



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Hurok Attractions, Inc. records

1906-1974 [bulk 1959-1964]

(S) *MGZMD 328

Compiled by Brynn White, CUNY Queens College 2014, 2013

Summary

Creator: Hurok Attractions, Inc. (New York, N.Y.)

Title: Hurok Attractions, Inc. records

Date: 1906-1974 [bulk 1959-1964]

Size: 2.81 linear feet (8 boxes)

Source: Unknown.

Abstract: The Hurok Attractions, Inc. records (1906-1974) document several mid-20th-century international tours arranged by the independent booking and promotion agency spearheaded by dance impresario Sol Hurok. The collection contains publicity, press, and ephemera materials for the 1961 and 1964 tours of the Leningrad Kirov Ballet; photographic materials from the tours of Kirov and other companies between 1949 and 1964; and candid and publicity photographs depicting Sol Hurok and his friends, family, associates, audiences, and clients.

Conditions Governing Access:

Library policy of photography and photocopying will apply.

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Processing note: Compiled by Brynn White, CUNY Queens College 2014, 2013

Creator History

Independent booking and promotion agency Hurok Attractions, Inc. was founded by Sol Hurok (1888-1974). Early in his career, the Ukrainian émigré represented established dancers and musicians,

including Anna Pavlova, Isadora Duncan, Arthur Rubenstein, Martha Graham, and Marian Anderson. Following four national tours by the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo in the 1930s, he emerged as the leading presenter of ballet in America. The tour of the Sadler Wells Ballet (later renamed the Royal Ballet) in 1949 inaugurated a series of international bookings and publicity campaigns in which Hurok Attractions specialized.

Subsequent to the Soviet-American cultural exchange of 1958, Hurok regularly traveled to Moscow for contract negotiations with the Ministry of Culture. As a result, the Moiseyev Folk Dance Ensemble and Bolshoi Ballet toured North America every few seasons over the next several years. Based off these successful tours, Hurok arranged 1961 and 1964 tours of Russia's oldest dance company, the Leningrad Kirov Ballet (formerly the Maryinsky Ballet), and Rudolf Nureyev's 1963 debut with the Royal Ballet.

Hurok sold the company in 1969 but continued to work until his death in 1974.

Source: Robinson, Harlow. *The Last Impresario: The Life, Times, and Legacy of Sol Hurok*. New York: Viking, 1994.

Scope and Content Note

The Hurok Attractions, Inc. records (1906-1974; bulk: 1959-1964) contain publicity, press, and ephemera materials for the 1961 and 1964 tours of the Leningrad Kirov Ballet; photographic materials from Kirov and other dance company tours between 1949 and 1967; and candid and publicity photographs depicting Sol Hurok and his friends, family, associates, audiences, and clients.

The bulk of the collection documents the 1961 and 1964 tours of the Leningrad Kirov Ballet. Correspondence between the Hurok Attractions publicity director Martin Feinstein and members of the press, including advance copies of articles, are interspersed throughout the Kirov materials. The publicity files contain press releases, internal memos, specification forms for local promoters and venues, itineraries, press lists, ticket order forms, ad sales correspondence, and cast and crew lists. Performer biography and program note drafts, including an extensive history of the Kirov Ballet by Vera Krasovskaya, are annotated. A 1974 press release announces the restructuring of company personnel following Hurok's death. The press clippings contain American, French, and British newspaper and magazine coverage of the 1961 and 1964 Kirov international tours. The ephemera files feature programs, flyers, postcards, commemorative booklets and souvenirs from Kirov performances and tours in the United States, England, and the Soviet Union.

The dance company photographic materials primarily showcase the Kirov ballet tour. Works depicted include *Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake*, *Raymonda*, *Cinderella*, and *Giselle*, with featured dancers Natalia Makarova, Vladilen Semenov, and Irina Kolpakova. Many of the master prints, slides, and negatives are captioned, or can be identified using an accompanying index. Other companies featured are the Bolshoi Ballet, Massed Pipers and Regimental Band of the Scots Guards, and the Royal Ballet.

The general publicity photographs are portraits, publicity stills, and candid shots of Sol Hurok traveling around the world, accepting awards, attending parties and special events, and posing with associates, friends and family. Hurok does not appear in some images, which showcase prominent figures and large audiences in attendance of Hurok Attractions events. An extensive file of portraits of the Orchestra National Francais musical director Jean Martinon also appears. Many photographs are captioned with subject, photographer, and date; some have correspondence attached.

Materials are in English and Russian.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged into three groups: Leningrad Kirov Ballet tours, Dance Company Publicity Photographs, and General Publicity Photographs.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet companies -- Soviet Union
Dance -- United States -- 20th century
Performing Arts -- Public relations

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Fliers (printed matter)
Negatives
Photographs
Slides
Souvenir programs

Occupations

Dancers -- Promoters

Names

Hurok, Sol, 1888-1974

Container List

Leningrad Kirov Ballet Tours

- b. 1 f. 1-4 Ephemera 1961-1964
- b. 1 f. 5-6 Press Clippings 1961-1964
- b. 2 f. 1-12 Press Clippings 1961-1964
- b. 2 f. 13 Publicity 1961-1964
- b. 3 f. 1-3 Publicity 1961-1964

Photographs

Dance Companies

- b. 3 f. 4 Indexes 1961-1964
- b. 3 f. 5-6 Kirov Ballet 1961-1964
- b. 4 f. 1 Kirov Ballet 1961-1964
- b. 6 Kirov Ballet 1961-1964
- b. 7 Kirov Ballet and Other Companies 1949-1967
- b. 4 f. 2-21 Publicity 1909-1974
- b. 5 f. 1-6 Publicity 1906-1972
- b. 8 f. 1-2 Publicity 1935-1960