



The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Joan Baum photographs

1960-1976

*MGZEB 21-0016

Processed by Emily P. Dunne in 2021.

Summary

Creator: Baum, Joan

Title: Joan Baum photographs

Date: 1960-1976

Size: 7.92 linear feet (19 boxes)

Source: Gift by Joan Baum's Friends at Bronx Community College, care of Juliann Skurdenis in 1976.

Abstract: Joan Baum was a librarian and amateur photographer. Baum's work was focused on creating and collecting a visual index of contemporary Western ballet and opera of the 1960s and 1970s. The collection includes her original photographs, slides, and negatives, as well as prints ordered from other professional dance photographers (including Fred Fehl and Martha Swope) and official portraits requested from ballet companies.

Preferred citation: Joan Baum photographs, *MGZEB 21-0016. 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.

Creator History

Joan Baum was born in the Bronx, New York, in 1931. After graduating from Barnard College in 1952, she traveled to Italy for two months. During this time, and throughout the 1950s, Baum began collecting photographs of ballet performances from professional photographers and directly from ballet companies. Baum created scrapbooks of these collections, initially focusing on the career of ballet dancer Erik Bruhn and later Rudolf (Rudi) Nureyev.

In the Summer of 1960, Baum traveled aboard the *Queen Frederica* cruise ship to Palermo, Italy and traveled through the Mediterranean, and eventually ending up in London. It was on this trip to London that Baum began attending and documenting ballet performances herself. Often shooting from her seat in the theatre, Baum's photographs offer a unique perspective of the typical visuals an audience

member would experience at the ballet.

Since 1963, Baum was the assistant librarian for the Bronx Community College. The bulk of this collection was created during this time, combining Baum's original photographs as well as continuing to solicit images from prominent dance photographers, including Fred Fehl and Martha Swope.

Baum was initially very interested in the careers of Danish dancer Erik Bruhn and Soviet-born Rudolf Nureyev, but in the 1970s, Baum mostly photographed dancer Michaël Denard and, subsequently, his partners Cynthia Gregory and Carla Fracci.

Baum continued to travel and photograph ballet until the mid-1970s, passing away in the summer of 1976. That year her colleagues and friends at the Bronx Community College donated her collection to the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Scope and Content Note

This collection of photographs documents the contemporary ballet scene of the late 1950s until 1975. Baum photographed ballet locally in New York City and traveled extensively around the United States, Europe, and the United Kingdom to photograph the larger community of ballet.

The slides and negatives are all original work by Baum and arranged chronologically. Prints maintained the loose categorizations established by Baum, primarily divided by the individual dancer or company and include photographs both by and collected by Baum. Most prints by Baum are not identified but can be correlated with a slide or negative in the collection. Photographs arranged in scrapbooks have been removed but retain their original order.

Much of Baum's work in New York City was focused on the American Ballet Theatre and their productions and any international ballet company on tour, especially the Bolshoi and the Danish Ballet. Baum was particularly interested in documenting ballet dancers Erik Bruhn, Michael Denard, Carla Fracci, Cynthia Gregory and Rudolf Nureyev. Common performances covered by Baum during this time include *Giselle*, *The Nutcracker*, *La Sylphide* and several *Pas a Deux* pieces from various ballets.

Though most photographs are primarily of dance, there is some documentation of opera, mainly performances by the tenor, Franco Corelli. Some personal and travel pictures are scattered within slides and negatives. Baum's trips through Europe in 1953 and 1960 resulted in extensive tourist photographs including Palermo, Greece, Barcelona, Portugal, and Lisbon. Baum's 1963 trip to Mexico City includes several photographs of bullfights and slides Baum identified as "Mexican folk dances."

Many individual slides identify the performance or dancer.

Arrangement: The received arrangement did not distinguish between Baum's photographs and prints collected from other photographers. To maintain the autonomy of Baum's photography, the collection has been organized by medium: prints, slides, and negatives.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Albums (books)

Negatives (photographs)
Photographs

Subjects

Ballet companies
Ballet dancers -- Photographs
Opera -- Photographs

Occupations

Librarians.
Photographers.

Names

Baum, Joan
Bruhn, Erik, 1928-1986
Denard, Michaël
Fehl, Fred
Fracci, Carla
Gregory, Cynthia
Swope, Martha

Container List

Prints 1950s-1976

Photographers work is mixed within each subject folder and includes photographs by Joan Baum, Fred Fehl, Martha Swope, and others. Many unidentified photographs are by Joan Baum and the corresponding image can be found in the slides grouping.

Scrapbooks

- b. 1 f. 1 Bruhn, Erik -- Headshots 1950s-1960s
- b. 1 f. 2-4 Bruhn, Erik -- Performances 1950-1960s
- b. 2 f. 1-3 Bruhn, Erik -- Rehearsals 1960s
- b. 2 f. 4 Nureyev, Rudolf -- Headshots and Performances 1960s

Company

- b. 2 f. 6 American Ballet Theatre -- Genova Press Conference 1956
- b. 2 f. 7 American Ballet Theatre -- Company Portraits 1950s-1960s
Photographs by Fred Fehl and Maurice Seymour.
- b. 2 f. 8 American Ballet Theatre -- Performances 1960s-1970s
- b. 3 f. 1 Bolshoi Ballet -- Lincoln Center ca. 1963
- b. 3 f. 2 Joffrey Ballet -- First Chamber Dance Quartet 1963
- b. 3 f. 3 Royal Danish Ballet 1960s-1970s

Dancer

- b. 3 f. 4 Danseur -- Portraits 1960s
- b. 3 f. 5 *Baryshnikov, Mikhail -- Makarova, Natalia, Giselle* 1974

Bruhn, Erik

- b. 3 f. 6 Portraits and Headshots 1960s
- b. 3 f. 7-8 Performances 1960s-1970s
- b. 3 f. 9 *With Cameron, Judy, Swan Lake* 1960s
- b. 4 f. 1 With Fracci, Carla, various duets 1960s
Photographs by Judy Cameron.
- b. 4 f. 2 Australia Tour 1962
Photographed by James Robinson.
- b. 4 f. 3 *With Simone, Kirsten, Carmen* 1968
- b. 4 f. 4-5 *With Fracci, Carla, Gisille [film version]* 1969
Photographed by Judy Cameron.
- b. 4 f. 6 *With Fracci, Carla, Gisille* 1970s
- b. 4 f. 7 Corelli, Franco 1960s-1970s

Denard, Michae_I

- b. 4 f. 8 Cameron, Judy -- Photographer 1960s
- b. 5 f. 1-2 Levieux, Francette -- Photographer 1960s
- b. 5 f. 3 Peres, Louis -- Photographer 1960s
Includes performances of *Napoli*, and *Coppelia*.
- b. 5 f. 4 Headshots 1960s-1970s
Majority of the professional shots by Ken Duncan; some candids by Joan Baum.
- b. 5 f. 5 Unidentified Performances 1960s-1970s

Prints (cont.)

Dancer (cont.)

Denard, Michael (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 6 *With Franchetti, Jean-Pierre, Firebird* 1970s
- b. 6 f. 1 *Paquita, Helen of Troy* 1971
- b. 6 f. 2 *Romeo and Juliet, Paris Opera* 1971 May
- b. 6 f. 3 First season at the American Ballet Theatre 1971 July
- b. 6 f. 4 *The River, Études, American Ballet Theatre* 1971 July
- b. 6 f. 5 *With Paul, Mimi, Gaité Parisienne, American Ballet Theatre* 1971 July
- b. 6 f. 6 *Pas de Deux Rehearsal, Avignon* 1971 August
- b. 6 f. 7 *Paquita, Monte Carlo* 1971 August
- b. 6 f. 8 *Microcosmos, Avignon* 1971 August
- b. 6 f. 9 *With Rayet, Jacqueline, Moment of Infinity, Pas de Deux, Avignon* 1971 August
- b. 6 f. 10 *Firebird, La Courneuve, Paris* 1971 September 12
- b. 6 f. 11 *Salomé, Paris* 1972
- b. 6 f. 12 *With Gregory, Cynthia, Giselle* 1972 August 4
- b. 7 f. 1 *Helen of Troy, American Ballet Theatre* 1972 August
- b. 7 f. 2 *Firebird, Paris* 1972 December
- b. 7 f. 3 *With Gregory, Cynthia, Swan Lake, Houston* 1973
- b. 7 f. 4 *Apollo, American Ballet Theatre* 1974 January
- b. 7 f. 5 *Coppelia, American Ballet Theatre* 1974 January
- b. 7 f. 6 *Napoli, American Ballet Theatre* 1974
- b. 7 f. 7 *Microcosmos, Théâtre du Silence, Avignon* 1974
- b. 7 f. 8 *L'Ange, Théâtre du Silence, Avignon* 1974 August
- b. 7 f. 9 *With Gregory, Cynthia, Coppelia, American Ballet Theatre* 1975 January
- b. 7 f. 10 *With D'Antuono, Elanor, Napoli, American Ballet Theatre* 1975 January
- b. 7 f. 11 *With Gregory, Cynthia, La Sylphide, American Ballet Theatre* 1975 January
- b. 7 f. 12 *With D'Antuono, Elanor, Giselle, American Ballet Theatre* 1975, January
- b. 7 f. 13 Fracci, Carla 1960s-1970s
Includes candid photographs with Fracci's family.
- b. 7 f. 14 Franchetti, Jean-Pierre 1960s-1970s
- b. 8 f. 1 Gregory, Cynthia 1960s-1970s
- b. 8 f. 2 Makarova, Natalia 1960s-1970s
- b. 8 f. 3 Nureyev, Rudolf 1960s-1970s
- b. 8 f. 5 *Plisetskaya, Maya -- Fadeychev, Nikolai, Carmen* 1969
- b. 8 f. 5 De los Reyes, Ramon 1960s
- b. 8 f. 6 Tomasson, Helgi 1960s
- Photographer
- b. 8 f. 7 Baum, Joan, Travel 1960s-1971
Includes trip to Nice and Monte Carlo with M_ris Liepa, August 1971.
- b. 8 f. 8 Camba, Kim, Untitled Performance, Paris 1973
- b. 8 f. 9 Cameron, Judy, Unidentified Performances 1960s-1970s
- b. 8 f. 10 Fred Fehl, Unidentified Performances 1960s-1970s
- b. 9 f. 1-2 Unidentified Performances 1950s-1970s

Travel and Performance Slides 1960-1975

- b. 9 f. 3-6 1960-1961
Royal Ballet, London -- Moiseyev Dance Company.
- b. 10 f. 1-6 1962-1963 October
- b. 11 f. 1-4 1963 November - 1964 December
Corelli, Franco -- Kirov Ballet -- Danish Ballet.
- b. 12 f. 1-5 1965
Corelli, Franco -- New York City Ballet -- Royal Ballet -- Bruhn, Erik -- Danish Ballet.
- b. 13 f. 1-6 1966 - 1968 February
Bolshoi -- *La Gioconda*.
- b. 14 f. 1-4 1968 May - July
- b. 15 f. 1-5 1968 October - 1971 January
- b. 16 f. 1-4 1971 February - 1971 September
Bejart -- Bolshoi Ballet.
- b. 17 f. 1-4 1971 November - 1972 June
Paulo Bortoluzzi -- Paris.
- b. 18 f. 1-5 1972 July - 1974 September
Hamburg -- Paris -- Denard, Michaël -- Gregory, Cynthia.
- b. 19 f. 1-3 1974 November - 1975 August
 - b. 19 f. 4 Undated Slides 1960s-1970s
- b. 19 f. 5-7 Negatives 1960s-1976