

**The New York Public Library  
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division**

**George Platt Lynes Photographic Scrapbooks,**

**ca. 1935 - 1954**

**\*MGZEB 98-4744**

**Summary**

**Title:**

George Platt Lynes Photographic  
Scrapbooks, ca. 1935 - 1954

**Size:**

8 linear feet (16 albums)

**Preferred citation:**

George Platt Lynes Photographic  
Scrapbooks, ca. 1935 – 1954, \*MGZEB 98-  
4744, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The  
New York Public Library.

## Scope and content note

The collection includes approximately 650 black and white 8"x 10" photographs of ballets, dancers and choreographers from the earliest days of what would later become the New York City Ballet.

Many of the photographs are proofs and appear to have been taken in George Platt Lynes' studio. The albums were compiled by The Jerome Robbins Dance Division staff and are arranged alphabetically by choreographic work or dancer.

Among the 49 dances in the collection are *The Cage* (Robbins), ca. 1951, *The Duel* (Dollar), ca. 1951, *Fancy Free* (Robbins), ca. 1944, *Firebird* (Balanchine), 1949, *La Gloire* (Tudor), ca. 1952, *Les Illuminations* (Ashton), ca. 1950, *Jones Beach* (Balanchine), 1950, *Orpheus* (Balanchine), 1948, *Swan Lake* (Balanchine), 1951, and *Tyl Ulenspiegel* (Balanchine), 1951.

Personalities represented include Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, Erik Bruhn, Alexandra Danilova, Margot Fonteyn, Martha Graham, Nora Kaye, and John Kriza.

## Biographical Note

Photographer George Platt Lynes was born in East Orange, New Jersey in 1907. He attended the Berkshire School in Massachusetts, where Lincoln Kirstein was a classmate. After living in Paris, where he met Gertrude Stein and her circle, he opened a bookshop in New Jersey and began taking photographs, later returning to Paris and traveling around Europe for several years.

Lynes set up his studio in New York City in 1932 and began taking photos for *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar* and *Town and Country*. In 1935, he was commissioned to photograph the dances and dancers of the American Ballet (later New York City Ballet), which he did through the early 1950s. Lynes moved to California in 1946 and photographed film stars such as Katharine Hepburn and Orson Welles, and other important figures in the arts such as Igor Stravinsky and Thomas Mann. He returned to New York City in 1948, but could not find work in commercial or fashion photography. Lynes also took many nude photos, mostly male.

A number of books of his photos have been published. Lynes died in New York City in 1955 of lung cancer, at the age of 48.

## Container list

### Volume 1

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| <p>Adams, Diana, [1949]<br/> <i>The Age of Anxiety</i> (Robbins), 1950<br/> <i>Air and Variations</i> (Dollar), ca. 1938<br/>         Allen, Ivan, [ca. 1950s?]<br/> <i>Apollo</i> [<i>Apollon Musagète</i>] (Balanchine), ca. 1937</p> | <p>Includes 1 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photo.<br/>         14 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Todd Bolender, Roy Tobias, Jerome Robbins, and Tanaquil LeClercq among those pictured.<br/>         Includes 6 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Lew Christensen, Marie Jeanne among those pictured.<br/>         Includes 4 b&amp;w photos.<br/>         Includes 2 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos.</p> |
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### Volume 2

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| <p>Ashton, Frederick, ca. 1940s<br/>         Balanchine, George, ca. 1941</p> | <p>Includes 8 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos.<br/>         Includes 32 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; 1 with child students (Edward Villella among them); 1 with male and female dancers rehearsing.</p> |
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### Volume 3

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| <p><i>Ballet Imperial</i> (Balanchine), [1941]<br/> <i>The Bat</i> (Balanchine), [1938]<br/> <i>Le Beau Danube</i> (Massine), ca. 1941<br/> <i>Billy the Kid</i> (Loring), 1938<br/> <br/> <i>Bourrée Fantasque</i> (Balanchine), ca. 1949<br/>         Bruhn, Erik, [1949]<br/> <i>The Cage</i> (Robbins), ca. 1951</p> | <p>Includes 2 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos.<br/>         Includes 1 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photo; Lew Christensen among those pictured.<br/>         Includes 4 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos of Alexandra Danilova.<br/>         Includes 8 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Eugene Loring, Lew Christensen, John Kriza among those pictured.<br/>         Includes 2 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Tanaquil LeClercq, Jerome Robbins, Maria Tallchief, Nicholas Magallanes pictured.<br/>         Includes 6 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos.<br/>         Includes 20 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Nora Kaye, Nicholas Magallanes, Yvonne Mounsey among those pictured.</p> |
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### Volume 4

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| <p><i>Caprichos</i> (Ross), 1950<br/> <i>Capricorn Concerto</i> (Bolender), 1948<br/> <i>The Card Game</i> (Balanchine), 1951<br/> <i>Caracole</i> (Balanchine), 1952<br/>         Caton, Edward in <i>Giselle</i>, ca. 1951?<br/> <i>Charade</i> (Christensen), 1939</p> | <p>Includes 1 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photo of John Kriza.<br/>         Includes 8 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Maria Tallchief, George Balanchine, Francisco Moncion among those pictured.<br/>         Includes 6 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos; Todd Bolender, Janet Reed among those pictured.<br/>         Includes 10 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos of Melissa Hayden.<br/>         Includes 2 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos of Caton with dog.<br/>         Includes 2 b&amp;w 8 x 10 photos of Marie Jeanne and Lew Christensen.</p> |
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Volume 4	Christensen, Lew, [ca. 1940s] <i>Concerto Barocco</i> (Balanchine), 1941	Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos. Includes 5 b&w 8 x 10 photos; William Dollar, Marie Jeanne, Mary Jane Shea among those pictured.
Volume 5	Danilova, Alexandra, ca. 1940s? <i>Divertimento</i> (Balanchine), ca. 1947 Douglas, Scott, [1952] <i>Dreams</i> (Balanchine), ca. 1935	Includes 12 b&w 8 x 10 photos. Includes 10 b&w 8 x 10 photos of Maria Tallchief, Francisco Moncion. Includes 6 b&w 8 x 10 photos (portraits). Includes 3 b&w 8 x 10 photos.
Volume 6	<i>The Duel</i> (Dollar), ca. 1950  Eglevsky, André, ca. 1940s? <i>Encounter</i> (Christensen), ca. 1936 <i>L'Errante</i> (Balanchine), 1935 <i>Fancy Free</i> (Robbins), ca. 1944	Includes 22 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Melissa Hayden among those pictured. Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos. Includes 8 b&w 8 x 10 photos. Includes 4 b&w 8 x 10 photos. Includes 18 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Jerome Robbins, John Kriza among those pictured.
Volume 7	<i>Filling Station</i> (Christensen), 1938  <i>Firebird</i> (Balanchine), 1949  Fonteyn, Margot in <i>Swan Lake</i> Costume, ca. 1950 <i>The Four Temperaments</i> (Balanchine), ca. 1946 - 1948	Includes 9 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Lew Christensen among those pictured. Includes 20 b&w 8 x 10 photos of Maria Tallchief, Francisco Moncion. Includes 6 b&w 8 x 10 photos.  Includes 18 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Elise Reiman, Herbert Bliss, Maria Tallchief, Nicholas Magallanes among those pictured; 2 photos are of male dancers (possibly of Herbert Bliss and Todd Bolender) wearing briefs.
Volume 8	Frank, Joe, ca. 1940s? <i>La Gloire</i> (Tudor), ca. 1952  Graham, Martha, ca. 1940s Grant, Alexander, ca. 1953	Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo. Includes 40 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Hugh Laing, Francisco Moncion, Nora Kaye pictured. Includes 8 b&w 8 x 10 photos. Includes 10 b&w 8 x 10 photos.
Volume 9	<i>The Guests</i> (Robbins), 1949  <i>Harlequin for President</i> (Loring), 1936 Hobi, Frank, ca. 1950	Includes 10 b&w 8 x 10 images; Nicholas Magallanes, Maria Tallchief, Jerome Robbins pictured. Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photo of company.  Includes 14 b&w 8 x 10 photos.

Volume 10	<i>Les Illuminations</i> (Ashton), ca. 1950	Includes 27 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Melissa Hayden, Tanaquil LeClercq, Nicholas Magallanes among those pictured.
Volume 11	<i>Jones Beach</i> (Balanchine and Robbins), 1950	Includes 44 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Jerome Robbins, Maria Tallchief, Herbert Bliss, Melissa Hayden, Nicholas Magallanes, Tanaquil LeClercq pictured.
Volume 12	Kaye, Nora, 1950	Includes 26 b&w 8 x 10 photos.
	Kriza, John, ca. 1940s	Includes 8 b&w 8 x 10 photos.
	Markova, Alicia, ca. 1940s – ca. 1950	Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos.
	<i>Metamorphoses</i> (Balanchine), ca. 1952	Includes 12 b&w 8 x 10 photos of Tanaquil LeClercq.
	Moncion, Francisco, ca. 1950	Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo.
	<i>Mother Goose Suite</i> (Bolender), ca. 1948	Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo; possibly Dick Beard.
	Moylan, Mary Ellen, [1949]	Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos.
	<i>Mozartiana</i> (Balanchine), ca. 1935	Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos.
Volume 13	<i>Orpheus</i> (Balanchine), 1948	Includes 17 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Nicholas Magallanes, Francisco Moncion, Maria Tallchief among those pictured.
	<i>Orpheus and Eurydice</i> (Balanchine), ca. 1936	Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo of Lew Christensen.
Volume 14	<i>Pocahontas</i> (Christensen), 1936	Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo; Ruthanna Boris, Lew Christensen, Charles Laskey among those pictured.
	<i>The Prodigal Son</i> (Balanchine), 1950	Includes 20 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Maria Tallchief, Jerome Robbins pictured.
	<i>Promenade</i> (Dollar), 1936	Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Lew Christensen, Harold Christensen, Gisella Caccialanza, Ruthanna Boris, Annabelle Lyon, Charles Laskey, Erick Hawkins among those pictured.
	<i>Punch and the Child</i> (Danieli), 1947	Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Beatrice Tompkins, Herbert Bliss pictured.
	<i>Renard</i> (Balanchine), 1947	Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Lew Christensen, John Taras, Fred Danieli, Todd Bolender.
	<i>Serenade</i> (Balanchine), ca. 1950	Includes 2 b&w 8 x 10 photo; Melissa Hayden, Frank Hobi, Patricia McBride pictured.
	<i>Show Piece</i> (Hawkins), ca. 1937	Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo.
	<i>The Soldier and the Gypsy</i> (Coudy), 1936	Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo.

Volume 15

*Swan Lake* (Balanchine), 1951

Includes 48 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Maria Tallchief, André Eglevsky, Patricia Wilde among those pictured.

*Symphony in C* (Balanchine), 1948

Includes 6 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Maria Tallchief, Nicholas Magallanes, Tanaquil LeClercq, Francisco Moncion, George Balanchine pictured.

Volume 16

Tobias, Roy, ca. 1950?

Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo.

*The Triumph of Bacchus and Ariadne* (Balanchine), 1948

Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo; Nicholas Magallanes, George Balanchine, Tanaquil LeClercq pictured.

*Tyl Ulenspiegel* (Balanchine), 1951

Includes 41 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Jerome Robbins, Beatrice Tompkins, Frank Hobi among those pictured.

*La Valse* (Balanchine), 1951

Includes 5 b&w 8 x 10 photos; Tanaquil LeClercq, Francisco Moncion among those pictured.

*Western Symphony* (Balanchine), 1954

Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo of Tanaquil LeClercq.

*Yankee Clipper* (Loring), 1937

Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo; Eugene Loring, Erick Hawkins, Lew Christensen, Harold Christensen among those pictured.

Youskevitch, Igor, ca. 1950?

Includes 1 b&w 8 x 10 photo.