



# The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

## **Dancing in the Streets records**

1983-2015

(S) \*MGZMD 493

Processed by Heather Halliday, 2018.

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Dancing in the Streets (1984-)

**Title:** Dancing in the Streets records

**Date:** 1983-2015

**Size:** 10.21 linear feet (23 containers)

**Source:** Donated by Bruno Joly in June, 2018.

**Abstract:** Dancing in the Streets is a New York City community-based dance organization dedicated to providing free public dance performances and fostering the careers of emerging and established choreographers and dancers. The Dancing in the Streets records date from 1983 to 2015, tracing the history of the organization through board of directors records; performance production files; programming files; photographs of performance events; marketing materials; and newspaper and magazine clippings.

**Status note:** Electronic records are currently unavailable.

#### **Conditions Governing Access:**

Audio and video recordings are unavailable pending digitization.

**Preferred citation:** Dancing in the Streets records, (S) \*MGZMD 493. 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.

### **Creator History**

Founded in 1984 by Elise Bernhardt, Dancing in the Streets is a New York City community-based dance organization dedicated to nurturing and sustaining movement artists and providing free public

performances. Site-specific performances produced by Dancing in the Streets have been staged in such unconventional locations as grain silos, beaches, swimming pools, parks, fire escapes, building ledges and literally on city streets. Performances often highlight the interplay between city dwellers and urban architecture. A series of performances in Grand Central Terminal in the late 1980s helped highlight the civic programming potential of that expansive public space. Performances have featured the work of established dancers, choreographers, and dance troupes including: Meredith Monk, Merce Cunningham, Ann Carlson, Douglas Dunn, Eiko and Koma, Joanna Haigood, the Urban Bush Women, Stephan Koplowitz, Gregory Hines, Tere O'Connor, Elizabeth Streb, Reggie Wilson, and Yasuko Yakoshi. Many emerging dancers perform in Dancing in the Streets programs; some, such as Savion Glover, who performed with Dancing in the Streets as a teen, have gone on to subsequent acclaim. The organization has toured the United States and performed internationally.

Besides performance events, Dancing in the Streets also administers community and educational programs that frequently focus on children or teens, offering opportunities to emerging artists. Since the 2000s, Dancing in the Streets has incorporated Hip-Hop elements in its performances and programs. In 2011, Dancing in the Streets moved its offices from Brooklyn to the Bronx.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Dancing in the Streets records trace the history of this idiosyncratic community-based performance group, highlighting the work of the dancers, choreographers, and community members who have participated in its performances and programs. The records are separated into the following sections: articles and clippings; board of directors; marketing; performance production; photographs; programming; and audio and video recordings. Files are arranged chronologically within each section.

The photograph files comprise the largest portion of the records. The majority of photographs document site specific public performance events, while many others show Dancing in the Streets programming activities, document site surveys, or are publicity portraits of performers. Most of the photographs are black and white prints and contact sheets. Corresponding negatives for some of these can be found in box 15. Some color slides and prints are also included.

Performance production files occupy a significant portion of the records. They are labeled with titles of performance pieces and typically include project summaries; meeting notes; reference materials relating to venues and themes; park permits; contracts; event programs; sponsorship and advertising; and general correspondence related to planning and executing public dance performances.

Programming files also represent a substantial share of the records. These files hold material on several community-based, ongoing educational programs administered through Dancing in the Streets that frequently incorporate movement, dance, or performance, but rather than culminating in a single public performance, recur over many months or a number of years. Programs include Arts in Education, which worked with elementary school children; Dancing in City Parks; Dancing on the Plaza; and Picture Red Hook.

Articles and clippings files hold published newspaper and magazine reviews of Dancing in the Streets performances and other articles about the organization. The majority of this material is photocopied.

The board of directors files hold agendas and meeting minutes of Dancing in the Streets board of directors dating from 1990 and 1991; and from 2006 to 2014.

Marketing files hold promotional material for specific performances, including press releases,

newsletters, invitations, fliers, and promotional posters.

The collection includes 4 audio and 139 video recordings of interviews, performances, and programming activity, which are unavailable pending digitization.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Black-and-white photographs  
Clippings (information artifacts)  
Color slides

### **Subjects**

Dancers -- 20th century  
Hip-hop dance  
Performance art  
Performing arts -- Photographs

### **Names**

Bernhardt, Elise  
Carlson, Ann, 1954-  
Cunningham, Merce  
Dunn, Douglas, 1942-  
Eiko and Koma  
Glover, Savion  
Haigood, Joanna  
Hines, Gregory  
Koplowitz, Stephan  
Monk, Meredith  
O'Connor, Tere  
Petit, Phillipe, 1949-  
Streb, Elizabeth  
Wilson, Reggie  
Dancing in the Streets (1984-)

## Container List

### Articles and Clippings

- b. 1 f. 1-19 1983-1994
- b. 2 f. 1-7 Includes files on Elise Bernhardt; *Dancing in the Streets, USA*; *Rat-A-Tat-Tap*; *The Russian Village*; *Els Comediants*; *Coney Island Special*; *Wave Hill*; *On the Waterfront*; *Poisson D'Avril*; Elizabeth Streb's *Ringside/Lockup*; *The Athlete's Project*; *Breath of Earth*; *Bugs of Earth*; and *OnSITE*.
- b. 2 f. 8-23 1995-2014
- Files include: *C'est la Vie*; *Dancing at the Delacorte*; *Wave Hill*; and *City Water Tunnel #3*;

### Board of Directors

- b. 2 f. 24-25 1990-1991
- b. 3 f. 1-6 2006-2014

### Marketing

- b. 3 f. 7-13 1985-2015
- b. 4 f. 1-19
- b. 5 f. 1-2
- b. 5 f. 3 City Proclamations 1993, 2007
- b. 5 f. 4 Elise Bernhardt circa 1986
- b. 5 f. 5 Logo circa 1995
- b. 5 f. 6-7 Newsletters 1983-2000

### Posters

- t. 1 *Dancing in the Streets, USA* 1990
- t. 2 Dances for Union Station 1991
- Performance took place in Philadelphia.
- t. 3 Dancing in the Streets Festival, NYC 1994
- Festival included performances of *The Athlete's Project*, *Who Killed Carmem?*, *Breath of Earth*, *Bugs of New York*, and *American Archeology*. 2 copies.
- t. 2 *C'est la Vie* 1995
- b. 5 f. 8-9 Press Releases 1985-2012
- b. 5 f. 10 United States Tour 1990
- b. 5 f. 11 Miscellaneous 1993-1994
- Includes "Common Ground" conference materials.

### Performance Production files

- b. 5 f. 12-13 1983-1985
- Includes the Brooklyn Bridge Dance Festival.
- b. 5 f. 14-15 1986-1989
- Includes *Grand Central Dances* and *City Wide Dance Festival*.
- b. 5 f. 16-17 1990-1992
- b. 6 f. 1-4 Includes USA Tour; *Els Comediants*; *Coney Island Special*; *Pull Your Head to the Moon*; and *Wave Hill*.
- b. 6 f. 5-10 1993-1997
- Includes *Cho Mu (Butterfly Dreams)* and the *Festival of Families*.
- b. 6 f. 11-16 1998-2001
- b. 7 f. 1-2 Including *Safe Harbor*; Eiko and Koma's *Carvan Project*; *Wave Hill*; *Night Light*; and *Stone's War*.

Performance Production files (cont.)

- b. 7 f. 3-8 2002-2008
- b. 8 f. 1-4 Includes *Breaking Ground*; *Offering*; *Picture Red Hook*; *Shadow Casters*; and *Giant Step Project*.
- b. 8 f. 5-9 2009-2015
- Includes *Bodies in Urban Spaces* and a *Public Charette*.

Photographs

1980s

- b. 9 f. 1 Art Parade 1983
- b. 9 f. 2 Brooklyn Bridge Dance Festival 1983
- b. 9 f. 3 Elise Bernhardt 1983
- b. 9 f. 4 *Dance on Water, Staten Island Ferry* 1984
- b. 9 f. 5-6 *Liberty Dances, Paris* 1986
- b. 9 f. 7 1987
- b. 9 f. 8-9 Grand Central Terminal 1987
- Includes Philippe Petit and Merce Cunningham.
- b. 10 f. 1-4 *City Wide Dance Fest* 1988
- Performances at Astoria Pools, Orchard Beach, and Coney Island.
- b. 10 f. 5 Summer 1988
- b. 10 f. 6 *City Wide Dance Fest* 1989
- b. 10 f. 7 *Dancing into Natural History* 1989

1990s

- b. 10 f. 8 Publicity Portraits 1990s
- Includes Paul Taylor and Elisabeth Streb dance companies.
- b. 10 f. 9 1990
- Includes Mayor David Dinkins.
- b. 10 f. 10-13 Miami and Washington, D.C 1990
- b. 11 f. 1-2 *Rat-A-Tat-Tap* 1990
- Includes Gregory Hines and Savion Glover.
- b. 11 f. 3 *Swingbridge* 1990
- b. 11 f. 4-5 *Travelling Russian Village Festival* 1990
- b. 11 f. 6 Los Angeles 1990-1991
- b. 11 f. 7 Chicago 1991
- b. 11 f. 8 *Dancing On Thin Ice* 1991
- b. 12 f. 1 *Els Comediants* 1991
- b. 12 f. 2 Philadelphia 1991
- b. 12 f. 3 April Fool's Day Benefit 1992
- b. 12 f. 4 *Coney Island Special* 1992
- b. 12 f. 5 *Dancing on Thin Ice* 1992
- b. 12 f. 6 *Pull Your Head to the Moon* 1992
- b. 12 f. 7 Dancing in the Schools, P.S.1 1992-1993
- b. 12 f. 8-9 Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream 1992
- b. 12 f. 10 Longhouse Benefit with Bill T. Jones 1993
- b. 13 f. 1 *Cho Mu (Butterfly Dreams)* 1993

Photographs (cont.)

1990s (cont.)

- b. 13 f. 2 *Dancing Without Walls* 1993
- b. 13 f. 3 Elizabeth Streb 1993
- b. 13 f. 4 *On the Waterfront* 1993
- b. 13 f. 5 *Poisson D'Avril* 1993
- b. 13 f. 6 Wave Hill 1993
- b. 13 f. 7 *Why the "Y"* 1993
- b. 13 f. 8 1994
- b. 13 f. 9 *American Archeology* 1994  
Meredith Monk on Roosevelt Island.
- b. 13 f. 10-11 *The Athlete's Project* 1994  
Includes David Dorfman
- b. 14 f. 1 *Breath of the Earth* 1994
- b. 14 f. 2 *Bugs of New York* 1994
- b. 14 f. 3 Dancing in the Schools 1994
- b. 14 f. 4 Duets 1994
- b. 14 f. 5 Mother's Day Dances 1994
- b. 14 f. 6 Valentine's Day Benefit 1994
- b. 14 f. 7 *Who Killed Carmen Miranda?* 1994
- b. 14 f. 8 *C'est la Vie* 1995
- b. 14 f. 9 Eiko and Koma 1995
- b. 14 f. 10 Manhattan Water Festival 1995
- b. 14 f. 11 *OnSITE International* 1995
- b. 14 f. 12 Streb 1995
- b. 14 f. 13 Union Square Green Market 1995
- b. 14 f. 14 Young People's Performance Festival 1995  
In Red Hook.
- b. 14 f. 15 New York Public Library For the Performing Arts Exhibition 1996
- b. 14 f. 16 Cocktail Party 1998
- b. 14 f. 17 1999

2000s

Digital images dating from 2002 to 2011 are unavailable pending transfer.

- b. 14 f. 18 Picture Red Hook 2002
- b. 14 f. 19 2005
- b. 14 f. 20 *Bodies in Urban Spaces* 2010
- b. 15 Negatives 1983-2010

Programming

- b. 16 f. 1 1994, 2006

Arts in Education

- t. 4 Mural circa 1991  
Mural created by an elementary school class. Inscription reads: "Class 4-403; Ms. Loring;  
June 20 and 21; 17th Street Boardwalk"
- b. 16 f. 2-7 1992-1994
- b. 16 f. 8 1996-1999

Programming (cont.)

Arts in Education (cont.)

- b. 16 f. 9-11      2000-2007
- b. 17 f. 1-2
- b. 17 f. 3-4      Dancing in City Parks 2005-2006
- b. 17 f. 5-6      Dancing on the Plaza 2005-2006
- b. 17 f. 7      OnSITE 1993-1996
- b. 17 f. 8-9      Picture Red Hook 1998-2002
- b. 18 f. 1-5      Includes community survey and story swap projects.
- Red Hook
- b. 18 f. 6      Community Photo Dedication 2004
- b. 18 f. 7      Young People's Performance Festival 1997-2000
- b. 19 f. 1-3
- b. 19 f. 4      Tapping into Schools 1990
- b. 19 f. 5      Urban Assembly 2006

Audio and Video Recordings

Includes 4 audio and 139 video recordings of interviews, performances, and programming activity.

Audio and video recordings unavailable pending digitization.