

Maxine Glorsky Papers Relating to Martha Graham
Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress



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Collection Summary

Title: Maxine Glorsky Papers Relating to Martha Graham

Span Dates: 1940-2019

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1944-1981)

Call No.: ML31.G46

Creator: Glorsky, Maxine

Extent: 3,455 items

Extent: 31 containers

Extent: 18 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017563970>

Summary: The collection of Maxine Glorsky focuses on her relationship with the Martha Graham Dance Company as its stage manager during the 1970s and early 1980s. It also incorporates substantial material from Jean Rosenthal, Graham's lighting designer during the 1940s and 1950s. The collection includes many cue sheets for both stage management and lighting purposes, lighting plots, related technical materials, business papers for Glorsky's Technical Assistance Group (TAG) Foundation and Rosenthal's Theatre Production Service (TPS), correspondence, and a modest amount of publicity, news clippings, and programs.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Batchelder, William H.

Cernovich, Nicola.

Fonteyn, Margot, 1919-1991.

Glorsky, Maxine.

Glorsky, Maxine.

Graham, Geordie, 1900-1988.

Graham, Martha.

Graham, Martha. Acts of light.

Graham, Martha. Appalachian spring.

Hawkins, Frances.

Lauterer, Arch, 1904-1957.

Noguchi, Isamu, 1904-1988.

Nureyev, Rudolf, 1938-1993.

Protas, Ron.

Rosenthal, Jean, 1912-1969.

Trapido, Joel.

Weis, Elinor M.

Organizations

George Abbott Theatre (New York, N.Y.)--History.

Lunt-Fontanne Theatre (New York, N.Y.)--History.

Mark Hellinger Theatre (Organization : New York, N.Y.)

Martha Graham Dance Company--History.

National Endowment for the Arts. Dance Program.

Technical Assistance Group.

Theatre Production Service.

United States. International Communication Agency.

Subjects

Choreographers--United States--Biography.
Dancers--United States--Biography.
Modern dance--United States--History.
Stage lighting designers--United States--Biography.
Stage lighting designers--United States--Correspondence.
Stage lighting--Drawings.
Stage lighting--United States--History.
Stage managers--United States--Biography.

Titles

Alcestis (Choreographic work : Graham)
Canticle for innocent comedians (Choreographic work : Graham)
Embattled garden (Choreographic work : Graham)
Every soul is a circus (Choreographic work : Graham)
Eye of anguish (Choreographic work : Graham)
Frescoes (Choreographic work : Graham)
Hérodiade (Choreographic work : Graham)
Judith (Choreographic work : Graham)
Legend of Judith (Choreographic work : Graham)
Mendicants of evening (Choreographic work : Graham)
Myth of a voyage (Choreographic work : Graham)
O thou desire who art about to sing (Choreographic work : Graham)
Owl and the pussycat (Choreographic work : Graham)
Penitente (Choreographic work : Graham)
Phaedra (Choreographic work : Graham)
Secular games (Choreographic work : Graham)
Time of snow (Choreographic work : Graham)
Visionary recital (Choreographic work : Graham)

Form/Genre

Architectural drawings.
Biographies.
Business correspondence.
Clippings (Information artifacts)
Contracts.
Cue sheets.
Dance programs.
Financial records.

Provenance

Gift, Maxine Glorsky, 2018.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Maxine Glorsky organized the collection with the assistance of Tiffany Nixon, archivist for Roundabout Theatre Company. K. Mitchell Snow and Libby Smigel processed the materials in 2018-2019 and Smigel coded the finding aid in 2020. Morgen Stevens-Garmon rehoused oversize light plots and stage plans and added them to the finding aid in July 2021.

Other Repositories

The New York Public Library Dance Division holds papers of Maxine Glorsky's production work for Dance Umbrella and other productions in New York City.

Related Material

The Library of Congress is rich in materials that document the life and career of American modern dance pioneer Martha Graham. Collections housed in the Music Division include: the [Aaron Copland Collection](#); [Armgard von Bardeleben Papers](#); [Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation Collection](#); [Benjamin Garber Papers](#); [Erick Hawkins and Lucia Dlugoszewski Papers](#); [Ethel Winter and Charles Hyman Papers](#); [Jane Dudley Papers](#); [Helen McGehee and Umaña Papers](#); [Herta Moselsio Photographs of Martha Graham's *Lamentation*](#); [Martha Graham Collection](#); [Martha Graham Legacy Archive](#); [May O'Donnell Papers](#); [Miriam Cole Papers](#); Music Division, Old Correspondence Files; [Pearl Lang Papers](#); [Sophie Maslow Papers](#); [Victoria Phillips Collection](#); [Yuriko and Susan Kikuchi Papers](#), among other special collections and sets of correspondence.

The Manuscript Division holds two collections of relevance to Martha Graham research: the [Frances G. Wickes Papers](#) and the [Lucy Kroll Papers](#).

For additional special collections related to production management and lighting design, another collection held by the Music Division that shows the development of lighting design for dance and Broadway is the [Peggy Clark Papers](#). Additionally, the Rare Book and Special Collections Division holds theatre, dance, and other performance programs, catalogued at the item level, many of which document Jean Rosenthal's and Peggy Clark's contributions to lighting design.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Maxine Glorsky Papers Relating to Martha Graham are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

Access and Restrictions

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Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], Maxine Glorsky Papers Relating to Martha Graham, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Maxine Julie Glorsky was born on October 26, 1940, in Toms River, New Jersey. She began dance studies in New Jersey at age 11 and started to work with local theater troupes shortly thereafter. She attended Toms River High School before pursuing studies in speech therapy at New York University, from which she graduated in 1962. Prior to graduation, she began a career in stage management, starting at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, where she served during the summers of 1960 to 1963. During this same period she pursued dance studies at the Martha Graham studio. Glorsky began to work with lighting designer Nicola (Nick) Cernovich (b. 1929) in the early 1960s, who was a regular collaborator through the early 1980s. During the 1960s Glorsky also worked with the American Ballet Theatre and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. In 1970, she began her association with the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company where she continues to work as production stage manager at the time of this writing in 2019.

Glorsky co-founded and directed the Technical Assistance Group (TAG) Foundation, Ltd. in 1971. Her partners in this endeavor were Beverly Emmons and William Hammond. TAG was a non-profit service organization dedicated to assisting the dance and theatrical communities in locating rehearsal and performance spaces, identifying equipment sources, obtaining dance floors, and contracting with qualified production personnel. In addition, TAG served as producer for Dance Umbrella and the New York Dance Festival during the 1970s and early 1980s.

Most of the material in this collection derives from Glorsky's position as stage manager for the Martha Graham Dance Company from 1976 to 1981, although her collection also incorporates a substantial group of lighting designs, cue sheets, and associated material from Jean Rosenthal (1912-1969) who was associated with the Graham company starting in 1940. Glorsky began working with Rosenthal in 1966 and continued to work with the pioneering lighting designer until her death in 1969.

During Glorsky's tenure as stage manager for the Graham company, she worked on all of the following: 1977 season at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, which featured performances by Rudolph Nureyev; 1978 and 1980 seasons at the Metropolitan Opera; 1978 appearance at the Ravinia Festival; 1979 tour of Europe and the Middle East; 1981 visits to Mexico and Frankfurt, Germany; domestic tours from 1978 through 1981. This period included the premières of works such as *O Thou Desire Who Art About to Sing* and *Shadows* (1977), which opened at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre; *The Owl and the Pussycat*, *Ecuatorial*, and *Flute of Pan* (1978), which opened at the Metropolitan Opera House; *Frescoes* (1978), which opened at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; and *Acts of Light* (1981), which opened at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

In addition to her work with Graham, Glorsky held stage management positions with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, 1970-1983; Maria Benitez Teatro Flamenco, 1970-1999; Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project, 1996-2000; and Gala des Étoiles, 1986-2004, among others. Glorsky also served as stage manager for The Juilliard School at New York's Lincoln Center from 2003-2012. Materials from the school's 2003, 2004, and 2008 productions of Graham's *Appalachian Spring* during that period are also included in this collection.

Glorsky's work beyond the dance community included positions with the Dallas Civic Opera, Kansas City Opera, and the American National Opera Company under the direction of Sarah Caldwell. In the realm of musical theater, she assisted Tom Shelton on *Peter Pan*, Bob Fosse on *Chicago* and *Pippin*, Michael Bennett with *Seesaw*, Mike Nichols with *Apple Tree*, and stage managed a revival of *Showboat* for the New York State Theatre.

On September 17, 2018, the Stage Managers' Association presented Glorsky with its Del Hughes Award, recognizing her lifetime achievement as demonstrating the "finest qualities of stage management: patience, diplomacy, organization, and a sense of humor." Choreographer Lar Lubovitch observed the following about his longtime production stage manager: "Stage managers are the unheralded heroes of theater. They hold more things in their heads at once than any ten people put together. They are masters of logic; psychologists by nature; mommies and daddies when necessary; and stoics at a time of crisis. They are the antidote to chaos. The best of them have the rare ability to extinguish the flames of hysteria that frequently rise in the unstable characters known as 'artists' who rely on them for things beyond the call of duty."

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Maxine Glorsky focus on her relationship with the Martha Graham Dance Company as its stage manager during the 1970s and early 1980s. It also incorporates substantial material from Jean Rosenthal, Graham's lighting designer during the 1940s and 1950s, and other records of premieres, tours, and production information through the 1960s.

The largest set of materials in the collection, which comprises the Production Files series, includes cue sheets for both stage management and lighting purposes, theater space blueprints, lighting plots, related technical materials, cast lists, shipping crate contents, business papers for Glorsky's Technical Assistance Group (TAG) Foundation and Rosenthal's Theatre Production Service (TPS), budgets, cost estimates, contracts, correspondence, and a modest amount of publicity, news clippings, and programs. *Note:* Production documents such as large diagrams or blueprints that require special housing are organized but not yet accessible to patrons. This finding aid will be updated when those production documents become available.

Valuable among the materials are the copies of cue sheets and other production information from earlier stagings that are adapted for use in different performance spaces. The notes and amendments on rough drafts through to final typed copies

show the process of lighting and calling the performances. Particularly interesting is Jean Rosenthal's process of taking an existing production document and "transposing" it (Rosenthal's term) for a show in a different theater at a later date.

Notable omissions to the years covered in this collection are 1954, the year of the Graham company's successful tour of Europe, and the period from 1970 through 1972 during which Martha Graham was resting and recuperating.

While the Graham repertory is the one most documented in this collection, production records for Graham's contemporaries such as Doris Humphrey and José Limón; Graham dancers Merce Cunningham, Pearl Lang, Erick Hawkins, and others; and independent choreographers such as Nina Fonaroff, are also present because of festival programs managed by Rosenthal that featured works by many artists, including Graham. Performance programs and production records not directly related to the legacy of Martha Graham and her company are included in the Miscellany series, as well as several biographical documents of Maxine Glorsky.

Organization of the Maxine Glorsky Papers Relating to Martha Graham

The Collection is organized in two series:

- [Production Files, 1940-2008](#)
- [Miscellany, 1940s-2019](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-31 MAPCASE 7

Series

Production Files, 1940-2008

Records, notes, charts, blueprints, lighting plots, elevations, cue sheets, correspondence, invoices and receipts, and other materials that document the practical preparations and execution of mounting dance performances. Almost all of the productions are those of the Martha Graham Dance Company.

Arranged chronologically by year. Where possible within each year, items concerning a specific topic or related to a specific venue are grouped together. The original order of the production files was generally chronological, and this arrangement has been retained to a great extent.

BOX 25

Miscellany, 1940s-2019

Chiefly biographical items related to Maxine Glorsky and performance records of scholarly interest not directly related to the Martha Graham legacy.

Biographical items are arranged alphabetically by subject. Performance records are arranged chronologically.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-31 MAPCASE 7	Production Files, 1940-2008 Records, notes, charts, blueprints, lighting plots, elevations, cue sheets, correspondence, invoices and receipts, and other materials that document the practical preparations and execution of mounting dance performances. Almost all of the productions are those of the Martha Graham Dance Company. Arranged chronologically by year. Where possible within each year, items concerning a specific topic or related to a specific venue are grouped together. The original order of the production files was generally chronological, and this arrangement has been retained to a great extent.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1-3	1940 Production records for touring schedule; invoices of Jean Rosenthal and Theatre Production Services (TPS); contractual correspondence <i>Note:</i> Most items are related to January 1941 performances
BOX-FOLDER 1/4-12	1941 Production and administrative records <i>Note:</i> Includes production notes for <i>Punch and the Judy</i>
BOX-FOLDER 1/13-14	1942 Production and budget notes; correspondence <i>Note:</i> Includes correspondence between TPS and Erick Hawkins
BOX-FOLDER 1/15-19	1943 Production and budget documents; correspondence <i>Note:</i> Includes rental agreement with Ballet Caravan
BOX-FOLDER 1/20 to 2/10, 29/1, 31/1	1944 Notebooks, correspondence, and technical specs for Washington performances <i>Note:</i> Includes correspondence, sketches, and other records for October premiere of <i>Appalachian spring</i> at Library of Congress
BOX-FOLDER 2/11-18, 31/2	1945 Contractual, legal, and other correspondence, including dispute with Austin Wilder management; equipment lists; cue sheets; diagrams and sketches; production notebooks; programs and flyers <i>Note:</i> Several production documents from the 1944 National Theatre performances were included among 1945 production items
BOX-FOLDER 3/1-10	1946 Production documents for touring schedule with notes on verso; financial documents
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1946 Ground plan and light plot for tour
BOX-FOLDER 3/11-16	1947 Contracts; correspondence; lists for touring and stage management; detailed production notes for all Graham ballets performed in 1947 <i>Note:</i> Includes notes on Erick Hawkins's <i>Stephen Acrobat</i> and <i>John Brown</i>
BOX-FOLDER 3/17-22	1948 Production records for season at Maxine Elliott Theatre

Production Files, 1940-2008

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 3/23 to 4/5	1949 Itinerary and theater specs for 1949 tour; production documents for stage management of Graham company <i>Note:</i> Includes several documents for New York City Ballet and New York City Dance Theatre
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1949 Light plot and tormenter plan and board hook-up for road tour
BOX-FOLDER 4/6-21, 29/2, 31/3	1950 Production records for 46th Street Theatre season, Carnegie Hall performances, and a small amount on the 1950 European tour <i>Note:</i> Includes records for Graham's <i>Gospel of Eve</i> and <i>Judith</i> , and Hawkins choreographies
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1950 Light and hanging plot for 46th Street Theatre
BOX-FOLDER 4/22-24	1951 Records for Louisville and Denver performances and bus tour
BOX-FOLDER 5/1-5, 31/4	1952 Records for performances at Juilliard
BOX-FOLDER 5/6-23, 29/3, 30/1	1953 Production records for performances of the American Dance Festival at the Alvin Theatre; some documentation of performances at Juilliard, YMHA, and Baltimore <i>Note:</i> Works of Graham's contemporaries, such as Nina Fonaroff, Helen McGehee, Doris Humphrey, Jose Limon, May O'Donnell, Pearl Lang, and Merce Cunningham, are represented in the production files for the American Dance Festival
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1953 Light plots and elevation for American Dance Festival, Alvin Theatre
BOX-FOLDER 6/1-21, 29/4, 31/5	1955 Production records for American Dance Festival at ANTA; preparations for Graham company's first U.S. State Department-sponsored tour abroad in 1955-1956 <i>Note:</i> Production notes for works by Doris Humphrey, Jose Limon, Valerie Bettis, Daniel Nagrin, Anna Halprin, Pauline Koner, Anna Sokolow, are among the records for the American Dance Festival
BOX-FOLDER 7/1-11	1958 Production records for performances at Adelphi Theatre; "transposition" of earlier technical specs to 1958 charts <i>Note:</i> Includes documentation for premiere of <i>Clytemnestra</i>
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1958 Light plots and elevations for Adelphi Theatre
BOX-FOLDER 7/12-15	1960 Production specs for season at 54th Street Theatre <i>Note:</i> Includes preparations for new work <i>Alcestis</i>
BOX-FOLDER 7/16	1961
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/9	1961 Ground plan and elevations for <i>One More Gaudy Night</i> ; revised light plot and elevation
BOX-FOLDER 7/17-23	1962
BOX-FOLDER 8/1-9	1963 Production records for performances at Lunt-Fontanne Theatre

Production Files, 1940-2008

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 8/10	1964 Newspaper photo clipping of Graham dancer Mary Hinkson in group of four artists
BOX-FOLDER 8/11-15	1965 Technical documents for performances at 54th Street Theatre
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/9	1965 Light plot for 54th Street Theatre
BOX-FOLDER 8/16	1966-1968 Flame proofing documentation
BOX-FOLDER 8/17-18	1967 Production records for performances at Hellinger Theatre <i>Note:</i> See also production documents in 1963, annotated for 1967
BOX-FOLDER 8/19-23	1968 Production records for performances at George Abbott Theatre and Brooklyn Academy of Music
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/9	1968 Revised light plot for Brooklyn Academy of Music
BOX-FOLDER 8/24-25	1969
BOX-FOLDER 8/26	1972-1979 Flame proofing documentation
BOX-FOLDER 8/27-31	1973 Records of May performances at the Alvin Theatre
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/9	1973 Light and hanging plots for Alvin Theatre
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1973 Stage platform diagrams
BOX-FOLDER 8/32-35	1974 Records of performances at the Mark Hellinger Theatre and Asia tour specs
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/9	1974 Light and hanging plots for Mark Hellinger Theatre and tour
BOX-FOLDER 9/1-12, 29/5	1975 Production files for gala benefit and New York and tour performances <i>Note:</i> Includes Nureyev agreement and production records for premiere of <i>Lucifer</i> , choreographed for him
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/9	1975 Electric and hanging plot for tour
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1975 Poster for Martha Graham Dance Company, Mark Hellinger Theatre
BOX-FOLDER 9/13-20	1976 Production and budget records for European tour, Kennedy Center and Cincinnati performances, and Mexico <i>Note:</i> Also includes preliminary estimates for 1977 operations
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/9	1976 Light and hanging plots for Cincinnati Music Hall and John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1976 Light and hanging plot for European tour
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1976-1977 Stage plans for Benito Juárez Theatre, Mexico

Production Files, 1940-2008

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 9/21 to 11/25, 30/2-7	1977 Repertory binder (with 1980 additions); Calder gala and Lunt Fontanne records, including contracts <i>Note:</i> Includes correspondence and set and prop diagrams related to the 1978 Isamu Noguchi exhibits at Walker Art Gallery and the Whitney Museum of American Art
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1977 Light plots for Lunt-Fontanne Theatre; stage plans for Murray Theatre (Highland Park, Illinois)
BOX-FOLDER 12/1 to 16/3, 30/8-9	1978 Production records for Metropolitan Opera House, Ravinia Festival, and domestic tour performances <i>Note:</i> Includes lighting and stage manager notebooks
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/9	1978 Light plot for fall road tour
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1978 Plan and elevations for <i>O Thou Desire Who Art About to Sing</i>
BOX-FOLDER 16/4-48	1978-1979? Retrospective binder of positive and negative prints of stage plans, designs, and crate boxing <i>Note:</i> Organized by choreography: some early works corrected for 1970s; some prints labeled "uncorrected"; several items not identifiable; includes items for two Erick Hawkins choreographies, <i>Stephen Acrobat</i> and <i>John Brown</i>
BOX-FOLDER 17/1 to 19/15, 30/10-11	1979 Production documents for USICA tour abroad and domestic tour <i>Note:</i> Binder of board cues for domestic tour has additions for later works, <i>Judith</i> (1980) and <i>Acts of Light</i> (1981)
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1979 Light plot for Royal Opera House (London)
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8-9	1979 Light plots for summer and fall tour
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/9	1979 Light plot for Tivoli Garden (Copenhagen)
BOX-FOLDER 20/1 to 22/11	1980 Records for Spring performances at the Metropolitan Opera and Fall domestic tour <i>Note:</i> Includes stage manager's binder on <i>Clytemnestra</i> , with annotated records dating from 1961-1962
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/9	1980 Light plot for tour
BOX-FOLDER 22/12 to 24/15, 29/6, 30/12-13	1981 Records for Mexico and domestic tours <i>Note:</i> Includes technical documents for premiere of <i>Acts of Light</i> at Kennedy Center
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1981 Light plots for Cami tour and Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza (Albany, New York); light and hanging plot for Civic Center (Syracuse, New York)
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	1981 Permanent electric hang and circuit plot for John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Production Files, 1940-2008

Container	Contents
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/9	1981 Light plots for Frankfurt Opera House, Iowa City, and Teatro de la Ciudad (Mexico City)
BOX-FOLDER 25/1-2	1982 Correspondence
BOX-FOLDER 25/3-4, 29/7, 30/14	1990-1991 Benefit flyer; clippings
BOX-FOLDER 25/5-6	2000-2001 Program; clippings
BOX-FOLDER 25/7 to 26/6	2002-2004 <i>Note:</i> Includes list of extant recordings of dance works, dance technique, interviews
BOX-FOLDER 25/10	2008
BOX 27/1 to 28/19, 30/15	Undated Production records lacking dates and/or locations, organized by title of dance work
MAPCASE-DRAWER 7/8	Undated Ground plan for Constitution Hall, light cue sheets, and tormentor plan and board hook-up for unidentified venue
BOX 25	Miscellany, 1940s-2019 Chiefly biographical items related to Maxine Glorsky and performance records of scholarly interest not directly related to the Martha Graham legacy. Biographical items are arranged alphabetically by subject. Performance records are arranged chronologically.
BOX-FOLDER 25/11-12	Biographical materials, 2018-2019 Complete curriculum vitae of Maxine Glorsky; press release on Glorsky's award from the Stage Managers' Association, the Del Hughes Lifetime Achievement in the Art of Stage Management
BOX-FOLDER 25/13-21	Performance programs and records, 1940s-2002