Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King

Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2021

Contact information: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2020570123

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu021041

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Rachel McNellis, 2021 July
Collection Summary
Title: Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King
Inclusive Dates: 1983-2005
Bulk Dates: 1983-1984
Call No.: ML31.J66
Collector: Jorgensen, Cherie
Creator: Grossenbacher, B. Jane (Bertha Jane), 1951-2008
Creator: King, Eleanor, 1906-1991
Extent: approximately 325 items
Extent: 3 containers
Extent: 1.75 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2020570123
Summary: Eleanor King (1906-1991) was a modern dancer, choreographer, and educator who studied at Denishawn and joined the Humphrey-Weidman Company. Known for blending Eastern and Western influences in her choreography, she established her own company in Seattle and later taught at the University of Arkansas. Jane Grossenbacher (1951-2008) was a photographer who specialized in black-and white photogravures. The Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King consists chiefly of photographs that Grossenbacher took of King, as well as correspondence, an exhibit catalog, programs, and promotional materials that document their professional activities.

Acquisition Information
Gift, Cherie Jorgensen, 2021

Accruals
No further accruals are expected.

Processing History
Rachel McNellis processed the Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King and coded the finding aid in 2021.

Other Repositories
Arizona State University's Cross-Cultural Dance Resources collection contains original Eleanor King materials, including costumes, personal papers, writings, programs, clippings, and photographs. Similar materials are held by the Dance Division of the New York Public Library of the Performing Arts. The Harwood Museum of Art holds a small collection of Jane Grossenbacher's photographs in the Eleanor King Portfolio.

Related Material
The Herbert H. Coburn Dance Program Collection contains programs for performances by the Humphrey-Weidman Company. The Music Division is also rich in special collections related to Denishawn and its dancers. These include the Anne Douglas Papers Related to Denishawn, Cesi Kellinger Collection, Denishawn Legacy Collection, Grace McCrea Papers Relating to Denishawn, the Martha Graham Collection, and the Martha Graham Legacy Archive.
Copyright Status

Materials from the Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

Access and Restrictions

The Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions on using or copying materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container or reel or digital ID number], Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Notes

Jane Grossenbacher

Jane Grossenbacher was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1951. A renowned photographer, she studied at the San Francisco Art Institute and Indiana University. Grossenbacher was known for her black and white photogravures and staged numerous exhibits of her work across the United States, Europe, and Japan. In addition to photography, she studied Flamenco dancing in Spain and performed with a circus for a year. After living in England and Santa Fe, New Mexico, Grossenbacher moved to San Francisco and worked at the Academy of Art. She married artist Keith Bjorkman (1959-2017) in 1992. Grossenbacher died of ovarian cancer on September 16, 2018.

Eleanor King

Date | Event
--- | ---
1906 February 8 | Born in Middletown, Pennsylvania
1922 | Moved with her family to Brooklyn, New York
1924 | Enrolled at New York University to pursue a degree in journalism
 | Enrolled at the Clair Tree Major School of Theater in New York, New York, and studied dance with Priscilla Robineau
circa 1926 | Studied at the Theater Guild School
1927-1928 | Studied at Denishawn with Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman while Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn were on tour
1928 | Joined the Humphrey-Weidman Company as one of its first members
 | Performed in Humphrey's ballet Color Harmony
1930 | Danced in Léonide Massine's production of Le sacre du printemps at the Metropolitan Opera House
1931 | Formed a small dance troupe named The Little Group with other members of the Humphrey-Weidman Company: Letitia Ida, Charles Laskey, José Limón, and Ernestine Hedoch Stodelle
 | Performed in her first choreographed work with José Limón, titled B minor Suite, which exhibited J. S. Bach's influence
1934 | Attended the Bennington School of Dance with the Humphrey-Weidman Company
1935 | Departed from the Humphrey-Weidman Company
1936 Summer | Taught at the Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado
1937 May
Produced her first major choreographed work, *Icaro*, a dance-drama set to the music of David Diamond and Franziska Boas, at the Brooklyn Museum Dance Center

1938
Awarded a fellowship at the Bennington School of Dance

1943
Briefly taught at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota
Moved to Seattle
Choreographed *To the West*
Founded The Eleanor King Dance Repertory Company

1943-1944
Taught at the Cornish School of Arts in Seattle

1944
Attended the Salish Treaty Day Dances at La Connor, which introduced her to Native American dance traditions

1945
Choreographed *Northwest Spirit Dance*

1947
Established One World in Dance, a nine-week multi-cultural dance program

1952-1971
Taught dance, acting, and choreography at the University of Arkansas

1952
Toured across England, France, and the Netherlands

1955
Studied mime with Etienne Decroux in Paris

1958
Studied in Japan, with a subsequent trip in 1960-1961

1967
Awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to continue her dance studies in Japan
Choreographed *The Well-Tempered Dancer*, which displayed J. S. Bach's influence

circa 1970
Completed her unpublished study *The Way of Japanese Dance*

1971
Retired in Santa Fe, New Mexico

1976-1977
Awarded a grant from the Vogelstein Foundation to study dance in Bali, Burma, Korea, Sri Lanka, and Thailand

1978
Published her autobiography *Transformations: The Humphrey-Weidman Era*

circa 1985
Completed her unpublished book *Transformations: To the West*

1987-1988
Annabelle Gamson performed acclaimed revivals of her works

1987
Awarded the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts

1989
Received a Choreographer's Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts
Moved to the Actor's Home in Haddonfield, New Jersey

1990-1991
Directed the American Dance Repertory Theater with Mino Nicolas

1991 February 27
Died in Haddonfield, New Jersey

**Bibliography**


**Scope and Content Note**

The Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King spans the years 1983 to 2005, with the bulk dating from 1983 to 1984. It is organized into three series and arranged by format. The *Photographs* series comprises the vast majority of the collection and consists of black and white photographs that Grossenbacher took of King dancing *Northwest Spirit Dance* (1945) and *The Well-Tempered Dancer* (1967). It also contains a small number of head shots and a photo of King dancing with Andrea Seidel, as well as numerous negatives and slides. The *Correspondence* series consists of letters between Grossenbacher and others active in the photography and dance fields, including King, Nicole Plett, and Andrea Seidel. The *Printed Material* series contains a small number of clippings, programs, and promotional material related to Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King, as well as an exhibit catalog.
Organization of the Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King

The collection is arranged in three series:

- **Photographs, 1983-2003**
- **Correspondence, 1988-2005**
- **Printed Material, 1983-2005**

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**
- Grossenbacher, B. Jane (Bertha Jane), 1951-2008--Correspondence.
- Jorgensen, Cherie.
- King, Eleanor, 1906-1991--Correspondence.
- Mantell-Seidel, Andrea.
- Plett, Nicole.

**Subjects**
- Dancers--United States--Photographs.
- Modern dance--United States--History.

**Form/Genre**
- Clippings (Information artifacts)
- Dance programs.
- Exhibition catalogs.
- Negatives (Photographs)
- Personal correspondence.
- Photographs.
- Promotional materials.
- Slides (Photographs)
### Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-3</td>
<td><strong>Photographs, 1983-2003</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This series consists of photographs, contact sheets, negatives, and slides of Eleanor King dating between 1983 and 2003, with the majority from 1983 to 1984. Many of these photographs taken by Jane Grossenbacher depict King dancing in <em>Northwest Spirit Dance</em> (1945) and <em>The Well-Tempered Dancer</em> (1967). These works exhibit the influence of Native American dance traditions and the music of J. S. Bach, respectively. Other photographs include a small number of headshots and dancing with modern dancer and historian Andrea Seidel. In addition, this series contains 21 high-quality digital prints of the Eleanor King Portfolio held at the Harwood Museum of Art. The contact sheets, negatives, and slides are numerous and represent these and other related photographs.</td>
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<td>Arranged alphabetically.</td>
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<td><strong>Correspondence, 1988-2005</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td>This series contains correspondence with Jane Grossenbacher, the majority of which is professional, that dates between 1988 and 2005. Two holograph letters from Eleanor King are notable and shed light on her move to New Jersey and life in the Actors Home. Nicole Plett, who edited a series of essays about King (<em>Eleanor King: Sixty Years in American Dance</em>, Santa Kruz: Moving Press, 1988), is also well-represented. Additional correspondents include Michael Kelly, Mino Nicolas, Janet Lynn Roseman, and Andrea Seidel.</td>
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<td><strong>Printed Material, 1983-2005</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 2/22</td>
<td>Eleanor King Portfolio, undated&lt;br&gt;High-quality digital reproductions&lt;br&gt;<strong>Note:</strong> Originals held at the Harwood Museum of Art</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 2/23</td>
<td>King, Eleanor and Andrea Seidel, undated</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/1, 2/24-27</td>
<td>Negatives, 1983-1984</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/2-6, 2/28-29</td>
<td>Northwest Indian Spirit Dance, 1984</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 3/1-4, 2/30-32</td>
<td>Slides, 1984-2003</td>
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<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/7-12, 2/33-34</td>
<td>The Well-Tempered Dancer, 1984</td>
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| BOX-FOLDER 2/33 | International Center of Photography, 2003 |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/34 | Jackson, Rosemary, undated |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/35 | Kelly, Michael, 2004 |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/36 | King, Eleanor, 1989-1990 |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/37 | Nicolas, Mino, 2005 |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/38 | Plett, Nicole, 1988 |
| BOX-FOLDER 2/39 | Roseman, Janet Lynn, 2003 |
Printed Material, 1983-2005

This series includes clippings, an exhibit catalog, programs, and promotional materials that date between 1983 and 2005. The clippings include two obituaries for Eleanor King and a paragraph celebrating her achievements as a dancer. The exhibit catalog, *Eleanor King: Sixty Years in American Dance*, provides significant context for those dances represented in the Photographs series. Promotional materials consist of posters and a press release that document Grossenbacher’s other exhibits, as well as flyers advertising King’s masterclasses. The programs for the 1991 Eleanor King Memorial and the 2005 Eleanor King Centennial Concert are also notable.

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<td>BOX-FOLDER 2/40</td>
<td>Seidel, Andrea, 1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 2/41</td>
<td>Clippings, 1990-1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 2/42</td>
<td>Curriculum vitae, J. Grossenbacher, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 2/44</td>
<td>Programs, 1991, 2005</td>
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