjects**

Ballet

**Occupations**

Choreographers

Dancers

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Photographs

Posters

Programs (documents)

**Names**

American Ballet Theatre

Nederlands Dans Theater

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- b. 1 f. 1-4 American Ballet Theatre 1946-1957  
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- b. 1 f. 5 1958-1960 1958-1960
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- b. 1 f. 6 Arova, Sonia and Sanders, Job 1956-1960  
Articles
- b. 2 f. 1-3 1948-1969
- b. 1 f. 7-9 1957-1969  
*Bachianas Braskeiras*
- b. 2 f. 4-5 1954-1957
- b. 11 f. 1 1958-1959
- b. 2 f. 6-10 Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo 1948-2000
  - b. 3 f. 1 Ballet Society 1947-1948  
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    - o. 1 1970 1970  
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  - b. 3 f. 3 *The Careless Burghers* 1957
  - b. 3 f. 4-5 Chicago Opera Ballet 1955-1959  
Choreography and Class Notes
  - b. 3 f. 6-10 1956-1975  
Choreographic notes for *Soleriana* and *En L'Air* are here.
    - b. 4 f. 1 1975
    - b. 4 f. 2 *Choreostruction* 1967
    - b. 4 f. 3 *Danses Concertantes* 1966
    - b. 13 f. 1 *Dichterliebe* 1978  
Photograph album
    - b. 4 f. 4 *En L'Air-The Bird- Les Oiseux* 1970-1981
    - b. 4 f. 5 *Fugitive Visions* 1968-1972
    - b. 4 f. 6 *Hatweeoh* 1976
    - b. 4 f. 7-8 *L'Histoire du Soldat* 1972-1981
    - b. 4 f. 9 *Idylle* 1988  
*Impressions*
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    - b. 5 f. 3 Kovach and Robavsky 1955-1956
  - b. 5 f. 4-7 Mexico 1970-1982
  - b. 5 f. 8 Miscellaneous Papers 1956-2006

- b. 6 f. 1 *Mixummerdaydream* 1968
- b. 6 f. 2 Het Nederlands Ballet 1960-1962
  - o. 1 Het Nederlands Ballet 1960s  
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- b. 12 f. 1-2 1961-1966 1961-1966  
Scrapbooks
- b. 6 f. 3-6 1961-2000 1961-2000
  - o. 1 1966-1967 1966-1967  
Dance cage - flat file # 263
- Nederlands Dans Theater
- b. 6 f. 7 1962-1982 1962-1982
- b. 11 f. 4 1978 1978
- North Carolina Dance Theater
- b. 6 f. 8 *Pas Trop---* 1972
- b. 7 f. 1-7 Photographs 1946-1980s
- b. 8 f. 1 *Pop Beat '65* 1965
- b. 8 f. 1-2 *Screenplay* 1966-1967
- b. 8 f. 4-5 *Sleeping Beauty* 1956-1957  
Japan
- b. 11 f. 3 *Soleriana* 1963
- b. 8 f. 6 *Streetcorner Royalty* 1955-1958
- b. 8 f. 7-8 Photographs 1960-1992
- b. 9 f. 1 North Carolina School of the Arts 1969-1971
- b. 9 f. 2-3 Student Programs-Holland 1973-2007
- Student-Related Material
- b. 9 f. 4 *Summernight* 1968-1978
- b. 9 f. 5 *Tango* 1990-2008
- b. 9 f. 6 *Theater Piece* 1972-1974
- b. 9 f. 7 *Torino, Italy* 1972-1974
- b. 9 f. 8 *El Viaje* 1962
- b. 10 f. 1 *De Valkuil* 1962-1972  
*The Taming*
- b. 10 f. 2 *Voddenraper* 1964  
*The Ragpicker*
- b. 10 f. 3 *Waring, James* 1968-1976
- b. 10 f. 4 *Wedding Cake* 1971-1972