Summary

Creator: Wallack, Hazel

Title: Hazel Wallack papers

Date: 1905-1977

Size: .67 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by Marianne Field, 1990.

Abstract: Hazel Wallack was an American dancer and dance teacher. The Hazel Wallack papers (1905-1977) document Wallack's career and her relationship with Ted Shawn.

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

Conditions Governing Access:
Researchers wishing to view the printing block should contact the Jerome Robbins Dance Division (dance@nypl.org) in advance to inquire about its availability.

Conditions Governing Use: The author/creator retains copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Dance Division at dance@nypl.org.


Processing note: Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014

Creator History
Hazel Wallack was an American dancer and dance teacher. She launched her career on the vaudeville circuit in 1908, where she became known for classical dances. Around the same time, she taught children's dance classes at Elitch's Gardens, an amusement park in Denver, Colorado. Wallack was Ted Shawn's first dance teacher and his dance partner for a short time. From the 1910s through the 1920s, Wallack toured with her own company, the Hazel Wallack Dancers.

Scope and Content Note
The Hazel Wallack papers (1905-1977) document Wallack's career as a dancer and dance teacher, as well as her relationship with Ted Shawn. The collection contains programs, promotional material, clippings, publications, letters, contracts, ephemera, photographs, and writings by Wallack.

Dance programs, promotional material, and publicity for Hazel Wallack and the Hazel Wallack Dancers date from 1905 to 1937. Programs span 1905 to 1937, but date primarily from 1908 to the 1910s. The collection also contains correspondence and contracts for bookings of Wallack and the Wallack Dancers, dating from 1916 to 1925. Publications include issues of The Child's Companion, a weekly newsletter published by Elitch's Gardens, dating from 1908 to 1910. The newsletters contain notices and articles about Wallack's classes and performances. A scrapbook holds clippings about Wallack from 1908 and 1909.

Photographs in the collection date from the 1910s to 1965, with the bulk dating to the 1910s. Photographs depict Wallack, her dancers, and Ted Shawn.

The collection contains Ted Shawn's letters to Wallack, dating from 1966 to 1971. Wallack's handwritten reminiscences, which are six pages long and were written in 1977, contain memories of her early career and her relationship with Ted Shawn.

The collection includes an undated copper printing block, with an image of Wallack. Researchers wishing to view the printing block should contact the Jerome Robbins Dance Division (dance@nypl.org) in advance to inquire about its availability.

Key Terms

Geographic Names
Elitch Gardens (Denver, Colo.)

Names
Shawn, Ted, 1891-1972
Container List

b. 1 f. 1-13  1905-1977
b. 2 f. 5-9   The Child's Companion 1908-1910
b. 1 f. 14   Photographs circa 1910s-1938, 1965
b. 2 f. 1-3  Photographs circa 1919-1920s
b. 2 f. 4   Scrapbook 1908-1909