



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Marion Morgan photographs

1900s-1930s

*MGZEB 22-0005

Processed by Heather Lember in 2022.

Summary

Creator: Morgan, Marion, 1881-1971

Title: Marion Morgan photographs

Date: 1900s-1930s

Size: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Source of acquisition is unknown.

Abstract: Marion Morgan was a dance instructor, choreographer, and founder of the Marion Morgan Dancers. Her collection consists entirely of photographs, most of which depict the films on which she worked as a choreographer. There are also some personal photographs, and shots of her dance troupe.

Preferred citation: Marion Morgan photographs, *MGZEB 22-0005. 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:

Marion Morgan papers, (S) *MGZMD 374. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator History

Marion Morgan (1881-1971) began her dance career in California in the 1910s as a teacher. She founded the Marion Morgan Dancers, a dance troupe who toured the country on the vaudeville circuit until the mid-1920s. During this time she began to focus on film production in Hollywood, where she choreographed dance sequences, wrote film scenarios, and staged and directed her own short films. Among the films on which Morgan worked as a choreographer are *Man-Woman-Marriage* (1921), *Paris*

at Midnight (1926), *Don Juan* (1926), *A Night of Love* (1926), *Up in Mabel's Room* (1926), and *The Masked Woman* (1927).

It was through her work in film that Morgan met her partner, Dorothy Arzner, who was one of the only women working as a Hollywood film director at the time. Arzner and Morgan collaborated on such films as *Fashions for Women* (1927), *Get Your Man* (1927), *Manhattan Cocktail* (1928), and *Paramount On Parade* (1930). Morgan and Arzner left Hollywood in the 1930s and lived together in California until Morgan's death in 1971.

Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from the 1920s to 1930s, and contains photographs of Marion Morgan's choreography work in Hollywood films, shots of the Marion Morgan Dancers, and a small assortment of personal photographs. The photographs are arranged alphabetically by film title, and most depict the dance scenes which Morgan choreographed.

Many of the films depicted are those which are considered lost, partially lost, or which were known to have been destroyed in 20th Century-Fox film-storage facility in 1937. These include *An Affair of the Follies*, *The City*, *Fashions for Women*, *Manhattan Cocktail*, *The Masked Woman*, *The Outsider*, *Paramount on Parade*, *The Private Life of Helen of Troy*, *Rich But Honest*, and *Venus of Venice*. Other film photographs held in the collection include *Almost A Lady*, *Camille*, *The Country Beyond*, *Don Juan*, *The Dropkick*, *The Night of Love*, *One Increasing Purpose*, *Paris at Midnight*, *Quality Street*, *The Secret Studio*, and *Up In Mabel's Room*.

Key Terms

Subjects

Choreography
Dance in motion pictures, television, etc.
Motion pictures -- Production and direction
Silent films -- Photographs
Women choreographers -- United States

Occupations

Dancers.

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Names

Arzner, Dorothy, 1900-1979
Morgan, Marion, 1881-1971
Marion Morgan Dancers

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-3 1900s-1930s
Contains personal photographs and images of the Marion Morgan Dancers.
- b. 1 f. 4 *Almost A Lady* 1926
- b. 1 f. 5 *An Affair of the Follies* 1927
- b. 1 f. 6 *Camille* 1926
- b. 1 f. 7 *The City* 1926
- b. 1 f. 8 *The Country Beyond* 1926
- b. 1 f. 9 *Don Juan* 1926
- b. 1 f. 10 *The Dropkick* 1927
- b. 1 f. 11 *Fashions for Women* 1927
- b. 1 f. 12 *Manhattan Cocktail* 1928
- b. 1 f. 13 *The Masked Woman* 1927
- b. 1 f. 14 *The Night of Love* 1927
- b. 1 f. 15 *One Increasing Purpose* 1927
- b. 1 f. 16 *The Outsider* 1926
- b. 1 f. 17 *Paramount On Parade* 1930
- b. 1 f. 18 *Paris at Midnight* 1926
- b. 1 f. 19 *Portrait of a Ballerina*
Includes photographs of Ruth Page, Mia Slavenska, and Igor Youskevitch.
- b. 1 f. 20 *The Private Life of Helen of Troy* 1927
- b. 1 f. 21 *Quality Street* 1927
Includes photographs of Marion Davies and Conrad Nagel. Film directed by Sidney Franklin.
- b. 1 f. 22 *Rich But Honest* 1927
- b. 1 f. 23 *The Secret Studio* 1927
- b. 1 f. 24 *Up in Mabel's Room* 1926
- b. 1 f. 25 *Venus of Venice* 1927