Guide to the Laura Foreman Papers, 1957-1999

(S)*MGZMD 162

Jerome Robbins Dance Division

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts New York, New York

Contact Information

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Title:	Laura Foreman Papers
Collection ID:	(S)*MGZMD
Creator:	Foreman, Laura
Extent:	27 linear feet (58 boxes)
Repository:	Jerome Robbins Dance Division.
	The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Abstract:	Laura Foreman was the director of dance at the New
	School. Her Laura Foreman Dance Theater performed
	extensively in the 1970s and her Composers and
	Choreographers Theater gave exposure to new and
	avant-garde choreographers. Collection includes
	choreography notes, scripts, correspondence and
	teaching material.

Descriptive Summary

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Laura Foreman Papers, (S)*MGZMD 162, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Custodial History

The Laura Foreman Papers were donated to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division in 1992 by Laura Foreman.

Biographical Note

Laura Foreman was born ca. 1937. She attended the University of Wisconsin in the late 1950s and moved to New York City in the mid-1960s.

Foreman taught at the New School in New York City, beginning her career ca. 1969 and retiring from active teaching in 1990. While at the New School she created the Laura Foreman Dance Theatre and The Composers & Choreographers Theater. Both residencies provided exposure for new and avant-garde choreographers and dancers. Her company performed regularly into the mid 1970s at the Cubiculo and the American Theater Lab.

One of Foreman's best-known pieces was her 1981 *Wallwork*, created with her husband, the composer John Watts. *Wallwork*, a conceptual event existed only in advertising posters and on a telephone reservation number, which grew very busy when a sold-out sign was slapped on the posters.¹

After Watts' death in 1982, Foreman concentrated on writing and art. She began exhibiting sculpture in the 1980s. Her most famous piece was *Birdhouse as Metaphor*, which was at the Souyun Yi Gallery in SoHo in 1990. She won an award for her *TimeCoded Woman I, II, III* at the Houston International Film Festival. Foreman was also a published author. Her short stories were collected into a book. Foreman died in Manhattan on June 15, 2001.

¹ Dunning, Jennifer. Laura Foeman, 64 Director of Dance at the New School, [Obituary], 2001, Jul. 5, B.8

Scope and Content Note

The Laura Foreman Papers span the years 1957-1999 and consist of correspondence, teaching notes, syllabi, workshop material, grant applications, choreographed dances with notes (about costumes, sound, and lighting).

The collection is important in its documentation of the development of several different dance programs and companies, including the Laura Foreman Dance Company, the Composers and Choreographers Theatre and the dance department at the New School.

The collection is mostly professional material. There is extremely limited personal material, which includes correspondence and snapshots.

Organization

The collection is organized into 9 series. They are:

Series I:	Correspondence, 1957-1990, undated
Series II:	Channel 13, 1977-1978, undated
Series III:	Composers and Choreographers Theater, 1967-1990,
	undated
Series IV:	Laura Foreman Dance Company, 1955-1999, undated
Series V:	The New School, 1968-1997, undated
Series VI:	Non-Dance Material, 1970-1994, undated
Series VII	Photographs, 1964-1979, undated
Series VIII:	John Watts, 1968-1974, undated
Series IX:	Oversized Material, 1979, undated

Series Descriptions

Series I: Correspondence, 1957-1990, undated

This series consists of correspondence. The majority of the correspondence is professional. The personal correspondence is limited to several folders from Foreman's mother.

Series II: Channel 13, 1977-1978, undated

This series consists of material related to work that Foreman did with Channel 13 (WNYC-NY). Foreman's dances, visual art and screenplays for various shows produced by Channel 13 are included.

Series III: Composers and Choreographers Theatre, 1967-1990, undated 3 boxes

This series consists of material of the Composers and Choreographers Theatre, which was created by Laura Foreman and John Watts during their tenure at The New School. The majority of the material dates from the 1970s and 1980s.

Series IV: Laura Foreman Dance Company, 1955-1993, undated 19 boxes

5 boxes

2 boxes

This series consists of material from the Laura Foreman Dance Company. There are choreography notes, lighting, sound and costume ideas. Also included are notes of choreography problems solved.

Series V: The New School, 1968-1990, undated

This series consists of material from Laura Foreman's tenure as the head of dance department at The New School in New York City. Included is course information, faculty information and student information.

Series VI: Non-Dance Material, 1974-1994, undated

This series consists of material from Laura Foreman's non-dance related work. Included are scripts, teleplays, poems and other writings, in addition to gallery brochures, art proposals, projects and shows, film proposals and projects.

Series VII: Photographs, 1964-1979, undated

This series consists of photographs, negatives and slides. The photographs are equally divided between programs from Composers and Choreographers Theatre and The New School. There are a limited number of personal photographs.

Series VIII: John Watts, 1968-1974, undated

This series consists of material from John Watts. There is correspondence, early musical writings and limited material from his time with Composers and Choreographers Theater.

Series IX: Oversized Material, 1979, undated

This series consists of oversized photographs, and posters. Some of the posters are in fragile condition.

15 boxes

6 boxes

1 boxes

5 boxes

2 boxes

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F 5	Brandendberg, Carol, 1977-1984
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F 1	E – F, 1985-1990
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F 7	M – Mc, 1968-1990
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F 4-5	Cards, undated (Christmas and Birthday)
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F1	Artist-in-residence application, 1977
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F 4	Contract, 1978
F 5	Dong/Archives, undated

Box/Folder	Description
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F 7	Film ideas, undated
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F 9	Ideas/materials, undated
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F 11	Material, undated
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F 14	Satoru's four speeches, 1978
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F 1	Structuring, 1978
	Television laboratory @ channel 13 WNET, 1978-1979
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Dar 9	<u>undated</u>
Box 8	Advantigements 1000 Fall
F 1	Advertisements, 1988, Fall
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F 5 F 6	Be A Friend Campaign, undated
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F 9	Brochure-Herald Tribune, 1966
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1 10	ChoreoConcerts & Critiques, 1968-1973
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F 18	Fundraising materials, 1972 and 1975
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F 2	8355, undated
F 3	Addresses, undated
F 4	a deux, 1977
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F 10	Anderson, Jack, book, 1993
F 11	Arizona Highways, 1988, April 7
F 12	Artists and scholars programs, 198
F 13	Association of American Dance Companies, 1972 (report to the board)
F 14	Attachment studies, undated
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F 3	Schedule, undated
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F 8	Box office instructions, undated
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F 9	1962
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F 10	<i>Spaces</i> , 1972-1973
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	Performance art, ca. 1983, undated
F 2	ca. 1983
F 3	Places, critics, undated
F 4	<i>Poet's House</i> biography of Laura Foreman, undated
F 5	Poetry, undated
F 6	Prospects magazine, undated
10	Rejections, 1978-1994
F 7	1978
F 8	1988-1990
F 9	1993-1994
F 10	Script ideas, ca. 1985 (actors)
F 11	Scripts for reading, ca. 1987
F 12-13	Set/prop/scenery ideas, 1970-1975
F 14	Souyun Yi drawing Show, 1989
F 15	Spaces, 1971-1975 (local)
1 15	Sponsors, 1974-1976, undated
F 16	Domestic, undated
F 17	Foreign, 1974-1976
F 18	Still life and lecture, 1972 (review)
F 19	Stories for home, 1987
F 20	Stories WBAI, 1981
F 21	Submissions, 1988-1990
F 22	Synapse, 1979 (post production grant)
F 23	TAARA Hoffman, undated (art representative)
F 24	Tax records, 1979 (Palmer Hasty)
Box 48	run roomas, 1777 (rannor flasty)
F 1	Terminal show, 1983
	Timecoded Woman, 1978-1982, undated
F 2	Credit, 1978
F 3	Development, undated
1.5	20 volopmont, unutur

Box/Folder	Description
F 4	Duplicate scripts, undated
F 5	Script development, undated
F 6	Writers guild of America, 1982
10	Timecoded Woman II, 1988-1990
F 7	Script needed to be sorted, 1990
F 8	Script pages/top sheets, 1990
F 9	Teleplay, 1988
F 10	Tucker, Martin, interview, 1979 (editor-in-chief, <i>Confrontation</i>)
F 11	TV Project, undated (Steve Backer)
F 12	Tweed Gallery, 1983
F 13	Video equipment, light, etc., undated
F 14	Video mailing lists, 1981
F 15	Video show, 1982
F 16	Video sponsors, 1982
	Visual Arts, 1981-1986
F 17	1981
F 18	1982
Box 49	
F 1	1983
F 2	1984
F 3-4	1985
F 5	1986
F 6	Westside Arts Center, undated (Santa Monica)
F 7	Winter, Alan, Dr., 1978-1979
-	Workshop, 1969-ca.1970, undated
F8	1969, Fall, (completed problems)
F 9	Graphic and verbal sources, undated
F 10	Schedules and phone info, ca 1970
F 11	Untitled, undated Series VII: Photographs, 1964-1979
Box 50	
F 1	1979
F 2	A, undated
	A deux-Cubiculo,
F 3	1974 (Oleaga)
F 4	1975 (Oleaga)
F 5	1977 (Louis Greenfield)
F 6	B, undated
F 7	C, 1969-1971
F 8	Captions, 1970-1974
	Composers & Choreographers Theatre, 1967-1974
F 9	1967 & 1968 (contact sheets)
F 10	1969, fall (contact sheets)
	1970
F 11	ChoreoConcerts
F 12	Contact sheets
F 13	1971 (contact sheets)
F 14 F 15	1973 (contact sheets. Oleaga) 1974, Fall
F 15 F 16-17	Audience size, undated (lecturers)
Box 51	Audience Size, undated (iccluieis)
	ChoreoConcerts, 1968-1974
	,

F 1	1069
F1	1968 1972 Spring (
F2	1973 Spring (workshop)
F 3	1974, Spring (workshop. Contact Sheets. Oleaga)
D 4	Choreographers Theatre, 1969-1974
F 4	Associate Productions, 1975 March
F 5	Lecture/demonstration, 1969-1971
F 6	Lecturers/RTD, undated
	City of Angels, 1974-1976
F 7-9	1974 (Kennedy Center. H. O'Neal. Barnard)
F 10-11	1975 (Wollman rink. Oleaga)
F 12	1976
F 13	D, undated
F 14-15	Entries, 1978 (Elle Hare)
F 16	Epicycles, 1970 (P. Moore. St. Peters church)
F 17	Freedom dancers, 1964
F 18	G, undated
F 19	Gerard Murrell, 1979
Box 52	C_{1} and C_{1} and C_{2} and C_{2}
F1	Glass and Shadows 1971-1972
F2	Go, 1978 April (Japan House. B. Mangolte)
F 3	H, 1969-1971
Ε 4	Heirlooms, 1977
F 4 F 5	Contact Sheets, Lois Greenfield
F 5 F 6	Oleaga Poster Contacts, Gwen Thomas
F 0 F 7	Vorpal Gallery, Chuck Devine
F 8	J, 1969-1971
F 9	Judson memorial, 1975
F 10	K, 1969-1971
F 11	L, 1969-1971
F 12-13	Laura's Dance, 1971 & 1973
Box 53	
F 1	Locrian, 1973
F 2	M, 1969-1971 Margins, 1972 (Finch College)
F 3-4	Margins, 1972
F 5	Memorials, 1965-1966
F 6	Monopoly, 1976 (SoHo Arts Festival)
F 7	New School studio shots, 1968-21969
F 8	P, 1969-1971
F 9	Perimeters, 1969-1970
	Postludes, 1974-1975
F 10	1974(New School)
F 11	1975 (Oleaga)
F 12	Program, 1976 (Ward-Nasse)
F 13	R-S, 1969-1971
	Signals, 1970-1975
F 14	1970 (New School)
Box 54	
F 1	1970, 1972, 1973 (children)
F 2	1973 (Oleaga)
F 3	1975 (Wollman. Oleaga)
F 4	SongandDance, 1973

F 5	Spaces I, 1972
F 6	Spaces II, 1972
F 7	Spaces III, 1973
F 8	Spaces IV, 1973
F 9	A Time, 1968, Feb. 25 (St. Luke's church)
F 10	W, 1969-1971
F 11	Ward-Nasse Gallery, 1976
	Watts, John
F 12-14	Composers Theater, undated
Box 55	
F 1	Untitled, undated
F 2	Y, 1969-1971
F 3-4	Untitled, 1970 (dance & video)
F 5	Slides, undated
F 6	Negatives, 1979 may
	<u>Series VIII: John Watts, 1968-1974</u>
Box 56	<u></u>
F 1	Board meeting, 1974
F 2	CC&T brochures, 1968-1969
F 3	Composition books, undated (early music)
F 4	Correspondence, undated
F 5	Diet notebook, undated
F 6	Master list of composers, undated (composers theater)
F 7	May festival, reviews, 1974
F 8-9	Scrapbook, undated
F 10	Unidentified, undated
	Series IX: Oversized Material, 1979
Box 57	
F 1	Artwork, brochures, map, undated
	Photographs, undated
F 2-4	New School
Box 58	
	Posters, 1979, undated
F 1	Confrontations B flat, undated
F 2	Confrontations #2 A flat, undated
F 3	Heirlooms, undated
F 4	Hisachika, T & Laura Foreman, 1979, June
F 5	Laura Foreman Marathon Dancers present <i>They Shoot Urchins</i> Don't They?, undated
F 6	Watts, John, sketchbook and scrapbook, undated

Separated Materials

<u>Cassette tapes</u> Interview with Martin Tucker Remarks about Mike Foreman Room 510 Edward Villela 3/16/78 Violette Verdy, 3/30/87 2/23/87 side 3

2/23/87 side 1Button "Modern Dance Power"

Patch "yellow" weathervane Records "Dean Sanders, Pianist plays William Albright, Burrill Phillips, John Watts" (2 copies) 16mm film (ca. 800 ft) " Secrets of the Deep"