

**The New York Public Library**  
**New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center**  
**Jerome Robbins Dance Division**

Guide to the

## **Carlisle Project records**

1984-1998

(S) \*MGZMD 272

Compiled by Laura Slezak Karas, September 2011

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Carlisle Project

**Title:** Carlisle Project records, 1984-1998

**Size:** .42 linear foot (1 box)

**Source:** Donated by Barbara Weisberger, 1998.

**Abstract:** Founded by Barbara Weisberger in 1984, the Carlisle Project was a center for the professional development of choreographers and dancers based in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Documenting selected aspects of the Carlisle Project from 1984-1998, the records contain agendas, group discussion topics, and summaries regarding the Project's 1990 convocation; photographs; brochures, fact sheets, and season schedules; a master's thesis; as well as photocopies of correspondence, notes, testimonials, and press clippings.

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

**Copyright information:** Copyright retained by any document's creator.

**Preferred citation:** Carlisle Project records, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

### **Custodial history**

According to the letter of acknowledgment, the collection consists of items selected by Barbara Weisberger containing key images and documents of the Carlisle Project.

### **Processing note**

Original folders and folder titles have been retained.

### **Related collections**

Eye on Dance records. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

## **Creator history**

Pennsylvania Ballet Company founder Barbara Weisberger founded the Carlisle Project in 1984 as a center for the professional development of choreographers and dancers. Based in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, the project's national program paired choreographers and dancers together in a relaxed, supportive environment designed to nurture creativity in choreography, especially in classical ballet.

According to their 1993 brochure, the Carlisle Project sought to answer "the need to provide a commercially unpressured environment in which service to the creative aspects of the art form and the development of artists are the paramount concerns." The project saw its primary responsibility to "provide time, resources, and mentorship to gifted, committed choreographers and dancers," which was accomplished through workshops, resident choreographer fellowships, and showcases of works-in-progress.

The Carlisle Project suspended its operation in 1996, but retained its status as a nonprofit organization. At that time the organization was entrusted to its founder and artistic director, Barbara Weisberger.

## **Scope and content note**

The Carlisle Project records document selected aspects of the organization from 1984-1998. Agendas, group discussion topics, and summaries document the Carlisle Project's first convocation in 1990, while photographs visually capture the project's choreographic workshops from 1985-1996. The photographs create the bulk of the collection, of which the majority is original photographs. Individual subjects and the photographer are often identified on the back of the photographs.

The records also contain photocopies of correspondence and notes of the organization's founder/artistic director, Barbara Weisberger, and assistant director, Tarin Chaplin; a choreo-music subject file containing photocopies of correspondence, notes, and press clippings; as well as photocopies of testimonials and topically arranged press clippings. Additional original materials include brochures, fact sheets, season schedules, and a master's thesis on the project.

## **Arrangement**

Alphabetical by subject.

## **Key terms**

### **Subjects**

Ballet dancing  
Choreographers  
Choreography

### **Names**

Carlisle Project  
Chaplin, L. Tarin  
Weisberger, Barbara

### **Special formats**

Photographs

## Container list

- b.1 f.1 Brochures, Fact Sheets, and Season Schedules, 1989-1994
- b.1 f.2 Chaplin, Tarin, 1989-1996 (Photocopies)
- b.1 f.3 Choreo-Music, 1991-circa 1994 (Photocopies)
- b.1 f.4 Convocation, 1990
- b.1 f.5 Farrell, Jennifer. *The Carlisle Project: Affecting Change in the World of Dance*, 1996-1998 (M.A. thesis)
  - Photographs
  - b.1 f.6-8 General, 1985-1996, undated
  - b.1 f.9 Contact Sheets, 1994 January-February (Includes a letter.)
  - b.1 f.10 Music Workshop, 1987 May
  - b.1 f.11 New Impulses Workshop, 1995 August
  - b.1 f.12 Richelle--Contact Sheets, 1991 Spring (Photocopies)
  - b.1 f.13 Showcase, 1991
  - b.1 f.14 Summer Workshops, 1985-1986
  - Press Clippings
  - b.1 f.15 Arts, 1993-1997 (Photocopies)
  - b.1 f.16 Carlisle Project, 1985-1998 (Photocopies)
  - b.1 f.17 Choreography, 1984-1996 (Photocopies)
  - b.1 f.18 Testimonials, 1986-1996 (Photocopies)
  - b.1 f.19 Weisberger, Barbara, 1989-1996 (Photocopies)