

**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

Ronald Field papers

1954-1988

(S) *MGZMD 296

Compiled by Joyce LeeAnn Joseph, Pratt Institute, 2012, May 2012

Summary

Creator: Field, Ronald, 1934-1989

Title: Ronald Field papers, 1954-1988

Size: .67 linear foot (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of the estate of Ronald Field, 1992.

Abstract: Ronald Field was a dancer and choreographer. Documenting Field's professional career, his papers contain correspondence, photographs, programs, reviews and scripts relating to his various projects and performances.

Access: Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photography and photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Copyright information: For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Jerome Robbins Dance Division.

Preferred citation: Ronald Field papers, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: The collection is organized by project or specific subject and arranged alphabetically. When possible, original folders and folder labels were preserved. Non-obscure clippings were deaccessioned, such as those from the New York Times and Village Voice. Duplicate photographs were returned to the Library for the Performing Arts. Additions to the collection, including programs and a scrapbook compiled by Phyllis Goodman, were cataloged individually as part of the Performing Arts Research Collection.

Creator history

Ronald Field was a dancer and choreographer. He was born in 1934 in New York, New York. Field began his dance career as a child. His aunt was a dance teacher, and he took lessons with her. In 1941, he made his Broadway debut in *Lady in the Dark*. At the age of 18, he toured with *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. He danced in a few more ensembles throughout the 1940s and 1950s before deciding to focus on choreography. His first two efforts were unsuccessful, but he won his first Tony Award in 1967 for *Cabaret*. Field also worked on projects such as the 44th Annual Academy Awards telecast in 1972, and the opening ceremonies for the 1986 Los Angeles Olympics. In 1977, he choreographed the film *New York, New York*. Field was nominated for several more Tony Awards throughout his career, winning two in 1970 for *Applause*. That same year, he also won two Drama Desk Awards for *Applause*. On February 6, 1989, Field died of brain lesions.

Scope and content note

The Ronald Field papers (1954-1988) contain correspondence, photographs, programs, reviews and scripts relating to his various projects and performances. These materials examine Field's award-winning career and the development processes of his dance productions. Included in the correspondence are brief letters from the American theatrical producer Harold Smith about *Ashmedai*, and from International Creative Management, a talent and literary agency, regarding *Cabaret*. There are also a large number of telegrams from family members and friends sent for the opening of *Nowhere To Go But Up*. The photographs are mainly of performances, but there are several headshots and a few personal photos. In the biographical information, there is a transcription of a 1978, in-depth interview conducted with Field about his career.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Key terms

Subjects

American drama -- 20th century
Choreographers -- United States
Male dancers

Names

Field, Ronald, 1934-1989

Special formats

Photographs

Container list

- b.1 f.1 *A.M./P.M.*--Program and Script, 1971
- b.1 f.2 *Anything Goes*--Showbill, undated
- b.1 f.3 *Applause*--Correspondence and Programs, 1960
- b.1 f.4 *Ashmedai*--Correspondence, 1976
- b.1 f.5 Biographical Information, 1978
- b.1 f.6 *Cabaret*--Correspondence and Program, 1983
- b.1 f.7 *Cabaret*--Reviews, 1966, 1987
- b.1 f.8 Choreographer Credits, 1965, undated
- b.1 f.9 Clippings and Reviews, 1958-1985
- b.1 f.10 Fliers and Programs, 1958-1985
- b.2 f.1 *Nowhere To Go But Up*--Correspondence and Fliers, 1962
- b.2 f.2 *On the Town*--Program and Reviews, 1971
- b.2 f.3 *Peter Pan*--Correspondence, Programs, Reviews, and Script, 1979-1983
- b.2 f.4-6 Photographs, 1954-1987, undated
- b.1 f.11 Publicity, 1962-1970
- b.1 f.12 *Rags*, 1986
- b.1 f.13 *South Pacific*--Biographies, Photographs, and Set Designs, 1987
- b.1 f.14 *Zorba*--Reviews, 1970