



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Marc Platt papers

1918-1977

(S) *MGZMD 329

Compiled by Jennifer A. Ferretti, Pratt Institute, 2014, 2013

Summary

Creator: Platt, Marc, 1913-

Title: Marc Platt papers

Date: 1918-1977

Size: 1.93 linear feet (5 boxes)

Source: Donated by Marc Platt, 1991.

Abstract: Marc Platt (b. 1913) is a dancer, musical theater performer, and actor who danced with such ballet companies as the Ballets Russes du Col. W. de Basil and Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, and later performed in Broadway musicals. The Marc Platt papers (1918-1977) contain correspondence with production staff and acquaintances, reviews, photographs, posters, and programs that document Platt'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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Preferred citation: Marc Platt papers, (S) *MGZMD 329. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Jennifer A. Ferretti, Pratt Institute, 2014, 2013 The order in which the collection was received has been maintained.

Creator History

Marc Platt (1913-), born Marcel Emile Gaston LePlat in Pasadena, California, is a dancer, musical

theater performer, and actor. Platt began his dancing career in 1927 after the LePlat family moved to Seattle, Washington. He took classes and danced with the Mary Ann Wells School as well as the Los Angeles, California, based Henry Duffy Players.

Platt joined Col W. de Basil's Ballets Russes in 1935 and toured throughout Europe and America under the name Platoff. In 1938, Platt joined Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. In 1939, with encouragement from Ballet Russe choreographer Leonide Massine, Platt created and choreographed Ghost Town, his first ballet, performed by Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, with music by Richard Rodgers. Ghost Town premiered at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.

Platt stopped performing with ballet companies in 1942 and mostly took roles in musical comedies on stage and film. He starred in Broadway shows and on screen with celebrities such as Janet Blair, Lee Bowman, Rita Hayworth, and Larry Parks. In 1943, Platt played Dream Curly in the original Broadway production of Oklahoma!, and played a smaller role in the 1955 film version. Platt also starred in Tonight and Every Night (1945), Tars and Spars (1946), and Down to Earth (1947); his first non-dancing screen role was in The Swordsman (1948).

During the 1950s, Platt toured in a cabaret team with Kathryn Lee and continued acting on stage. He stopped dancing around 1955 to focus on choreography and acting. In the early 1960s, he appeared on daytime television as well as directed for television. In 1962, Platt was invited to be the first guest producer-choreographer at Radio City Music Hall. Platt moved to Florida and transitioned to teaching full-time with his wife, dancer Jean Goodall. Platt now lives in California.

Custodial History

The Marc Platt papers were transferred from the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center to the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts in 1991. The papers are a gift of Marc Platt, donated in 1991.

Scope and Content Note

The Marc Platt papers (1918-1977) document his career as a professional dancer, musical theater performer, and actor through correspondence, reviews, photographs, posters and programs, and production records.

A small selection of production records, located in the general file, include a production cost list, story synopsis, call list, and other ephemera from various performances. Correspondence is arranged chronologically and provides a look at Platt's professional arrangements through incoming letters with Col. W. de Basil and Richard Rodgers. Other personal correspondence includes well-wishes for Platt on particular productions and invitations to state-sponsored events.

Loose clippings and scrapbooks comprehensively document Platt's professional career from the time he was a dancer at the Mary Ann Wells School through his work in movies and television. The photographs are arranged by topic and depict Platt with other actors or dancers, on set, rehearsing, dancing, and posing for promotional purposes. Platt also collected photographs of other dancers, which are typically signed with a memo to Platt. Also present are original sketches of costumes for Ghost Town. Platt collected posters and programs primarily during his career with both Ballets Russes and Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Also included are Broadway musical programs.

Arrangement: The Marc Platt papers are organized by document type. Correspondence and reviews are loosely arranged chronologically. Photographs are arranged by topic.

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet dancers
Dance -- United States
Musicals

Occupations

Choreographers
Dancers

Titles

Choreography and dance

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Photographs
Posters
Programs
Reviews

Names

Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo
Ballets russes du Col. W. de Basil

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 General 1943-1968
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence 1935-1963
- b. 1 f. 3 Itineraries 1935-1940
- Clippings and Scrapbooks
- b. 5 f. 1-3 1918-1975
- b. 1 f. 4-9 1927-1972
- b. 2 f. 1-5 1960-1972
- Photographs
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- b. 3 f. 1-3 1942-1953
- b. 3 f. 4-6 Programs 1928-1977
- b. 4 f. 1-4 Programs 1928-1977