



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Garry Reigenborn papers

1977-2004

(S) *MGZMD 330

Compiled by Jennifer A. Ferretti, Pratt Institute, 2014, 2013

Summary

Creator: Reigenborn, Garry

Title: Garry Reigenborn papers

Date: 1977-2004

Size: 1.93 linear feet (5 boxes)

Source: Donated by Meg Harper and James Clark Reigenborn, 2009, 2011.

Abstract: Garry Reigenborn was a dancer, choreographer, and teacher involved with avant-garde dance of the 1970s. He performed with companies such as the Andrew DeGroat Dancers and the Lucinda Childs Dance Company. The Garry Reigenborn papers (1977-2004) contain clippings; correspondence with dance companies, foundations, and schools; programs; posters; production notes; and teaching materials and other professional engagement papers that document much of Garry Reigenborn's career.

Conditions Governing Access:

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

Conditions Governing Use: The author/creator retains copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Dance Division at dance@nypl.org.

Preferred citation: Garry Reigenborn papers, (S) *MGZMD 330. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Jennifer A. Ferretti, Pratt Institute, 2014, 2013 Original order of the papers was maintained.

Creator History

Garry Reigenborn (1952-2011), born Gerald Reigenborn in Julesburg, Colorado, was a dancer, choreographer, and teacher. He was known for his minimalist style of repetitive patterns and complex structures which surfaced in the dance avant-garde of the 1970s. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance from the University of Utah in 1975 and the following year moved to New York City. From 1977 to 1979, he performed with Andrew DeGroat and Dancers before joining the Lucinda Childs Dance Company in 1981. He was assistant to the choreographer of that company from 1984 to 2000.

Reigenborn taught technique at the Merce Cunningham Studio from 1995 to 2001 and at residencies throughout the United States and Europe, primarily in Italy and France. In 1998, he began teaching at Bard College as an assistant professor.

Reigenborn made his choreographic debut with *Infor.4* (1979), a silent dance quartet. He collaborated with artist Cindy Lubar on the ballet *Union Specific* (1980). In the 1980s and 1990s, Reigenborn worked on the revival of Philip Glass and Robert Wilson's opera *Einstein on the Beach*.

Garry Reigenborn died on March 10, 2011, in Colorado.

Custodial History

The Garry Reigenborn papers were donated by James Clark Reigenborn, brother to Garry Reigenborn, in 2009. Meg Harper, friend and fellow dancer to Garry Reigenborn compiled the papers for the purpose of donation.

Scope and Content Note

The Garry Reigenborn papers (1977-2004) document his career as a professional dancer, choreographer, and teacher. The papers are arranged in the following sections: production files, professional engagement materials, scrapbooks, and Gay Games IV files. The collection features correspondence with dance companies, foundations, and schools; programs; choreographic notations; and posters.

The production files contain documentation of Reigenborn's career with the Lucinda Childs Dance Company, Andrew DeGroat and Dancers, as well as productions such as *Infor.4*, *Union Specific*, and *Einstein on the Beach* through clippings, correspondence with companies, tour itineraries, programs, and posters. Reigenborn's choreographic notations and scores are well represented throughout this portion of the papers.

The professional engagement materials include Garry Reigenborn's teaching materials, as well as documentation of residencies he participated in through photographs and itineraries. Professional engagement materials can also be found in the scrapbooks.

The scrapbooks primarily cover Reigenborn's career from 1978 through 1994. Friend and fellow dancer Meg Harper arranged the material generally by title of work. They include biographical information, photographs, correspondence, clippings, dance company expense lists, and choreography notes. Some subjects covered in the scrapbooks can also be found in the productions file, including his work with the Lucinda Childs Dance Company and specific works such as *Infor.4* and *Union Specific*.

The Gay Games IV files document Reigenborn's involvement as co-chair of the badminton games,

which were held at Queens College in 1994. A detailed badminton operation plan drafted by Reigenborn is included, as well as Gay Games publications and a list of badminton medalists.

There are also nine reel-to-reel tapes in the collection. Sound recordings are unavailable for use pending preservation transfer. Inquiries regarding audio and video materials in the collection may be directed to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division. Audio/visual materials may be subject to preservation evaluation and migration prior to access.

Arrangement: This collection is arranged in the following sections: Production Files, Professional Engagement Materials, Scrapbooks, and Gay Games IV files. Original order was maintained.

Key Terms

Occupations

Choreographers
Dance teachers

Titles

Choreography and dance
Einstein on the beach (Choreographic work : Wilson)

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Photographs
Posters
Programs
Reviews
Scrapbooks
Sound recordings

Subjects

Dance -- United States

Names

Lucinda Childs Dance Company

Container List

Productions

- b. 1 f. 1-4 1979-2000
- b. 2 f. 1-4 1979-2004
- b. 3 f. 1-3 1980-2000
- b. 5 f. 1-2 1980-1993
- b. 3 f. 4-5 Professional Engagement Materials 1977-1998

Scrapbooks

- b. 3 f. 6-8 1977-1984
- b. 4 f. 1-3 1982-1997
- b. 4 f. 4-5 1979-1994
- b. 4 f. 6-7 Gay Games IV 1994