



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Hyla Roberts collection

1930-2000

(S) *MGZMD 485

Processed by Heather Halliday, 2018.

Summary

Creator: Roberts, Hyla (1917-2001)

Title: Hyla Roberts collection

Date: 1930-2000

Size: 0.21 linear feet (1 container)

Source: Donated by Hyla Roberts's son, Carl Samrock in 2018.

Abstract: Hyla Roberts (1917-2001) was an American modern dancer who performed with noted modern dance choreographer Doris Humphrey from 1930 to 1934. The Hyla Roberts collection documents Roberts's brief dance career through correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, and programs.

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: Hyla Roberts collection, (S) *MGZMD 485. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Heather Halliday, 2018.

Creator History

Hyla Roberts was born Hyla Rubin on January 31, 1917 in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1930, at just 13 years old, she moved to New York City, to perform under the stage name Hyla Roberts with Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman. She studied and danced with their modern dance troupe until 1934. Her credits include *The Dream of Sganarelle* (1933) and *Revenge with Music* (1934). She left the dance

world to marry Victor Samrock with whom she raised two children, Carl and Ellen Samrock. She died in New York City on October 19, 2001.

Scope and Content Note

The Hyla Roberts collection documents Roberts's brief dance career through correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, programs, and a work contract. The correspondence file includes a letter and a postcard from Doris Humphrey; letters between Roberts and Eleanor King, a fellow dancer of the era, who, in the 1970s, wrote a memoir about her time performing with the Humphrey/Weidman group; as well as a postcard from her daughter Ellen, dated 2000. The photographs file includes a set of publicity portraits of Roberts taken in 1930 and two headshots dated 1951. Newspaper clippings chiefly consist of reviews of Doris Humphrey group performances. The collection also includes Roberts's work contract for *Revenge with Music* and a few programs.

Key Terms

Occupations

Dancers

Subjects

Modern dance -- United States

Names

Humphrey, Doris J.

King, Eleanor, 1906-1991

Roberts, Hyla (1917-2001)

Weidman, Charles