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Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

D'Lana Lockett research files

1951-2003 (bulk 2001-2003)

(S) *MGZMD 279

Compiled by Susan Malsbury, September 2011

Summary

Creator: Lockett, D'Lana Y.

Title: D'Lana Lockett research files, 1951-2003 (bulk 2001-2003)

Size: .42 linear foot (1 box)

Source: Donated by D'Lana Lockett, 2004

Abstract: D'Lana Lockett (1961-2006) was a tap dancer, dance instructor, and dance researcher who began research on a book on African American female tap dancers. The D'Lana Lockett research files contain correspondence, notes, typescript drafts, and photographic prints and negatives regarding the performers Lockett researched for her book.

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

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Preferred citation: D'Lana Lockett research files, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library

Creator history

D'Lana Lockett was born on August 9, 1961 in Toledo, Ohio, to Robert and Marilyn Lockett. Lockett began dancing at the age of five at the dance school owned by her family, the Bobby Lockett Dance Studio. Instrumental to her instruction was her uncle, Jerry A. Reed, Jr., who had been a vaudeville tap dancer. Lockett attended Ohio State University and was the owner and instructor of D'Lana's Dance Conservatory in Columbus, Ohio. In her late-thirties, Lockett returned to Toledo and received her Bachelor of Arts from Lourdes College. Lockett began research for a book on African American female tap dancers, but her book remained unfinished at her death in 2006, at the age of forty three.

Scope and content note

The D'Lana Lockett research files contain research materials regarding performers Lockett researched for her book. The files are arranged alphabetically by performer with one additional folder containing photographs. The files contain correspondence, notes, lists of performances, typescript drafts, and photographic prints and negatives of the performer. The correspondence consists of letters from friends and relatives of the performers, though the Carita Harbert file contains letters from Harbert herself. The folder of photographs contains photographic prints and negatives of male tap dancers including The Jungle Rhythm Boys, Jessie Franklin and James Hawthorne of "Jessie and James," The Ebony Pals, and Bill Robinson teaching at the Stanley Brown Studio of Rhythm.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged alphabetically by format.

Key terms

Subjects

African American dancers

Tap dancing -- United States -- History

Names

Harbert, Carita

Lockett, D'Lana Y.

Special formats

Negatives

Photographic prints

Container list

- b.1 f.1 3 Rhythm Queens, undated
- b.1 f.2 Barnes, Mae, undated
- b.1 f.3 Bright, Lois, undated
- b.1 f.4 Browne, Harriet, undated
- b.1 f.5 Bryant, Marie, 1951, undated
- b.1 f.6 Edward Sisters, 2001
- b.1 f.7 Gossey, Edith Artis, undated
- b.1 f.8 Harbert, Carita, 1995-2001
- b.1 f.9 Harris, Eleanor, 1953
- b.1 f.10 Jones, Ludie, 2001
- b.1 f.11 Laredo, Cora, 2001-2002
- b.1 f.12 Legon, Jeni, undated
- b.1 f.13 Madison, Louise, 1994, undated
- b.1 f.14 Nealy, Frances, 2003
- b.1 f.15 Pitts, Juanita, undated
- b.1 f.16 Rimmer Sisters, 2002
- b.1 f.17 Whitman, Alice, 2001
- b.1 f.18 Williams, Barbara, 1953, undated
- b.1 f.19 Photographs, 1993, undated