



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

David Coffman collection of Mel Howard Enterprises photographs

1970s-1991

*MGZEB 21-0002

Processed by Amy Lau in 2021.

Summary

Collector: Mel Howard Enterprises

Title: David Coffman collection of Mel Howard Enterprises photographs

Date: 1970s-1991

Size: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Donated by David Coffman in 1991.

Abstract: The David Coffman collection of Mel Howard Enterprises photographs consists of photographic material created by Mel Howard Enterprises, largely for publicity purposes, dating from the 1970s to 1991. Mel Howard Enterprises was a corporation that represented international and domestic dance companies and productions. Photographic formats in the collection include: black-and-white and color prints, black-and-white and color negatives, contact sheets, and slides.

Preferred citation: David Coffman collection of Mel Howard Enterprises photographs, *MGZEB 21-0002. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: Multiple languages Materials in English, Spanish, and French.

Processing note: Processed by Amy Lau in 2021.

Creator History

Mel Howard Enterprises was a New York City based corporation that represented international and domestic dance companies and productions. The corporation was created by creator, director, manager, and producer Mel Howard (1937-) to bring international dance and theater companies to the United States as well as manage national and international tours of domestic dance and theater productions. During the 1980s, Mel Howard co-produced and managed the Broadway musical *Tango Argentino* (1985), which received 3 Tony Award nominations and one Drama Desk Award nomination.

Scope and Content Note

The David Coffman collection of Mel Howard Enterprises photographs documents dance companies and productions represented by the company from the 1970s to 1991. The majority of the collection consists of black-and-white and color prints with a few black-and-white and color negatives, contact sheets, and slides. Productions of *Ballet Nacional Festivales de España* from the 1970s to 1980s are heavily represented in the collection. Aside from *Ballet Nacional Festivales de España*, most of the collection contains photographic material from other dance productions produced, and sometimes created, by Mel Howard. However, three international dance companies -- Ballet Théâtre Français de Nancy, Ballet de l'Opéra de Lyon, and National Dance Company of Senegal -- represented by Mel Howard Enterprises are also included in the collection.

The bulk of the collection documents dancers during rehearsals and performances. The prints were created largely for publicity purposes. The back side of most of the prints contains inscriptions that identify performers and production titles. Some prints from productions of *Africa Oye!* and *Tango Argentino* have press release information attached to the back side of the print. The collection also includes some professional headshots of members of the cast and creative teams from productions of *Antologia de la Zarzuela* and *Tango Argentino*. There are a small number of candid photographs of cast and crew members from productions of *Tango Argentino*.

Arrangement: The collection is filed alphabetically by production or company title. The small number of negatives and slides which were interfiled in the collection by production or company title have been separated from prints and filed by production or company title.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet companies -- Photographs
Dance -- Africa
Dance -- Indonesia
Dance -- Photographs
Dance companies

Occupations

Dancers.
Theatrical directors.

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Negatives (photographs)
Photographs

Names

Coffman, David
Ballet théâtre français de Nancy
Mel Howard Enterprises
National Dance Company of Senegal
Opéra de Lyon. Ballet

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 *Africa Oye!* 1980s
- b. 1 f. 2 *Antologia de la Zarzuela* 1970s-1991
- b. 1 f. 3-6 *Ballet Nacional Festivales de España* 1970s-1980s
- b. 1 f. 7-8 Ballet de l'Opéra de Lyon 1980s-1990s
- b. 1 f. 9-11 Ballet Théâtre Français de Nancy 1970s-1980s
- b. 1 f. 12-13 *Dancers and Musicians of Bali* 1980s
- b. 1 f. 14 National Dance Company of Senegal 1970s-1980s
- b. 1 f. 15 *Tango Argentino* 1980s
- b. 1 f. 16 *Your Arms Too Short to Box with God* 1970s-1980s