Summary

Title: George Platt Lynes Photographic Scrapbooks, ca. 1935 - 1954

Size: 8 linear feet (16 albums)

Scope and content note

The collection includes approximately 650 black and white 8"x 10" photographs of ballets, dancers and choreographers from the earliest days of what would later become the New York City Ballet.

Many of the photographs are proofs and appear to have been taken in George Platt Lynes’ studio. The albums were compiled by The Jerome Robbins Dance Division staff and are arranged alphabetically by choreographic work or dancer.

Among the 49 dances in the collection are The Cage (Robbins), ca. 1951, The Duel (Dollar), ca. 1951, Fancy Free (Robbins), ca. 1944, Firebird (Balanchine), 1949, La Gloire (Tudor), ca. 1952, Les Illuminations (Ashton), ca. 1950, Jones Beach (Balanchine), 1950, Orpheus (Balanchine), 1948, Swan Lake (Balanchine), 1951, and Tyl Ulenspeigel (Balanchine), 1951.

Personalities represented include Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, Erik Bruhn, Alexandra Danilova, Margot Fonteyn, Martha Graham, Nora Kaye, and John Kriza.

Biographical Note

Photographer George Platt Lynes was born in East Orange, New Jersey in 1907. He attended the Berkshire School in Massachusetts, where Lincoln Kirstein was a classmate. After living in Paris, where he met Gertrude Stein and her circle, he opened a bookshop in New Jersey and began taking photographs, later returning to Paris and traveling around Europe for several years.

Lynes set up his studio in New York City in 1932 and began taking photos for Vogue, Harper’s Bazaar and Town and Country. In 1935, he was commissioned to photograph the dances and dancers of the American Ballet (later New York City Ballet), which he did through the early 1950s. Lynes moved to California in 1946 and photographed film stars such as Katharine Hepburn and Orson Welles, and other important figures in the arts such as Igor Stravinsky and Thomas Mann. He returned to New York City in 1948, but could not find work in commercial or fashion photography. Lynes also took many nude photos, mostly male.

A number of books of his photos have been published. Lynes died in New York City in 1955 of lung cancer, at the age of 48.
Container list

Volume 1

Adams, Diana, [1949]
The Age of Anxiety (Robbins), 1950

Air and Variations (Dollar), ca. 1938

Allen, Ivan, [ca. 1950s?]
Apollo [Apollon Musagète] (Balanchine), ca. 1937

Volume 2

Ashton, Frederick, ca. 1940s
Balanchine, George, ca. 1941

Volume 3

Ballet Imperial (Balanchine), [1941]
The Bat (Balanchine), [1938]

Le Beau Danube (Massine), ca. 1941
Billy the Kid (Loring), 1938

Bourrée Fantasque (Balanchine), ca. 1949

Bruhn, Erik, [1949]
The Cage (Robbins), ca. 1951

Volume 4

Caprichos (Ross), 1950

Capricorn Concerto (Bolender), 1948

The Card Game (Balanchine), 1951

Caracole (Balanchine), 1952

Caton, Edward in Giselle, ca. 1951?
Charade (Christensen), 1939

Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo.

14 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Todd Bolender, Roy Tobias, Jerome Robbins, and Tanaquil LeClercq among those pictured.

Includes 6 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Lew Christensen, Marie Jeanne among those pictured.

Includes 4 b&w photos.

Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos.

Includes 8 b&w 8 x 10 photos.

Includes 32 b&w 8 x 10 photos; 1 with child students (Edward Villella among them); 1 with male and female dancers rehearsing.

Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos.

Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo; Lew Christensen among those pictured.

Includes 4 b&w 8 x 10 photos of Alexandra Danilova.

Includes 8 b&w 8 x10 photos; Eugene Loring, Lew Christensen, John Kriza among those pictured.

Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Tanaquil LeClercq, Jerome Robbins, Maria Tallchief, Nicholas Magallanes pictured.

Includes 6 b&w 8 x 10 photos.

Includes 20 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Nora Kaye, Nicholas Magallanes, Yvonne Mounsey among those pictured.

Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo of John Kriza.

Includes 8 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Maria Tallchief, George Balanchine, Francisco Moncion among those pictured.

Includes 6 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Todd Bolender, Janet Reed among those pictured.

Includes 10 b&w 8 x 10 photos of Melissa Hayden.

Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos of Caton with dog.

Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos of Marie Jeanne and Lew Christensen.
Volume 4
Christensen, Lew, [ca. 1940s]
*Concerto Barocco* (Balanchine), 1941
Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos.
Includes 5 b&w 8 x 10 photos; William Dollar, Marie Jeanne, Mary Jane Shea among those pictured.

Volume 5
Danilova, Alexandra, ca. 1940s?
*Divertimento* (Balanchine), ca. 1947
Includes 12 b&w 8 x 10 photos.
Includes 10 b&w 8 x 10 photos of Maria Tallchief, Francisco Moncion.

Douglas, Scott, [1952]
*Dreams* (Balanchine), ca. 1935
Includes 18 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Jerome Robbins, John Kriza among those pictured.

Volume 6
*The Duel* (Dollar), ca. 1950
Includes 22 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Melissa Hayden among those pictured.
Includes 4 b&w 8 x 10 photos.

Eglevsky, André, ca. 1940s?
*Encounter* (Christensen), ca. 1936
Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos.
Includes 8 b&w 8 x 10 photos.

*L'Errante* (Balanchine), 1935
Includes 4 b&w 8 x 10 photos.
Includes 18 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Jerome Robbins, John Kriza among those pictured.

*Fancy Free* (Robbins), ca. 1944
Includes 6 b&w 8 x 10 photos (portraits).
Includes 3 b&w 8 x 10 photos.

Volume 7
*Filling Station* (Christensen), 1938
Includes 9 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Lew Christensen among those pictured.
Includes 20 b&w 8 x 10 photos of Maria Tallchief, Francisco Moncion.
Includes 6 b&w 8 x 10 photos.

*Firebird* (Balanchine), 1949
Includes 18 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Elise Reiman, Herbert Bliss, Maria Tallchief, Nicholas Magallanes among those pictured; 2 photos are of male dancers (possibly of Herbert Bliss and Todd Bolender) wearing briefs.

*Fonteyn, Margot in Swan Lake Costume*, ca. 1950
Includes 10 b&w 8 x 10 images; Nicholas Magallanes, Maria Tallchief, Jerome Robbins pictured.

*The Four Temperaments* (Balanchine), ca. 1946 - 1948
Includes 10 b&w 8 x 10 photos.

Volume 8
Frank, Joe, ca. 1940s?
*La Gloire* (Tudor), ca. 1952
Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo.
Includes 40 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Hugh Laing, Francisco Moncion, Nora Kaye pictured.

Graham, Martha, ca. 1940s
Grant, Alexander, ca. 1953
Includes 8 b&w 8 x 10 photos.
Includes 10 b&w 8 x 10 photos.

Volume 9
*The Guests* (Robbins), 1949
Includes 10 b&w 8 x 10 images; Nicholas Magallanes, Maria Tallchief, Jerome Robbins pictured.

*Harlequin for President* (Loring), 1936
Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photo of company.

Hobi, Frank, ca. 1950
Includes 14 b&w 8 x 10 photos.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Les Illuminations</em> (Ashton), ca. 1950</td>
<td>Includes 27 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Melissa Hayden, Tanaquil LeClercq, Nicholas Magallanes among those pictured.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volume 11</td>
<td><em>Jones Beach</em> (Balanchine and Robbins), 1950</td>
<td>Includes 44 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Jerome Robbins, Maria Tallchief, Herbert Bliss, Melissa Hayden, Nicholas Magallanes, Tanaquil LeClercq pictured.</td>
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<td>Volume 12</td>
<td>Kaye, Nora, 1950</td>
<td>Includes 26 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos.</td>
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<td>Kriza, John, ca. 1940s</td>
<td>Includes 8 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos.</td>
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<td>Markova, Alicia, ca. 1940s – ca. 1950</td>
<td>Includes 2 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos.</td>
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<td><em>Metamorphoses</em> (Balanchine), ca. 1952</td>
<td>Includes 12 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos of Tanaquil LeClercq.</td>
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<td>Moncion, Francisco, ca. 1950</td>
<td>Includes 1 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photo.</td>
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<td><em>Mother Goose Suite</em> (Bolender), ca. 1948</td>
<td>Includes 1 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photo; possibly Dick Beard.</td>
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<td>Moylan, Mary Ellen, [1949]</td>
<td>Includes 2 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos.</td>
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<td><em>Mozartiana</em> (Balanchine), ca. 1935</td>
<td>Includes 2 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos.</td>
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<td>Volume 13</td>
<td><em>Orpheus</em> (Balanchine), 1948</td>
<td>Includes 17 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Nicholas Magallanes, Francisco Moncion, Maria Tallchief among those pictured. Includes 1 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photo of Lew Christensen.</td>
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<td><em>Orpheus and Eurydice</em> (Balanchine), ca. 1936</td>
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<td>Volume 14</td>
<td><em>Pocahontas</em> (Christensen), 1936</td>
<td>Includes 1 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photo; Ruthanna Boris, Lew Christensen, Charles Laskey among those pictured.</td>
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<td><em>The Prodigal Son</em> (Balanchine), 1950</td>
<td>Includes 20 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Maria Tallchief, Jerome Robbins pictured.</td>
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<td><em>Promenade</em> (Dollar), 1936</td>
<td>Includes 2 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Lew Christensen, Harold Christensen, Gisella Caccialanza, Ruthanna Boris, Annabelle Lyon, Charles Laskey, Erick Hawkins among those pictured.</td>
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<td><em>Punch and the Child</em> (Danieli), 1947</td>
<td>Includes 2 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Beatrice Tompkins, Herbert Bliss pictured. Includes 2 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Lew Christensen, John Taras, Fred Danieli, Todd Bolender.</td>
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<td><em>Renard</em> (Balanchine), 1947</td>
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<td><em>Serenade</em> (Balanchine), ca. 1950</td>
<td>Includes 2 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photo; Melissa Hayden, Frank Hobi, Patricia McBride pictured.</td>
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<td><em>Show Piece</em> (Hawkins), ca. 1937</td>
<td>Includes 1 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photo.</td>
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<td><em>The Soldier and the Gypsy</em> (Coudy), 1936</td>
<td>Includes 1 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photo.</td>
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Volume 15

**Swan Lake** (Balanchine), 1951
Includes 48 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Maria Tallchief, André Eglevsky, Patricia Wilde among those pictured.

**Symphony in C** (Balanchine), 1948
Includes 6 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Maria Tallchief, Nicholas Magallanes, Tanaquil LeClercq, Francisco Moncion, George Balanchine pictured.

Volume 16

Tobias, Roy, ca. 1950?
Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo.

**The Triumph of Bacchus and Ariadne** (Balanchine), 1948
Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo; Nicholas Magallanes, George Balanchine, Tanaquil LeClercq pictured.

**Tyl Ulenspiegel** (Balanchine), 1951
Includes 41 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Jerome Robbins, Beatrice Tompkins, Frank Hobi among those pictured.

**La Valse** (Balanchine), 1951
Includes 5 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Tanaquil LeClercq, Francisco Moncion among those pictured.

**Western Symphony** (Balanchine), 1954
Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo of Tanaquil LeClercq.

**Yankee Clipper** (Loring), 1937
Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo; Eugene Loring, Erick Hawkins, Lew Christensen, Harold Christensen among those pictured.

Youskevitch, Igor, ca. 1950?
Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo.