Guide to the David Sears Papers, 1937-1992
Bulk dates 1972-1986

(S)*MGZMD 184

Jerome Robbins Dance Division
The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
New York, New York

Contact Information

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Jerome Robbins Dance Division
40 Lincoln Center Plaza
New York, New York 10023-7498
Phone: 212/870-1657
Email: dance@nypl.org
Web address: http://digilib.nypl.org/dynaweb/ead/dance

Processed by: Leslie Reyman
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Descriptive Summary

<table>
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<th>Title:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Collection ID:</td>
<td>(S)*MGZMD 184</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creator:</td>
<td>Sears, David</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extent:</td>
<td>23 linear feet, 52 boxes</td>
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Abstract: Research files used by David Sears for writing reviews and articles on dance and theater.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Publication Rights

For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Jerome Robbins Dance Division.

Preferred Citation

David Sears Papers, (S)*MGZMD 184, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Source

The David Sears Papers were donated to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division in 1992 by David Sears.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2006.
Biographical Note

David Sears was a writer on modern dance. He graduated from New York University where he received a teaching degree. He wrote for Dance News and Ballet Review as well as other lesser-known publications. At the time of his death he was working on a book on Martha Graham and her use of Greek themes in her choreography. He died on June 24, 1992.

Scope and Content Note

The David Sears papers document his research process for articles and reviews about dance. The collection consists mainly of New York area newspaper clippings in a wide range of topics related to both dance and theater. In addition there are press releases and stock photographs from several organizations. There is also some material related to college and English as a Second Language courses taught by Sears among the limited professional papers.

Organization

The collection is organized into 3 series and 2 sub-series. They are:

Series I: Professional Papers
Series II: Research Material
  Sub-series 1 – Dance
  Sub-series 2 – Theater
Series III: Oversized Material
Series Descriptions

Series I: Professional Papers 4 Boxes
Arrangement: Alphabetical
This series contains professional material including correspondence and receipts. There is also material used in teaching courses at both Hunter College and Queens College. Because Sears was involved with the puppet community, there is material from puppetry guilds in the New York City area. Also included are his reviews that appeared in the magazine *Michael’s Thing*, as well as other regional magazines.

Series II: Research Material 47 Boxes
This series contains dance and theater-related clippings from newspapers and magazines in the New York City area mainly from the *New York Times* and *The Village Voice*. Also included are press releases and stock photographs. In addition there are handwritten notes.

  Sub-series 1 – Dance 35 Boxes
  This sub-series contains dance-related clippings from newspapers and magazines in the New York City area mainly from the *New York Times* and *The Village Voice*. Also included are press releases and stock photographs from dance related organizations in the New York City area. When Sears attended performances, his notes used to write reviews are included in the folders. There is also an extensive section of material based upon the work of Joseph Campbell. This material was used for research for the proposed book about Greek influences used in Martha Graham’s choreography. He was working on this book at the time of his death.

  Sub-series 2 – Theater 12 Boxes
  This sub-series contains theater-related clippings from newspapers and magazines in the New York City area mainly from the *New York Times* and *The Village Voice*. These folders are mostly about playwrights and directors. There are extensive reviews and essays about the career of playwright and actor, Robert Ludlam, who used puppetry in his theatrical productions. Also of note is research material based on plays by Shakespeare and George Bernard Shaw.

Series III: Oversized Material 2 Boxes
Arrangement: Alphabetical
This series contains mostly souvenir programs from ballet performances that David Sears attended. There is also some artwork, magazines and calendars.
### Series I: Professional Papers

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      - by David Sears
    - *Dancing on the Next Wave, INPerformance*, 1983 Jan/Feb., by David Sears
    - *Eastside Courier*, 1976
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Autographed Ballet Slipper

Audio tapes
   Cycles—Native American Flute Music
   Graham
   Jeanette Schlotthmauer (L. Horst)
   David Sears, Jersey City 1992, Mar. 25

Books
   Maria Tallchief: American Ballerina by Adele deLeeuw
   On the Four Quartets of T.S. Eliot by Constance de Masirevich
   John Martin’s Book of the Dance