



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Marjorie Gamsso collection**

1969-2015

(S) \*MGZMD 481

Processed by Susan M. Kline in 2018.

## Summary

**Creator:** Gamsso, Marjorie

**Title:** Marjorie Gamsso collection

**Date:** 1969-2015

**Size:** 0.75 linear feet (3 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Andrew Gurian and Jeffrey Gamsso, 2017.

**Abstract:** Marjorie Gamsso (1944-2011) was a choreographer, dancer, and founder of The Energy Crisis dance group. Gamsso took dance classes at the 92nd Street Y, earned a B.A. in anthropology from Columbia University (1968), and presented her first dance, "Octopus City" to the public at the University of Southern California in 1970. She studied ballet with Carmelita Maracci and James Waring, and studied modern dance with Merce Cunningham. The Marjorie Gamsso collection (1969-2015) primarily documents her career in New York City from 1971 until her death. The collection contains announcements; programs; press releases; notes; letters to Ellen Kastel, Sally Bowden, and Kenneth King; research material; unfinished projects and proposals; writings elucidating her work and creative process; and scripts. Some items were annotated by Gamsso's collaborators (including Mary Jane Leach and Bowden) following her death.

**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:

Electronic records are currently unavailable. Sound and video recordings are currently unavailable.

**Preferred citation:** Marjorie Gamsso collection, (S) \*MGZMD 481. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Susan M. Kline in 2018.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Correspondence

Fliers (printed matter)

Notes (documents)

Programs (documents)

Video recordings (physical artifacts)

### **Occupations**

Dancers

### **Subjects**

Modern dance -- New York (State) -- New York

Modern dance -- United States

Women choreographers

### **Names**

Bowden, Sally, 1943-

Gamso, Marjorie

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-3 Announcements, Programs, Press Releases 1969-2012
- b. 3 f. 3 Announcements, Programs, Press Releases  
Energy Crisis poster.
- b. 1 f. 4 Scripts, Texts, Writings, and Other Notes about Specific Gamso Dances
- b. 1 f. 5 Notes and Other Dance Writing by Gamso
- b. 1 f. 6 Biographies and Miscellaneous Photographs  
Correspondence
- b. 1 f. 7 Ellen Kastel
- b. 1 f. 8 Sally Bowden
- b. 1 f. 9 Kenneth King
- b. 1 f. 10 General
- b. 1 f. 11 Writings about Gamso
- b. 1 f. 12 Reviews and Newspaper Articles
- b. 2 f. 1 Proposals and Unfinished Projects
- b. 2 f. 2 The Enlightenment Series Research Material
- b. 2 f. 3-4 The Book Project  
Handmade books.
- b. 2 f. 5 Nancy Topf Dance Notes
- b. 3 f. 1 *Her Thousand and One Nights Script/Plot for Recording*
- b. 3 f. 2 *Infatuated Forest Notes and Cut-outs*