



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Frank Tuttle and Nana Gollner photographs and scripts

1935-1946, 1981

(S) *MGZMD 453

Compiled by Amelia Carlin, 2016.

Summary

Creator: Tuttle, Frank

Title: Frank Tuttle and Nana Gollner photographs and scripts

Date: 1935-1946, 1981

Size: 1.01 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Donated by Frederika Hastings Blair and Helen Tuttle Votichenko.

Abstract: Nana Gollner (1919-1980) was one of America's first prima ballerinas. During her career, she danced in ballet companies in Europe, in Frank Tuttle's production, *Ballet Carnival*, and in a short choreographed film directed by Tatiana Tuttle. The collection contains photographs and negatives of Gollner; Frank Tuttle's correspondence concerning his production; scripts; programs; and clippings.

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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Processing note: Compiled by Amelia Carlin, 2016.

Creator History

Nana Gollner (1919-1980) was one of America's first prima ballerinas. In 1935, she danced with David Lichine in the short film *Spring Night*, which was directed by Tatiana Tuttle. She subsequently danced as prima ballerina with Colonel de Basil's Ballet Russe, and toured with Rene Blum's Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

Frank Tuttle (1892-1963) was a Hollywood film director and writer. As a ballet enthusiast, he established the California Ballet, a troupe made up primarily of dancers from motion pictures. Their first

performance, and Nana Gollner's American debut as primary dancer, was *Ballet Carnival* produced by Tuttle in 1939.

Scope and Content Note

The production and promotion of *Ballet Carnival* is recorded in studio photographs and negatives of Gollner in various poses, most likely taken as promotional material; Tuttle's correspondence; contracts; a program; and a poster design. Scripts for ballet story ideas by Frank Tuttle, Tatiana Tuttle, Gerald Goode, and others are also present.

Other material relating to Gollner includes stills from the movie *Spring Night* (1935); and candid photographs of Gollner at a social event and dancing with her husband Paul Petroff on a suburban lawn. Programs that include Gollner's performances in Monte Carlo with the Ballet Russes and with The Ballet Theatre are present.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet -- United States

Occupations

Ballet dancers

Producers (managers)

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)

Correspondence

Negatives (photographs)

Photographs

Names

Gollner, Nana

Tuttle, Tatiana

Container List

Photographs

- b. 1 f. 1-6 1930s, undated
 - b. 3 undated
 - b. 1 f. 7 Photograph and Letter undated
This photograph portrait of Nana Gollner was framed. The letter was found by the archivist inside the backing board of the frame and is from Gollner, addressed to "Dearest."
 - b. 1 f. 8 *Spring Night* 1935
Includes photographs of David Lichine.
- b. 1 f. 9-11 Negatives circa 1938-1939
- Ballet Carnival*
- b. 1 f. 12-16 1938-1939

Scripts

- b. 2 f. 1-2 Ballet Shorts 1930s
Tatiana Tuttle and others.
- b. 2 f. 3-4 *My Heart is Dancing by Frank Tuttle* 1937
- b. 2 f. 5 *Never Marry a Dancer or Beware the Ballerina by Gerald Goode* 1937
- b. 2 f. 6 *On Your Toes* 1936

Notes and Correspondence

- b. 2 f. 7-8 1939, 1944

Programs and Clippings

- b. 2 f. 9-11 1939-1944, 1981