



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Joan Duddy collection**

1951-2014 [bulk circa 1980-2014]

(S) \*MGZMD 492

Processed by Heather Halliday, 2018.

## Summary

**Creator:** Duddy, Joan

**Title:** Joan Duddy collection

**Date:** 1951-2014 [bulk circa 1980-2014]

**Size:** 6.25 linear feet (16 containers)

**Source:** The collection was donated by David Duddy, Joan Duddy's brother, in 2018.

**Abstract:** Joan Duddy (1937-2015) was an American dance administrator and curator who was influential in the New York City downtown dance scene from the 1980s through the 2000s. The Joan Duddy collection documents the later portion of her career, primarily dating from about 1980 to 2014, through project plans; published reviews; meeting notes; publicity items; contracts; correspondence; research materials; and video recordings of performances.

### Conditions Governing Access:

Video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

**Preferred citation:** Joan Duddy collection, (S) \*MGZMD 492. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Heather Halliday, 2018.

### Separated Materials:

Three monographs have been transferred to the reference collection at the Library for the Performing Arts.

## Creator History

Joan Duddy was born January 26, 1937 in Waltham, Massachusetts. She trained as a dancer and performed with several companies before eventually becoming a dance producer, curator, and administrator.

Duddy was influential in the New York City downtown dance scene from the 1980s through the 2000s. She founded the dance program at Dia Center for the Arts and served as its director in the 1980s and 1990s. She continued on as director when it became the Joyce Soho in 1996, until its closure in 2004. Through her positions at Dia and Joyce Soho, Duddy launched or greatly bolstered the careers of choreographers and dancers such as Laura Dean, Eva Dean, Molissa Fenley, and Ralph Lemon. After the closure of Joyce Soho, Duddy continued her active involvement in the production of several dance festivals, including DanceNOW, the Fringe Festival, and Dance Across Borders over the next decade. Duddy also served on the boards of several dance companies, including those of Christopher Caines and Eva Dean. Duddy received a Bessie award in 1993.

From 1981 until his death in February 2015, Duddy was married to Ike Schambelan, longtime director of Theater Breaking Through Barriers, a theater company that casts disabled actors. Duddy died November 7, 2015.

## **Custodial History**

The collection was held by the choreographer Eva Dean between Duddy's death and acquisition by New York Public Library.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The collection, which dates from about 1980 to 2014, documents the last decades of Joan Duddy's career. It is arranged alphabetically by person, topic, or location. Files generally contain a wide mix of document types, often holding together in a single file printed email correspondence and letters, research materials, meeting notes, project plans, published reviews, publicity items, mailing lists, schedules, performance programs, and contracts relating to the person, topic, or location listed on the folder title.

Dancers and choreographers who figure prominently in the files include: Eva Dean, Laura Dean, Christopher Caines, Molissa Fenley, Satoshi Haga, Ralph Lemon, Judith Ren-Lay, and Nancy Zendora. Duddy's involvement in DanceNOW, the Fringe Festival, and Dance Across Borders are well-represented over numerous years. A few notebooks, dating from 2007 to 2013, mostly contain meeting notes and colleagues' contact information.

The collection also includes 51 videotapes of performances, auditions, and rehearsals, many by Dia or Joyce Soho choreographers, dancers, and performance artists. The video recordings date from about 1984 to about 2002 and are all unavailable pending digitization.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged alphabetically by person, topic, or location.

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

Arts administrators  
Curators.

**Subjects**

Dance -- 20th century  
Dance festivals

**Names**

Caines, Christopher  
Dean, Eva  
Dean, Laura, 1945-  
Dominic, Magie, 1944-  
Duddy, Joan  
Fenley, Molissa  
Johnson, Kitt  
Lemon, Ralph  
Musard, Yves  
Nureyev, Rudolf, 1938-1993  
Peloquin, Peggy  
Rosen, Amy Sue  
Valentine, Edith  
Zendora, Nancy  
Amy Sue Rosen/Derek Bernstein Projects  
Dia Center for the Arts (New York, N.Y.)  
Joyce SoHo (New York, N.Y.)

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Artists with AIDS circa 1999
- b. 1 f. 2 Bard College 2007
- b. 1 f. 3 Beacon Event 2008  
Merce Cunningham Dance Company performance in Beacon, New York.
- b. 1 f. 4-5 The Bessies 1993-2014
  - b. 2 f. 1
  - b. 2 f. 2 Bin Bin Factory 2007-2013  
See also Satoshi Haga.
  - b. 2 f. 3 Blind Dance Companies 2001-2004
  - b. 2 f. 4 Board Serve NYC 2010
  - b. 2 f. 5 Bookstores 2010
  - b. 2 f. 6 Charitable Donations and Expenses 2013-2014
  - b. 2 f. 7-8 Caines, Christopher 2007-2012  
Includes Duddy's involvement on the board of the Christopher Caines Dance Company.
  - b. 2 f. 9 Christo's Gates 2005  
Dance Across Borders
- b. 2 f. 10-11 1994-2005
- b. 3 f. 1-15 2006  
Includes files on artists; contracts; finance; grants, including the Mertz Gilmore Foundation; and schedules.
- b. 4 f. 1-6 2007
- b. 5 f. 1-8 Includes files on artists; contacts; funding; Mertz Gilmore Foundation; the program; schedules; and students.
- b. 6 f. 1-2
- b. 6 f. 3-4 2008-2010
  - b. 6 f. 5 Dancemakers 1994
- b. 6 f. 6-11 DanceNOW 1996-2014
- b. 7 f. 1-8
  - b. 7 f. 9 Dance USA 2014
  - b. 7 f. 10 Dancers Forum Compact 2002-2004
- b. 8 f. 1 Danspace 2014
- b. 8 f. 2-4 Dean, Eva 2004-2014  
Includes Duddy's involvement on the board of Eva Dean Dance Company.
- b. 8 f. 5 Dean, Laura 2008-2009  
Dia Center for the Arts
- b. 8 f. 6 2013-2014
- b. 8 f. 7-8 Poetry Readings 1990-1996
- b. 8 f. 9 Salon Project 1987-1992
- b. 8 f. 10 Videos 1989-1992, 2013  
Documents referring to videotaped Dia performances.
- b. 9 f. 1 Disability 2009-2013
- b. 9 f. 2 Dixon Place 2012
- b. 9 f. 3-8 Dominic, Magie 1981-2013
- b. 9 f. 9-12 Fenley, Molissa 1988, 1997-2014

- b. 10 f. 1-7 Fringe Festival 2008-2013
  - b. 10 f. 8 Funding 2010-2013
- b. 11 f. 1-9 Haga, Satoshi 1993-2014
  - See also Bin Bin Factory.
- b. 11 f. 10 High Line 2013
- b. 11 f. 11 Johnson, Kitt 2004-2007
- b. 12 f. 1-8 Joyce Soho Theater 1996-2005, 2011-2013
  - b. 12 f. 9 Kirkland Farm 2008-2011
  - b. 12 f. 10 Kirstein, Lincoln 1951
  - b. 12 f. 11 Kramer, Nancy 2011
  - b. 12 f. 12 Latsky, Heidi 2010
  - b. 12 f. 13 Lemon, Ralph 1997-2011
- b. 13 f. 1-5
  - b. 13 f. 6 Miscellaneous 1960s-2014
  - b. 13 f. 7 Mozgala, Gregg 2009
  - b. 14 f. 1 Musard, Yves 2000-2009
- b. 14 f. 2-5 Notebooks 2007-2013
  - b. 14 f. 6 Nureyev, Rudolf 2006
  - b. 14 f. 7 Obituaries 1996-2012
- b. 15 f. 1-2 Published obituary notices of many of Duddy's dance colleagues and friends.
  - b. 15 f. 3 Osberg, Susan 2008-2010
  - b. 15 f. 4 Parkinson's Disease 2007-2013
  - b. 15 f. 5 Performance and Rehearsal Spaces circa 2003-2010
  - b. 15 f. 6 Peloquin, Peggy 2003
  - b. 15 f. 7 Personal Identification 2013-2014
  - b. 15 f. 8 Ren-Lay, Judith 2004-2012
  - b. 15 f. 9 Residencies 2002-2007
  - b. 15 f. 10 Rosen, Amy Sue 1999-2013
  - b. 15 f. 11 Soho Partnership 2003
  - b. 15 f. 12 Swarthmore College 50th Reunion 2011
- b. 15 f. 13-17 Travel 1993-2014
  - Includes files on Long Beach Island, New Jersey; Maho Bay, Virgin Islands; Maine; Provincetown, Massachusetts; and Whitstable, England.
- b. 15 f. 18 Valentine, Edith 2005-2009
- b. 15 f. 19 Waldman, Ricki 2005
  - b. 16 f. 1 The Yard 1991-2008
  - b. 16 f. 2 Zendora, Nancy 2004-2011
  - b. 16 f. 3 Zagreb, Croatia 2007
- Video Recordings circa 1984-circa 2002
  - Includes 51 video recordings of performances, auditions, and rehearsals.
  - Video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.