



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Judith Dunn collection

1963-1978

(S) *MGZMD 431

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2016

Summary

Creator: Dunn, Judith

Title: Judith Dunn collection

Date: 1963-1978

Size: .42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of Robert Telson, 2016.

Abstract: Judith Dunn (1933-1983) was an avant-garde American dancer and choreographer. The Judith Dunn collection dates from 1963 to 1978 and documents her work with the Judith Dunn/Bill Dixon Company, and to some extent, her work as a founding member of the Judson Dance Theater. The collection primarily contains film and video recordings, with a small amount of files.

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:

Audiovisual materials are currently unavailable, pending digitization.

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.

Preferred citation: Judith Dunn collection, (S) *MGZMD 431. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2016

Creator History

Judith Dunn (née Goldsmith, 1933-1983) was an American dancer, choreographer, and founding member of the Judson Dance Theater in New York City. She obtained a master's degree in dance from Sarah Lawrence College. From 1958 to 1963, Dunn danced with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, where she met and married musician, choreographer, and founder of the Judson Dance Theater, Robert Dunn. A leader and founding member of the company, Dunn collaborated with avant-garde filmmakers, composers, dancers, and artists. In 1966, after her divorce from Robert Dunn, she began working more extensively with musician Bill Dixon. The couple created the Judith Dunn/Bill Dixon Company, an experimental dance and music group.

Dunn taught dance at Brandeis University, Sarah Lawrence College, the Merce Cunningham Studio, the New Dance Group Studio, Columbia University Teachers College, and Bennington College. Judith Dunn passed away in her home in 1983.

Scope and Content Note

The Judith Dunn collection dates from 1963 to 1978 and documents Dunn's career as a performing artist and choreographer. The collection contains primarily film and video recordings. Files containing correspondence, notes, biographies, and programs are also present.

The recordings date from 1964 to 1974 and document dance classes, improv performances, student discussions, and other performances and film clips featuring Dunn, Dixon, and members of their company, including Jack Moore and Barbara Ensley.

The file for the Judith Dunn/Bill Dixon Company contains newspaper clippings, biographies of Dunn and Dixon, and lists of choreographic works. Notes include Dunn's personal writings as well as choreographic notes. Correspondence is primarily between Dunn and Dixon, with one note from Tom Borek accompanying issues of *Eddy*, a magazine edited by Borek that published articles on dance and other arts.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Audiovisual materials
Clippings (information artifacts)
Notes

Occupations

Choreographers
Composers
Dancers

Subjects

Postmodern dance -- United States

Names

Dixon, Bill, 1925-2010
Judson Dance Theater

Container List

Files

- b. 1 f. 1 Dixon, Bill 1968-1973
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence 1963-1974
- b. 1 f. 3 Judith Dunn/Bill Dixon Company 1967-1973
- b. 1 f. 4 Judson Dance Theater 1963-1964
- b. 1 f. 5-7 Notes 1960s-1970s
- b. 1 f. 8 Miscellaneous 1963-1979

Film and Video Recordings

Audio and moving image materials currently unavailable.