



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Raymond Johnson papers**

1978-1980

(S) \*MGZMD 68

Processed by Catharine M. Vaucher.

## Summary

**Creator:** JJohnson, Raymond, d. 1987

**Title:** Raymond Johnson papers

**Date:** 1978-1980

**Size:** 67 items 5 folders

**Source:** Gift of estate of Raymond Johnson. Don McDonagh. Material rec'd: November 1989.

**Abstract:** Raymond Johnson (1946-1989), was a student at the Henry Street Playhouse and a member of the Henry Street Settlement teaching staff. From 1963 to 1969 he was a dancer with the Alwin Nikolais Dance Company. In 1969 he performed with the Murray Louis Dance Company and with choreographers Rod Rodgers and Rudy Perez. He performed his own choreography and toured nationally with his six person troupe from 1964 to 1980. This collection consists primarily of correspondence and related materials during his years with the Raymond Johnson Dance Company and the New School of the Performing Arts, and includes program materials from his years with the Alwin Nikolais Dance company. The collection contains five folders of written and printed materials from 1964-1969 and from 1978-1980. Series #1 covers selected years (1964-1969) during his time with the Alwin Nikolais Dance Company and the Henry Street Settlement Playhouse and includes programs, articles, a letter of recommendation from Alwin Nikolais, flyers, brochures, programs and an airline ticket. There are no dated materials from 1969 to 1977. Series #2 is dated 1978 and contains correspondence, ticket order forms, and a list of Board/Trustees/Contributors for the Raymond Johnson Dance Company. Also included is an employment history for RJ and a letter to President Carter. Series #3 includes a quarterly progress report from the Raymond Johnson Dance Company/Saracen Foundation for Dance and a 16 page proposal for a pilot youth project of RJDC/The New School for the Performing Arts, all dated between 1978 to 1980. Series #4 is dated 1979 and contains correspondence and a photo regarding RJ's Solo Dancer Residency at Saugerties Central Schools. Featured are 21 letters from students regarding his performance and residency. Series #5 is dated 1980 and contains materials related to possible master classes at the New School of the Performing Arts: biographies, brochures, a press release, letters and miscellaneous 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>

**Preferred citation:** Johnson, Raymond. Papers, (S) \*MGZMD 68, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Catharine M. Vaucher.

## Creator History

Raymond Johnson (1946-1989), was a student at the Henry Street Playhouse and a member of the Henry Street Settlement teaching staff. From 1963 to 1969 he was a dancer with the Alwin Nikolais Dance Company. In 1969 he performed with the Murray Louis Dance Company and with choreographers Rod Rodgers and Rudy Perez. He performed his own choreography and toured nationally with his six person troupe from 1964 to 1980. This collection consists primarily of correspondence and related materials during his years with the Raymond Johnson Dance Company and the New School of the Performing Arts, and includes program materials from his years with the Alwin Nikolais Dance company.

## Scope and Content Note

The collection contains five folders of written and printed materials from 1964-1969 and from 1978-1980. Series #1 covers selected years (1964-1969) during his time with the Alwin Nikolais Dance Company and the Henry Street Settlement Playhouse and includes programs, articles, a letter of recommendation from Alwin Nikolais, flyers, brochures, programs and an airline ticket. There are no dated materials from 1969 to 1977. Series #2 is dated 1978 and contains correspondence, ticket order forms, and a list of Board/Trustees/Contributors for the Raymond Johnson Dance Company. Also included is an employment history for RJ and a letter to President Carter. Series #3 includes a quarterly progress report from the Raymond Johnson Dance Company/Saracen Foundation for Dance and a 16 page proposal for a pilot youth project of RJDC/The New School for the Performing Arts, all dated between 1978 to 1980. Series #4 is dated 1979 and contains correspondence and a photo regarding RJ's Solo Dancer Residency at Saugerties Central Schools. Featured are 21 letters from students regarding his performance and residency. Series #5 is dated 1980 and contains materials related to possible master classes at the New School of the Performing Arts: biographies, brochures, a press release, letters and miscellaneous notes.

**Arrangement:** Alwin Nikolais, Henry Street Settlement Playhouse Raymond Johnson Dance Company RJDC: Saracen Foundation for Dance, The New School for the Performing Arts Saugerties Central Schools/Solo Residency New School of the Performing Arts/Master Classes

## Key Terms

### Titles

Gift of estate of Raymond Johnson

**Subjects**

Manuscripts -- Collections

**Names**

JJohnson, Raymond, d. 1987

New School for Performing Arts (Kingston, N.Y.)

Nikolais Dance Theatre

Raymond Johnson Dance Company

## Container List

### Alwin Nikolais, Henry Street Settlement Playhouse c. 1964-69 (19 items)

Includes programs, flyers, press releases, brochure, articles, letters.

- f. 1 letter of agreement with CBS (to record his name, likeness and voice RE: "The Dance Theatre of Alwin Nikolais") 17 Apr. 1964 (1 item)
- f. 1 photographic collage (1 item)
- f. 1 magazine cut-out of AN costume (1 item)
- f. 1 program, American Dance Theatre, New York State Theatre, Imago" 1965 Mar.: " (1 item)
- f. 1 Minneapolis Guide Magazine, Dec 1965 Vol.3-No.51, article on AN appearance (1 item)
- f. 1 program, 23rd Annual Coty American Fashion Critics Awards, Metropolitan Museum of Art: Fashion Show with the dancers of Alwin Nikolais 1965 Oct. 8 (1 item)
- f. 1 brochure, Henry Street Settlement Playhouse 1965-1966 (1 item)
- f. 1 program, "Vaudeville of the Elements" (premiere) 1966 (1 item)
- f. 1 program, Nikolais Dance Company performance of "Vaudeville of the Elements" at Trenton State College 1966 May (1 item)
- f. 1 Air India airline ticket, Hong Kong-NY (1 item)
- f. 1 Press Release: Playhouse Dancers to Perform at St. Augustine's Chapel, RJ's "Six Little Dances" 1969? (1 item)
- f. 1 letter for performance at St. Augustine's Chapel 1969 (1 item)
- f. 1 letter of recommendation from Alwin Nikolais (1 item)
- f. 1 program guide, feature article: Henry Street Settlement Playhouse School 1969 Apr. (1 item)
- f. 1 flyer, Nikolais Electronic Dance Company May 11?? (1 item)
- f. 1 program cover, "Dance Theatre of Alwin Nikolais" (1 item)
- f. 1 program note: "Crumble" and "Intersection-a-fantasy" (1 item)
- f. 1 program note: change in time for 28 April?? performance (1 item)
- f. 1 article: "A Trio of Vivid Talents" (1 item)

### Raymond Johnson Dance Company 1978 (11 items)

Includes letters, ticket order forms, list of Board/Trustee/Contributors, RJ employment history.

- f. 2 copy of letter to Pres. Carter on professional arts organizations from Richard H. Brown, V.P. and Gen. Mgr., Ulster County Legislature 1978 May 26 (1 item)
- f. 2 letter, Lois Dabney, requesting tickets for 10 June 1978 Gala at Woodstock (1 item)
- f. 2 miscellaneous list (1 item)
- f. 2 letter to RJ from "Maggie", Ulster County Legislature (1 item)
- f. 2 ticket orders, signed, for RJDC 1978 (4 items)
- f. 2 form for mailing list and publicity information, RJDC (1 item)
- f. 2 copy (pg.6) of Board/Trustees/Contributors of RJDC and program notes (1 item)
- f. 2 Employment History, RJ (1 item)

RJDC; Saracen Foundation for Dance, The New School for the Performing Arts 1978-1980 (3 items)

Includes Second Quarterly Progress Report, proposal for project, bill for photographs.

- f. 3 letter to James Mirabelli from RJ, RJDC/Saracen Foundation for Dance, and "Second Quarterly Progress Report", Project 101 1980 June 30, 1980 July (1 item)

(includes: Introduction, Contract Amendment Letter and Relevant New Project Direction, Second Quarter Accomplishments, press cuttings, Youth Bureau Citation, letters from U.S. Department of Labor, HOEC Director, Principal Peter Riggins, and Mayor Quick)

- f. 3 bill for photographs (1 item)

- f. 3 proposal (pgs.2-16), for pilot youth project of RJDC/The New School for the Performing Arts 1978-1980 (1 item)

(Includes: The Problem, Services Proposed, Objectives, Program Participants, Personnel Qualifications (Diana Banks, Sara Cook, RJ, Yung Yung Tsuai), Volunteers, Project Monitoring, Evaluation, Project Budget, Budget Breakdown and Explanation, Suggested Readings)

Saugerties Central Schools/Solo Residency 1979 (25 items)

Includes 2 letters, note, b&w photo, 21 letters from students.

- f. 4 letter to RJ from Ernest Blake, Admin. Asst., SCS 1979 June 1 (1 item)
- f. 4 letter to Ernest Blake from Carolee Pescatore, Proj. Dir., NY Foundation for the Arts, RE: RJ in Solo Dancer Residency (1 item)
- f. 4 note to RJ from Ernest Blake (1 item)
- f. 4 b&w photo, 8x10, of children dancing (1 item)
- f. 4 letters from students RE: performance 1979 June 15 (21 items)

New School of the Performing Arts/Master Classes 1980 (9 items)

Includes letters, biographies, brochures, press release, notes.

- f. 5 letter to RJ from Grant Strate 1980 May 26 (1 item)
- f. 5 press release RE: Grant Strate teaching at the NS for the PA (1 item)
- f. 5 biography, Grant Strate (1 item)
- f. 5 brochure, Big Apple Dance Theatre (1 item)
- f. 5 letter from Kay Wylie 1980 July 9 (1 item)
- f. 5 copies of Kay Wylie biography (1 item)
- f. 5 biography-brochure, Michele Kadison with handwritten request to teach and handwritten reply from RJ (1 item)
- f. 5 miscellaneous sheets of notes of workshops (2 items)