



The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Joe Nash photographs

1930s-1969

*MGZEB 21-0033

Processed by Heather Lember in 2021.

Summary

Creator: Nash, Joe, 1919-2005

Title: Joe Nash photographs

Date: 1930s-1969

Size: 0.67 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by Joe Nash in 1991.

Abstract: Joe Nash was a Black dancer, choreographer, historian, and arts administrator. His collection holds photographs of dancers dating from the 1930s to 1969, many of which are inscribed with notes and messages to Nash.

Preferred citation: Joe Nash photographs, *MGZEB 21-0033. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Heather Lember in 2021.

Related Materials:

Black Dance collection, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, New York Public Library *MGZR; Sc MG 224.

Creator History

Joe Nash was a Black dancer, choreographer, dance historian, arts administrator, and collector of dance memorabilia. Nash was born in New York City on October 5, 1919, and began dancing with the National Youth Administration in 1940. After four years of service in the United States Army, Nash returned to New York City and made his professional dance debut with the Charles Weidman Dance Group. In 1946, he made his Broadway debut in *Showboat*, and went on to appear in many Broadway shows including *Finian's Rainbow*, *Bless You All*, *Flahooley*, *My Darlin' Aida*, *Livin' the Life*, and *Inside*

the U.S.A.

Nash also worked at both the National Endowment for the Arts and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre Foundation, while conducting extensive research on Black dance history. Through his research, Nash compiled a comprehensive collection of photographs and memorabilia documenting Black dance and dancers from the 1920s through the 1980s. Nash died in New York City on April 13, 2005

Scope and Content Note

The Joe Nash photographs date from the 1930s to 1969, and comprise prints of dancers that Nash compiled. Many of the images contain inscriptions addressed to Nash, and some include notes on the back describing the production, dance company, and date. The collection is arranged alphabetically by name, production title, or topical headings assigned by Nash. The productions include *Bless You All*, *Flahooley*, *Inside U.S.A.*, *My Darlin' Aida*, and *Showboat*. The container list includes the names of the individuals depicted in each production.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American dancers

Dance -- Photographs

Dance, Black

Musicals -- New York (State) -- New York

Occupations

Dancers.

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Names

Nash, Joe, 1919-2005

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 **Assorted 1948-1955**
Individuals depicted include Brian Shaw, Léonide Massine, and Roland Wingfield. Productions depicted include *Love for Three Oranges*, *Living the Life*, and *The Red Shoes*.
- b. 1 f. 2 ***Bless You All* 1950**
Contains photographs of Valerie Bettis, Jane Harvey, Jules Munshin, Donald Saddler, and Swen Swenson.
- b. 1 f. 3 ***Flahooley* 1951**
Contains photographs of Sara Aman, Edith Atwater Vicki Barrett, Stanley Carlson, Barbara Cook, Irwin Corey, Jerome Courtland, Cheryl Crawford, Sammy Fain, E.Y. Harburg, Maurice Levine, Betty Logue, Normand Maxon, Sheldon Ossosky, Fred Saidy, Yma Sumac, Helen Tamiris, James Tarbutton, Ernest Truex, and Annaliese Widman.
- b. 2 f. 1 **Fleming, Ward 1955-1957**
- b. 1 f. 4 **Hadassah**
- b. 1 f. 5 **Historical 1930s-1969**
Contains photographs of Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, José Limón, Martha Graham, John Martin, and Peter Hamilton.
- b. 1 f. 6 ***Inside U.S.A.* 1949-1951**
Contains photographs of Jack Haley, Richard Reed, Bob Hamilton, and Rod Alexander.
- b. 2 f. 2 **Kreutzberg, Harold and Page, Ruth**
- b. 1 f. 7 ***My Darlin' Aida* 1950-1952**
Contains photographs of Peter Hamilton, Hanya Holm, Elaine Malbin, Kenneth Schon, and Bette Dubro.
- b. 1 f. 8 **New Dance Group, New York City 1930s-1950s**
Contains photographs of Bill Bales, Jane Dudley, John Fealy, Eve Gentry, Joseph Gifford, Sophie Maslow, and Donald McKayle.
- b. 1 f. 9 ***Show Boat* 1946**
Contains photographs of Robert Allen, Jan Clayton, Ralph Dumke, Charles Fredericks, Edmund J. Howland, Nancy Kenyon, Colette Lyons, Ethel Owen, and Max Showalter.
- b. 2 f. 3 **St. Denis, Ruth and Shawn, Ted**
- b. 2 f. 4 **Winfield, Hemsley 1931**