



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Frank Tuttle and Nana Gollner photographs and scripts**

1935-1946, 1981

(S) \*MGZMD 453

Compiled by Amelia Carlin, 2016.

## Summary

**Creator:** Tuttle, Frank

**Title:** Frank Tuttle and Nana Gollner photographs and scripts

**Date:** 1935-1946, 1981

**Size:** 1.01 linear feet (3 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Frederika Hastings Blair and Helen Tuttle Votichenko.

**Abstract:** Nana Gollner (1919-1980) was one of America's first prima ballerinas. During her career, she danced in ballet companies in Europe, in Frank Tuttle's production, *Ballet Carnival*, and in a short choreographed film directed by Tatiana Tuttle. The collection contains photographs and negatives of Gollner; Frank Tuttle's correspondence concerning his production; scripts; programs; and clippings.

**Preferred citation:** Frank Tuttle and Nana Gollner photographs and scripts, (S) \*MGZMD 453. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Amelia Carlin, 2016.

## Creator History

Nana Gollner (1919-1980) was one of America's first prima ballerinas. In 1935, she danced with David Lichine in the short film *Spring Night*, which was directed by Tatiana Tuttle. She subsequently danced as prima ballerina with Colonel de Basil's Ballet Russe, and toured with Rene Blum's Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

Frank Tuttle (1892-1963) was a Hollywood film director and writer. As a ballet enthusiast, he established the California Ballet, a troupe made up primarily of dancers from motion pictures. Their first performance, and Nana Gollner's American debut as primary dancer, was *Ballet Carnival* produced by Tuttle in 1939.

## Scope and Content Note

The production and promotion of *Ballet Carnival* is recorded in studio photographs and negatives of Gollner in various poses, most likely taken as promotional material; Tuttle's correspondence; contracts; a program; and a poster design. Scripts for ballet story ideas by Frank Tuttle, Tatiana Tuttle, Gerald Goode, and others are also present.

Other material relating to Gollner includes stills from the movie *Spring Night* (1935); and candid photographs of Gollner at a social event and dancing with her husband Paul Petroff on a suburban lawn. Programs that include Gollner's performances in Monte Carlo with the Ballet Russes and with The Ballet Theatre are present.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Ballet -- United States

### **Occupations**

Ballet dancers

Producers (managers)

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Clippings (information artifacts)

Correspondence

Negatives (photographs)

Photographs

### **Names**

Gollner, Nana

Tuttle, Tatiana

## Container List

### Photographs

b. 1 f. 1-6 1930s, undated

b. 3 undated

b. 1 f. 7 Photograph and Letter undated

This photograph portrait of Nana Gollner was framed. The letter was found by the archivist inside the backing board of the frame and is from Gollner, addressed to "Dearest."

b. 1 f. 8 *Spring Night* 1935

Includes photographs of David Lichine.

b. 1 f. 9-11 Negatives circa 1938-1939

### *Ballet Carnival*

b. 1 f. 12-16 1938-1939

### Scripts

b. 2 f. 1-2 Ballet Shorts 1930s  
Tatiana Tuttle and others.

b. 2 f. 3-4 *My Heart is Dancing by Frank Tuttle* 1937

b. 2 f. 5 *Never Marry a Dancer or Beware the Ballerina by Gerald Goode* 1937

b. 2 f. 6 *On Your Toes* 1936

### Notes and Correspondence

b. 2 f. 7-8 1939, 1944

### Programs and Clippings

b. 2 f. 9-11 1939-1944, 1981