



The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Jelko Yuresha papers

1938-2015 [bulk 1984-2010]

(S) *MGZMD 358

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2017.

Summary

Creator: Yuresha, Jelko

Title: Jelko Yuresha papers

Date: 1938-2015 [bulk 1984-2010]

Size: 8.07 linear feet (19 boxes, 6 oversized folders)

Source: Donated by Jelko Yuresha and Belinda Wright, 2007-2010 and 2016.

Abstract: The Jelko Yuresha papers date from 1938 to 2015 (bulk 1984-2010) and document the career of dancer, choreographer, and artist Jelko Yuresha through correspondence, programs, articles, photographs, and designs.

Preferred citation: Jelko Yuresha papers, (S) *MGZMD 358. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Processing note: Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2017. Additions were integrated into the collection by Robyn Hjermsstad in 2017.

Creator History

Jelko Yuresha (b. 1937) is a Croatian-born British dancer, choreographer, and artist. He immigrated to London to study ballet at the Legat School of Dance in 1958, and in 1959 he joined the English National Ballet. He married English ballet dancer Belinda Wright in 1961, and the couple toured internationally under the auspices of the British Government as "The Ambassadors of Dance" from 1967 to 1977. Longtime friends of dancer and choreographer Sir Anton Dolin, Yuresha and Wright obtained the rights to three of his works upon his death in 1983: *Pas de Quatre*, *Variations for Four*, and his version of *Giselle*. Yuresha and Wright staged several renditions of these works throughout the 1980s, including productions in China, Panama, England, France, and the United States. Yuresha also designed dresses, jewelry, and costumes and sets for his productions. He has taught at several dance schools, universities, and studios throughout England, Panama, and North America.

Jelko Yuresha still maintains close relations with the National Ballet of Panama and assisted with their 2013 production of *Coppélia*.

Scope and Content Note

The Jelko Yuresha papers date from 1938 to 2015 and document Yuresha's dancing, choreography, teaching, and his design of costumes, sets, jewelry, and clothing. The collection contains correspondence, programs, articles, photographs, video recordings, sketches, and designs. Video recordings are unavailable pending digitization, and primarily document performances of works that Yuresha choreographed, such as *La Péri* in Panama and Bermuda; and performances featuring Richard Marsden and Julia Moon. Lectures and classes led by Yuresha are also prominent in the recordings.

The collection is arranged alphabetically by individual, subject, or format. The extent to which each individual or subject is represented varies, though typically files hold a small amount of correspondence and articles. Yuresha also kept general correspondence files. The letters document his professional and personal relationships, and various dance projects that he worked on.

Among the well represented subjects are dance companies, such as the English National Ballet, the American Ballet Theatre, the Australian Ballet, and the Paris Opera Ballet; and productions choreographed, staged, and designed by Yuresha, chiefly through correspondence outlining production plans and reviews of performances. The American Ballet Theatre's production of *Variations for Four* is detailed through sheet music, sketches, and correspondence relating to costume design, and stage planning. Productions of *La Péri*, *Cinderella*, *Giselle*, and *Pas de Quatre* are also documented.

Files relating specifically to Yuresha and Belinda Wright consist of photographs, programs, letters, and reviews of their performances together. Researchers interested in Yuresha and Wright's collection of art and antiques should consult their files in addition to those for Christie's and Sotheby's. Christie's and Sotheby's files also provide insight into Yuresha's fashion and jewelry design through auction catalogs, photographs, and sketches of his work. A file on painter and composer Jean-Jacques Giraud contains original fashion design drawings, correspondence, sheet music, and a photograph of jewelry presumably for a musical.

Photographs in the collection date from the 1950s to 2012, the majority of which are digital prints dating from the 1990s to 2012. They document Jelko Yuresha and Belinda Wright in their home and at performances; costumes and dresses created by Yuresha; and portraits taken by Yuresha of friends and family in casual and posed settings. Original photographs of productions staged by Yuresha, such as the Icelandic National Ballet's *Cinderella* and *Variations for Four* at the American Ballet Theatre, are also present.

Drawings and design files contain Yuresha's original watercolor paintings, sketches, drawings, and photographs. Many of the works were used for ballet costume and set design of the 1984 production of *Giselle* in Peking, China. These items reveal the different stages of Yuresha's creative process. The paintings depict scenic landscapes that the actual set was based on. Some of the paintings consist of several smaller watercolors collaged together to create a scene. Costume drawings and sketches are accompanied by textile swatches and notes on the relevant character, scene, and act. Other drawings can be found in files for *Variations for Four*.

The majority of this collection is in English, with materials in Spanish, German, Korean, Japanese, Hebrew, and Icelandic.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged alphabetically by individual, subject, or format.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet -- Study and teaching
Ballet dancing

Occupations

Choreographers
Dancers

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Design drawings
Digital prints

Titles

Giselle (Choreographic work : Dolin after Coralli and Perrot)
La Peri
Variations for Four (Choreographic work : Dolin)

Names

Wright, Belinda, 1929-2007

Container List

- American Ballet Theatre
 - b. 1 f. 1-8 1959-2005
 - b. 13 f. 1 1996-2009
 - b. 2 f. 1 2005
 - b. 2 f. 2 Australian Ballet 1985-2004
 - b. 2 f. 3 Barzel, Ann 1996-1997
 - b. 2 f. 4-5 Bermuda Civic Ballet Company 1995
- Biographical Material
 - b. 2 f. 6-10 1959-1996
 - b. 13 f. 2 1997-2007
 - b. 10 f. 1-2 2006
 - b. 2 f. 11 British Council 1969
 - b. 2 f. 12-13 China 1984-2004
 - b. 2 f. 14 Christie's 2004
 - b. 13 f. 3 Cohen-Tyler, Marabeth 2007
 - b. 2 f. 15 Contracts 1988-1995
 - b. 5 f. 6-7 Correspondence 1938-2010
Also includes photographs.
 - b. 13 f. 4-7 Correspondence 1959-2015
 - b. 3 f. 1 Croatia circa 1995
 - b. 3 f. 2-5 Cuba 2004-2006
 - b. 13 f. 8 The Dance Library of Israel 2007-1008
 - b. 3 f. 6 Dancers' Trust 1983-1985
 - b. 3 f. 7 David Koetser Gallery 1980-1994
- Drawings and Designs
 - b. 12 f. 1-6 1984
 - o. 3 1984
Dance Cage - flat file #261
 - o. 4 1984
Dance Cage - flat file #261
 - o. 5 1986
Dance Cage - flat file #261
 - b. 13 f. 9-14 1989-2006
Jewelry, costume, and interior design.
 - b. 3 f. 8 Jewelry 1990s
 - b. 3 f. 9-11 Costume 1983-1998
 - b. 4 f. 1 Fashion 1994-2005
 - b. 10 f. 3-5 Fashion 1998-2005
 - b. 4 f. 2 Dolin, Anton 1956-1984
 - b. 14 f. 1 Dolin, Anton 1984-2014
 - b. 4 f. 3 Dolin, Charles Gordon 1994-2005

- b. 14 f. 2 Draper, Samuel 2003-2009
- b. 4 f. 4 English National Ballet 2006
- b. 14 f. 3 Gelfand, Jeffrey 1998
- b. 14 f. 4 Gilbert, Mary 1993-2015
- b. 4 f. 5 Gilbert, Mary 1999-2008
- b. 4 f. 6 Giraud, Jean Jacques 2007
- b. 14 f. 5 Giraud, Jean Jacques 2008-2009
- b. 14 f. 6 Goldsmith, Hubert 2007
- b. 4 f. 7 Hastings, Selina 2003-2007
- b. 14 f. 7 Hogan, Anita Michael 2007, 2009
- b. 4 f. 8 Hunter College 1995-1999
- Icelandic National Ballet
- b. 4 f. 9-11 1983-2006
 - o. 1 1984
 - Dance Cage - flat file #261
- b. 14 f. 8 Ichinohe, Saeko 2008
- b. 4 f. 12 International Ballet Seminar 1995-1997
- b. 14 f. 9-10 James, Jerre 1955-2014
- b. 4 f. 13 James, Jerre 1988-2007
- b. 4 f. 14 K-Ballet Company 2000-2004
- b. 5 f. 1 Lhotke, Jill 1995-1999
- b. 14 f. 11 de Malleray, Mahin 1987-2004
- b. 14 f. 12-14 Marsden, Richard 1987-1996
 - b. 5 f. 2 Marsden, Richard 1988-1995
- b. 14 f. 15 de Martino, Dianna 2012-2013
- b. 5 f. 3-4 Mendel, Audre 1987-2007
- b. 15 f. 1-2 Mendel, Audre 1996-2008
- b. 15 f. 3 Merrifield Studios 2005
- b. 5 f. 5 Merrifield Studios 2005-2006
- b. 5 f. 8 De Monaco, Antoinette 1983-1996
- b. 5 f. 9 Moon, Julia 1987-1997
- b. 5 f. 10 Morrell, Beat 1970-2001
- b. 15 f. 4 Morrell, Beat 1999, 2015
- b. 15 f. 5 National Ballet of China 1984, 2004
- b. 15 f. 6 New York City Ballet 1994
- b. 15 f. 7 Nichols, Madeleine 2009
- b. 15 f. 8 Notes 1993, 2008, undated
- b. 15 f. 9 Oakes, Patricia and Shirley 2005-2006
- b. 10 f. 7 Painting 2006
- Panama
- b. 6 f. 1-4 1950-2005

Panama (cont.)

- b. 15 f. 10-12 1987, 1994-1998
 - b. 5 f. 11 1994-2006
 - b. 10 f. 11 1998
 - b. 6 f. 5-8 *La Péri* 1995-1997
 - b. 6 f. 9 Paris Opera Ballet 1994-1998
- b. 6 f. 10-11 *Pas de Quatre* 2001-2002
- b. 16 f. 1-4 Passports 1956-2006
Passports for Belinda Wright and Jelko Yuresha.
- b. 17 f. 1 *La Péri -- Bermuda* 1995
- Photographs
 - b. 17 f. 2-4 1960s-2006
 - b. 17 f. 5 de Cuevas, Elizabeth 2005
 - b. 17 f. 6 Paris circa 2012
 - b. 18 f. 1 Sobrino, Iliana 2007
 - b. 18 f. 2-5 Yuresha, Jelko and Wright, Belinda 1950s-2012
Photographs of Wright and Yuresha individually as well as together.
 - b. 7 f. 1-3 Photography by Yuresha 1991-2007
- b. 10 f. 8-10 Photography by Yuresha 2003-2004
 - b. 7 f. 4 *Prince of the Lost Kingdom* 1998
 - b. 7 f. 5 Postcards 1996-2008
 - o. 6 Posters 2000-2001
The collection also holds two posters autographed by Yuresha: one for a screening of Beat Morrell's documentary *Yuresha: Prince of the Lost Kingdom* in Germany, and one for a 2001 staging of *Pas de Quatre* in Milan.
Dance Cage - flat file #261
 - b. 7 f. 6 Rifkin and Associates 1997
- b. 7 f. 7-8 Royal Ballet 1964-2006
- b. 18 f. 6 Royal Ballet Benevolent Fund 2007
- b. 18 f. 7 Russell, Colin 2002
- b. 18 f. 8 Schopf, Davor 2009
- b. 7 f. 9 Scrimgeour, Donald 1994-2007
Correspondence between Yuresha and his agent, Donald Scrimgeour, document the transfer of rights from Anton Dolin to Yuresha and Belinda Wright for three of his ballets, and the later staging of those dances, particularly in China.
- b. 7 f. 10 Sotheby's 1980-2008
- b. 8 f. 1-2 Tapestries 1996
 - b. 8 f. 3 Tallon, William 1971-2007
 - b. 8 f. 4 Taylor, Beth Storey 1998-2000
 - b. 18 f. 9 Teatro alla Scala 2001
- b. 18 f. 10 Thiruchelvam, Sharmini 1986-2004
 - b. 8 f. 5 Tobias, Roy 1990-1991
- b. 18 f. 11 Tobias, Roy 1990-1993
- b. 18 f. 12 Turnbaugh, Douglas Blair 2005-2014
- b. 18 f. 13 Turney, Joanne 1998-2011

- b. 8 f. 6-7 Universal Ballet Company 1989-1990
- b. 8 f. 8-9 University of Waterloo 1994-1995
- b. 18 f. 14 Valentina Kozlova International Ballet Competition 2013-2015
Variations for Four
- b. 8 f. 10-11 1998-2006
 - b. 10 f. 6 1998
- b. 18 f. 15 Wanderlingh, Amelia 1998
 - b. 9 f. 1 West, Valerie 1998-1999
 - b. 9 f. 2 Western Michigan University 1987
 - b. 9 f. 3 Wimbledon School of Art 1988
Wright, Belinda
 - b. 9 f. 4 1969-2007
- b. 11 f. 9-11 1995, 2006
Writing
 - b. 9 f. 6-7 1971-2000
 - b. 10 f. 12 Poems By Yuresha 2001
 - b. 19 f. 1-2 *The World of Nureyev* 2007-2008
- Yuresha, Jelko and Wright, Belinda
 - b. 9 f. 7-10 1962-2005
 - o. 2 1967-1992
Dance Cage - flat file #261
 - b. 19 f. 3-5 1984-2008
Includes materials pertaining to their collection of art and antiques.
 - b. 11 f. 1-8 2005-2006