



The New York Public Library  
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

**Shirley Clarke datebook**

1955-1956

\*T-Mss 1999-029

## Summary

**Creator:** Clarke, Shirley

**Title:** Shirley Clarke datebook

**Date:** 1955-1956

**Size:** 1 volume

**Source:** Datebook: Transfer, Dance Collection

**Abstract:** Shirley Clarke (1925-1997), American independent filmmaker, was a modern dancer before switching to work in film and video. She was probably best known for her films THE CONNECTION (1961), a study of drug addiction initially banned for obscenity in New York State, her oscar-winning 1962 documentary, ROBERT FROST: A LOVER'S QUARREL WITH THE WORLD, and THE COOL WORLD (1963) on a juvenile gang in Harlem. In 1962 she and Jonas Mekas founded the Film-Makers Cooperative, a nonprofit company for the distribution of independent films. Clarke also taught film directing and editing at New York University, Columbia and the University of California at Los Angeles. Consists of one leather bound datebook with "Halcyon Films, Inc." printed on the cover for the year 1955. Clarke used this book from September 1955 until September 1956. This was in the period she was making short dance films with Anna Sokolow.

**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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## Creator History

Shirley Clarke (1925-1997), American independent filmmaker, was a modern dancer before switching to work in film and video. She was probably best known for her films THE CONNECTION (1961), a study of drug addiction initially banned for obscenity in New York State, her oscar-winning 1962 documentary, ROBERT FROST: A LOVER'S QUARREL WITH THE WORLD, and THE COOL WORLD (1963) on a

juvenile gang in Harlem. In 1962 she and Jonas Mekas founded the Film-Makers Cooperative, a nonprofit company for the distribution of independent films. Clarke also taught film directing and editing at New York University, Columbia and the University of California at Los Angeles.

### **Scope and Content Note**

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### **Key Terms**

#### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Calendars

#### **Subjects**

Independent filmmakers

#### **Names**

Clarke, Shirley