



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Mary Hinkson papers

1943-2012

(S) *MGZMD 478

Collection processed by Amelia Carlin, 2017.

Summary

Creator: Hinkson, Mary

Title: Mary Hinkson papers

Date: 1943-2012

Size: 3.99 linear feet (10 boxes); 101 megabytes (5 computer files)

Abstract: Mary De Haven Hinkson (1925 to 2014) was an influential African American dancer, teacher, and choreographer. The collection dates from 1942 to 2012 and contains photographs from Martha Graham Company tours, oral history interview transcripts, correspondence, contracts, notes, programs, and other printed matter. A small amount of writing on dance and choreography elucidate Hinkson's thoughts on teaching and technique.

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>

Conditions Governing Access:

Audio and visual materials are currently unavailable pending digitization.

Preferred citation: Mary Hinkson papers, (S) *MGZMD 478. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Collection processed by Amelia Carlin, 2017.

Creator History

Mary De Haven Hinkson (1925 to 2014) was an influential dancer, teacher, and choreographer. She was one of Martha Graham's principal dancers and one of the first two black dancers to perform with Graham's company, where she danced from 1951 to 1973. Hinkson also danced with the New York City Opera, and was a frequent guest artist with other companies both in the U.S. and internationally. She taught dance at the Juilliard School (from 1951 to 1968), the High School of the Performing Arts, NY (from 1955 to 1960), the Dance Theatre of Harlem School, and for various other schools and companies. Hinkson died in 2014 at the age of 89.

Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from 1943 to 2012 and contains photographs, oral history interview transcripts, correspondence, contracts, notes, programs, and other printed matter. A small amount of writing on dance and choreography elucidate Hinkson's thoughts on teaching and technique. The collection includes hundreds of black and white photographs taken by Hinkson whilst touring Europe and Israel with the Martha Graham Company. The majority of the images come from the 1954 tour, with a number from 1958, 1963, and 1967. The photographs, many of which have captions on the back, include candid shots and informal portraits of dancers, members of the orchestra, and others, such as Matt Turney, Joseph Bastien, Martha Graham, Yuriko Kikuchi, Clive Thompson, Simon Sadoff, Bertram Ross, impresario Anatole Heller, costume maker Ursula Reed, and producer Gertrude Macy. There are some images of street advertising for company performances.

Arrangement: The files are grouped under Correspondence, Contracts, and Notes; Interview Transcripts; Programs and Printed Matter; and Photographs. Original file names have been kept where present. Correspondence files may contain photographs.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American dancers
Modern dance -- United States
Women dancers

Occupations

Choreographers -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Fliers (printed matter)
Photographs
Programs (documents)

Names

Hinkson, Mary
Turney, Matt
Martha Graham Dance Company

Container List

Correspondence, Contracts, and Notes

Correspondence files may contain photographs, fliers, and biographical material.

- b. 1 f. 1-21 1943-1982
- b. 2 f. 1-26 1979-2000s
- b. 3 f. 1-9 2000-2012
- b. 3 f. 10-13 Teaching and Choreographic Notes 1945, undated

Interview Transcripts

- b. 4 f. 1-7 1984-2005
- b. 5 f. 1 2005

Programs and Printed Matter

- b. 5 f. 2-5 1960-1979
- b. 6 f. 1-7 1960-2005

Photographs

Martha Graham Company Tours

- b. 7 f. 1-11 Austria, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, and Holland 1954
- b. 8 f. 1-8 Sweden, France, and Italy 1954
- b. 9 f. 1-5 Italy and Spain 1954
- b. 9 f. 6-8 Israel 1958
- b. 10 f. 1
- b. 10 f. 2 Party at Gravetye Manor (Robin Howard's Estate) 1963
- b. 10 f. 3 Portugal 1967
Jen [Hinkson's daughter] on tour with the Martha Graham Company.
- b. 10 f. 4 *Part Real, Part Dream, and Filming of Night Journey* 1957, 1965-1966
- b. 10 f. 5 *Diversion of Angels* 1970?
 - er. 1 *Diversion of Angels* 1970?
(5 computer files 101 megabytes)
- b. 10 f. 6-7 Miscellaneous Photographs 1950s-1990s