Nina Novak Collection

Inventory Prepared by Jessie Hopper

Last Revision - June 2013
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Collection Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>Ballets Russes Archives at the University of Oklahoma School of Dance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collection</td>
<td>Nina Novak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Nina Novak Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>1927-2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk Dates</td>
<td>1945-2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>2 boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Nina Novak, a Polish ballerina, danced with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Her collection contains a book, correspondence, ephemera, photos, and a unicorn mask.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification</td>
<td>NN-055</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Biographical Note

Novak studied at the School of the Warsaw Opera House as well as under Bronislava Nijinska. She joined the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo in 1948 and was promoted to ballerina at the end of her first season with the company. She remained with the Ballet Russe until 1962, serving as ballet mistress on top of her roles as ballerina. Nina Novak now lives in Caracas, Venezuela where she founded and continues to run Ballet Classico.

Scope and Content Note

The Nina Novak Collection contains a memoir, programs, correspondence, an oral history, a unicorn mask and other memorabilia from her time with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

Organization of the Nina Novak Collection

- Book
- Souvenir Program
- Correspondence
- Mask
- Photos
- Memorabilia

Restrictions

Restriction of Access

The Nina Novak 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 -- 1950-1960
Ballet dancers--1940-1950
Ballet dancers--1950-1960
Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo
Books
Correspondence
Information Artifacts
Novak, Nina
Photographic Prints
Programs

Administrative Information

Provenance

The collection was donated by Nina Novak in 2012.

Processing History

The Nina Novak collection was processed by the Archive in 2012. 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.

Box 1
Folder 1 Book
1.1.1 2010
Copy of Novak’s memoirs: “el Ballet mi Vida, mi Pasion”;
Autographed by Nina Novak
Folder 2 Scanned Photos
1.2.1
Photocopy of program page featuring Nina Novak and George Zortich
1.2.2
Photocopy of program page featuring Edmund Novak and Irina Kovalska
Folder 3 Miscellaneous
1.3.1 1960
Scanned image of Certificate of Honorary Texas Citizenship
1.3.2
Scanned image of painting depicting Nina Novak
1.3.3
Scanned image of watercolor painting depicting Nina Novak
1.3.4 1969 February 13
Photocopy of letter from Denham to Nina Novak on Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo letterhead
Folder 4 Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo Souvenir Program
1.4.1
Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo Souvenir Program; Autographed by Nina Novak
Folder 5 DVD: Interview
1.5.1 2012 January
Interview with Nina Novak, by Mary Margaret Holt

Box 2
Folder 1 Unicorn Mask
1.1.1
Unicorn Mask worn by Nina Novak
Box 3
Folder Oversize Photos

1

3.1.1
Oversize copy of “Faces of Many Nations” newspaper article
featuring Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo dancers

3.1.2 1957 March 31
Oversize copy of Cover of Boston Sunday Herald with photo of
dancer in Unicorn costume

3.1.3 1955 December 18
Oversize copy of cover of Chicago Sunday Sun-Times Features
with sketch of Nina Novak in the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo’s
‘The Lady and The Unicorn’