



The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Franklin White papers

1941-2013

(S) *MGZMD 452

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2016.

Summary

Creator: White, Franklin, 1923-

Title: Franklin White papers

Date: 1941-2013

Size: 1.93 linear feet (5 boxes)

Source: Donated by Michael Franklin White, executor, 2015.

Abstract: Franklin White (née Peter Franklin White 1923-2013), was a dancer in the Ballet Rambert, and principal dancer in two ballet companies, the Sadler's Wells Ballet and The Royal Ballet. He was also a mime, teacher, and choreographer. The Franklin White papers, dated 1941 to 2013, reflect White's performance and teaching career through clippings, letters, photographs, posters, and programs.

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Processing note: Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2016.

Creator History

Franklin White (née Peter Franklin White 1923-2013), was born in Shoreham, Kent, England, to Franklin C. White, a Royal Academy artist and Olga (Hart) White, a violinist. White's extensive career over several decades included being a ballet dancer, mime, dance teacher, educator, and choreographer in Great Britain, Canada, and the United States.

At the age of nineteen, White joined the Ballet Rambert, following shortly, thereafter, to the Sadler's Wells Ballet (later to be known as The Royal Ballet). At The Royal Ballet, White rose to become the principle character dancer. One of the highlights of his career was to perform on the centenary of The Royal Opera House before Queen Elizabeth, in 1958.

In 1965, White left The Royal Ballet to take on new challenges as a dance teacher, choreographer, and educator. He went briefly to Vancouver, Canada to teach young students, followed by a permanent move to the United States.

In 1969, White received a professorship of theatre at the University of Illinois, and opened up an extension division at the National Academy of Dance, in Champaign, Illinois. He would leave the University and the Academy, in 1977, to become a free-lance artist with professional companies and academic and educational institutions.

From 1980 to 1981, White was an artist-in-residence at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. While there, White served as director, choreographer, and teacher for dance and stage techniques. He gave a performance in the role of Drosslemire in the *Nutcracker* (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, November 30, 1980). White continued to work at many institutions. He occasionally worked on productions with his son Michael, a scenic designer and artist.

Throughout his career, White danced along-side many prominent artists including Margot Fonteyn, Beryl Grey, and Rudolph Nureyev.

White died in Illinois, in 2013.

Scope and Content Note

The Franklin White papers, dated 1941 to 2013, reflect the career of Franklin White through clippings, letters, photographs, posters, programs and writings.

The photographs dominate the collection and offer a visual look at White's career. As a ballet dancer in Great Britain, the photographs mostly illustrate White preparing for performances, and on stage in The Sadler's Wells Ballet and The Royal Ballet. The few photographs of White at the Ballet Rambert are mostly non-performance pictures taken during World War II.

Photographs of interest from the Sadler's Wells Ballet/The Royal Ballet include White in costume as Charleton in *Petrushka* and as Kosttchei in *Firebird*. Non-ballet photographs document The Sadler's Wells Ballet on tour in the United States. White was often credited as the photographer.

Other photographs focus on White's transition to a choreographer, dance teacher, and educator in Canada and the United States. These photographs show White teaching young ballet dancers and demonstrating dance techniques to students.

Supporting material includes letters to White, programs from White's performances, several posters marking Queen Elizabeth's visit to watch The Royal Ballet, clippings, writings on dance by White, and prints of costumes.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet

Ballet companies

Ballet companies -- England -- London -- History

Occupations

Ballet dancers -- Mime

Choreographers

Directors (performing arts)

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings

Letters

Photographs

Posters

Programs

Names

White, Peter Franklin

Ballet Rambert

Royal Ballet

Sadler's Wells Ballet

Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet

Container List

Biographical

- b. 1 f. 1 Curriculum Vita 1991
- b. 1 f. 2 *Men In Ballet. The Daily Colonist* 1965
- b. 1 f. 3-4 Promotional Materials 1960s-1996
- b. 1 f. 5 Unidentified Article Regarding White 1966

Clippings

- b. 1 f. 6-9 1970s-2013
- b. 1 f. 10-12 Canada 1967-1968
- b. 1 f. 13 Hawaii 1980-1981
- b. 1 f. 14 National Academy Ballet 1970s
- b. 1 f. 15 University of Illinois 1970s
- b. 1 f. 16-17 Letters To White 1957-2011

Photographs

Ballet Companies

- b. 1 f. 18 Ballet Rambert 1941

The Royal Ballet

- b. 1 f. 19 *Cinderella* circa 1965
Sir Frederick Ashton as the father and White as the ugly sister.
- b. 1 f. 20 *Firebird* undated
White as Kostchei.
- b. 1 f. 21 *Giselle* 1962
White as Hilarion.
- b. 1 f. 22 *Hamlet* 1964
White as Hamlet.
- b. 1 f. 23 *Mam'zelle Angot* 1951
- b. 1 f. 24 *Miracle In The Gorbale* 1958
White as the leader of Razor Gang.
- b. 1 f. 25 *Petrushka* 1957
White as the Charleton.
- b. 1 f. 26 *The Rakes Progress* 1950
- b. 1 f. 27-28 *Sleeping Beauty* circa 1959, 1963
White played the role of Calabosse circa 1959 and the role of the Wicked Fairy, in 1963.
See also: box 2 folder 13.
- b. 1 f. 29 Boulton, Catherine circa 1955
- b. 1 f. 30 Honoring Dame Ninette De Valois 1963
The Royal Ballet Touring Company presented the honor to De Valois upon her retirement.
- b. 1 f. 31 White Warming Up 1963

Sadler's Wells Ballet

- b. 2 f. 1 *Nocturne* 1947
White as a Reveller.
- b. 2 f. 2 *The Quest* 1943
White as Sans Foi.

Photographs (cont.)

Ballet Companies (cont.)

Sadler's Wells Ballet (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 3 *Le Tricorne Or Three Cornered Hat* 1955
- b. 2 f. 4 Rehearsing In Brussels 1945
- b. 2 f. 5 Touring The United States 1950
- b. 2 f. 6 Traveling To Vienna 1946
- b. 2 f. 7 World War II Paris 1945
- b. 2 f. 8 Assorted Images circa 1950s
- b. 2 f. 9 Negatives
- b. 2 f. 10-12 Canada 1966-1968
- United States
- b. 2 f. 13 The Boulder Ballet School of Colorado
White reprises his role Carabosse.
- b. 2 f. 14 Governor's School For The Arts, Kentucky. White Teaches Mime 1987-1988
Harid Conservatory, Boca Raton, Florida
- b. 2 f. 15 White Demonstrates Fencing 1994
- b. 2 f. 16 White Teaches Mime 1994
- Mankato State University
White directed both plays.
- b. 2 f. 16 *The Caretaker* 1987-1988
- b. 2 f. 17 *The Importance Of Being Earnest* 1988
- b. 2 f. 18 Skidmore College 1985
Assorted Images.
- b. 2 f. 19 University Of Connecticut 1979
White demonstrates combat techniques.
- University of Hawaii
- b. 2 f. 20 Various Productions 1979-1981
- b. 2 f. 21 White With Agnes de Mille 1981
- b. 2 f. 22 *White As Herr Drosselmeyer In The Nutcracker* 1987
- b. 2 f. 23-24 University of Illinois. Various Photographs 1969-1977
- b. 2 f. 25 University of Wisconsin, Madison 1985
White works with the students.
- b. 2 f. 26 Utah 1985
White demonstrates 18th century dance.
- Other
- b. 2 f. 27 Family Pictures undated
- b. 2 f. 28 Head Shots 1950s-1960s
- b. 2 f. 29 White On Vacation In Europe 1950s
- b. 2 f. 30 Assorted Images 1960s-2013

Posters

Royal Opera House

- b. 5 f. 1 The Centenary Of The Royal Opera House 1958
- b. 5 f. 2 Gala Performance...In Honour Of The Visit The President Of The French Republic And Madame De Gaulle 1960

Posters (cont.)

Royal Opera House (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 3 Gala Performance...On The Occasion Of The Visit Of The Associated Merchandising Corporation 1957

Prints

- b. 5 f. 4 Eighteenth Century Costumes undated

Programs

- b. 3 f. 1 Canada
Multiple programs.

United States

- b. 3 f. 2 *Arms And The Man. Oneonta, New York* 1987
- b. 3 f. 3 *Be Glad Then America. Pennsylvania State University* 1976
- b. 3 f. 4 *Camilla. Peabody Opera House* 1988
- b. 3 f. 5 *Gosh. Great Gershwin Girls. Speakeasy, New York City* undated
- b. 3 f. 6 Hawaii
Multiple programs.
- b. 3 f. 7 *Les Liaisons Dangereuses. The Colonial Theatre* 1990
- b. 3 f. 8 *Macbeth. The Virginia Opera Association* 1993
- b. 3 f. 9 Mankato State University 1987-1988
White directed *The Caretaker* and *The Importance Of Being Earnest*.
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- b. 3 f. 10 The National Academy Ballet 1973-1976
Multiple programs.
- b. 3 f. 11 *The 1940's Radio Hour. The University of Maryland* 1986
- b. 3 f. 12-13 *The Nutcracker* 1993-1995
White was credited as a guest artist at two different production in the state of Washington.
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- b. 3 f. 14 *Oliver Twist. Fargo, North Dakota* c. 1990
- b. 3 f. 15 *Opera Scenes. University of Rochester* undated
- b. 3 f. 16-17 *Romeo and Juliet* 1978, 1985
White was credited as the choreographer at Kalamazoo College and at the Lake George Opera Festival.
- b. 3 f. 18-21 The Royal Ballet 1953-1996, 2006
Multiple programs.
- b. 3 f. 22 *The Singular Life Of Albert Nobbs. University of Buffalo* undated
- b. 3 f. 23 *Stage Struck. Santa Rosa Junior College* undated
- b. 3 f. 24 *Status Quo Vadis* undated
- b. 3 f. 25 *Symphony Of Psalms. Bonfils Theatre* undated
- b. 3 f. 26 *A Taste Of Ballet. Connecticut* 1993
- b. 3 f. 27 *Uncommon Women And Others. Mills College* 1989
- b. 4 f. 1-2 University of Illinois 1969-1975, 1990
Multiple programs.
- b. 4 f. 3 *Variation From The Magical Workshop After LaBoutique Fantastique* 1933
Palm Beach Ballet Center. Choreography by White.
- b. 4 f. 4 West Virginia University 1987, 1998
White choreographed *Die Fledermaus* and directed *Ethan Frome*.

Programs (cont.)

United States (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 5 *Z By Shaw* undated
 Lakota Theatre Company.
- b. 4 f. 6 *School Brochures* 1980s-1990s

Writings

- b. 4 f. 7 *Markova* 2001
 Published in *Ballet Review*.
- b. 4 f. 8 *Report On The Director's Work In Lysistrata* 1986
 University of Maryland.
- b. 4 f. 9 *Report On The 1986 American College Theatre Festival*
- b. 4 f. 10 *A Series Of Six Lectures..on Ballet* 1966-1968
- b. 4 f. 11 *A Short History Of English Ballet* undated
- b. 4 f. 12 *Theatre Movement Courses For Actors* c. 1980s