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Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Frederick Crane collection of Theatre Dance Company materials

1889-1937

(S) *MGZMD 273

Compiled by Laura Slezak Karas, September 2011

Summary

Creator: Crane, Frederick

Title: Frederick Crane collection of Theatre Dance Company materials, 1889-1937

Size: .38 linear foot (1 box)

Source: Gift of Frederick Crane, 1965.

Abstract: In the late 1930s, the New York City based Theatre Dance Company sought to express modern times through a wide range of dance subjects. The Frederick Crane collection of Theatre Dance Company materials (1889-circa 1937) contains such a range of choreography, as well as piano scores, and the dance company's announcement.

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

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

Preferred citation: Frederick Crane collection of Theatre Dance Company materials, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Custodial history

Although the collection was donated by Frederick Crane, many of the scores are inscribed by Louise Allen, one of the members of the Theatre Dance Company, and similar handwriting appears in some of the choreographic notes.

Processing note

Original order has been maintained.

Related collections

Eleanor King papers. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Fé Alf papers. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Creator history

Presenting itself as “a new era in theatre” and in “modern concerts,” the Theatre Dance Company sought to combine dance and drama in new ways. Founded in New York City in the late 1930s, the company “avoided the evils of ‘type’ casting and the sterility of one style of movement” by bringing together ten solo artists who both performed and choreographed new ballets. These company members were Fé Alf, Louise Allen, Elizabeth Colman, Alice Dudley, Eleanor King, Sybil Shearer, William Bales, George Bockman, Kenneth Bostock, and William Miller. Together with musical director John Colman and costumes by George Bockman and Norma Fuller, the company offered a varied repertoire of comedy, satire, and drama. The Theatre Dance Company’s circa 1937 announcement lists the following pieces: Parodisms, Devotional, A Fable, Icaro, Night Court, Melodrama, Folk-Suite, These Valiant, Witches Sabbath, and Parade.

Scope and content note

The Frederick Crane collection of Theatre Dance Company materials consists of choreography, piano scores, and the dance company’s announcement. The materials date from 1889-circa 1937; with the exception of the dance company’s announcement (circa 1937) and an untitled manuscript score (after 1923), dates provided are those of copyrighted published scores.

Choreography may consist of written instructions with or without an accompanying musical score. Scores unattached to choreography have been listed separately; such scores may contain choreographic annotations.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by subject.

Key terms

Subjects

Choreography
Dance -- United States

Occupations

Choreographers

Names

Allen, Louise
Crane, Frederick
Theatre Dance Company

Special formats

Scores

Container list

Choreography

- b.1 f.1 General, undated
- b.1 f.2 *Aparases*, 1921, undated
- b.1 f.3 *Bailerina Real*, undated
- b.1 f.4 *Black and Gold Sari*, undated
- b.1 f.5 *Brahms Waltz*, 1916, undated
- b.1 f.6 *Bubble Dance*, 1923, undated
- b.1 f.7 *Camel Boy*, 1927, undated
- b.1 f.8 *Carmen*, undated
- b.1 f.9 *Danse Macabre*, undated
- b.1 f.29 *Javanese Dance*, undated
- b.1 f.10 *Lavitsky Valse*, 1922, undated
- b.1 f.11 *Nautch*, 1920, undated
- b.1 f.30 *Ouled-Naïl*, undated
- b.1 f.31 *Ravel*, 1911, undated
- b.1 f.12 *Siamese Dancer*, 1918, undated
- b.1 f.13 *Soaring*, 1893, undated
- b.1 f.14 *Sonata Pathetique*--Music Visualization, undated
- b.1 f.32 *Spanish Dance* (Flor de Triana), undated
- b.1 f.15 *Vienese Waltz*, undated

Scores

- b.1 f.33 *Allégresse*, undated (Photocopies)
- b.1 f.16 *Ballet-Music*, 1922 (Schubert, Franz)
- b.1 f.17 *The Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes*, undated
This score by Johann Strauss is for the cello.
- b.1 f.18 *La Chatte*, 1927 (Sauguet, Henri)
- b.1 f.19 *Dance of the Hours*, after 1908 (Ponchielli, Amilcare)
- b.1 f.34 *Golliwogg's Cake-Walk*, 1908 (Debussy, Claude)
- b.1 f.20 *Humoreske*, undated (Reger, Max)
- b.1 f.21 *Orientale*, 1918 (Cui, César)
- b.1 f.22 *Pas des Fleurs*, 1889 (Delibes, Léo)
- b.1 f.23 *Les Patineurs*, undated (Waldteufel, Emile)
- b.1 f.24 *Polly*, 1926 (Zamecnik, John Stephan)
- b.1 f.25 *Prelude*, 1915 (Chopin, Frédéric)
- b.1 f.26 *Serenade d'Amour*, 1906 (Blon, Franz von)
- b.1 f.27 *The Snake Charmer*, 1922 (Scott, Cyril)
- b.1 f.35 Untitled Manuscript, after 1923 (Photocopy)
- b.1 f.28 Theatre Dance Company--Announcement, circa 1937