

# **Guide to the Nina Russell Papers, 1947-1972**

(S) \*MGZMD 164

**Jerome Robbins Dance Division**

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

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Date Completed: January 2006

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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Nina Russell Papers</b>
<b>Collection ID:</b>	<b>(S) *MGZMD 164</b>
<b>Creator:</b>	<b>Russell, Nina</b>
<b>Extent:</b>	<b>3.25 linear feet (7 boxes)</b>
<b>Repository:</b>	<b>Jerome Robbins Dance Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts</b>

**Abstract:** The Nina Russell Papers contain articles written by Russell throughout her career as well as sampling of the personal papers and correspondence related to her work at *Show Business*.

## Administrative Information

### Access

Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

### Publication Rights

For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Jerome Robbins Dance Division.

### Preferred Citation

Nina Russell Papers, (S) \*MGZMD 164, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

### Custodial History

The Nina Russell Papers were donated to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division in 1974 by Nina Russell.

## Biographical Note

Dorothy N. S. (Nina Sheridan) Russell was born March 23, 1924 in Paris, France, to American parents. Her father, Henry Tosti Russell, worked for *United Press*. She was the granddaughter of Boston Opera House Impresario Henry Russell and great-niece of Sir Ronald Russell, President of the Royal Guildhall School of Music, conductor at Albert Hall, and guest conductor of the London Symphony.

Nina Russell received her education from the Lycee Francais de Londres (1932-1936), private tutors and at the University of Maryland. Russell began her professional career as a newspaperwoman, as an assistant entertainment editor. In 1941-1943 she worked at the British weeklies covering musical events. From 1943-1945 Nina Russell was a radio scriptwriter and interviewer (U.S.Army). She was a *United Press* staff correspondent from 1945-1947 in London and Paris. In 1951 after working at the different newspapers in Belgium, England and Italy she moved to United States where she worked at the *New York Post*, *Oklahoman & Times*, *Constitution-Press* and others.

In 1954, Russell left journalism and studied ballet, tap, jazz, performing in children's theaters as a dancer-actress-singer. She studied ballet under Vitale Fokin, son of Michael Fokin, began performing opera ballet with La Puma Opera Workshop, where she also worked as a choreographer.

In 1958 Nina Russell began written for *Show Business* a trade newspaper, where she wrote "The Dance", a column of casting news, advise to newcomers, celebrity chats and advertisements. She created two special dance issues (1958-1959 and 1959-1960). She also contributed regularly as a writer to *Dance Magazine* and *Dance Digest*.

## Scope and Content Note

The materials contained in this collection are primarily correspondence and published articles covering the range of Russell's professional activities. Also included are a few theatrical programs, press releases and her professional resume. Though the material dates primarily from 1947-1972, most belongs to the time when Nina Russell was working as an editor at *Show Business* where she also had a column. There is a little personal material in the collection.

## Organization

The collection is organized into 3 series. They are:  
Series I: Correspondence, 1947-1972, undated  
Series II: Writings, 1950-1962, undated  
Series III: Subject Files, 1948-1971, undated

## Series Descriptions

- Series I: Correspondence, 1947-1972, undated** **2 boxes**  
Arrangement: alphabetical.  
This series contain: correspondence and postcards to and from dancers, owners of the dance schools, magazines and ballet organizations. All known correspondents are listed.
- Series II: Writings, 1950-1962, undated** **4 boxes**  
Arrangement: alphabetical.  
This series contain: drafts and copies of articles with author's corrections; as well press releases and poetry written by Nina Russell.
- Series III: Subject files, 1948-1971, undated** **1 box**  
Arrangement: alphabetical  
This series contain: press releases, school programs, and tickets; as well Nina Russell's resumes with autobiographical notes.

**Series I: Correspondence, 1947-1972, undated**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	A , 1947-1969 Frances Alenikoff, Allen, The Ambassador, American Festival Ballet, American Society of Teachers of Dancing, American Theatre Lab, Dyanne Ascman.
	2	B, 1959-1970, undated Jacques M. Bablon, Sonia Barbary, Micheline Bardin, Kathy Bauman, Frank C. Barber, Isadora Bennet, Michael Bennet, Bhaskar, Charles Blackwell, Blance Evan, Joseph Blitz, Phillip Bloom, Judith Brantigan, Benita Broggiotti, Robert V. Brown, John Butler.
	3	C-D, 1948-1971, undated Margaret Carson, Alonso Castro, Cecile ChaChauvean, <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc., William Como, Dorothy Conova, Elaine Cook, Jean Dalrymple, <i>Dance Magazine</i> , <i>Dance Talent, Inc.</i> , Harry Davis, Anna Paulina Dildino, Nat Dorfman, Betsy Drew, Helen Dunlop.
	4	E-F, 1956-1970, undated Jean Erdman, The Farnworth Studio, Milton Fexer, Martin Feinstein, Carlos Antonio Fernandez, Fokine Family, Laura Foreman, Fowler School Ballet, Emily Frankel.
	5	G-H, 1952-1970 Gateway Books, Ellen Gephart, Fanya Gervin, Loreen Goldenson, Nina Gordani, Grossmann Academy of Dance Arts, Stanley Harbert, Michael Hartig, Coleman A. Harwell, Darrell Henline, Stuart Hodes, Ron Holiday, Cliff Horton, <i>Hudson Valley Newspapers, Inc.</i> , Sol Hurok, Loretta Hynes.
	6	I-K, 1953-1971, undated Interboro Civic Ballet, Inc., International Dance School, International School of Performing Arts, Ray Irwin, Jeneva Jackson, Jetica Jay, Jianque, Danny Joel, Lydia Joel, Kamin Dance Bookshop, Gordon Keith, Natacha Kepelovska, Bruce Kellner, Susan Kellner, Nancy King, Marvin Kohn, Pauline Koner.
	7	L, 1950-1971, undated La Puma Opera Workshop, Pierre Lacotte, Marie Laurent Lasseigne, Leabo, Virginia Lee, Lilian Cushing School of Dancing, Little Studio, Valentina Litvinoff, Jorie Livingston, Patricia Lochridge, <i>The London American</i> , Lorraine Dance Studio, Eva Lorraine.
	8	M-N, 1949-1962, undated Carlos Macri, Robert Maigne, <i>Mailbag</i> , Kay Marwig, E.W.Mathews, Fern McGrath, Charles McGraw, Judie Merbler, Miss Ricky's Dancetime Studios, Lilian Moore, Mabel Y. Moser, P.Nelson, David Newman, <i>The New York Times</i> , H.Nissen.

- 2 1 O-R, 1951-1972, undated  
 Lincoln O'Brian, Oklahoma University Press, Joy O'Neill, *Opera News*,  
 Mary Ann Orischak, Barna Osterfag, Gian Pace, William H. Pierce,  
 Abe Pokrassa, Harry E. Polk, Sheila Porter, David Powers, Walter  
 Price, Horman Reader, Winthrop Rockefeller, J.I. Rodale, William J.  
 Ronan, Alec Rubin, Margareth Russell.
- 2 S, 1959-1972, undated  
 Joel Louis Schnee, Ruth Schneidman, Igor Schwezoff, Leo Shull, Buff  
 Shurr, Gertrude Smith, Gordon Smith, Soo Bang Chin, Sylvia Spencer,  
 Stadium Concerts, Inc., Edith Stephen, Leo Stern, Ben Stenson, Lucille  
 Stoddart, Patricia Susek, Margaret Swarthout.
- 3 T-V, 1948-1971, undated  
 Hellen Taitt, Nancy Tattle, *Theatre Arts*, Erika Thimey, Toklass, Tom  
 Trenkle, Elsa Tresko, Larry Trexler, Amelia Vanderburge, Variety  
 Artists Cultural Society.
- 4 W-Z, 1959-1972, undated  
 David Wallace, Ruth Walton, James Waring, Bret Warren, Cecilia E.  
 Weber, Charles, Weidman William Welsh, George E. Whalley, Alix B.  
 Williamson, Williangstown Theatre Foundation, Inc., Anne Wilson,  
 Walter Winchell, Sonia Wojcikowska, The Yemima Ben-Gal Dance  
 Theatre, YMCA, Nancy K. Zeckendorf, Sid Zins, Marta Zorina, George  
 Zoritch, Allen Zwerdling.
- 5 Unidentified, 1961, undated  
 6 Dance Mailing Lists, undated  
 7-8 Postcards, undated

**SERIES II: WRITINGS, 1950-1962, undated**

- | <u>Box</u> | <u>Fol</u> |  |
|------------|------------|--|
| 3          | 1          | <i>ABT's Bright Lucia Chases Dust</i> , undated                        |
|            | 2          | <i>ABT's Wind-up Week Offers 2nd Premiere</i> , undated                |
|            | 3          | <i>After Dark (David Amram)</i> , undated                              |
|            | 4          | <i>American Ballet Theatre Opens 30th Anniversary Season</i> , undated |
|            | 5          | <i>Anne Wilson Bring Beauty to the Kids</i> , undated                  |
|            | 6          | <i>At Music Hall</i> , undated   |
|            | 7          | <i>Avram's Folk Nitery. Stars Mata Zorina</i> , undated                |
|            | 8          | <i>Ballet in Brooklyn</i> , undated                                    |
|            | 9          | <i>Ballet Theatre Film Giselle Revised</i> , undated                   |
|            | 10         | <i>Ballroom Boom</i> , undated   |
|            | 11         | <i>Blurbmith Cut</i> , undated   |
|            | 12         | <i>Books and Records</i> , undated                                     |
|            | 13         | <i>Broadway</i> , undated  |
|            | 14         | <i>Butler Revitalizes One of His Trionti</i> , undated                 |
|            | 15         | <i>Casting Around</i> , undated  |
|            | 16         | <i>Christine Neubert. Children on TV</i> , undated                     |
|            | 17         | <i>City Ballet Offers Sir Frederick Tribute</i> , undated              |
|            | 18         | <i>Clive Barnes Speaks at Brooklyn Academy</i> , undated               |

- 19 *Corvino Daughters Dance for Absent Dad*, undated  
 20 *Dance (Backstage Dance)*, undated  
 21- *Dance*, undated  
 24  
 4 1 *Dance*, undated  
 2 *Dance Conventions*, undated  
 3 *Dance Digest*, 1960, undated  
 4 *Dance Digest*, undated  
 5 *Dance Educators of America Convention*, undated  
 6 *Dance Feature*, undated  
 7 *Dance in TV*, undated  
*Dance Issue*  
 8 Untitled, undated  
 9 *Folk Dance Feature*, undated  
 10 *Comments with grant*, undated  
 11 *General Artistics Corporation*, undated  
 12 *Graham Review*, undated  
 13 *Lead Modern Listings*, undated  
 14 *Scholarships Feature*, undated  
 15- *Listings*, undated  
 16  
 17 *Nite Clubs*, undated  
 18 *Record follow or box close to scholarships*, undated  
 19 *Styles*, undated  
 20 *Theatre Design*, undated  
 21 *TV Choreographers*, undated  
 22 *With Book Reviews*, undated  
 23 *With Comments FORD*, undated  
 24 *With Scholarships*, undated  
 25 *Dance Masters of America Convention*, undated  
 26 *Dance Report*, undated  
 27 *Dance Skaters Dazzle in Garden Ice Parade*, undated  
 28 *Dance Survey. Lead*, undated  
 29 *Dance Survey. Nite (sic!) Clubs*, undated  
 30 *Dance Survey. TV*, undated  
 31 *Dance Tips*, undated  
 5 1 *Dancers Cannot Specialize in Today's Market Which Calls for Versiatility*,  
 undated  
 2 *Dancers' Doctor*, 1962, undated  
 3 *Dependent Plamist*, undated  
 4 *Domestic Display: Worthy Swan*, undated  
 5 *Ellington, Ailey Paint Vast Musical Picture*, undated  
 6 *Elna Laun*, undated  
 7 *Evelyn Lanvin Launches New Ballet Company; Vitale Fokin appointed*  
*choreographer*, 1956  
 8 *Fairies and Fancies*, undated

- 9 *Falco's Stoned Images; Sansardo's Senenities*, undated  
 10 *Farnworth*, undated  
 11 *Farnworth Students and Eglevsky Ballet: Youth*, undated  
 12 *Fort Still Brings Mythical Rabbit to Lite*, 1953  
 13 *Fowler Y Concert Seen by Diane Gray*, undated  
 14 *Gennaro Catches Spirit of Prohibition Days* “undated”  
 15 *Germans in USA*, undated  
 16 *Grands Ballets*, undated  
 17 *Harkness Looks Best in Brooklyn Setting*, undated  
 18 *Harkness Youth Dancers. Premiere Luigi Ballet*, undated  
 19 *Home is Like Anywhere Else*, 1950  
 20 *Hungarian Ballerina Seen Belly Dancing*, undated  
 21 *Hurok Import Sets Holiday Happy Pace*, undated  
 22 *Hurok Season Ends, Postcript: Giselle*, undated  
 23 *Kiddie Ballet Starts Local Tour*, undated  
 24 *Iron Curtain. Radio-listening Survey, 1953-1954*  
 25 *Jones Beach Feature*, undated  
 26 *La Ponde*, undated  
 27 *Litz's 1959 Dracula Revived at Judson, 1959*  
 28 *Love Happening: Miller's Mame*, undated  
 29 *Margaret Chante, 1962*  
 30 *Marionettes and Melisandes: Maeterlinek made Unmemorable*, undated  
 31 *Marta Zorina: Danseuse Exotique et Classique*, undated  
 32 *Mimed Musical for Children*, undated  
 33 *Mirth and Mime One*, undated  
 34 *Moiseyev Co. at Met. Captures All Hearts* “undated”  
 35 *Morelli Soiree Works Repeated in Mineola*, undated  
 36 *Mrs.Harkness Plans*, undated  
 37 *Music Hall Show Found Thrilling*, undated  
 38 *New Fowler Concert Shows Big Strides*, undated  
 39 *New Musical Hall of Israel Holds Pleasant Surprises*, undated  
 40 *News Roundup*, undated  
 41 *Notes for Trionti*, undated  
 42 *NYC Report*, undated  
 43 *Onegin Revisited: Second Thoughts*, undated  
 44 *An Outline of Ideas on Material for Use in Children's Publications*,  
 undated  
 45 *Pennsylvania Ballet Concludes Carmina*, undated  
 46 *Poetry*, undated  
 47 *Practically*, undated  
 48 *Practically Henline*, undated  
 49 *Practically Speaking*, undated  
 50 *Practically Westbrook*, undated  
 51 *Press Releases, 1958-1961*, undated  
 52 *The Red Shoes Done as Kiddie Dance Play*, undated  
 53 *Royal*, undated



54	<i>Schnee</i> , undated
55	<i>Schwezoﬀ</i> , undated
56	<i>Schwezoﬀ Presents Tokyo Dancers at Y</i> , undated
57	<i>Schwezoﬀ Views Stuttgart Ballet</i> , undated
58	<i>Seasonal West at Music Hall</i> “undated”
6	1 <i>Sidebar Survey. Dancewear</i> , undated
	2-4 <i>Sing-Dance</i> , undated
	5 <i>Singers</i> , undated
	6 <i>Something Boring, Something New</i> , undated
	7 <i>Sonia</i> , undated
	8 <i>Sonia Wojcikowska</i> , undated
	9 <i>Spring Song: Ann Jenner</i> , undated
	10 <i>Stefan Grebel at Music Hall</i> , undated
	11 <i>Stevens</i> , undated
	12 <i>String Serenade</i> , undated
	13 <i>Stuttgart Ballet: Fokin Vs. Cranko</i> , undated
	14 <i>Sun Shines on Luigi: Jazz Ballet Score</i> , undated
	15 <i>Survey: Dance Tips</i> , undated
	16 <i>Survey: Folk Dance</i> , undated
	17 <i>Survey: International Dance School</i> , undated
	18 <i>Tokyo Ballerina Met. Guest, Dances</i> , undated
	19 <i>Tudor Works Comprise Outstanding Evening</i> , undated
	20 <i>TV Music Fall</i> , undated
	21 <i>Verdi, French Partner Rapturous in Dream</i> , undated
	22 <i>Wagner</i> , 1962
	23 <i>Willies at the Met: Fonteyn and Nureyev</i> , undated
	24 <i>With Survey Dance Tips</i> , undated
	25 <i>With Survey. News of Schools</i> , undated
	26 <i>Witty Celebrities Star Dance Aﬀair</i> , undated
	27 <i>The Young and the Old: Promises, Promises</i> , undated
	28 <i>Young Neubert Dancers</i> , undated
	29 <i>Your Bag - Show</i> , undated
	30 <i>Youth in the United States</i> , 1954
	31 <i>Zarzuela Fun for Teresa</i> , undated
	32 Unidentiﬁed, undated

**SERIES III: SUBJECT FILES, 1948-1971, undated**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
7	1	Advertising, undated
	2	Art works, undated
	3	Ballet classe schedules, undated
	4	<i>The New Dance Weekly Dummy</i> , undated
	5	New York City Radio Stations, undated
	6	<i>Peace on Earth</i> , undated (Photo)
	7	Press Releases, 1948-970
	8	Programs, Workshop Programs, 1960-1971, undated

- 9       Resume, undated
- 10       Resume N.Russell, 1960-1971, undated
- 11       Show Business Survey, 1959
- 12       Tickets, 1955-1969, undated
- 13       Unidentified, undated