



The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Nellie Fisher photographs

1939-1980

*MGZEB 22-0012

Processed by Heather Lember in 2022.

Summary

Creator: Fisher, Nellie, 1920-1994

Title: Nellie Fisher photographs

Date: 1939-1980

Size: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by Nellie Fisher in 1991.

Abstract: Nellie Fisher was a dancer and choreographer who worked in theatre, television, and served as director of the Memphis Ballet. Her collection contains photographs depicting her dance performances and images of the works she choreographed.

Preferred citation: Nellie Fisher photographs, *MGZEB 22-0012. 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.

Creator History

Nellie Fisher was born in Berkeley, California in 1920, and grew up in Seattle, Washington, where she was trained in ballet and modern dance.

Fisher moved to New York City in the 1930s, where she danced with the Martha Graham Dance Company until 1940. Fisher began working on her own choreography, while appearing in a number of Broadway musicals such as *One Touch of Venus* (1943-1944), *On the Town* (1944), and *The Golden Apple* (1954). Fisher also choreographed and danced for several television shows including *Up in Central Park* (1948), *America Song* (1947) *Your Show of Shows* (1950-1952), and *Captain Kangaroo* (1958).

During the 1960s and 1970s, Fisher directed the Memphis Civic Ballet, and choreographed *The Littlest Circus*, a touring production for children. Fisher returned to Seattle in the 1980s, where she worked with

her sister, Dorothy Fisher, who was also a dance teacher and choreographer.

Nellie Fisher died in Edmonds, Washington in 1994.

Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from 1939 to 1980, and consists of photographs depicting Fisher's career as a dancer and choreographer. The photographs are arranged alphabetically by title, dancer name, or company, and primarily depict performances by Fisher or productions she choreographed. Productions featuring Fisher include *Dance of Caprice*, *Four Comments*, *The Golden Apple*, *On The Town*, *One Touch of Venus*, *Promised Valley*, *Up In Central Park*, and *Your Show of Shows*. Performances choreographed by Fisher include *Anything Goes*, *Brigadoon*, *Dance Panels*, *The Entertainers*, *Firebird*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Hello World*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Littlest Circus*, *Masquerade*, *Peter and the Wolf*, *Songs Along the River*, and *South Pacific*. There is also an assortment of headshots from individuals with whom Fisher collaborated. Many of those photographs include inscriptions to Fisher.

Key Terms

Subjects

Choreography

Dance -- Photographs

Dance in motion pictures, television, etc.

Women choreographers -- United States -- 20th century

Occupations

Dancers.

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Names

Fisher, Nellie, 1920-1994

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-2 1940s-1980
- b. 1 f. 3 Adair, Tom 1969
- b. 1 f. 4 *Anything Goes* circa 1953-1961
Performance choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 1 f. 5 Becher, Johnny 1946
Photograph inscribed to Fisher.
- b. 1 f. 6 *Blind Alley* 1947
- b. 1 f. 7 *America Song* 1947
Contains photographs of Fisher with Ray Harrison.
- b. 1 f. 8 *Brigadoon* circa 1953-1961
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 1 f. 9 *Can Can* 1953
- b. 1 f. 10 *Captain Kangaroo* 1958
- b. 1 f. 11 *Carnival Animals* 1965
- b. 1 f. 12 Cincinnati Dancers 1958-1959
Includes photographs of Jack Luiso and Nancy Koch.
- b. 1 f. 13 Cincinnati Opera 1958-1959
- b. 1 f. 14 *Cross Country* 1950
- b. 1 f. 15 *Dance Panels* 1971
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 1 f. 16 *Dance of Caprice* 1941
Contains photographs of Fisher and Conrad Howle.
- b. 1 f. 17 *El Salon Mexico* 1958
Contains a photograph of Fisher with Rudy Tronto.
- b. 1 f. 18 *The Entertainers* 1977
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 1 f. 19 *Firebird* 1965
Choreographed by Fisher
- b. 1 f. 20 Fisher, Dorothy circa 1939
- b. 1 f. 21 *Four Comments* 1948
- b. 1 f. 22 Gielgud, John circa 1939-1947
- b. 1 f. 23 *The Golden Apple* 1954
- b. 1 f. 24 *Graduation Ball* 1966
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 1 f. 25 *Guys and Dolls* circa 1953-1961
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 1 f. 26 Hall, George 1946
- b. 1 f. 27 *He Who Gets Slapped* 1958
- b. 1 f. 28 *Hello World* 1959
Contains photographs of Fisher with Bruce King and Rudy Tronto.
- b. 1 f. 29 Hoolovse, Jean 1944
- b. 1 f. 30 *I Bought Me A Cat* 1961
Choreographed by Fisher.

- b. 1 f. 31 *Inquisition* 1970-1974
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 1 f. 32 Izen, Marshall 1951
Photographs inscribed to Fisher.
- b. 1 f. 33 *Kiss Me, Kate* circa 1953-1961
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 1 Lance, Waxne 1960s
Photographs inscribed to Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 2 Levy, Gordon 1960s
Photograph inscribed to Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 3 *Littlest Circus* 1960-1961
Contains photographs of Peter Blaxill, Jay Devlin, and Wolfgang Roth. Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 4 Marshall, Brenda circa 1939-1947
Photograph inscribed to Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 5 *Lucia di Lammermoor* 1964
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 6 *Masquerade* 1961
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 7 Massey, Ilona 1953
Photograph inscribed to Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 8 Memphis Civic Ballet 1968
Contains photographs of Suzanne Farrell and Dorothy Lister.
- b. 2 f. 9 Miller, Bob 1969
- b. 2 f. 10 Mumaw, Barton 1947
Photographs inscribed to Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 11 *Night Club Act* circa 1939-1947
Contains photographs of Fisher with George Rockman and Ginny Richardson.
- b. 2 f. 12 *On The Town* 1944
Contains photographs of Fisher with Allyn Ann McLerie and Richard D'Arcy.
- b. 2 f. 13 *One Touch of Venus* 1943-1944
Contains photographs of Kenny Baker, John Boles, Jane Davis, Paula Laurence, and Mary Martin inscribed to Fisher. Also contains images of Fisher with Peter Birch and Mary Martin.
- b. 2 f. 14 *Period Piece* 1945
Contains photographs of Fisher with Welland Lathrop.
- b. 2 f. 15 *Peter and the Wolf* 1977
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 16 *Petrushka* 1961
- b. 2 f. 17 *Pierre* 1962
- b. 2 f. 18 *Pocahontas* 1963
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 19 *Prodigal Daughter* 1944
Contains a photograph of Fisher with Jean Hoolovse and Betty Lind.
- b. 2 f. 20 *Promised Valley* 1947
Contains photographs of Fisher with Alfred Drake, Jet Mac Donald, Barton Mumau, and Helen Tamiris.
- b. 2 f. 21 Radio City Music Hall circa 1939-1947
- b. 2 f. 22 *Reflections of Dobo* 1959

- b. 2 f. 23 *Round-Up* 1960
- b. 2 f. 24 *Scheherazade* 1965
- b. 2 f. 25 *Shootin' Star* 1945
Contains a photograph of Bernice Parks.
- b. 2 f. 26 *Songs Along the River* 1961
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 27 *South Pacific* circa 1953-1961
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 28 *Technique Demo* 1969
Contains a photograph of Fisher with Tom Adair and Sarah Wisdom.
- b. 2 f. 29 *Totem Legend* 1976
Choreographed by Fisher.
- b. 2 f. 30 *Up In Central Park* 1948
Contains photographs of Fisher with Deanna Durbin, Dick Haymes, Vincent Price, and Helen Tamiris.
- b. 2 f. 31 *Your Show of Shows* 1951-1954
Contains photographs of Fisher with Jerry Ross.