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Guide to the

American Dance Guild records

1953-2004

(S) *MGZMD 129

Compiled by Laura Slezak Karas, December 2011

Summary

Creator: American Dance Guild

Title: American Dance Guild records, 1953-2004

Size: 7.56 linear feet (18 boxes)

Source: Donated by Muriel Mannings, 1997; Gloria McLean, 2008; and Deborah Maudlin, 2009.

Abstract: Founded in 1956 as the Guild of Creative Teachers of Children's Dance, the New York City-based American Dance Guild evolved into a non-profit service organization dedicated to uniting the dance community at both the individual and organizational levels. Consisting of administrative files, Board of Directors correspondence and meeting minutes, as well as extensive conference, seminar, and workshop materials, the American Dance Guild records document over forty-five years of service to the dance community.

Access: To request materials, contact the Jerome Robbins Dance Division (dance@nypl.org) in advance.

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Preferred citation: American Dance Guild records, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: The collection was initially donated in 1997 and has grown through two additions in 2008 and 2009. The additions were integrated into the collection after each donation. Prior to this processing, the collection was grouped both topically and by document type, and organized into folders. Original order is unknown. Folder titles have been retained; it is unknown whether these titles are original or whether they were created during the initial processing of the collection.

Related collections

92nd Street Y Dance Center records. New York State Archives.

Jeff Duncan papers. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Kayla Zalk papers. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator history

The Guild of Creative Teachers of Children's Dance, a forerunner to the American Dance Guild, was founded in January 1956 at the 92nd Street Y in New York City by twelve dance teachers concerned with services to the dance community. Over its first decade, the organization changed its name three times – to the Dance Teachers Guild (1956), National Dance Teachers Guild (1963), and National Dance Guild (1966) – until deciding upon the American Dance Guild in 1969.

Initially devoted to the teaching of dance, the organization was born to address the need for teaching standards, public education, standards in working conditions, a teaching library, as well as the need for a forum to exchange ideas and information.

The organization grew rapidly; chapters sprang up around New York City that sponsored local workshops and seminars targeted for dance educators. As it grew, the organization realized that to be most effective, it needed to become a national organization and to expand its membership to all dance professionals. The Guild grew to include international members as well as members of all dance related professions, including performers, choreographers, critics, historians, notators, and therapists, as well as educators.

A hallmark of the organization was its willingness to collaborate with other organizations, returning to its initial mission of exchanging ideas and information. According to their own history, the Guild has been involved in the development of the National Endowment for the Arts, Congress on Research in Dance, American Dance Therapy Association, and the American College Dance Festival Association. Instrumental in the growth of dance as a serious art form, the Guild encouraged the development of dance in American colleges and universities. Guild members played a significant role on government committees, in curricular revisions at every educational level, and promoted better working and living conditions for dance professionals.

As a service organization, the American Dance Guild focused on what it could provide for its members. Guild activities included a career counseling program; the Job Express Registry, a subscription service listing employment opportunities; dance film series; scholarships; and an annual dance award honoring a distinguished member of the dance community. Publications were an important activity; in addition to monographs and its Newsletter, later known as *American Dance*, the Guild published *Dance Scope* from 1965-1981. A noted journal, *Dance Scope*, covered all areas of dance – history, criticism, technique, choreography, education, and philosophy – in addition to interviews and contributions by top dance professionals.

Fitting for an organization born out of a conference, the most noteworthy service activities of the American Dance Guild have been the conferences, seminars, and workshops produced since the Guild's inception. Annual conferences addressed contemporary issues in dance and presented opportunities for exchanges of information, while seminars and workshops provided smaller educational opportunities to the Guild's members.

Still active in 2011, the American Dance Guild is continuously dedicated to uniting the dance community. The Guild hosts an annual festival in New York City that features work by 30-40 international choreographers and honors two master choreographers. The Guild now focuses on offering performance opportunities through "bare bones" productions and at its annual festival; it also awards a scholarship to Jacob's Pillow each summer.

Sources:

American Dance Guild. "History." Accessed October 4, 2011. http://americandanceguild.org/?page_id=2

Kolcio, Katja Pylyshenko. *Movable Pillars: Organizing Dance, 1956-1978*. Wesleyan University Press, 2010: 58.

Scope and content note

The American Dance Guild records document over forty-five years of the dance service organization through administrative files, Board of Directors correspondence and meeting minutes, as well as extensive conference, seminar, and workshop materials.

Correspondence, activity files, and project notes created by Board of Director members Jana Feinman, Billie Kirpich, and Rima Sokoloff can be found in individual member files. Additional materials created by and related to Kirpich and Sokoloff can be found throughout the collection.

The American Dance Guild's service activities are well documented across the collection through correspondence, notes, brochures and fliers, financial records, and Board of Directors reports. Service activities include a career counseling program, the Job Express Registry, dance film series, scholarships, awards, and publications, as well as significant materials relating to conferences, seminars, and workshops.

Arrangement

The American Dance Guild records are organized into the following series:

Series I: Administrative Files, 1953-2002

Series II: Board of Directors Files, 1956-2000

Series III: Conference, Seminar, and Workshop Files, 1958-2004

Key terms

Subjects

Dance -- Education

Dance -- Study and teaching

Dance -- United States

Names

American Dance Guild

Kirpich, Billie

Sokoloff, Rima

Container list

Series I: Administrative Files, 1953-2002 (8 boxes)

Arranged alphabetically, the administrative files document the operational activities of the organization through correspondence; development files; division's activity files; financial records, including budgets, income statements, reports, IRS correspondence and filings, as well as documentation of the scholarship fund; grant applications; and publications, including some final prints, correspondence, drafts, notes, and mock-ups. The Administrative Files also contain the organization's annual award information; constitution and by-laws; history; leases; membership lists, personnel information, such as information on the intern and volunteer programs; press clippings and releases; questionnaires; and special event files, including annual gala invitations and event planning documents, such as correspondence, budgets and expenses, and notes.

- b.1 f.1 Activities and Services, circa 1964-1996, undated
- b.1 f.2 Arts and the Internet, 1955-1996, undated
- b.1 f.3 Awards and Scholarships, 1970-2001, undated
- b.1 f.4 Awards and Scholarships--Fannie Weiss Scholarship Fund, 1986-1995
- b.1 f.5 Constitution and By-laws, 1957-1986, undated
- b.1 f.6-7 Correspondence, 1965-1996
- b.1 f.8 Dance Teacher Certification, 1967, 1989
- b.1 f.9 Development Files, 1977-1996
- Divisions
- b.1 f.10-11 Choreographer/Performer, 1965-1991
- b.2 f.1-3 Choreographer/Performer, 1992-1997
- b.2 f.4 Choreographer/Performer--Forms, undated
- b.2 f.5 College/University, 1987-1992
- b.2 f.6 Elementary/Secondary Education, 1987-1994
- Financial Records
- b.2 f.7-8 General, 1987-2001
- b.2 f.9-10 Internal Revenue Service, 1966-1996
- b.2 f.11 Memorial Funds, 1958-1989, undated
- b.3 f.1 New York State Charities Reports, 1989-1993
- b.3 f.2 Scholarship Fund, 2001-2002
- b.3 f.3 Strasser, Rose L.--Estate and Trust, 1987, 1998
- b.3 f.4-5 Fliers and Leaflets, 1967-1997, undated
- b.3 f.6 Forms--Mock-ups, 1986-1994, undated
- Grants
- b.3 f.7 Abstracts and General Materials, circa 1981-1996
- b.3 f.8 Capezio/Ballet Makers Dance Foundation, 1985-1997
- b.3 f.9 Chemical Bank, 1988-1989
- b.3 f.10 Corporations and Foundations, 1988, undated
- b.3 f.11 Corporations and Foundtaions--Solicitation Letters and Replies, 1988
- b.3 f.12 Harkness Foundation for Dance, 1995-1996
- b.3 f.13-14 National Endowment for the Arts, 1986-1993
- b.4 f.1 National Endowment for the Arts--Advocacy Information, 1983-1987
- b.4 f.2 National Endowment for the Humanities, 1991

Series I: Administrative Files, 1953-2002 (8 ... (cont.)

Grants (cont.)

- b.4 f.3 Pennsylvania Humanities Council, 1989
- b.4 f.4 Support Letters, 1974-1988
- b.4 f.5 History, 1959-1994, undated
- b.4 f.6 Job Express Registry, 1986-1995
- b.4 f.7 Leases, 1984-1993

Membership

- b.4 f.8 Brochures, 1980-1983
- b.4 f.9 Card Mechanical, undated
- b.4 f.10 Correspondence, 1968-1999
- b.4 f.11 Data and General Membership Meeting Minutes, 1972-1987
- b.4 f.12 Election Ballots, 1971-1999
- b.4 f.13-14 Lists, 1958-1990, undated
- b.5 f.1 Lists, 1993-2001
- b.5 f.2 Member News, 1996

Organizations

- b.5 f.3 American College Dance Festival Association, 1986-1990
- b.5 f.4 American Dance Therapy Association, 1971, undated
- b.5 f.5-6 Association of American Dance Companies--Board of Directors and Executive Meeting Minutes, 1970-1972
- b.5 f.7 Congress on Research in Dance, circa 1980-1994
Includes notes and meeting minutes of the National Council of Dance Organizations' President's Council.
- b.5 f.8 Dance Coalition, 1996, undated
- b.5 f.9 Dance Critics Association, 1986-1989
- b.5 f.10 Dance Film Association, 1996
- b.5 f.11 Dance Notation Bureau, 1978-1990
- b.5 f.12 Joint Commission on Dance and Theater Accreditation, 1978-1980
- b.5 f.13 National Art Education Association, 1996
- b.5 f.14 National Coalition for Education in the Arts, 1982-1993
Reports to the American Dance Guild Board of Directors from representative Elsa Posey Novak.
- b.5 f.15 National Council of Dance Organizations--President's Council, 1986-1990
Also known as the National Office of Dance Organizations.
- b.5 f.16 National Dance Association, 1987-1990, undated
- b.6 f.1 Other Organizations, circa 1969-1995, undated
- b.6 f.2 Society of Dance History Scholars, 1982-1990, undated

Personnel Information

- b.6 f.3 Drezinski, Amy, 1996, undated
- b.6 f.4 Employees, 1989-1993
- b.6 f.5 Interns, 1982-1995

Series I: Administrative Files, 1953-2002 (8 ... (cont.)

Personnel Information (cont.)

- b.8 f.1 Interns--City as School, 1986-1991
- b.6 f.6 Volunteers, 1984-1989
- b.8 f.2 Photographs, 1988, undated (Black and white scans)
Also includes a blueprint of costume patterns by Pegalomania and Suns.
- b.6 f.7 Public Policy, circa 1988-1998, undated
- b.6 f.8 Public Relations--Advertisements, 1986-circa1995
- b.6 f.9 Public Relations--Press Clippings and Releases, 1984-1990

Publications

- b.6 f.10 General, 1953-1996, undated
 - b.6 f.11 *Approaches to Teaching*, undated (Long Island Chapter)
 - b.6 f.12 *A Bibliography: Dance in Elementary Education*, 1973-1975
 - b.6 f.13 *Booking Issue*, 1964
 - b.6 f.14 *A Comprehensive Curriculum in Dance for Secondary Schools*, 1970-1980
 - b.6 f.15 Correspondence, 1988-1999
Includes correspondence regarding *American Dance* and *Dance Scope*.
 - b.6 f.16 *Dance and the Blind Child*, 1973
 - b.6 f.17 *Dance in the Public Schools*, circa 1972
 - b.7 f.1 *Dance Scope* Magazine, 1964-1992, undated
 - b.7 f.2 *Digest of Federal Legislation Relating to the Arts and Education*, 1965
 - b.7 f.3 *Erick Hawkins: Theory and Training*, 1979-1980
 - b.7 f.4 *Films on Ballet and Modern Dance*, 1974
 - b.7 f.5 New Publications, undated (Fliers)
- Newsletter
- b.7 f.6 Advertisements, 1991-1996
 - b.7 f.7 *American Dance*, 1982-1987
Includes meeting minutes, sales logs, mock-ups for the cover, and lists of available publications.
 - b.7 f.8 Article Ideas, 1991-1992
 - b.7 f.9-10 Mock-ups, 1993-1999
 - b.7 f.11 Schedules and Guidelines, 1984, undated
 - b.7 f.12 Style and Printing Materials, 1991-1993
 - b.7 f.13 *Update*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1983
 - b.7 f.14 Orders, 1980-1996, undated
 - b.7 f.15 *Sources on African and African-Related Dance*, 1973-1975
 - b.7 f.16 *The Use of Stanislavsky within Modern Dance*, 1969-1977
 - b.8 f.3 Questionnaires, 1966-1976, undated
- Special Events
- b.8 f.4 General, 1987-1991
Regarding the American Dance Guild's annual award galas and receptions.
 - b.8 f.5 A Day with Mary Anthony, 1997 (See also: Awards and Scholarships.)

Series I: Administrative Files, 1953-2002 (8 ... (cont.)

Special Events (cont.)

- b.8 f.6 Philadelphia Banquet, 1998-1999
- b.8 f.7 Task Force for a National Cultural Policy, 1992-1997
- b.8 f.8 Technical Assistance Project (TAP), 1985-1988

Series II: Board of Directors Files, 1956-2000 (5 boxes)

Arranged alphabetically by subject, the Board of Director files document the structure and decision making processes of the organization and its chapters through agendas, correspondence, meeting minutes, notes, and reports. This series also contains contact information on members of the Board of Directors, including the organization's founders, as well as individual member files.

Chapters

- b.8 f.9 Long Island, 1963, undated
- b.8 f.10 Philadelphia, 1965, undated
- b.8 f.11-13 Queens, 1962-1965
Chairmen of the Board for this time period are Claire Dorgan (1962-1963), Marion Souriau (1963-1964), Elizabeth Polk (1964-1965), and Rima Sokoloff (1965-1966).
- b.9 f.1-2 Queens, 1966-1969, undated
- b.9 f.3 Reports, 1965-1979

Committees

- b.9 f.4-9 Executive, 1964-1999, undated
- b.10 f.1 Northeast Regional, 1971-1978
- b.10 f.2-3 Publications, 1977-1986
- b.10 f.4 Stage Movement, 1968-1969, undated
- b.10 f.5 Contact Information, 1984-1999, undated (Includes founder contact information.)
- b.10 f.6 Elections, 1971-2000 (Includes nominations and biographies.)
- b.10 f.7 Feinman, Jana, 1997-1999, undated
- b.10 f.8 Kirpich, Billie, 1997-1999, undated
- b.10 f.9-10 Meeting Minutes, 1956-1968
- b.11 f.1-6 Meeting Minutes, 1977-1997
- b.11 f.7 Sokoloff, Rima, 1970-1995
- b.12 f.1-5 Sokoloff, Rima, 1996-1999

Series III: Conference, Seminar, and Workshop Files, 1958-2004 (8 boxes)

Brochures, correspondence, notes, and programs document the forty years of conferences planned by the American Dance Guild and the twenty-nine years of seminars given to benefit the dance community. Arranged alphabetically by subject, the conference and seminar files are listed chronologically within each group followed by subject files.

Conferences

- b.12 f.6-7 1958-1965
- b.13 f.1-9 1966-1973
- b.14 f.1-7 1974-1982
- b.15 f.1-4 1983-1988
- b.8 f.14 1988--Massachusetts Certificate of Appreciation (Signed by Governor Dukakis)

Series III: Conference, Seminar, and Workshop... (cont.)

Conferences (cont.)

- b.15 f.5-8 1989-1992
- b.16 f.1-5 1993-1997
 - b.16 f.6 2004 (Program)
 - b.16 f.7 General, 1988-1989, undated
 - b.16 f.8 Brochures, 1964-1995
 - b.16 f.9 Forums and Task Force Meetings, 1977-1978
 - b.16 f.10 Future Sites, 1989-1994
 - b.17 f.1 Journal Expenses, 1985-1997
 - b.17 f.2 Other, 1976, 1998-2001
Includes information on American Dance Guild projects associated with 2000 Feet (1999) and Dancing in the Millennium (2000).
 - b.17 f.3 Towards Humanizing Education, 1973-1986
American Dance Guild cosponsored these conferences, also known as The Humanizing Experience conferences.
 - b.17 f.4 Dance Film Series, 1976
 - b.17 f.5 New Dance Group Project Concert, 1993-1996
Video release forms and order forms regarding the Gala Retrospective concert.
 - b.17 f.6 Performances--Public, 1988-1989
 - b.17 f.7 Performances--Showcase, 1995
 - b.17 f.8 Presenters--Guidelines and Contracts, 1985-1993, undated
- Seminars
 - b.17 f.9-10 1971-1991
 - b.18 f.1-3 1992-1997
 - b.18 f.4 Brochures and Fliers, 1976-2000
 - b.18 f.5 Choreography, 1984-1989
 - b.18 f.6 Dance Education Institute, 1993-1996
 - b.18 f.7 Studio/Community, 1985-1997
 - b.18 f.8 Therapy Project, 1988-1994