



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Marilyn La Vine collection of Rudolf Nureyev materials

1939-2008

(S) *MGZMD 323

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2013

Summary

Creator: La Vine, Marilyn J.

Title: Marilyn La Vine collection of Rudolf Nureyev materials

Date: 1939-2008

Size: 15.94 linear feet (50 boxes)

Source: Donated by Marilyn J. La Vine, 2008.

Abstract: Marilyn J. La Vine (1931-2009) was a dance enthusiast who dedicated her life to researching and promoting the legacy of Russian dancer Rudolf Nureyev (1938-1993). The Marilyn La Vine collection of Rudolf Nureyev materials (1939-2008) holds research files and photographs relating to the life and career of Rudolf Nureyev. The research files contain a master copy of La Vine's compilation of volumes of clippings relating to Nureyev, as well as correspondence, ephemera, and scrapbooks. The photographs date from 1939 until after Nureyev's death in 1993, and give a comprehensive representation of his dancing career.

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: Marilyn La Vine collection of Rudolf Nureyev materials, (S) *MGZMD 323. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2013 Original order was maintained when apparent. Photographs were removed from frames and foldered.

Creator History

Marilyn J. La Vine (1931-2009) was a dance enthusiast who dedicated her life to promoting the legacy of Russian dancer Rudolf Nureyev (1938-1993). After seeing the dancer perform in the 1960s, La Vine began compiling an extensive collection of Nureyev material, including articles, photographs, and ephemera. Her most prominent achievement was the creation of forty-five volumes containing clippings from news and dance publications spanning thirty years of the dancer's career. The original collection was donated to the Library of Congress in 1998, and a master copy was later given to The New York Public Library. La Vine wrote *The Magnificence of Nureyev: a Biographical Essay*, in 2000, as an accompaniment to collection of volumes. Her chronology of his life, *Rudolf Nureyev: A Chronology of Ballet Performances, Conducting Schedule, Ballet Productions and Original Ballets* (2007), was originally meant to be published in Julie Kavanagh's biography, *Nureyev: The Life* (2007), but was abandoned by publishers at the last minute. The chronology was published on the Rudolph Nureyev Foundation website in 2007. La Vine donated to several dance funds, including Saddler's Wells, and to the Margot Fonteyn Seat Appeal, which involved the refurbishing of an area of the theater in her name. She also donated to Cercle des Amis de Rudolf Nureyev, and Nureyev's Friends: Centro di Iniziativa Culturale.

La Vine's expertise on the dancer was recognized by biographers, historians, and filmmakers. She contributed to books written by Peter Watson, Julie Kavanagh, and Linda Maybarduk, and to Yelena Demikovsky's documentary film *Then Comes the Glory*. Marilyn J. La Vine lived in Elmhurst, New York and died in 2009.

Scope and Content Note

The collection holds research files and photographs relating to the life and career of Russian dancer Rudolf Nureyev. The research files contain a master copy of La Vine's compilation of volumes of clippings relating to Nureyev, as well as correspondence, ephemera, and scrapbooks. The photographs date from 1939 until after Nureyev's death in 1993, and give a comprehensive representation of his dancing career. Primary subjects include performances, rehearsals, and studio practice. Also included are photographs of Nureyev in his dressing room and on the street giving autographs after performances.

The research material is centered around La Vine's chronology, biographical essay, and master copy of the volumes of clippings relating to Nureyev. The volumes, which she titled the "Marilyn J. La Vine Rudolf Nureyev collection," are comprised of photocopies of announcements, reviews, and interviews dating from 1959 to 1992. The volumes include a detailed table of contents and guide with a brief chronology of the dancer's life. Additionally, each volume contains its own table of contents that lists highlights within that volume. Forty-five full volumes are present. Five supplemental volumes are referenced in the table of contents, but are not included in this collection. Drafts and copies of La Vine's biographical essay and chronology are here, some of which have annotations and edits.

Correspondence relates to La Vine's work on the chronology and volumes, as well as assisting biographers with their research. The correspondence files are generally organized by correspondent or company. Correspondence between La Vine and various writers doing research on Nureyev include Peter Watson, Julie Kavanagh, and Linda Maybarduk. Wallace Potts, Nureyev's former partner and film archivist of the Rudolph Nureyev Foundation (est. 1975) corresponded frequently with La Vine regarding the usage of quotations by La Vine on the foundation's website, fact checking, and working with Julie Kavanagh on her biography. The correspondence files with the Rudolf Nureyev Dance Foundation (est. 1992) document compensation given to La Vine for her services in assisting Julie Kavanagh with her book on Nureyev. The biographical essay file contains applications for copyright for her work, as well as requests to use quotations from other publications in her essay. Invoices and email

correspondence documenting La Vine's donations to Cercle des Amis de Rudolf Nureyev from 1998 to 2009 are included, as well as correspondence with Nureyev's Friends: Centro di Iniziativa Culturale. Correspondence to Yelena Demikovsky, director of the Nureyev documentary "Then Comes the Glory" (Red Palette Pictures), documents La Vine's assistance with the content of the film.

Several scrapbooks containing original clippings, prints of photographs, and programs are included and cover the bulk of Nureyev's career. Obituary files, Nureyev collector's stamps, and programs dating from the 1960s to the 1980s are also included. A photocopy of Nureyev's performance schedule from 1966 to 1992 is present. Published works in this collection include a copy of "The Trial of a Comet, memories of Rudolf Nureyev" by Rudi van Dantzig, and two autographed copies of Nureyev's autobiography. Also included are newspapers and magazines containing articles on Nureyev, as well as programs. A list of performances with media coverage and contractors is also present.

The photographs in this collection are extensive and document several highlights of Nureyev's career. Among the dozens of performances represented are "The Nutcracker," "Sleeping Beauty," "Song of the Wayfarer," "Marguerite and Armand," and "The Ropes of Time." His attendance at the Leningrad Choreographic School where he danced for three years with the Kirov Ballet is well represented. These photographs include images of Nureyev in the Vaganova dormitory, as well as photographs taken in the studio and of his early performances of "Le Corsaire" (1958), "Giselle" (1959), and "Swan Lake" (1960), among others. Among the several photographs of Nureyev and dancer Margot Fonteyn are images of the two in their first performance together in 1962, "Giselle." Photographs of Nureyev's 1962 performance of "Don Quixote," his first in the United States, are here. Stills from the documentary "I am a Dancer" are included, as well as photographs of Nureyev with Jim Henson and the Muppets (1977). Photographs from Nureyev and Mikhail Baryshnikov's first joint performance in Martha Graham's "Appalachian Spring" (1987) are also held in the collection. Included are images of the performance, as well as photographs of the two dancers with Graham on stage.

Early photographs from the 1930s are prints of Nureyev's father in his uniform for the Red Army, and of him and his mother, Farida. Late photographs of Nureyev in this collection document his brief stint in orchestral conduction, specifically in Italy in 1991. A color photograph of Nureyev seated at a table on New Years Eve before the international telecast from Vienna of "A Thousand and One Nights" (January 1, 1992) is included. The collection also contains photographs of the dancer's grave, costumes, and an image of the Paris Opera House foyer a few days following his death. Most of the photographs are black and white. Photo credits range, but many are given to Judy Cameron and W. Reilly.

A limited amount of works of art with Nureyev as the subject are present in this collection, including a nude study painting (1999) and a print by D. Boissuer dated 1983.

Arrangement: Material is arranged into two broad categories: photographs and research material.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Photographs
Scrapbooks
Volumes (documents by form)

Subjects

Dance

Dance -- Research

Occupations

Dancers

Names

Kavanagh, Julie

Nureyev, Rudolf, 1938-1993

Ope_ra de Paris. Ballet

Container List

	Research Material
b. 18 f. 1-6	1960s-2008
b. 19 f. 1-6	1961-1999
b. 10 f. 1-11	1961-2007
b. 29	1962-1965, 1990
b. 13 f. 1-4	1962-1970, 1993-2003
b. 49 f. 2-5	1962-1990
b. 11 f. 1-8	1962-2008
b. 29	1964-1965, 1990
b. 22	1964-1975
	boxes 22-29 contain La Vine's scrapbooks
b. 15 f. 1-8	1964-2006
b. 16 f. 1-6	1968-1999
b. 20 f. 1-7	1970s-2008
b. 23	1975-1979
b. 24	1979-1983
b. 17 f. 1-7	1982-2008
b. 25	1983-1986
b. 26	1986-1988
b. 27	1988-1992
b. 1 f. 3-5	1990s
	Boxes 1-9 contain La Vine's volumes
b. 2 f. 1-6	1990s
b. 3 f. 1-5	1990s
b. 4 f. 1-5	1990s
b. 5 f. 1-5	1990s
b. 6 f. 1-6	1990s
b. 7 f. 1-5	1990s
b. 8 f. 1-6	1990s
b. 9 f. 1-4	1990s
b. 28	1992-1999
b. 14 f. 1-5	1992-2007
b. 21 f. 1-3	1993
b. 9 f. 6	1993-1994
b. 44 f. 2-4	1993-1995
b. 12 f. 1-2	1993-2007
b. 50 f. 1	1999
	Painting
b. 1 f. 1-2	2000-2008
b. 9 f. 5	2003-2004

Photographs

- b. 32 1939-1962
- b. 49 f. 1 1960s
- b. 44 f. 1 1960s-1970s
- b. 12 f. 3-7 1960s-1985
- b. 21 f. 4 1960s, 1992, 1994
- b. 33 1962-1980s
- b. 34 1963-1966
- b. 35 1966-1967
- b. 36 1968-1969
- b. 37 1970-1971
- b. 38 1971-1973
- b. 39 1973-1974
- b. 40 1974-1975
- b. 41 1975
- b. 42 1975-1976
- b. 43 1976-1977
- b. 30 1977-1978, 1984-1986
- b. 45 1978-1979
- b. 46 1979-1981
- b. 47 1981-1983
- b. 48 1983-1984
- b. 31 1986-2000