

Inventory of the José Greco Graphics Materials, 1900-1985

***MGZEB 04-3673**

Jerome Robbins Dance Division

**The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
New York, New York**

Contact Information

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Jerome Robbins Dance Division
40 Lincoln Center Plaza
New York, New York 10023-7498
Phone: 212/870-1657
Email: dance@nypl.org
Web address: <http://digilib.nypl.org/dynaweb/ead/dance>

Processed by: Camille Reilly Meyer

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Box/Folder Description

Descriptive Summary

Title:	José Greco Graphic Materials
Collection ID:	*MGZEB 04-3673
Creator:	Greco, José
Extent:	6.25 linear feet (13 boxes)
Repository:	Jerome Robbins Dance Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open to the public. Photocopying prohibited. Advance notice may be required.

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Custodial History

The José Greco Graphic Materials donated to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division in 1992 by José Greco.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2005.

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Biographical Note

José Greco, christened Constanzo Greco, was born 23 December 1918 in the mountains overlooking the Adriatic Sea. He remained in his birthplace Montori nei Frentani, Italy until June 1928 when his father, already living in the United States, achieved naturalized U.S. citizen status whereupon he made arrangements for the family to join him. By August 1928 Greco and his mother and sister moved to Hopkinson Avenue in Brooklyn, New York. In the early years, during which he learned English, José moved frequently between Manhattan and Brooklyn residences. It was through his sister Norina that he began to dance. He often accompanied Norina to her dance lessons at Madame Veola's studio on 59th Street between 5th and Madison Avenues. In time Greco was able to pick up on the dances himself, which won him the interest of the instructor Helene Veola (ca. 1897-1963). As he began his own dance lessons in 1933, the Leonardo da Vinci Art School, where Greco was in attendance closed. In the absence of school, he worked for the Atlas Ticket Agency, which enabled him to continue dancing.

By his twentieth birthday, Greco not only debuted in *Traviata* but also won the praises of the famed dancer Escudero Vicente whom he met in Madame Veola's studio. He, however, credits his dancing success to Argentinita (given name: Encarnación Lopez, 1900-1945), his renown-dancing partner from 1941-1945. Her death marked a series of different partners from the Argentinita's sister Pilar Lopez to Nana Lorca (given name: Djenana Modrego Vigarary). Her passing also inspired Greco to have his own company, so in 1948 he terminated his already deteriorating partnership with Pilar Lopez and formed The José Greco Spanish Ballet. That same year he also appeared in and choreographed dances for the film *Manolete*, the first of many later screen involvements including: *Sombrero* (1953), *Around the World in 80 Days* (1956), *Holiday is For Lovers* (1959), *Ship of Fools* (1965) and *The Proud and the Damned* (1972).

Over the course of the years, the dance company continued to tour North America and Europe. Greco married three times: Sarita Rivera, Nila Amparo and Nana Lorca. In addition, he had one common-law wife Lola de Ronda (given name: Aurelia Arroyo Garrido). By the late 1960s two of his five children, José-Luis and Alessandra, were dancing with the company. At about the same time as the birth of his sixth child Paolo (c. 1973), Greco and Nana, his wife and dance partner, founded the José Greco Foundation for the Hispanic Dance. The National Endowment for the Arts also funded the pair's tour of the United States designed to proliferate the Spanish dance culture. In 1974 they opened a dance studio The Centro de Arte Español in Marbella, Spain. During the 1980s José appeared either on TV (he was a guest of the *Ed Sullivan Show* in 1962) or on tour featuring his sons and daughters. Up until his death in December 2000, José remained active in the dance community from publishing his autobiography entitled *The Gypsy in My Soul* in 1977 to teaching at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania where he was an adjunct professor of dance until the late 1990s.

Box/Folder Description

Scope and Content Note

This collection is not a personal account of José Greco's life. It is a visual framework for Spanish dance as conceived by José Greco. The photographs not only identify the company members, but also their performances, from the company's inception in 1948 through the 1980s. Particular highlights include performance images of *El Cortijo*, Greco's original and probably best-known choreography in a dance of the Spanish horsemen, and the *Bolero*, originally choreographed by Greco's famous partner Argentinita. Another favorite performance is *La Castellana*, a dance that symbolizes a boy's flirtation with the Castilian maidens. The opposite tension is suggested in the images of *Andalucia Flamenca*, a dance where the woman seduces the male. In terms of company performers, the materials also include a large name index; the range of which includes all of Greco's wives: Sarita Rivera, Nila Amparo, Lola de Ronda (common-law) and Nana Lorca and dancers, including Paco Alonso, Pepita Nunes, Lupe del Rio, Luis Rivera, Teo Santelmo, Maria Soto and Juan Vallejo. The company member also includes musicians such as Roger Machado (composer) and Ricardo Modrego (guitarist).

The last section of materials contains original artwork, most of which is from set and costume designs of ballets like *Don Quijote*, *Barcelona Suite* and *Goyescas*. However, there is some original work by Greco from his art school days in addition to some of his set designs. Of particular interest here is his scrapbook, which contains the layout for his performance programs. In it are brief statements explaining the significance of his dances.

Related Material Note

The Greco papers are treated in a separate collection.

http://digilib.nypl.org/dynaweb/ead/nypl/greco/@Generic__BookView

Organization

The collection is organized into 3 series and 8 sub-series. They are:

Series I: Photographs

- Sub-series 1 – José Greco
- Sub-series 2 – José Greco Company
- Sub-series 3 – Performance

Series II: Originals

- Sub-series 1 – José Greco
- Sub-series 2 – José Greco Company
- Sub-series 3 – Ephemera

Series III: Oversized

- Sub-series 1 –Photographs
- Sub-series 2 –Originals

Box/Folder Description

Series Descriptions

Series I: Photographs

6 boxes

Sub-series 1: José Greco—The contents at this level, both professional and personal, are devoted to Greco. As there were few recognizably personal photographs, the organization takes an objective approach and favors a chronologically based arrangement in order to show Greco’s life in a timeline. This is partially because the images were better identified by date than by place or event. In the general category dated 1961-1965, for example, there is an image of Greco meeting President Kennedy.

Sub-series 2: José Greco Company – This series identifies the José Greco Company in terms of the dancers and thus arrangement favors alphabetical order. Note that this organization is according to the dancers’ stage names and that there remains a significant amount of unidentified dancers, which are arranged here.

Sub-series 3: Performance— In order to preserve Greco’s unique hybrid of flamenco, classical ballet and gypsy dances, this section’s alphabetical arrangement specifies the dance. A general category exists for the remaining unidentified dance photographs. Please note that a significant amount of intellectual material is also available in the contact sheets, particularly as they contain images of the dances unavailable in any other format.

Series II: Originals

4 boxes

Sub-series 1: José Greco— This section contains Greco’s earlier drawings for his art school and later work for the company. It also includes Greco’s scrapbook, which contains the layout for a dance program. Please note that this program layout includes a brief description of the dances to be performed and could prove useful in identifying Greco’s interpretation of the dance.

Sub-series 2: José Greco Company—The artwork in this series represents the performance design aesthetic as conceived by the set and costume designers employed by the José Greco Company. Because the materials do not necessarily represent all of a designer’s work, the arrangement follows the dance title.

Sub-series 3: Ephemera – The contents here concludes with the ephemera that Greco collected over the years. Of particular emphasis in this category are the novelties such as a Texas diner menu diner printed with Greco on the cover.

Series III: Oversized

3 boxes

Sub-series 1: Photographs –This oversized section follows in the general arrangement scheme to identify either the performer or performance. It includes large-formatted images of Greco, his company and their dances. This sub-series also contains color stills for Greco’s performance in the film *Manolete* (1948).

Sub-series 2: Originals – The content here comprises a significant amount of set and costume designs for the José Greco Company. The designs are arranged according to a performance. Please note that the arrangement is often, but not uniformly, specific to a single dance rather than to an entire ballet. There is also a portion of unidentified designs in this category.

Box/Folder	Description
Series I: Photographs, 1900-1989	
Sub-series I: José Greco, 1900-1989	
Publicity photographs, 1939-1969	
Box 1	
F. 1	1939-1960
F. 2-5	Headshots, undated
F. 6-8	<i>El Cortijo</i> , undated
F. 9	<i>Farruca</i> , 1950-1969
F. 10-11	Undated
F. 12	Negatives, undated
Personal photographs, 1900-1978	
F. 13	Family life, 1970-1978 %nb (Greco with wives Sarita, Nila and Lola.) %ne
F. 14	Montorio nei Frentani, Italy, 1959 %nb(Greco's birthplace.) %ne
F. 15	On tour, undated
F. 16	Torre del Greco, ca. 1965%nb(Greco's villa in Marbella, Spain.)%ne
F. 17	Youth, 1900-1939 %nb (Includes family photographs and those of Greco at Madame Veola's dance school, located on 59 th Street between 5 th and Madison Avenues. There is also a photograph of his dance instructor Helene Veola, ca. 1900.) %ne
General, 1940-1989	
F. 18	ca. 1950-1956
F. 19	Unidentified, 1951%nb (Includes photographs of a bullfighter, Plaza de Toros, 1951.) %ne
F. 20	1957-1960
F. 21	1961-1965
F. 22-23	Rehearsal, Marbella, Spain, 1965%nb (Folder 7 includes a photograph of set and costume designer Fernando Piñana. See the designs in the Originals series.)%ne
F. 24	1966-1985
F. 25-26	José Greco, undated(Includes photographs of Greco with the Director of the Icecapades.and a signed photograph of Yoshimi Takeda, conductor for The Alberquerque Symphony Orchestra.)
Sub-series 2: José Greco Company, 1940-1979	
Box 2	
F. 1	Adame, Luis – Algeciras, Pepe de, undated
F. 2	Alonso, Paco - Amaral, Robert, undated
F. 3	Amparo, Nila, 1950-1959 %nb (Greco's second wife.) %ne
F. 4	Angeles, Maria – Arcos, Pepita de, 1958
F. 5	Astigarraga, Juan Mari – Caros, Rosario, 1940-1969
F. 6	Castillo, Antonio del – La Curra, 1965
F. 7-8	Cortezo, Victor, undated(Set and costume designer for <i>Barcelona Suite</i> . See Originals series.)
F. 9	Davila, Carmen – Dominguez, Carmen, 1950-1969
F. 10	Doniz, Paco – Escudero, Vicente, 1960-1969
F. 11	Espinosa, Beltran – Fuentes, Mari-Carmen, undated
F. 12	Fuertes, Alberto- Granados, Felix and Antonia, undated
F. 13	Granados, Jose – Gutierrez, Tomas, 1960-1969 %nb (Includes photographs of José-Luis Greco, son of Nila Amparo.) %ne
F. 14	Haakon, Paul – Isla, Pepe de, 1941
F. 15	Jaen, Antonio – Lopez, Encarnación, 1943(Includes photograph of Argentinita, Greco's dancing partner, 1943)

Box/Folder	Description
F. 16-21	Lorca, Nana, 1960-1979 %nb (Greco's third wife, given name: Djenana Modrego Vigarary.) %ne
Box 3	
F. 1	Lozano, Amparo – Luz, Maria, 1965
F. 2	Machado, Roger – Manuel, Juan, 1955
F. 3	Mar, Lydia del - Marchana, Roger, undated
F. 4	Martinez, Antonia – Merida, Maria, 1940-1969
F. 5	Michel, Ted – Modrego, Ricardo, 1961
F. 6	Molina, Jose – Montoya, Manuel, 1950-1969
F. 7	Mora, Carmen – Nieto, Oscar, undated
F. 8	Olivares, Luis - Ramos, Anita, undated
F. 9	Reyes, Agustin – Rico, Roberto, 1964
F. 10	Rio, Lupe del - Rivera, Luis, undated
F. 11	Rivera, Sarita – Rodriguez, Curro, 1938 %nb (Greco's first wife: Sarita Rivera.) %ne
F. 12	Rojas, Antonia – Roldan, Tesa, 1967
F. 13	Ronda, Lola de, undated %nb (Greco's common law wife.)%ne
F. 14	Sacromonte, Gracia del – Santiago, Sebastian Heredia, 1960-1969
F. 15	Santos, Elena – Soto, Maria, undated
F. 16	Talavera, Jose – Torea, Lydia, 1964
F. 17	Torres, Julio – Vargas, Angelita, undated
F. 18	Vargas, Malena - Zapata, Jose Ramos, undated Unidentified, undated
Box 4	
F. 1-2	Female
F. 3	Male
F. 4	Mixed pairs
F. 5	Negatives
	Sub-series 3: Performance, 1950-1985
Box 5	
F.1	<i>Aldeanos</i> , undated
F. 2	<i>Alegrias</i> , undated
F. 3	<i>Anda Jaleo</i> , undated
F. 4	<i>Andalucia Flamenca</i> , 1966-1967
F. 5	<i>Andaluza</i> , undated
F. 6	<i>Aranjuez</i> , undated
F. 7	<i>Asturias</i> , ca. 1965
F. 8	<i>Suite Vasca (Basque Suite)</i> , ca. 1963
F. 9	<i>Bolero</i> , 1960-1969
F. 10	<i>Los Gitanillos de Bronce (Bronze Gypsies)</i> , undated
F. 11	<i>Carmen</i> , 1951
F. 12	<i>La Castellana</i> , 1960-1969
F. 13	<i>El Cortijo</i> (Choreographer: José Greco), 1950-1959
F. 14	<i>Danza Extremena</i> , 1957 %nb(See other photographs by Barry Edmonds in Oversized series.) %ne
F. 15	<i>Los Farrucos</i> , ca. 1965
F. 16	<i>Folia</i> , undated
F. 17	<i>Galician Dance</i> , undated
F. 18	<i>Goyescas (Times of Goya)</i> , ca. 1961 (Contains photographs for Goyescas' set and costume designs by Freddy Wittop.)
F. 19	<i>Isa Palmera</i> , undated

Box/Folder	Description
F. 20	<i>Jota</i> , undated %nb (Includes photograph of traditional Jota dancers in Zaragoza, Spain, 1946.) %ne
F. 21	<i>Lamento Cantiga</i> , 1959%nb (Greco with Maria Merida.) %ne
F. 22	<i>Navidenas</i> , undated
F. 23	<i>Viejo Madrid (Old Madrid)</i> , 1957
F. 24	<i>Los Pastores</i> , undated
F. 25	<i>Petenera</i> , 1950-1959
F. 26-29	<i>Rincon Flamenco</i> , ca. 1950-1959
F. 30	<i>Romance de Andalucia(Andalusian Romance)</i> , undated
F. 31	<i>Los Salaos</i> , undated %nb (Carmen and Justo Quintero.) %ne
F. 32	<i>Seguriya</i> , undated %nb (Greco with Lola de Ronda.) %ne
F. 33	<i>Los Travadores</i> , ca. 1964
F. 34	<i>Tricorne Hat</i> , ca. 1963 %nb (Includes company photograph with James A. Doolittle, Director of the Greek Theater, Los Angeles, California, 1958.) %ne
F. 34	<i>Valencia Fantasy</i> , undated
F. 36	<i>Verdiales</i> , undated
F. 37	<i>Voodoo Suite</i> , undated
Box 6	
	Films, 1952 and undated
F. 1	<i>Around the World in 80 Days</i> , undated %nb(See Spanish film poster in Ephemera.)%ne
F. 2	<i>Holiday is for Lovers</i> , undated
F. 3	<i>Ship of Fools</i> , undated
F. 4	<i>Sombrero</i> , 1952
	Contact Sheets, 1959-1970 %peb(Sheets are marked, indicating dimensions for reproduction.)%pee
F. 5	Fashion shoot, 1953
F. 6	1959
F. 7	Nana Lorca, 1960-1970 %nb(Greco's third wife, given name: Djenana Modrego Vigarary.)%ne
F. 8	ca. 1965(Includes performances of <i>Los Salaos</i> and <i>La Petenera</i> .)
F. 9	Undated(Includes performances of the <i>Farruca</i> and <i>El Cortijo</i>)
F. 10-12	Company publicity photos, undated
F. 13-17	José Greco, undated
	<u>Series II: Originals, 1930-1983</u>
	Sub-series I: José Greco, 1930-1949
	Artwork, 1930-1949
Box 7	
F. 1-5	Charcoal drawings, 1930-1939%nb (Artwork created while attending the Leonardo da Vinci Art School.) %ne
F. 6	Scrapbook, undated %nb (Includes layout for a José Greco Company dance program.) %ne
Box 8	
F. 1-2	Figure drawings, 1930-1949%nb (Folder 1 includes poem written on drawing's verso, undated.) %ne
F. 3	Set designs, undated
	Sub-series 2: José Greco Company, 1940-1969
	Set Designs %pfb(Arranged alphabetically according to dance.)%pfe
Box 9	
F. 1	<i>Anda Jaleo</i> (Jose Capuletti), undated
F. 2	<i>Asturias</i> (Jose Capuletti), undated

Box/Folder	Description
F. 3	<i>Barcelona Suite</i> (Victor Cortezo), undated %nb(See photos of the designer in Professional series.)%ne
F. 4	<i>Cabalgata</i> (Robert Carpio), undated
F. 5	<i>Don Juan</i> (Robert Carpio and Jose Capuletti), 1958
F. 6	<i>Don Quijote</i> (Abierzo), undated
F. 7	<i>Goyescas</i> (Jose Capuletti), undated
F. 8	<i>Petenera</i> (Jose Capuletti), undated
F. 9	<i>Sombrero de Tres Picos</i> (Jose Capuletti), 1948
F. 10	<i>Tricorne Ballet</i> (Fernando Piñana), 1946 %nb(See photos of the designer in Professional series.)%ne
F. 11	<i>Viejo Madrid</i> (Jose Capuletti), 1961 Sub-series 3: Ephemera, 1958-1983 and undated
Box 10	
F. 1	Posters, undated
F. 2	Programs and clippings, undated
F. 3	Publicity, 1958-1983%nb(Includes menu with Greco on the cover and awards honored to him in 1958, 1973-1974, 1983.)%ne
Series III: Oversized, 1920-1979	
Sub-series I: Photographs, 1920-1979 José Greco, 1920-1979	
Box 11	
F. 1-2	Publicity photos, 1920-1979 %nb(Folder one includes family photo taken in Brooklyn, New York, Aug. 1928.)%ne
F. 3	Members, undated Performance, 1950-1969
F. 4	<i>Bolero</i> , 1950-1969
F. 5	<i>Danza Extremena</i> , undated %nb(Photographer: Barry Edmonds.)%ne
F. 6	<i>Goyescas</i> , ca. 1960
F. 7	<i>Rincon Flamenco</i> , undated
F. 8	Unidentified, undated %nb(Includes photographic work by Barry Edmonds.)%ne Films, 1948
F. 9-10	<i>Manolete</i> , 1948 %pfb(Color stills.)%pfe Sub-series 2: Originals, 1950-1969 Set Designs %pfb(Arranged alphabetically according to dance.)%pfe
Box 12	
F. 1	<i>Asturias</i> (Guy), undated
F. 2	<i>El Caballero de la Trieste Figura</i> (Carlo Santiesteban), undated %(Original container for the designs from the ballet <i>Don Quijote</i> .)
F. 3	<i>El Caballero de la Trieste Figura</i> (Carlo Santiesteban), undated %nb(Dance designs for the ballet <i>Don Quijote</i>)%ne
F. 4	<i>Los Caprichos</i> (Antoni Clavé), undated
F. 5	<i>Danza de los Caballitos</i> (Robert Carpio), 1967 %nb (Dance designs for the ballet <i>Cabalgata</i> . See the set designs in Greco's scrapbook in the Originals series.) %ne
Box 13	
F. 1	<i>Danza Canarias</i> (Trabal Altes), 1957
F. 2	<i>Goyescas</i> (Freddy Wittop), undated
F. 3	<i>El Niño de Luna</i> (Escriña Salva), undated
F. 4	<i>Shaherazade</i> (Jose Capuletti), undated
F. 5	Untitled (Fernando Piñana and Jose Capuletti), ca. 1962
F. 6-7	Untitled, undated
