

**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

**Bert Terborgh papers**

1967-1995

(S)\*MGZMD 314

Compiled by Allison Hughes, Palmer School of Library and Information Science, September 2013, June 2013

## **Summary**

**Creator:** Terborgh, Bert

**Title:** Bert Terborgh papers, 1967-1995

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

**Source:** Donated by Jeanne Ruddy, 2007

**Abstract:** Bert Terborgh (1945-1996) was a Dutch ballet and modern dancer who performed throughout Europe and Australia and with the Martha Graham Dance Company. The Bert Terborgh papers consist primarily of photographs, performance programs, and promotional material, with some other items documenting Terborgh's career, including librettos, salary records, and correspondence from dance institutes.

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

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

**Preferred citation:** Bert Terborgh papers, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Loose items were foldered and the collection was rehoused. The collection's original order was maintained.

## **Creator history**

Bert Terborgh (1945-1996) was a Dutch ballet and modern dancer who performed throughout Europe and Australia before joining the Martha Graham Dance Company in 1976. Born Bartholomeus Maria Cornelius Zwetsloot, Terborgh studied ballet and jazz dance at the Kennemer Ballet School in Haarlem, the Netherlands, from 1966 to 1968. During the late-1960s and 1970s, he trained and performed with a variety of companies, including the Netherlands Dance Theatre, Holland's Scapino Ballet, the Australian Dance Theater, the Rotterdam Dance Center, and the Bat Dor Dance Company of Israel. Over the course of his career, he worked with a number of noted choreographers, including Alvin Ailey, Paul Sanasardo, Pearl Lang, Mary Anthony, and Peter Sparling.

After studying the Martha Graham Technique with Yuriko Kikuchi and Mary Hinkson, he joined the Martha Graham Dance Company in 1976, where he danced in performances of *Diversion of Angels*, *Appalachian Spring*, *Night Journey*, *Owl and the Pussycat*, and *Clytemnestra* (which was filmed for the PBS series *Great Performances* in 1979). In 1982, he became a rehearsal director and teacher with the Martha Graham Company, teaching master classes at companies and schools throughout Europe and the United States. Additionally, while living in New York City, he served as a faculty member at the State University of New York at Purchase's dance conservatory and a rehearsal director for the Purchase Dance Corps. Terborgh died of AIDS on June 21, 1996, in Manhattan.

### **Scope and content note**

This collection consists primarily of photographs, performance programs, and promotional material documenting Terborgh's dance career. His work with the Australian Dance Theatre, the Rotterdam Dance Center, and Martha Graham Dance Company is best represented, though other companies, including the Scapino Ballet, Mary Anthony Dance Theatre, Pearl Lang Dance Company, and Paul Sanasardo Dance Company are also documented. There are no items relating to his time at SUNY Purchase. The collection includes two librettos for performances with the Martha Graham Dance Company: "American Document" and "Song," the latter of which is lightly annotated with rehearsal notes, as well as a scrapbook of Martha Graham memorabilia containing photographs, programs, and newspaper clippings of reviews. Also present are other professional documents, including a résumé (circa 1977), salary records from the Rotterdam Dance Center, and letters from Antwerp's Stedelijk Instituut Voor Ballet about their International Dance program and from Barcelona's Institut del Teatre regarding an open position for a dance instructor.

The collection is organized according to dance company. The "General" folders contain photographs, programs, promotional material, and correspondence from various companies that do not have their own folder; photographs of an unknown origin; and items, such as Terborgh's résumé, that do not relate to a specific company.

### **Arrangement**

Files are arranged alphabetically by dance company.

### **Key terms**

#### **Subjects**

Modern dance

#### **Names**

Australian Dance Theatre  
Martha Graham Dance Company  
Scapino Ballet (Amsterdam, Netherlands)  
Terborgh, Bert

#### **Special formats**

Photographs  
Theater programs

## **Container list**

b.1 f.1-3 General, 1967-1995

    b.1 f.4 Australian Dance Theatre, 1969-1975

b.1 f.5-6 Martha Graham Dance Company, 1976-1987

    b.1 f.7 Rotterdam Dance Center and Scapino Ballet, 1968-1973