



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

George Platt Lynes photographs

1940s-1950s

*MGZEB 21-0040

Processed by Heather Lember in 2022.

Summary

Creator: Lynes, George Platt, 1907-1955

Title: George Platt Lynes photographs

Date: 1940s-1950s

Size: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by Martha Swope in 1974.

Abstract: George Platt Lynes was a commercial photographer who took photographs of ballet performances in New York City. His collection contains prints and contact sheets from the 1940s and 1950s depicting dancers and dance performances.

Preferred citation: George Platt Lynes photographs, *MGZEB 21-0040. 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:

George Platt Lynes photographs, JPB 00-41. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

George Platt Lynes Photographs, *MGZEB 16-243. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

George Platt Lynes photographic scrapbooks, *MGZEB 98-4744. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library

George Platt Lynes/Jack Woody Photographs, *MGZEB 16-244. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator History

George Platt Lynes was born in East Orange, New Jersey in 1907. He opened a photography studio in New York City in 1932, and began taking photographs for fashion magazines. In the mid-1930s, Lynes was commissioned to photograph ballet performances and dancers in New York City. Lynes continued to take these dance photographs until his death from lung cancer in 1955.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains photographs of dancers taken by George Platt Lynes between the 1940s and 1950s. A significant portion of the images are unlabeled and undated. Those that are labeled are arranged alphabetically by production name or dancer. The dancers depicted include Herbert Bliss, Nora Kaye, and Hugh Laing. Among the identified performances are *The Cage*, *Jones Beach*, *Metamorphosis*, *Pas de Deux Romantique*, *Picnic at Tintagel*, *Punch and the Child*, *Scotch Symphony*, *Symphony in C*, and *Tyl Ulenspiegel*. There is also a small selection of contact sheets, which are all unlabeled and undated.

Key Terms

Subjects

Dance -- 20th century

Dance -- New York (State) -- New York

Dance -- Photographs

Occupations

Dancers.

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Names

Lynes, George Platt, 1907-1955

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-17 1940s-1950s
- b. 2 f. 1-5 Contact Sheets 1940s-1950s
 - b. 2 f. 6 Bliss, Herbert 1952 March
 - b. 2 f. 7 *The Cage* circa 1951
 - b. 2 f. 8 *Jones Beach* circa 1950
- b. 2 f. 9-10 *La Gloire* 1952 March
 - Includes photographs of Hugh Laing and Nora Kaye.
- b. 2 f. 11 *Metamorphosis* 1953 November
- b. 2 f. 12 *Pas de Deux Romantique* circa 1950
- b. 2 f. 13 *Picnic at Tintagel* circa 1952
- b. 2 f. 14 *Punch and the Child* circa 1948
- b. 2 f. 15 *Scotch Symphony* circa 1953
- b. 2 f. 16 *Symphony in C* circa 1948
- b. 2 f. 17 *Tyl Ulenspiegel* circa 1952