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Collection Summary

Repository: Ballets Russes Archives at the University of Oklahoma School of Dance

Collection: Mary Ellen Moylan

Title: Mary Ellen Moylan Collection

Dates: 1923-2011

Quantity: 3 folders

Abstract: Mary Ellen Moylan, an American dancer, was a member of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Her collection includes photographs from her time on tour and other dancing ephemera.

Identification: MEM-011

Biographical Note

Mary Ellen Moylan was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, but spent her teenage years in St. Petersburg, Florida, where she started dance training, studying ballet, tap, and acrobatics. Her aunt brought her to New York City, where she studied ballet at the School of American Ballet, voice with Belle Soudant and drama at the Alice Young Studio. In 1942 Moylan made her debut as première danseuse, with José Limon as her partner, in the musical Rosalinda, which was choreographed by George Balanchine. The same year she danced with the New Opera Company, also in choreography by Balanchine.

Moylan became a soloist with Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo (1943-44), dancing in Serenade, Etude, Les Sylphides, Snow Maiden Ballet, Imperial, Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme and many other ballets. At that time it was common for company members to dance in every ballet of the evening. Moylan danced in Song of Norway in 1944, when Ballet Russes de Monte Carlo was loaned out by Serge Denham, its director. Antony Tudor featured her in the musical, Day Before Spring (1945-46) -- this was Tudor's only Broadway show. In 1946, Moylan was a charter member of Balanchine's Ballet Society. In the spring of 1947 she danced in the musical, the Chocolate Soldier and then rejoined Ballet Russe as a ballerina, where she remained until she retired in 1950.

Scope and Content Note

The Mary Ellen Moylan Collection contains photographs and notecards from her time in the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

Organization of the Mary Ellen Moylan Collection

Photographs

Notecards

Paper Dolls
Restrictions

Restriction of Access
The Mary Ellen Moylan Collection is currently unavailable to researchers. When the Ballets Russes Archive is open to researchers, the collection will be open to researchers without restrictions.

Index Terms
The following are selected search terms used in the collection
- Ballet -- 1940-1950
- Ballet dancers--1940-1950
- Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo
- Ephemera
- Moylan, Mary Ellen
- Photographic Prints
- Seymour, Maurice

Administrative Information

Provenance
The collection was donated by Mary Ellen Moylan in July of 2010.

Processing History
The collection was inspected and arranged by Tara Davis. The collection was databased by Jessie Hopper in 2012.
Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Mary Ellen's Ballerina Paper Dolls

1.1.1    2002
Paper doll booklet illustrated by Mary Ellen Moylan; Autographed by Mary Ellen Moylan

1.1.2    2002
Paper doll booklet illustrated by Mary Ellen Moylan

Watercolor Notecards

1.2.1    2003
Set of 6 watercolor notecards depicting an orange and green dancing couple, illustrated by Mary Ellen Moylan

1.2.2    2003
Set of 6 watercolor notecards depicting a ballerina dressed in white surrounded by birds, illustrated by Mary Ellen Moylan

1.2.3    2003
Set of 6 watercolor notecards depicting five children, illustrated by Mary Ellen Moylan

1.2.4    2003
Set of 6 watercolor notecards depicting a dancing couple, illustrated by Mary Ellen Moylan

1.2.5    2003
Set of 6 watercolor notecards depicting a ballerina dancing in front of a green background, illustrated by Mary Ellen Moylan

Photographs

MEM-011-P001    20th century
Portrait of Mary Ellen Moylan as Odette from Swan Lake

MEM-011-P002    20th century
Portrait of Mary Ellen Moylan

MEM-011-P003    20th century
Portrait of Mary Ellen Moylan backstage

MEM-011-P004    20th century
Portrait of Mary Ellen Moylan

MEM-011-P005    20th century
Portrait of Mary Ellen Moylan

MEM-011-P006    20th century
Portrait of Mary Ellen Moylan and unknown male dancer

MEM-011-P007    20th century
Portrait of Mary Ellen Moylan and unknown male dancer

MEM-011-P008    20th century
Portrait of Mary Ellen Moylan as Odette from Swan Lake and unknown male dancer

MEM-011-P009    20th century
Portrait of Mary Ellen Moylan and unknown male dancer
MEM-011-P010  20th century
Portrait of Mary Ellen Moylan and unknown male dancer
MEM-011-P011  20th century
Portrait of Mary Ellen Moylan and unknown male dancer