



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Neighborhood Playhouse scenarios

1914-1931

(S) *MGZMD 104

Processed by Naomi Jackson.

Summary

Creator: Neighborhood Playhouse (New York, N.Y.)

Title: Neighborhood Playhouse scenarios

Date: 1914-1931

Size: 1 Flat Box

Source: Transfer. Music Division. Received: 1979?

Abstract: The collection consists of scenarios (notes, scripts, and action interpretations) for approximately 20 works between 1914 and 1931.

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: Neighborhood Playhouse. Scenarios, (S) *MGZMD 104, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Naomi Jackson.

Related Materials:

Music scores from this collection are located in the Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. See: JPB 04-40

Creator History

In 1905 Irene and Alice Lewisohn began classes and club work at the Henry Street Settlement House in New York. While at the Settlement House they also began to present performances featuring dance and drama. In 1915, the sisters opened the Neighborhood Playhouse on the corner of Grand and Pitt

Streets, where they offered training in dance and drama to children and teens. Irene Lewisohn oversaw the dance training and production, with the assistance of Blanche Talmud, while Alice Lewisohn led the dramatic work. In 1928 the Neighborhood Playhouse became the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theater. Martha Graham and Louis Horst were put in charge of the dance department, while Irene Lewisohn continued to administer the program. Throughout her time at the Neighborhood Playhouse, Irene Lewisohn actively produced and wrote action interpretations for "orchestral dramas," or expressive movement pieces set to musical compositions. She also wrote and helped in the staging of various ballets, pageants, and festival performances. Some of this work is documented in this collection of scenarios.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of scenarios (notes, scripts, and action interpretations) for approximately 20 works between 1914 and 1931. Language: English, Chinese.

Arrangement: Typescripts of productions choreographed and performed at the Neighborhood Playhouse, arranged alphabetically by production title

Key Terms

Titles

Adventures of Olle
Arab fantasia (Choreographic work : Lewisohn, A and I)
Bloch quartet (Choreographic work : Humphrey, Lewisohn and Weidman)
Boutique fantasque (Choreographic work)
Burmese pwe (Choreographic work : Lewisohn, I)
Cassandra's wild wedding song
Chout (Choreographic work)
Collection of annotated typescripts, 1914-1931
Fleur and Blanche fleur
Harusaki
Israel (Choreographic work : Lewisohn, I and Sokolov, N)
Kolayada : a Russian folk scene
Kuan Yin
La balteira
Music of the troubadours (Choreographic work : Weidman?)
Quatuor à cordes
Salut au monde (Choreographic work : Lewisohn, A and I)
The shadow garden of Shuteye Town
Toy box (Choreographic work : Hellé)
Troubadour songs

Names

Neighborhood Playhouse (New York, N.Y.)
Bach, Johann Sebastian, 1685-1750
Bloch, Ernest, 1880-1959
Brundage, Frances, 1854-1937
Crowley, Alice
Eichheim, Henry, 1870-1942
Enesco, Georges, 1881-1955
Horst, Louis
Hyland, Lily
Lewisohn, Irene, -1944
Prokofiev, Sergey, 1891-1953

Rossini, Gioacchino, 1792-1868
Schindler, Kurt, 1882-1935
Talmud, Blanche
Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre

Container List

SCENARIOS

- f. 1 Adventures of Olle 1931 (2 Items)
- f. 2 La balteira (2 Items)
[A dance drama of the 13th century in three scenes, by Irene Lewisohn.]
- f. 3 La Boutique fantasque 1919-1920 (1 Item)
[A pantomime ballet in 2 scenes. Scenario, choreography and direction by Irene Lewisohn.
Music adapted by Frederick Jacobi from Rossini/Respighi.]
- f. 4 A Burmese Pwe, an impression of Burma 1925-1926 (2 Items)
[Scenario, choreography and direction by Irene Lewisohn, assisted by Blanche Talmud. Music
by Henry Eichheim.]
- f. 5 Cassandra's wild wedding song (2 Items)
[Proposed ballet for 1914.]
- f. 6 Chout 1923-1924 (2 Items)
[The story of a Buffoon who played a trick on seven other Buffoons. A pantomime ballet in six
pictures by Serge Prokofiev. Scenario adapted by Irene Lewisohn.]
- f. 7 Fleur and Blanche fleur 1927 (4 Items)
- f. 8 Harusaki (1 Item)
- f. 9 Israel; orchestral dance drama 1928 (2 Items)
[by Ernest Bloch. Arranged for stage by Irene Lewisohn and Nikolai Sokoloff. Production given
by The Neighborhood Playhouse in conjunction with The Cleveland Symphony Orchestra]
- f. 10 Kolyada (5 Items)
[A Russian folk scene. Arranged from collection of Kurt Schindler [by] L. Horst.]
- f. 11 Kuan Yin, The goddess of mercy, a Chinese fantasy 1925-1926 (3 Items)
[Music by A. Avshalomoff. Story by K.L. Shi, adapted by Carroll Lunt. Directed by Irene
Lewisohn. Costumes and setting by Ernest de Weerth.]
- f. 12 Quatour a cordes 1931 (3 Items)
[by Ernest Bloch. Danced by Charles Weidman.]
- f. 13 Roumanian rhapsody 1929 (5 Items)
[Music by Enesco.]
- f. 14 Salut au monde, a lyric drama 1921-1922 (2 Items)
[Adapted from Walt Whitman's poem. Scenario and choral design by Irene and Alice Lewisohn.
Music by Charles T. Griffes. Designed by Esther Peck.]
- f. 15 The shadow garden of Shuteye Town (1 Item)
[Proposed ballet for 1914.]
- f. 16 Tocatta and fugue in D Minor 1931 (5 Items)
[Music by Bach. Includes an article by Irene Lewisohn titled "Drama and the unseen currents."]
- f. 17 The toy box 1916-1917 (3 Items)
[Music by Claude Debussy, Story by Andre Helle. Directed by Irene Lewisohn and Blanche
Talmud, choreography by Irene Lewisohn. Designs by Esther Peck.]
- f. 18 The troubadour songs (1 Item)
- f. 19 Miscellaneous tunes and dance directions (25 Items)
[Folk dance descriptions and music.]

SCENARIOS (cont.)

- f. 20 List of materials originally received, entitled "Music used in productions of the Neighborhood Playhouse", dated 4-9-79. (1 Item)