



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the  
**Bruce King papers**  
1951-1977  
(S) \*MGZMD 383

Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** King, Bruce, 1925-1993

**Title:** Bruce King papers

**Date:** 1951-1977

**Size:** .21 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Donated by the Estate of Bruce King, 1993

**Abstract:** Bruce King was a modern dancer, choreographer, and teacher. The Bruce King papers hold correspondence, annotated scores, choreographic notes, book reviews, class notes, and other material documenting King's career.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:  
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

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**Processing note:** Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2014

## Creator History

Bruce King was a modern dancer, choreographer, and teacher. He was born in California and studied at the University of California at Berkeley and New York University. He then studied dance under Merce Cunningham, Hanya Holm, and Martha Graham in New York.

Mr. King performed with several modern-dance companies including Cunningham's from 1955 to 1959,

and presented solo and group works with his own Bruce King Dance Company in the 1970s. Over the years, he taught at Adelphi University and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, was artist in residence at many colleges and participated in many education projects. King died in 1993 at the age of 67.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Bruce King papers hold correspondence, annotated scores, choreographic notes, book reviews, class notes, and other material documenting King's career as a dancer, choreographer, and teacher.

Correspondence includes a note to an archivist in San Francisco describing his memories of dancer Sulgwynn Quitzow, notes to friends describing his current projects, and a note from Helen Tamiris thanking him for a magazine. King's annotated scores do not indicate the particular dance they accompanied. Notes include entrances, exits, and cues such as "run" or "jump." There are limited choreographic notes which are similarly untitled.

A costume file holds instructions for knitting his dance tights. King's typescript book reviews are for creative dance books published in the 1970s. There is also a syllabus from the Henry Street Playhouse's 1951 survey history of dance. The file includes King's notes from attending these courses.

**Arrangement:** Alphabetical by file type.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Choreographers -- United States

Dance -- Study and teaching

Modern dance -- United States -- 20th century