



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Herbert Migdoll Joffrey Ballet photographs

1955-1989

*MGZEB 21-0008

Processed by Emily P. Dunne in 2021

Summary

Creator: Migdoll, Herbert

Title: Herbert Migdoll Joffrey Ballet photographs

Date: 1955-1989

Size: 2.17 linear feet (7 boxes)

Source: Donated by the Joffrey Ballet Company to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division in 1993.

Abstract: Herbert Migdoll is an artist and was the principal photographer and designer for the Joffrey Ballet. He joined the company as staff photographer in 1968 and later was the Graphics Director, creating photography, sets, and graphic materials. This collection consists of documentation of the company, primarily from the 1980s.

Preferred citation: Herbert Migdoll Joffrey Ballet photographs, *MGZEB 21-0008. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Emily P. Dunne in 2021

Separated Materials:

Joffrey Ballet slides

Creator History

Herbert Migdoll is a graphic designer and photographer. Much of his work has been photographing the Joffrey Ballet Company and collaborating with founders Robert Joffrey and Gerald Arpino on graphic design, costumes, and other visual aspects of the company.

Migdoll was born in 1944 in Jersey City, New Jersey, and moved to New York City to study architecture at Pratt Institute, then painting at Cooper Union college. Migdoll continued to study art, taking summer courses at New York University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and even was offered a

Fulbright scholarship to study photography in Denmark. However, Migdoll declined and instead began involved photographing the bohemian scene of New York City. In 1965, he became a regular at Joffrey Ballet performances, using long exposure times to create time-lapse documentation of the dancers' movements. Migdoll shared his experimental photographs with Robert Joffrey, and he was officially asked to join as the Joffrey Ballet's staff photographer in 1968.

Migdoll not only documented Joffrey Ballet Company's performance repertoire, but he was also deeply involved in its graphic aesthetic in collaboration with the company's founders. He designed sets and graphic designs for programs, and his photomontage for the ballet *Astarte* was on the cover of *Time*.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of primarily black and white photographs; there are also slides, color prints, some press materials, and certificates of excellence in the graphic arts awarded to Migdoll in the 1960s.

The prints in this collection are primarily from the 1980s. This period includes the 1981 Gala celebration for the 25th anniversary of the company, where sections from The Joffrey Ballet's repertoire were staged and celebrated. Performances photographed include *Astarte*, *Illuminations*, *The Green Table*, and more.

Other photographers' work is also present in this collection, with their credit line stamped or indicated on the back of the print. Some of the photographs include Ruth D'Levy, Fred Fehl, Jan Haniford, James Howell, Jack Mitchell, Martha Swope, and others.

Arrangement: The photographs of productions have been arranged alphabetically.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet companies

Ballet dancers -- Photographs

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Negatives (photographs)

Photographs

Occupations

Photographers.

Set designers

Names

Migdoll, Herbert

Joffrey Ballet

Container List

Joffrey Ballet Performances 1955-1980s

- b. 1 f. 1 *25th Anniversary* 1981
- b. 1 f. 2 *A Ball in Old Vienna* 1976
- b. 5 f. 1
- b. 7 f. 1
- b. 1 f. 3 *A Wedding Bouquet* 1981
- b. 1 f. 4 *After Eden* 1980s
- b. 1 f. 5 *Astarte* 1968
- b. 1 f. 6 *Birthday Variations* 1980s
- b. 1 f. 7 *Cake Walk* 1981
- b. 1 f. 8 *Celebration* 1983
- b. 1 f. 9 *Confetti* 1981
- b. 1 f. 10 *Fanfarita* 1981
- b. 5 f. 2 *Fire* 1982
- b. 5 f. 3 *Forgotten Land* 1985
- b. 1 f. 11 *Griffelkin, NBC production* 1955
- b. 1 f. 12 *Helena* 1981
- b. 1 f. 13 *Illuminations* 1985
- b. 1 f. 14 *Kettentanz* 1970s
- b. 1 f. 15 *La Vivandière Pas de Six* 1981
- b. 1 f. 16 *Les Patineurs* 1977
- b. 1 f. 17 *Light Rain* 1980s
- b. 5 f. 4
- b. 1 f. 18 *Love Songs* 1983
- b. 1 f. 24 *Petrushka* 1979
- b. 5 f. 5
- b. 2 f. 4 *Suite Saint-Saëns* 1981
- b. 1 f. 19 *Momentum* 1981
- b. 1 f. 20 *Night* 1981
- b. 1 f. 21 *Nightwings* 1966
- b. 1 f. 22 *Offenbach in the Underworld* 1983
- b. 1 f. 23 *Parade* 1986
- b. 1 f. 25 *Return to the Strange Land* 1981
- b. 5 f. 6 *Romeo and Juliet* 1976-1977
- b. 2 f. 1 *Pulcinella* 1974
- b. 2 f. 2 *Rodeo* 1985
- b. 2 f. 3 *Secret Places* 1981
- b. 5 f. 7
- b. 2 f. 5 *The Green Table* 1982
- b. 5 f. 8
- b. 2 f. 6 *The Heart of the Matter* 1986
- b. 4 f. 1
- b. 2 f. 7 *The Moor's Pavane* 1970s

Joffrey Ballet Performances (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 10 *The Nutcracker* 1980s
- b. 5 f. 9 *The Rite of Spring* 1987
- b. 2 f. 8 *The Taming of the Shrew* 1981
- b. 2 f. 9 *Transfigured Night* 1981
- b. 2 f. 10 *Trinity* 1970
- b. 2 f. 11 *Unfolding* 1981
- b. 2 f. 12 *Viva Vivaldi* 1981
- b. 2 f. 13 *Untitled by Pilobolus* 1985
- b. 4 f. 2
- b. 2 f. 14-15 Miscellaneous Productions 1970s-1980s
- b. 5 f. 11-12 *Arcs and Angels; Arden Court; As Time Goes By; Billy the Kid; Chopin Preludes; Choura;*
 Cloven Kingdom; Clowns on Tour; Cotillion; Dance in America; Deuce Coupe I-II; Donizetti
 Variations; Double Exposure; Dream Dances; Drums, Dreams and Banjos; Elegy; Epode;
 Facade; Face Dancers; Feast of Ashes; Force Field; Forgotten Land; Gamelan; Incubus VII;
 Interplay; Italian Suite; Jamboree; Jazz Calendar; Jive; La Fille Mal Gardée; Le Beau Danube;
 L'Après-Midi D'un Faune; L'Air d'Esprit; Let 'Em Eat Cake; Momix-Bebop; Monotones; Moves;
 Mythical Hunters; N.Y. Export, Op. Jazz; Olympics; Opus 65; Orpheus Times Light; Pas des
 Déeses; Pavane on the Death of an Infanta; Pineapple Poll; Postcards; Quarter-Tones for Mr.
 B; Reflections; Rememberances; Romeo and Juliet; Ropes; Round of Angels; Sacred Grove on
 Mount Tamalpais; Scotch Symphony; Sea Shadow; Solarwind; Square Deal; Tarantella; The
 Big City; The Clowns; The Dream; The Gardens of Boboli; The Lesson; The Mingus Dances;
 The Nutcracker; The Rite of Spring; The Still Point; Touch Me; Transfigured Night; Valentine
- b. 3 f. 1-2 Unidentified Productions 1970s-1980s
- b. 4 f. 4
- b. 6 f. 1-4
- b. 3 f. 3 Rehearsals 1970-1980s
- b. 3 f. 4 Contact Sheets 1970s-1980s
- b. 6 f. 5
- Portraits 1960s-1980s
- b. 3 f. 5 Dancers 1970s-1980s
- b. 6 f. 6
- b. 3 f. 6 Robert Joffrey 1960s-1980s
- b. 6 f. 7
- b. 3 f. 7 Denise Jackson 1961-1980s
- b. 4 f. 3
- b. 6 f. 8 Nadezhda Pavlova and Vyacheslav Gordeyev 1970s
- b. 6 f. 9 Patricia Miller 1983
- Graphic Design 1960s-1980s
- b. 3 f. 8 *Playbill* 1981
- b. 3 f. 9 Press 1973-1981
- b. 6 f. 10 Cover designs for the 1968 *New York Times Magazine*, and 1986 *Dance Magazine*.
- b. 3 f. 10 Personal Work 1960s-1980s
- b. 6 f. 12 Awards and Certificates 1960s
- b. 7 f. 2