



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Raymond Johnson Dance Company photographs

1976-1980

*MGZEB 22-0018

Processed by Heather Lember in 2022.

Summary

Creator: Raymond Johnson Dance Company

Title: Raymond Johnson Dance Company photographs

Date: 1976-1980

Size: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by Don McDonagh in 1990.

Abstract: The Raymond Johnson Dance Company was formed in 1974 by the Black dancer and choreographer, Raymond Johnson. The collection contains contact sheets, negatives, and prints of the company's performances.

Preferred citation: Raymond Johnson Dance Company photographs, *MGZEB 22-0018. 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:

Raymond Johnson papers, (S) *MGZMD 68, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Creator History

Raymond Johnson was born in Harlem, New York City, and trained in dance at the Henry Street Playhouse. He went on to teach at the Henry Street Settlement before joining the Nikolais Dance Company and Murray Louis Dance Company, where he danced throughout the 1960s. Johnson choreographed his first dance, *Suite*, in 1969, and formed the Raymond Johnson Dance Company in 1974. The group toured extensively until 1980, when Johnson suffered a back injury that forced him to disband the company and retire from dancing and choreography. Johnson worked as fiscal officer for

the New York Foundation from 1981 until his death from a stroke in 1987.

Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from 1976 to 1980, and holds contact sheets, negatives, and prints depicting the Raymond Johnson Dance Company. The contact sheets include various images of a 1980 performance in Kingston, New York. The negatives feature images shot by Max Waldman, and depict performances of *Chamber*, *Black Dance*, and *Threshold*. The prints contain many images of Johnson, as well as of Eric Haas, Howard Hackett, and Dick Singer

Key Terms

Subjects

African American Choreographers
African American dancers
Choreography
Dance -- Photographs
Dance companies -- Photographs

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Contact sheets
Negatives (photographs)
Photographs

Occupations

Dancers.

Names

Johnson, Raymond, -1987
Raymond Johnson Dance Company

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-2 Contact Sheets 1979-1980
- b. 1 f. 3-7 Negatives 1976
- b. 1 f. 8-13 Prints 1976-1980