



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Louis Horst photographs

1900s-1960s

*MGZEB 22-0003

Processed by Heather Lember in 2022.

Summary

Creator: Horst, Louis

Title: Louis Horst photographs

Date: 1900s-1960s

Size: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of the Louis Horst Estate in 1964.

Abstract: Louis Horst was a composer, teacher, and writer who was music director for both the Denishawn and Martha Graham companies. Horst's collection holds photographs of him, as well as the dancers, dance performances, and dance companies with whom he was affiliated.

Preferred citation: Louis Horst photographs, *MGZEB 22-0003. 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 2022.

Related Materials:

Horst, Louis, 1884-1964. Louis Horst Collection, (S) *MGZMC-Res 22, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Horst, Louis, 1884-1964. Papers, (S) *MGZMD 57, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Creator History

Louis Horst was born in 1884 in Kansas City, Missouri. He began studying piano at a young age, later moving to New York City to launch his professional career as an accompanist for silent films, theatre, Broadway rehearsals, and modern dancers. From 1915 to 1925, Horst worked as an accompanist for

the Denishawn Company, which he left to take on the role of music director and dance composition teacher for Martha Graham's dance school and company. Horst also wrote and arranged scores for many choreographers including Agnes DeMille, Martha Hill, Helen Tamiris, Pearl Lang, and Ruth St. Denis.

In addition to his composition work, Horst taught choreography at The Neighborhood Playhouse, Bennington College, Mills College, Connecticut College, Barnard College, Sarah Lawrence College, Columbia University, and The Juilliard School. In 1934, he founded the dance periodical, *The Dance Observer*. He also published two books, *Pre-Classic Dance Forms* (1937) and *Modern Dance Forms* (1960).

Horst continued to live and work in New York City until his death in 1964.

Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from the 1900s-1960s, and consists exclusively of photograph prints depicting Horst, dancers, dance companies, and dance performances. The collection is arranged into photographs of People and photographs of Performances. There is also a large assortment of images of Horst, which portray both his personal and professional life.

The photographs of People are arranged alphabetically, and includes images of Merce Cunningham, José Limón, Gertrude Lippincott, Daniel Nagrin, Pola Nirenska, Bessie Schönberg, Ted Shawn, Edith Stephen, Sahomi Tachibana, Helen Tamiris, Erika Thimey, and Charles Weidman. There is also a group of unidentified people dating from the 1920s to the 1960s.

The photographs of Performances are arranged alphabetically by performance or dance company name. Among the performances depicted are *Blood Wedding*, *Electra*, *Energico*, *L'Europe Galante*, *Makbeth*, and *Nausicaa*. The dance companies include Jose Greco Spanish Ballet, Howard University Modern Dance Group, Renate Schottelius Company, Winnipeg Ballet, and Yugoslav National Folk Ballet.

Key Terms

Occupations

Composers.
Dancers.
Pianists.

Subjects

Dance -- Study and teaching
Dance companies -- Photographs

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Names

Horst, Louis

Container List

b. 1 f. 1-4 1900s-1961

Contains photographs of Louis Horst.

People

b. 1 f. 5 1920s-1960s

b. 1 f. 6 Bandhill, William

b. 1 f. 7 Butler, Ethel and Nirenska, Pola

b. 1 f. 8 Cunningham, Merce

b. 1 f. 9 Kathak, Lucknow

b. 1 f. 10 Kraul, Earl

b. 1 Limón, José

b. 1 f. 12 Limón, José and Weidman, Charles

b. 1 f. 13 Lippincott, Gertrude 1950s

Performance of *Goddess of the Moon*.

b. 1 f. 14 Malvey, Pat

b. 1 f. 15 Nagrin, Daniel circa 1963

Performance of *The Man Who Did Not Care*.

b. 1 f. 16 Nirenska, Pola

b. 1 f. 17 Sato, Hide

b. 1 f. 18 Schönberg, Bessie

b. 1 f. 19 Shawn, Ted

b. 1 f. 20 Stephen, Edith

b. 1 f. 21 Tachibana, Sahomi

b. 1 f. 22 Tamiris, Helen

b. 1 f. 23 Taroff, Alix

b. 1 f. 24 Taylor, Josephine

b. 1 f. 25 Thimey, Erika

Performance of *Distich*.

b. 1 f. 26 Wallace, Carol

Performance of *Darbuka*.

Performances

b. 2 f. 1 *Blood Wedding*

Performance by the Mary Anthony Dance Theatre with Louis McKenzie, Bette Shaler, Mary Anthony, and Cameron McCosh.

b. 2 f. 2 *The Dance in Washington*

b. 2 f. 3 *Electra* 1953

Performance at Sarah Lawrence College with Judith Duffy, Juan Valenzuela, Susan Demby, Lida Whitesel, and Jean Zahorsky.

b. 2 f. 4 *Energico* 1953

Performance at the Fine Arts Theatre at the University of Arkansas with Patricia Raines, Betty Houchin, Beverly Melton, and Patricia Angood.

b. 2 f. 5 *Faldas y Ponchos*

Performance by Nestor Fernandez's Folk Ballet.

b. 2 f. 6 *Hymn of Survival* 1951

Performances (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 7 *L'Europe Galante* 1960
Performance at the Juilliard School of Music.
- b. 2 f. 8 Jose Greco Spanish Ballet
- b. 2 f. 9 Howard University Modern Dance Group 1952
- b. 2 f. 10 *Makbeth* 1956
Includes photographs of Carl Esser, Elsie Ivancich, Stella Nakadate, and Nancy Wallace.
- b. 2 f. 11 *Nausicaa* circa 1961
- b. 2 f. 12 *Partita in G Major*
- b. 2 f. 13 *Pas de Trois* 1962
Performance by the Dance Department at the School of Performing Arts, a division of High School of Music and Art.
- b. 2 f. 14 Renate Schottelius Company 1963
- b. 2 f. 15 *Saturdays at Three* 1963
Performance by the Paper Bag Players.
- b. 2 f. 16 *Tempestonolympus* 1956
- b. 2 f. 17 *The Unicorn, The Gorgon, and the Manticore* 1958
- b. 2 f. 18 *Variations and Finale from New Dance*
- b. 2 f. 19 *Variations From Day to Day* 1962
Performance by the Dance Department, School of Performing Arts, a division of the High School of Music and Art.
- b. 2 f. 20 Winnipeg Ballet
- b. 2 f. 21 *Yerma*
Contains images of Dorothea Cornick, Norman Cornick, and Sherry Gray.
- b. 2 f. 22 Yugoslav National Folk Ballet