



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Joyce Trisler photographs

1934-1979

*MGZEB 21-0037

Processed by Heather Lember in 2021.

Summary

Creator: Trisler, Joyce, 1934-1979

Title: Joyce Trisler photographs

Date: 1934-1979

Size: 1.67 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Donated by Harry Rubenstein in 1989.

Abstract: Joyce Trisler was an American modern dancer, choreographer, and teacher. Her collection holds promotional photographs, images of dance performances, family snapshots, and personal photographs.

Preferred citation: Joyce Trisler photographs, *MGZEB 21-0037. 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:

Joyce Trisler papers, (S) *MGZMD 55, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Creator History

Joyce Trisler was a dancer, choreographer, and teacher. She was born in Los Angeles, California in 1934. In her youth, Trisler studied with Lester Horton, and appeared in some of his productions, including *Seven Scenes* and *Dedication in Our Times*.

After Horton died in 1953, Trisler moved to New York City to attend the Juilliard School, where she studied with Antony Tudor, and appeared in productions choreographed by Donald McKayle, Anna

Sokolow, and Doris Humphrey. She also choreographed Broadway musicals, including *La Strada* and *Ambassador*, and New York Shakespeare Festival productions of *Titus Andronicus*, *Peer Gynt*, and *Timon of Athens*.

In 1979, Trisler founded The Joyce Trisler Danscompany, which performed *The Spirit of Denishawn*, a collection of dances by Ruth St. Denis. Trisler died later that year of a heart attack at age forty-five.

Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from the 1930s to 1979, and contains both professional and personal photographs of Joyce Trisler, as well as a small selection of contact sheets and negatives. The professional photographs include images of performances and rehearsals, and well an assortment of promotional photographs.

The performance photographs mostly depict Trisler, but the bulk of the prints do not contain any descriptive information regarding the date, individuals, or productions depicted. The identified individuals include Carmen de Lavallade, Lester Horton, and James Truitte, likely dancing for the Lester Horton Dance Theatre. The labeled productions include *Prado de Pena* and *Boarding School*.

The promotional photographs are also mostly unlabeled and contain many headshots and staged images of Trisler. Also included are photographs of Maureen Gillick, Lester Horton, and James Truitte.

The personal photographs contain an assortment of candid snapshots and family portraits, which span Trisler's entire life. There are also two group class photographs from Trisler's Junior High and High School, which includes inscriptions from her classmates.

Key Terms

Subjects

Choreographers -- United States -- 20th century
Dance -- Photographs
Dance companies -- Photographs
Modern dance -- United States -- 20th century

Occupations

Dancers.

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Names

De Lavallade, Carmen, 1931-
Horton, Lester, 1906-1953
Trisler, Joyce, 1934-1979
Truitte, James
Joyce Trisler Danscompany

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-4 Contacts Sheets and Negatives
- b. 1 f. 5-11 Performances and Rehearsals
 - b. 2 f. 1
- b. 1 f. 12-20 Promotional
 - b. 2 f. 2-9
- b. 1 f. 21-26 Snapshots and Family Photographs 1934-1979
 - b. 3