



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Anna Halprin papers

1940-2008

Compiled by Sarah Wade, Pratt Institute, 2012, 2012

Summary

Creator: Halprin, Anna

Title: Anna Halprin papers

Date: 1940-2008

Size: 1.42 linear feet (1 box, 1 volume)

Source: Donated by Anna Halprin, 2008.

Abstract: Anna Halprin, an American dancer known for her innovative and experimental technique, is a leading figure of the postmodern dance movement. This collection documents the artist's career with print materials, press clippings, biographies, San Francisco Dancers' Workshop newsletters, award programs, and photographs.

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: Anna Halprin papers, (S) *MGZMD 297. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

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Related Materials:

Anna Halprin Legacy Oral History Collection. Museum of Performance & Design Performing Arts Library, San Francisco.

Anna Halprin Papers. Museum of Performance & Design Performing Arts Library, San Francisco.

Creator History

Anna Halprin is an American postmodern dancer known for her innovative and experimental technique. Born Anna Schuman in Winnetka, Illinois, in 1920, Halprin began studying dance at the age of five. At the University of Wisconsin, Halprin studied formally under instructor Margaret H'Doublier. Before graduating from college in 1942, Halprin married landscape architect, Lawrence Halprin, with whom she had two daughters: Daria and Rana.

In the early 1970s, Halprin began to engage in dance therapy as a means for healing and restoration. She authored several books on the subject, including: *Dance as a Self-Healing Art* (1977) and *Movement Ritual: An Organization of Structural Movement to Encourage Creative Exploration* (1979). In 1978, Halprin and her daughter, Daria, founded the Tamalpa Institute, a non-profit organization for dance and expressive arts therapy based in San Rafael, California.

Halprin also founded the San Francisco Dancers' Workshop (1955) and instructed an array of notable dancers such as Trisha Brown, Simone Forti, Meredith Monk, and Yvonne Rainer.

Scope and Content Note

The Anna Halprin papers document the performance history of the renowned dancer from the years 1940 to 2008. The collection is comprised of print materials, press clippings, biographies, newsletters, award programs, and photographs. Photographs and press clippings make up the bulk of the collection.

Photographs include black and white images of Halprin performing solo and group shots of dancers practicing on a dance deck built at her San Francisco home. Press clippings include performance reviews and accounts of Halprin's expressive arts therapy techniques. Newsletters from the San Francisco Dancers' Workshop date from the mid- to late-1970s. These materials also consist of a brochure developed by Halprin, *Exit: Dance as a Process for Personal & Artistic Growth*, an account of a specific Dancers' Workshop that outlines and elucidates the workshop process. There is also a printed booklet outlining the group's mission statement and 3 year plan from 1968 to 1970.

Arrangement: This collection is arranged alphabetically by genre.

Key Terms

Subjects

Arts -- Therapeutic use
Choreographers -- United States
Dance therapy
Modern dance -- United States
Postmodern dance
Women dancers

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Brochures
Clippings (information artifacts)
Photographs

Names

Halprin, Lawrence
San Francisco Dancers' Workshop
Tamalpa Institute

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Award Programs--General 2007
- b. 1 f. 2 Award Programs--American Dance Festival 1996-1997
- b. 1 f. 3 Biographies undated
- b. 1 f. 4 Performance Programs, Flyers, and Brochures 1981-2008
Photographs
- b. 1 f. 5 1925-1996
Pictures of Anna, Portraits.
- b. 1 f. 6 1960-1979
City Dance, Pictures of Dance Deck, Slope Event, Jerusalem Conference Sacred Places,
Conference at Carmel, California
- b. 1 f. 7 1967-1995
Kadosh, Architecture Community, Community Building
- b. 1 f. 8 1981-2002
People and Friends; Circle the Earth
- b. 1 f. 9 1947-1961
Parades and Changes; Hunter College; 3 Legged Stool; 10 Myths; Cakewalk 1940; Purcell
Theme & Variation; Reach Out, Jasper Redrobe, Indian Koshae; ADF, Connecticut
- b. 1 f. 10 1968-1978
Museum Events; Workshops; University Workshops
- b. 1 f. 11-14 Press Materials 1968-2008
Festival d'Automne, Paris 2004 Centre Pompidou, Parades and Changes, Intensive Care
- b. 1 f. 15 Press Materials--Films 2003-2006
San Francisco Dancers' Workshop Materials
- v. 1 1968-1970
- b. 1 f. 16 1975-1980