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Guide to the

Carl Wolz papers

1949-2001

(S) *MGZMD 285

Compiled by Lea Jordan, October 2011

Summary

Creator: Wolz, Carl

Title: Carl Wolz papers, 1949-2001

Size: 12.09 linear feet (30 boxes)

Source: Donated by Carl Wolz, 2001

Abstract: Carl Wolz (1932-2002) was an influential choreographer, scholar, educator, and dance advocate. The Carl Wolz papers document his career as an educator and choreographer. The collection contains awards, choreographic notes, correspondence, contracts, documents from various institutions with which Wolz worked, programs, and teaching materials.

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Preferred citation: Carl Wolz papers, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note

Student records (grades and identifying information) removed. Duplicate and published materials transferred. Collection rehoused and arranged alphabetically.

Creator history

Carl Wolz (1932-2002) was an influential choreographer, scholar, educator, and dance advocate. Born and educated in St. Louis, he served in the Navy during the Korean War and went on to major in Art History at the University of Chicago. He developed an interest in dance in college and began taking classes. He attended the Juilliard School for dance and began working with the Lucas Hoving Dance Company in 1960. He danced with the Hoving Company as well as for the St. Louis Municipal Opera in the summers.

In 1962 Wolz was awarded a fellowship to study Asian Dance at the University of Hawaii. After completing post-graduate work there, he joined the faculty of the university, expanding their dance division and creating a performance driven program. While in Hawaii, he was a performer with the Hawaii Dance Theatre.

Wolz spoke fluent Japanese and often taught seminars and classes in Japan. In 1983, he became Dean of Dance at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts, and remained in that position for 10 years.

Wolz is best known for founding the organization that eventually became the World Dance Alliance. He served as the Alliance's president and then executive director from 1988 until the end of his life. He also wrote many articles on Asian dance and its preservation, as well as choreographing over 60 modern works and performing until late in his career.

Wolz received many awards during his lifetime including the Distinguished Alumni Award from the East West Center in Honolulu in 1992; the Professional Achievement Award from the University of Chicago in 1995; and an award for outstanding leadership in dance research from the Congress on Research in Dance in 1995.

In 1993, Wolz began a five-year professorship in the graduate program of the Japan Women's College of Physical Education, after which he returned to the United States, living in New York City and attending to the business of the World Dance Alliance until his death in 2002.

Scope and content note

The Carl Wolz papers document his career as an educator and choreographer. The collection contains awards, choreographic notes, conference materials, correspondence, contracts, documents from various institutions with which Wolz worked, programs, and teaching materials. Although Wolz is best known for his work with the World Dance Alliance, those records are not found here.

Wolz's choreographic notes are not traditional labanotation. Instead, the notes consist of lists of dancers, ideas, sketches, and general brainstorming. Wolz conference materials primarily consist of handouts and correspondence relating to various dance and educational conferences and exhibitions he attended, both in the United States and abroad.

Wolz's correspondence represents the later part of his career. Many of the letters are in Japanese and are thank you notes from students he taught both at the Hong Kong Performing Arts Center as well as the Japan Women's College of Physical Education. There is a folder of letters from Ted Shawn which Wolz kept separately, consisting of some personal notes as well as several of Shawn's long "Christmas letters" which detail his past year.

Institutional materials encompass letters, notes and programs from Wolz's career as a teacher and performer. His roles are varied: he was a featured dancer for the St. Louis Municipal Opera, the Dean of Dance at the Hong Kong Performing Arts Center, and he lectured, choreographed, and arranged dances for many other institutions. Folders may contain only programs listing Wolz's participation in a specific event.

Wolz's notes are handwritten and were taken at lectures or conferences during the presentations of other dance educators and historians. His photographs hold a small selection of personal snapshots of Wolz, mostly at award banquets, and photographs of Japanese dancers.

Wolz's collection of programs holds primarily Japanese dance materials. The bulk of the programs are entirely in Japanese. Korean and Chinese performances are also represented. Unlike the programs in the institutional files, these programs document events in which Wolz was not directly involved. He attended many Asian dance performances during his time in Japan.

Wolz's teaching materials consist of lecture notes, printed articles, notes by other professors, course outlines and requirements, exams, and other related materials concerning his 30 year career as a dance educator. Wolz taught modern dance technique, labanotation, dance history, dance research, and dance composition. His teaching files sometimes are a course to a folder, but more often they are general subject headings from which he could draw for any of his courses. He used the files repeatedly for reference in different courses.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by subject.

Key terms

Subjects

Dance -- Education

Dance -- History

Dance -- Japan

Names

Wolz, Carl

Special formats

Correspondence

Lecture notes

Notes

Programs

Container list

- b.1 f.1 Architectural Designs, undated
- b.1 f.2 Art, undated
- Awards
- b.1 f.3 General, 1969-1999
- b.28 Outstanding Leadership in Dance Research Plaque, 1995
- Choreography
- b.1 f.4 *Adagio*, undated
- b.1 f.5 *Adagietto*, undated
- b.1 f.6 *Alpha Ritual*, undated
- b.1 f.7 *Ancient Voices of Children*, undated
- b.1 f.8 *Brandenburg #3*, undated
- b.1 f.9 *Canzona #3*, undated
- b.1 f.10 *Card Dance*, undated
- b.1 f.11 *Ceremonies*, undated
- b.1 f.12 *Chinese Variations*, undated
- b.1 f.13 Cole Porter Evening, undated
- b.1 f.14 *Contra Dances*, undated
- b.1 f.15 *Coral Island*, undated
- b.1 f.16 *Crap Dance*, undated
- b.1 f.17 *Dance for Aeolian Harp and Pedaphonic Dansomat*, undated
- b.2 f.1 *Decameron*, undated
- b.2 f.2 *Deserts*, undated
- b.2 f.3 *Dies Irae*, undated
- b.2 f.4 *Diptych*, undated
- b.2 f.5 *Earth Watch*, undated
- b.2 f.6 *Eight Songs for a Mad King*, undated
- b.2 f.7 *The Eucleators*, undated
- b.2 f.8 *Eros*, undated
- b.2 f.9 *Etudes Etcetera*, undated
- b.2 f.10 *Everyman*, undated
- b.2 f.11 *Evolutions*, undated
- b.2 f.12 *Exits*, undated
- b.2 f.13 *Fireworks*, undated
- b.2 f.14 *The Forest*, undated
- b.2 f.15 *Four Plays for Dancers*, undated
- b.2 f.16 *Four Seasons*, undated
- b.2 f.17 *Fragrant Harbor*, undated
- b.2 f.18 *Games in the Labrynth*, undated
- b.2 f.19 *Galaxy of Delights*, undated
- b.2 f.20 *Gathering and Scattering*, undated
- b.2 f.21 *The Island of Petrified Dreams*, undated
- b.3 f.1 *Jade Planet*, undated

Choreography (cont.)

- b.3 f.2 *Jesus Christ Superstar*, undated
- b.3 f.3 *Keep Going*, undated
- b.3 f.4 *The Kingdom of Ugh*, undated
- b.3 f.5 *Koan*, undated
- b.3 f.6 *Lament*, undated
- b.3 f.7 *The Last Woman*, undated
- b.3 f.8 *Life After*, undated
- b.3 f.9 *Light Pieces*, undated
- b.3 f.10 *Love's the Best Doctor*, undated
- b.3 f.11 *Machinal*, undated
- b.3 f.12 *Metaphysical Circus*, undated
- b.3 f.13 *Postertori*, undated
- b.3 f.14 *Quartet*, undated
- b.3 f.15 *Sextet*, undated
- b.3 f.16 *Short Circuits*, undated
- b.3 f.17 *The Soldier's Tale*, undated
- b.4 f.1 *Spherical Madrigals*, undated
- b.4 f.2 *Stringgames*, undated
- b.4 f.3 *Sword-Jewel-Mirror*, undated
- b.4 f.4 *Tattoo*, undated
- b.4 f.5 *Tiger-Poet*, undated
- b.4 f.6 *Time Travellers*, undated
- b.4 f.7 *Twas Brillig*, undated
- b.4 f.8 *Voice of Chance*, undated
- b.4 f.9 *The Waltz*, undated
- b.4 f.10 *Zodiac*, undated

Conferences

- b.4 f.11-13 Conference on Creative Teaching of Dance, 1964-1966
Congress on Research in Dance
- b.4 f.14 1978
- b.5 f.1 1987
- b.5 f.2 1998
- b.5 f.3 Council of Dance Administrators, 1998
- b.5 f.4 Dance Festival for the Critic's Choice of Young Artists, 1998
- b.5 f.5 Dance in Japan, 1989
- b.6 f.1 Folk Dance Conference, 1966
- b.6 f.2 Japan World Exhibition, 1970
- b.6 f.3 Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies, 1986
- b.6 f.4 Leadership Conference on Conservancy and Development, 1999

Conferences (cont.)

- b.7 f.1 Leadership Conference on Conservancy and Development, 1999
- b.7 f.2 Monaco World Dance Awards, 2000
- b.7 f.3 New Geographies of Performance, 1991
- b.7 f.4-5 Philippine International Dance Festival and Conference, 1998
- b.7 f.6 Professional Dance Teachers Association, 1968-1969
- b.8 f.1 South Pacific Festival of Arts, 1972
- b.8 f.2 United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, 1982
- b.8 f.3-4 World Dance Congress, 1993-2000

Correspondence

- b.8 f.5-7 General, 1980-2001
- b.9 f.1-4 General, 1980-2001
 - b.9 f.5 Shawn, Ted, 1968-1972
 - b.9 f.6 Education, 1949
- b.10 f.1-2 Education, 1949
 - b.10 f.3 Guestbook, undated

Institutions

- b.10 f.4 General Contracts, 1961-1999
- b.10 f.5 Barnard, undated
- b.11 f.1 Chinese Arts School, undated
- b.11 f.2 Cloud Gale Dance Theatre, undated
 - The Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts
- b.11 f.3-7 General, 1983-1993
 - b.30 Mounted Photographs, undated
- b.12 f.1 Japan Ballet Association, 1987-1989
- b.12 f.2 Juilliard, 1960-1961
- b.12 f.3 St. Louis Municipal Opera, 1961-1965
- b.12 f.4-6 University of Hawaii, 1965-1983
- b.13 f.1 University of Hawaii, 1965-1983
- b.13 f.2 Military - *Basemaker* Newsletters, 1954
Wolz was the editor of the base newspaper.

Notes

- b.13 f.3-4 General, undated
- b.13 f.5 Eurythmy, undated
- b.14 f.1 Gagaku, undated
- b.14 f.2 Hunt, Valerie, undated
- b.14 f.3 Teaching of Dance, undated

Photographs

- b.14 f.4 Dancers, 1980-1999
- b.14 f.5-6 Personal, 1949-1999

- b.15 f.1-5 Programs, 1970-1999
- b.16 f.1-5 Programs, 1970-1999
- b.17 f.1-2 Programs, 1970-1999
 - b.17 f.3 Reviews, 1963-1975
- b.17 f.4-5 Sheet Music, undated
 - Teaching Materials
 - b.18 f.1 General, undated
 - b.18 f.2-3 American Musical Theatre, undated
 - b.18 f.4 Anatomy, undated
 - b.19 f.1 Ballet, undated
 - b.19 f.2-5 Baroque Dance, undated
 - b.20 f.1 Body Education, undated
 - b.20 f.2 China, undated
 - b.20 f.3 Choreography, undated
 - b.20 f.4-6 Creative Movement for Children, undated
 - b.21 f.1 Dance Aesthetics and Criticism, undated
 - b.21 f.2-3 Dance Composition, undated
 - Dance History
 - b.21 f.4 I. Introduction, undated
 - b.21 f.5 II. The Ancient World, undated
 - b.21 f.6 III. The Middle Ages, undated
 - b.21 f.7 IV. The Renaissance, undated
 - b.21 f.8 V. Court Ballet, undated
 - b.21 f.9 Vi. 18th Century, undated
 - b.21 f.10 VII. 19th Century, undated
 - b.22 f.1 VIII. Russian Ballet, undated
 - b.22 f.2 IX. Modern Dance, undated
 - b.22 f.3 X. Contemporary Ballet, undated
 - b.22 f.4-5 Dance in East Asia, undated
 - b.22 f.6 Dance Production, undated
 - b.23 f.1 Effort, undated
 - b.23 f.2 Exams, undated
 - b.23 f.3 Folk Dance, undated
 - b.23 f.4 Fundamentals of Movement, undated
 - b.23 f.5 Graduate Courses, undated
 - b.23 f.6 Improvisation, undated
 - b.24 f.1-2 Introduction to Dance, undated
 - b.24 f.3-4 Japanese Dance, undated
 - b.25 f.1-4 Japanese Dance, undated

Teaching Materials (cont.)

- b.26 f.1 Laban Movement Analysis, undated
- b.26 f.2 Modern Dance and Musical Theatre, undated
- b.26 f.3-4 Modern Dance History, undated
- b.26 f.5 Motif Symbols, undated
- b.26 f.6 Movement Awareness, undated
- b.27 f.1 Music Theory for Dancers, undated
- b.29 f.1-2 Photographs and Prints, undated
- b.27 f.2 Physical Therapy, undated
- b.27 f.3 Russian Ballet, undated
- b.27 f.4 World Dance Alliance, 1988-1998
- b.27 f.5 World Dance Center, undated
- b.27 f.6 Writing - *The Rebirth of Dionysos*, 1965