Descriptive Summary

Creator: Russell, Rhoda Winter, 1930-2019
Title: Rhoda Winter Russell Papers
Dates: circa 1932-2010 (bulk 1942-1959)
Extent: 6 document boxes, 1 oversize box (osb), 1 oversize folder (osf) (2.52 linear feet)
Abstract: The papers of dance educator and movement therapist Rhoda Winter Russell contain fliers, brochures, clippings, theater programs, and photographs collected by Russell and pertaining to dancers, choreographers, and dance companies that were active in the 1940s and 1950s, including Mary Wigman and Alwin Nikolais, with whom Russell studied, and the Henry Street Playhouse Dance Company.

Call Number: Performing Arts Collection PA-00209
Language: English
Access: Open for research. An advance appointment is required to view photographic negatives in the Reading Room.

Administrative Information

Processed by: Helen Baer, 2012-13; Grace Hansen, 2016
Repository: Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin
Biographical Sketch

Dance educator and movement therapist Rhoda Winter Russell (born 1930) studied with Mary Wigman in the 1950s. She grew up in Philadelphia, taking dances classes with Marion Cuyjet and Syvilla Fort, and also at Ballet Arts in New York. Her training continued at the University of Wisconsin where she studied with Margaret D’Houbler. After graduation she studied with Mary Wigman in Berlin and attended Wigman’s International Holiday Course in Montreux, Switzerland, in 1952. She obtained a master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin, taught dance at Ohio Wesleyan University, and became an assistant in Hanya Holm’s School of Dance in New York. She continued her studies with Alwin Nikolais at the Henry Street Playhouse in New York. In 1956 she assisted Margret Dietz at the Connecticut College School of Dance.

Her career in movement therapy began around 1956, when she married the psychologist Albert Ellis (they divorced in 1958). Her second marriage ended with the death of her husband, Dr. Murray Russell, in 1958, at which time she took a position in movement therapy at the Philadelphia State Hospital, working with the mentally ill. She retired from movement therapy in 1994. Starting in the 1980s, she served as a judge for dog shows. She died July 26, 2019 in Austin, Texas.

Sources:


Scope and Contents

The bulk of the Rhoda Winter Russell papers, circa 1932-2010 (bulk 1942-1959), consists of flyers, brochures, clippings, theater programs, and photographs collected by Russell and pertaining to dancers, choreographers, and dance companies that were active in the 1940s and 1950s. The papers are arranged into four series: I. Dance Files, circa 1932-2009, undated; II. Photographs, 1952-circa 1956, undated; III. Correspondence, 1936-1959, undated; IV. Movement Therapy and Personal Papers, 1951-2010. Mary Wigman, Alwin Nikolais, and the Henry Street Playhouse Dance Company are well represented throughout the collection.

Series I. Dance Files is divided into three subseries: A. Dancers, Choreographers, and Dance Companies; B. Venues and Producing Organizations; C. Printed Material and Album. Material within each subseries is arranged alphabetically by subject. Many of the programs and flyers are for performances in New York between 1955 and 1957, and in Philadelphia in the 1940s.
Series II. Photographs includes black and white prints and negatives depicting classes taught by Mary Wigman, Harald Kreutzberg, and others at the International Holiday Courses in Montreux in 1952. This series also contains a photograph of Adolf Hitler with a dog, as well as a set of negatives and printouts of ships in a harbor.

Series III. Correspondence is arranged alphabetically and most notably contains letters from Mary Wigman to Russell.

Most of Series IV. Personal Papers pertains to Russell’s career in movement therapy.

Provenance
The collection was acquired from Russell by purchase and gift in 2012 and 2013. The photograph of Adolf Hitler and the accompanying negatives were previously in the possession of Russell’s uncle Earl Winter (also known as Earl Winters), a U.S. military officer based in Heidelberg who was in charge of postal exchanges in northern Italy and Germany after World War II.

Related Material
Additional holdings for Mary Wigman are located in the Ransom Center Dance Collection.

Separated Material
Russell’s programs for theater and music performances are uncataloged. Books received with the collection were transferred to the Ransom Center Book Collection. Dance periodicals were transferred to Performing Arts Dance Periodicals.

Index Terms

People
   - Nikolais, Alwin.
   - Russell, Rhoda Winter.

Organizations
   - Henry Street Playhouse Dance Company.

Subjects
Dance -- United States -- 20th century.
Movement therapy.

Document Types

- Brochures.
- Fliers (printed matter).
- Clippings (information artifacts).
- Photographs.
- Letters (correspondence).
Series I. Dance Files, circa 1932-2009, undated

Subseries A. Dancers, Choreographers, and Dance Companies, circa 1932-2009, undated

Actors and Dancers Repertory Theatre, undated

Ailey, Alvin, 1972

Akesson, Birgit, 1954, undated

Amaya, Carmen, undated

Amaya, Carmen, and Antonio Triana, 1942

Mary Anthony Dance Theatre, undated

Antonio and His Spanish Ballet Company, 1955

Azuma Kabuki Dancers and Musicians, 1954

Balanchine, George, 1985

Ballet Americana, 1958

Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, 1942-1954, undated

Ballet Theatre, 1942-1954, undated

Ballets de Marigny, 1952

Les Ballets de Paris (Roland Petit), 1949-1954, undated

Beatty, Talley, 1948, undated

Beddow, Margery, undated

Bettis, Valerie, 1956

Bolshoi Ballet, 1959

Borde, Percival, with guest artist Pearl Primus, undated

Burton, Irving, 1956

Butler, John, 1952
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Container Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collins, Janet, 1954</td>
<td>Container 1.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cullberg, Birgit, 1961</td>
<td>Container 1.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cunningham, Merce, 1957-2009, undated</td>
<td>Container 1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dafora, Asadata, undated</td>
<td>Container 1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancers of Bali, 1952, undated</td>
<td>Container 1.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dayton Theatre Dance Group, with Meredith Dallas and Dorothy Laming, 1955</td>
<td>Container 1.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deering, Jane, 1942</td>
<td>Container 2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D’Houbler, Margaret, 1953, undated</td>
<td>Container 2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietz, Margret, 1953, undated</td>
<td>Container 2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunham, Katherine, 1944-1955, undated</td>
<td>Container 2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enters, Angna, 1956</td>
<td>Container 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escudero, 1955</td>
<td>Container 2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essen, Medha von, 1952</td>
<td>Container 2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flade, Tina, circa 1981</td>
<td>Container 2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankel, Emily, and Mark Ryder, undated</td>
<td>Container 2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garth, Midi, 1956</td>
<td>Container 2.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graham, Martha, 1947-1990, undated</td>
<td>Container 2.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray, Harriette Ann, 1954</td>
<td>Container 2.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greco, José, 1951-1954, undated</td>
<td>Container 2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadassah, with Joseph Gifford and company, 1956</td>
<td>Container 2.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halprin, Anna, 1962</td>
<td>Container 2.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawkins, Erick, circa 1957</td>
<td>Container 2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holder, Geoffrey, 1956-1957</td>
<td>Container 2.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holder, Geoffrey, and Louis Johnson, 1955</td>
<td>Container 2.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Holm, Hanya, 1946-1966
Horst, Louis, 1961
Johnson, Louis, undated
Jooss Ballet, 1946
Kabuki Theatre, 1954
Kinch, Myra, 1955
Kitchell, Iva, 1947
Kreutzberg, Harald, 1947-1951, undated
Lang, Pearl, 1956
Leath, A. A., undated
Lebrun, Rico, undated
Leeder, Sigurd, 1956
Limón, José, 1956
Limón, José, and the Julliard Dance Theater, 1956, undated
Linn, Bambi, and Rod Alexander, undated
Lippincott, Gertrude, 1950
London Festival Ballet, 1955
Louis, Murray, 1964, undated
Marceau, Marcel, 1955-1958
Marchowsky, Marie, 1956-1957, undated
Mariscano, Merle, 1958
Massine, Leonid, undated
Mettler, Barbara, late 1940s
Nagrin, Daniel, 1966

Container 2.19
Container 2.20
Container 2.21
Container 2.22
Container 2.23
Container 2.24
Container 3.1
Container 3.2
Container 3.3
Container 3.4
Container 3.5
Container 3.6
Container 3.7
Container 3.8
Container 3.9
Container 3.10
Container 3.11
Container 3.12
Container 3.13
Container 3.14
Container 3.15
Container 3.16
Container 3.17
Container 3.18
New York City Ballet, 1949-1958, undated  Container 3.19


O’Donnell, May, 1956  Container 4.1

Original Ballet Russe, 1946  Container 4.2

Paris Opera Ballet, 1948  Container 4.3

Pennsylvania Ballet, 1971  Container 4.4

Philadanco, 1982  Container 4.5

Primus, Pearl, 1946  Container 4.6

Rao, Shanta, undated  Container 4.7

Royal Ballet, 1967  Container 4.8

Sadler’s Wells Ballet, 1949-1955  Container 4.9

Shankar, Udi, 1949-1952  Container 4.10

Shawn, Ted, undated  Container 4.11

Shearer, Sybil, 1948-1955  Container 4.12

Slavenska, Mia, 1944  Container 4.13

Slavenska-Franklin Ballet, 1953  Container 4.14

Sokolow, Anna, 1956, undated  Container 4.15

St. Denis, Ruth, 1957  Container 4.16

Takei, Kei, undated  Container 4.17

Tallchief, Maria, 1951, undated  Container 4.18

Taylor, Paul, undated  Container 4.19

Teresa and Luisillo, Ballets Espagnols, 1954  Container 4.20

Theatre Dance, Inc., 1951  Container 4.21

Vashi and Veena, 1951-1952  Container 4.22
Weidman, Charles, 1946

Wigman, Mary

  Biographical sketch and notes by Russell, undated
  Clippings, 1956-1975
  German Dance Art by Mary Wigman, translated by Carl Reissner, 1935, undated typescript
  Mary Wigman Studio, fliers and brochure, 1950-1959
  Souvenir program for American tour presented by Sol Hurok, circa 1932
  Ximenez and Vargas, circa 1958
  Yugoslav National Folk Ballet, undated

Subseries B. Venues and Producing Organizations, 1945-1997, undated

  American Dance Festival, undated
  Ballet for America, 1946
  Bennington College, 1955
  Dance Notation Bureau, 1972
  Germantown YWCA (Philadelphia, Penn.), 1948
  Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, 1950-1953
  Julliard School of Music, Department of Dance, 1951
  Laban Institute of Movement Studies / Labanotation, 1951-1979
  New Dance Group Festival Series, 1945
  Philadelphia College Dance Council, 1949
  School of Performing Arts (New York, N.Y.), 1957
Students’ Dance Recitals, 1953

Swiss Association of Professional Dancers and Gymnasts, International Holiday Courses, 1952-1956


University of Illinois (Orchesis), 1956

University of Pennsylvania, 1951-1953

University of Wisconsin (Orchesis), 1948-1997, undated

The "Y" Dance Center, 1956-1958, undated

Subseries C. Printed Material and Album, 1943-2003, undated

Autograph album signed by dancers, 1943, undated

Dance publications and films, fliers and brochures, 1953-1987, undated

Jobs and Futures for Dance Majors, reprinted from Mademoiselle, 1950
Series II. Photographs, 1952-circa 1956, undated

13 negatives of ships in a harbor, undated  Container osb 7

Printouts from 13 negatives of ships in a harbor, undated  Container 6.4

B&W print of Hitler, undated  Container 6.5

International Holiday Courses in Montreux

Class photographs, 11 B&W prints of Margaret Erlanger, Joan Grant, Harald Kreutzberg, Ellen Moore, Rosalia Mereno[?], Mary Wigman, Rhoda Winter, and others, [1952]  Container 6.6

Personal photographs, 16 B&W prints of teachers and fellows students including Margret Dietz, Rosalia Chladek, Nahami Abbell, and Ellen Moore, 1952-circa 1956, undated  Container 6.7

Wigman, Mary

Head shot, 1 B&W print, undated  Container 6.8

In Berlin[?], 3 B&W prints, undated  Container 6.9
Series III. Correspondence, 1936-1959, undated

A-L, 1936-1957, undated
N-V, 1947-1959, undated
Wigman, Mary, 1952-1959
Unidentified, 1956

Photocopy of original box of correspondence with Russell’s notes, undated

Container 6.10
Container 6.11
Container 6.12
Container 6.13
Container 6.14
Series IV. Movement Therapy and Personal Papers, 1951-2010

Dog training article titled Modern Dance and the Mastino in Center Stage, 2010  Container 6.15

Headley-Whitney Museum, brochure, undated  Container 6.16

Movement therapy

Association for Humanistic Psychology, conference program and clipping regarding Russell’s presentation, 1983  Container 6.17


C. G. Jung Educational Center of Houston, flier, 1980  Container 6.19

Institute for Experimental Learning and Development, flier for Russell workshop, early 1960s  Container 6.20

Motion and Emotion, article by Russell in Dance Magazine, 1958  Container 6.21

Philadelphia State Hospital

Clippings, 1970-1971  Container 6.22

Movement Therapy Discipline, Philadelphia State Hospital, manual/procedural document, 1977  Container 6.23

Resumes, 1974-circa 1980  Container 6.24

University of Wisconsin term paper and grade report, 1951  Container 6.25

Performance-related clippings, 1952-2003, undated  Container 6.26
Index of Correspondents

- Aid for the Allies (The Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania)--6.9
- Bohrod, Aaron--6.9
- Brown, N. O. (Norman O.)--6.9
- Dallapiccola, Luigi--6.9
- Dietz, Margret--6.9
- Fowler, Freelon M.--6.9
- Fuller, Rebecca (Impulse Publications)--6.9
- Hill, Martha (Juilliard School of Music)--6.9
- Kroll, Leon--6.9
- Lee, Virginia (Ballet Arts)--6.9
- Lowe, Warner L. (Alfred Adler Consultation Center and Mental Hygiene Clinic)--6.9
- Nimura, Yeichi--6.10
- Rainer, Elsa--6.10
- Soyer, Raphael--6.10
- Terry, Walter--6.10
- Van Tuyl, Marian--6.10
- Vashi--6.10
- Wigman, Mary--6.11
- Unidentified correspondent "Margaret" (probably Margret Dietz)--6.12