

Guide to the American Ballet Theatre Scrapbooks, 1939-1966

*ZBD-164

Jerome Robbins Dance Division



The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

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Encoded by:Apex Data Services; Revised by Dan Santamaria

Date Completed:September 26, 2003; Revised 2004

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Descriptive Summary

Title: American Ballet Theatre Scrapbooks, 1939-1966

Collection ID: *ZBD-164

Collection ID: *MGZRS 80-1851 (original materials)

Creator: American Ballet Theatre

Size: 16 microfilm reels (original materials, 68 volumes - located in basement)

Repository: The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Jerome Robbins Dance Division
New York, New York

Languages Represented: English

Administrative Information

Source: Purchase. American Ballet Theatre.

Access: The collection is open to research (use microfilm).

Preferred Citation: American Ballet Theatre Scrapbooks, 1939-1966, *ZBD-164, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Organizational History

Ballet Theatre, an outgrowth of the Mordkin Ballet which started in 1937 as an outlet for the students from Mikhail Mordkin's school, was inaugurated with Richard Pleasant as director in the fall of 1939. Its stated goal was to have a company capable of performing ballets of all periods and styles. Among the dancers were Adolph Bolm, Patricia Bowman, Edward Caton, Leon Danielian, Vladimir Dokoudovsky, Anton Dolin, William Dollar, Viola Essen, Miriam Golden, Nana Gollner, Maria Karnilova, Nora Kaye, Andrée Howard, Hugh Laing, Annabelle Lyon, Donald Saddler, Nina Stroganova, and Yurek Shabalevski. Its first season opened January 11, 1940 at the Center Theatre and lasted four weeks. The repertory included Michel Fokine's *Les Sylphides* and *Carnaval*, Adolph Bolm's *Ballet Mécanique* and *Peter and the Wolf*, Mordkin's *Voices of Spring*, Antony

Tudor's *Dark Elegies*, *Lilac Garden*, and *Judgement of Paris*, Agnes de Mille's *Black Ritual* (performed by the company's Negro Wing), Eugene Loring's *The Great American Goof*, and Bronislava Nijinska's *La Fille mal Gardée*. Audiences for ballet in the company's first years, even in major cities, were limited, so the goal of continuous performing had to be met with tours of one-night stands, initially under the management of Sol Hurok. In the spring of 1947, Ballet Theatre Foundation was established as a taxexempt, non-profit corporation for the purpose of supporting Ballet Theatre. After its 1957 tour of Europe and the Near East, the company changed its name to American Ballet Theatre. In its first 25 years, in addition to its annual New York City seasons, American Ballet Theatre had appeared in more than 350 cities in 44 countries throughout the world.

Scope and Content Note

These scrapbooks include press clippings, reviews, magazine articles, programs, announcements, publicity materials, and tour itineraries.

Arrangement

Arranged in approximate chronological order.

Container List

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| r. 1 | v. 1 | 1939 Oct.-1941 Mar. |
| r. 2 | v. 2 | 1941 May-1942 Nov. |
| r. 2 | v. 3 | 1941 Oct.-Dec.(Mexico) and 1942 Jan.-Aug. |
| r. 2 | v. 4 | 1941 Oct.-Nov.(Mexico) and 1942 May-Sept.(Mexico) |
| r. 2 | v. 5 | 1942 Apr.-May(Mexico) |
| r. 2 | v. 6 | 1942 Jan.-Apr. |
| r. 2 | v. 7 | 1942 Sept.-Dec. |
| r. 2 | v. 8 | 1943 Jan.-Dec. |
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| r. 3 | v. 12 | 1943 Sept.-1944 Jan. |
| r. 3 | v. 13 | 1944 Feb.-Mar. |

r. 3 v. 14 1944 Apr.

r. 3 v. 15 1944 May.

r. 3 v. 16 1944 Apr.-Dec.

r. 4 v. 17 1945 Jan.-Aug.

r. 4 v. 18 1945 Sept.-Dec.

r. 4 v. 19 1946 May-June.

r. 4 v. 20 1946 Sept.-Nov.

r. 4 v. 21 1946 Dec.-1947 Feb.

r. 4 v. 22 [1947? Mar.-May] -- Lacking.

r. 4 v. 23 1947 June-Dec.

r. 5 v. 24 1947 Nov.-1948 May.

r. 5 v. 25 1948 June-1949 Mar.

r. 5 v. 26 1949 Mar.-July.

r. 5 v. 27 1949 Mar.-1950 Feb.

r. 5 v. 28 1949 Nov.-1950 Mar.

r. 5 v. 29 Summer 1951 (South American tour)

r. 6 v. 30 1951 Sept.-1952 Mar.

r. 6 v. 31 1951 Oct. 8-1952 Jan. 6(1951/52 tour - Vol. I)

r. 6 v. 32 1952 Jan. 7-Mar. 29(1951/52 tour - Vol. II)

r. 7 v. 33 1952 Apr.-Aug.

r. 7 v. 34 1952 Sept.-1953 Nov.

r. 7 v. 35 1952 Oct. 14-1953 Feb. 1(1952/53 tour - Vol. I)

r. 8 v. 36 1953 Feb. 2-Apr. 15(1952/53 tour - Vol. II)

r. 8 v. 37 1953 June-Sept.

r. 8 v. 38 1953 July-1954 July.

r. 8 v. 39 1953 Nov.-1954 Mar.(1953/54 tour - Vol. I)
r. 9 v. 40 1954 Mar.-June(1953/54 tour - Vol. II)
r. 9 v. 41 1954 Sept.-1955 Dec.
r. 9 v. 42 1954 Oct. 24-1955 Feb. 15(1954/55 tour - Vol. I)
r. 9 v. 43 1955 Feb. 16-May(1954/55 tour - Vol. II)
r. 10 v. 44 1955 June-Nov.(Latin American tour)
r. 10 v. 45 1956 Jan.-Mar.
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r. 10 v. 47 1956 (European tour.)
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r. 16 v. 66 1964 Dec.-1965 Mar.
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r. 16 v. 68 1966 Jan.-July.
