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Guide to the

## **Janet Mansfield Soares papers**

1954-2001

(S) \*MGZMD 270

Compiled by Lea Jordan, July 2011

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Soares, Janet Mansfield

**Title:** Janet Mansfield Soares papers, 1954-2001

**Size:** 3.36 linear feet (8 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Janet Mansfield Soares, 2011

**Abstract:** Janet Mansfield Soares is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and author. The Janet Mansfield Soares papers document her professional life, with a focus on her choreography and research. Materials consist of choreographic notes, teaching materials, programs, photographs, and research materials, with interviews for Soares' book on Louis Horst - *Louis Horst: Musician in a Dancer's World*.

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

Inquiries regarding video materials in the collection may be directed to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division. Audio/visual materials may be subject to preservation and migration prior to access.

**Copyright information:** Library policy on photocopying will apply. For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Jerome Robbins Dance Division.

**Preferred citation:** Janet Mansfield Soares papers, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library

### **Related collections**

Martha Hill research materials. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library

## Creator history

Janet Mansfield Soares is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and author. She received her training from the Juilliard Dance division in 1962, studying under Martha Hill. She danced with the Juilliard Dance Theater, joining Juilliard as part of the dance composition faculty upon graduation. During her career she has worked as a professional choreographer while assisting the director of Barnard's Minor Lathram Playhouse and collaborated on many productions at Lincoln Center, including pieces for the Little Orchestra Society. She also founded Dance Advance, a group for advanced students studying at Connecticut College School of the Dance. While working at Juilliard, she joined the faculty of Barnard College in 1963. In 1967, she began a concert series at Barnard called Dance Uptown, which was the precursor of the Barnard Dance Department, established in 1986.

Soares was also a member of the José Limón dance company and, in 1975, established her own company, DANCES/Janet Soares for which she danced and choreographed original works. She maintained the company until 1995. Works by Soares include *Pomona* (1988), *For Six* (1997) and *Blue Skies* (2002) among many others. In 1997, she began teaching History of Dance in Relation to Music at the Manhattan School of Music. She holds a doctorate from Columbia University in Arts in Education and is the author of *Louis Horst: Musician in a Dancer's World* (1992) and *Martha Hill and the Making of American Dance* (2009). She is currently professor emerita of dance at Barnard College, Columbia University, and lives in Tucson, Arizona, and Lyme, Connecticut.

## Scope and content note

The Janet Mansfield Soares papers document the professional life of the dancer, choreographer and author - with a focus on her choreography and research. Materials consist of choreographic notes, teaching materials, programs, photographs, and research materials, with interviews and research materials for Soares' book on Louis Horst, *Louis Horst: Musician in a Dancer's World*.

Soares' choreographic notes are not written in labanotation, and often contain description, diagrams, charts, and directions for specific company dancers. Some notes are unlabeled and can be found under "general," others are complete. Works represented include *Arcade*, *Pomona*, and *Echoes*, Anna Sokolow's piece, for which Soares was a rehearsal assistant.

The conference materials contain handouts and programs as well as papers which Soares gave at the many dance education conferences she attended during her career. There are contracts and letters of negotiation from her various employers. There is also a limited amount of correspondence, mostly congratulations on various performances or publications.

Photographs consist of images of Soares as a dancer, working as a choreographer, and documentation of specific works. There are personal pictures of conference gatherings and awards banquets. Programs document her work as a dancer as well as instances where she is credited for choreography - both in dance performances as well as theater.

Research materials hold Soares' research for her books on Martha Hill and Louis Horst. The Hill material consists of notes and photocopies of programs and other documents. The Horst material contains original interviews conducted by Soares as well as some notes and permissions letters.

Soares' teaching materials hold course notes, roll books, photographs, programs and other items from her years teaching at Barnard and Juilliard, as well as limited courses taught elsewhere including Columbia University and her work with the Dance Advance and Lincoln Center Student programs.

This collection contains audio recordings of Soares' interviews for her Louis Horst book and video recordings of several of her choreographic works, including *Here's Looking at You*, *Blue Skies*, and *in time may go...*

Inquiries regarding video materials in the collection may be directed to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division. Audio/visual materials may be subject to preservation and migration prior to access.

## **Arrangement**

Alphabetical by subject

## **Key terms**

### **Subjects**

Choreography

Dance -- Education

Dance -- History -- 20th century

Dance -- Research

### **Names**

Barnard College. Dept. of Dance

Juilliard School. Dance Division

Soares, Janet Mansfield

### **Special formats**

Interviews

Photographs

Programs

## Container list

- Choreographic Notes, 1969-1998
- b.1 f.1-4 General, 1969-1988
  - b.1 f.5 *and in time may go...*, 1997
  - b.1 f.6 *Arcade*, 1988
  - b.1 f.7 *Dance for Josh*, undated
- b.2 f.1 *Echoes*, 1969 (by Anna Sokolow)
- b.2 f.2 *Micarles at Glastonbury*, 1979
- b.2 f.3 *Pomona*, 1988
- b.2 f.4 *Temporary Quarters*, undated
- b.2 f.5 *There's No Forgetting*, 1998
- b.2 f.6-7 Conference Materials, 1985-1998
- b.3 f.1-2 Contracts, 1967-2001
  - b.3 f.3 Correspondence, 1979-2001
  - b.3 f.4 Curriculum Vitae, 1972-1997
- DANCERS/Janet Soares, 1975-1995
  - b.3 f.5 Photographs
  - b.3 f.6 Programs
- b.4 f.1 Glastonbury Festival, 1971-1979
- b.4 f.2-4 The Little Orchestra Society, 1981-1989
  - Photographs
- b.5 f.1-2 As Choreographer, 1963-1998
  - b.5 f.3 As Dancer, 1960-1985
  - b.5 f.4 Personal, 1954-1999
- By Work
  - b.5 f.5 *After Nine*, undated
  - b.5 f.6 *Bentwood Pieces*, undated
  - b.5 f.7 *Here's Looking at You*, undated
  - b.5 f.8 *In Pleasure's Company*, undated
  - b.5 f.9 *Temporary Quarter*, undated
- Programs
  - b.5 f.10 As Choreographer, 1970-1999
  - b.5 f.11 As Dancer, 1960-1983
- Research Materials
- b.6 f.1-4 Hill, Martha, undated
  - Horst, Louis
- b.6 f.5-6 General, undated
  - Interviews
    - b.6 f.7 Fonaroff, Nina, 1984
    - b.6 f.8 Johnson, Hazel, undated
    - b.6 f.9 Lang, Pearl, 1985
  - b.7 f.1 McGeary, George, 1984
  - b.7 f.2 Morgan, Barbara, 1987

Research Materials (cont.)

Horst, Louis (cont.)

Interviews (cont.)

- b.7 f.3 Shurr, Gertrude, 1987
- b.7 f.4 Sokolow, Anna, 1987
- b.7 f.5 Permissions Letters, 1980-1986
- b.7 f.6 Reviews, 1963-2001

Teaching

Barnard College

- b.7 f.7-8 General, 1963-1986
- b.7 f.9 Dance Concerts, undated
- b.7 f.10 Dance Uptown, 1967-1970
- b.7 f.11 Columbia University, 1966
- b.7 f.12 Dance Advance, 1964

Juilliard Dance Division

- b.8 f.1-4 General, 1958-1986
- b.8 f.5 Photographs, 1963-1975
- b.8 f.6-7 Programs, 1965-1982
- b.8 f.8 Lincoln Center Student Programs, undated