Guide to the Collection on Trudi Schoop

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Special Collections and Archives
The UCI Libraries
P.O. Box 19557
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, California 92623-9557
Phone: (949) 824-3947
Fax: (949) 824-2472
Email: spcoll@uci.edu
URL: http://special.lib.uci.edu
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Collection on Trudi Schoop
Date: circa 1905-1940, 1999-2007,
Date (bulk): bulk circa 1931-1939
Collection Number: MS-P071
Extent: 1.7 linear feet (3 boxes and 3 oversized folders)
Languages: The collection is in German, French, Dutch, English, Finnish, Swedish, Spanish, and Italian.
Repository: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.
Irvine, California 92623-9557
Abstract: The collection documents the life and career of comic dancer Trudi Schoop and contains photographs, programs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and other ephemera. The majority of materials represent the activities of the Trudi Schoop Comic Ballet from 1931 to 1939. The collection also contains correspondence and photographs of Schoop's manager, Alfred Fischer, and other artists he managed. There is no information within the collection regarding Schoop's later career as a dance therapist.

Access
The collection is open for research.

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For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

Acquisition Information

Processing History
Processed by Audrey Pearson, 2008.

Biography
Trudi Schoop (1903-1999) was a Swiss-born dancer and dance troupe leader who specialized in comic stage productions and was often likened to Charlie Chaplin. Later in life, Schoop was a pioneer in using dance therapy to treat mental illness.

When Schoop was 17 she decided to embark on a career as a dancer. With no formal training, she convinced her father to rent a dance hall and hire a pianist for her show. Overall, the performance was a success despite the fact that the audience often laughed unexpectedly at serious points during the show. After her first performance, Schoop's father sent her to study classical ballet in Vienna and modern dance in Zürich. In 1926 she opened a dance school in Zürich and in 1931 she organized the Trudi Schoop Comic Ballet. Schoop's brother, Paul Schoop, composed the music for many of the company's acts. The troupe toured widely throughout Europe and the United States until the outbreak of World War II, during which Schoop performed in Switzerland for anti-Fascist cabarets. Touring resumed following the end of the war.

Schoop ended her career as a performer in 1947 when she moved to Los Angeles. There she began to work with patients suffering from schizophrenia and was a pioneer in developing the field of dance therapy. Schoop died in 1999.

Biography/Organization History
1903
October 9  Trudi Schoop born in Zürich.
1920
December  Performs first dance recital at the Zürich Pfauentheater.
14 1926  Opens school in Zürich.
1931  Forms the Trudi Schoop Comic Ballet.
1932  Trudi Schoop Comic Ballet awarded second place at a choreography competition in Paris.
1937-1939  Tours Europe and the United States.
1939 Disbands company.
1946 Reassembles company.
1947 Tours United States and Canada.
1947 Settles in Los Angeles, California.
1999 July 14 Dies in Van Nuys, California.


Collection Scope and Content Summary
This collection comprises photographs, programs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and other ephemera documenting the life and career of comic dancer Trudi Schoop. The collection also contains correspondence and photographs of Schoop's manager, Alfred Fischer, and other artists he managed. The majority of materials represent the activities of the Trudi Schoop Comic Ballet from 1931 to 1939. There is no information within the collection regarding Schoop's later career as a dance therapist.

Collection Arrangement
This collection is arranged in four series.

Series 1. Photographs, circa 1905 - circa 1939. 0.7 linear feet
Series 2. Trudi Schoop biographical information, circa 1931 - circa 1939, 2006-2007. 0.05 linear feet
Series 3. Trudi Schoop Comic Ballet records, 1931-1940, 1999. 0.45 linear feet
Series 4. Programs, 1934-1939. 0.5 linear feet

Separation Note
Duplicate programs were removed and added to the following collection:


Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Schoop, Trudi -- Archives.
Fischer, Alfred -- Archives.
Trudi Schoop Comic Ballet -- Archives.
Dance -- Archives.

Genres and Formats of Materials
Photographic prints -- 20th century.
Souvenir programs -- 20th century.
Dance programs -- 20th century.
Broadsides -- 20th century.

Occupations
Dancers.
Women comedians.
Choreographers.

Contributors
Fischer, Alfred.
Series 1. Photographs circa 1905 - circa 1939, bulk 1931-1939

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series comprises photographic prints and photographic negatives of Trudi Schoop, her company, her family, and other artists managed by Alfred Fischer. Prints of some negatives are not available.

Arrangement
Alphabetical by subject

Restrictions
Photographic negatives are restricted.

People

Box : Folder 1 : 1
Artists managed by Alfred Fischer undated
Physical Description: 23 black-and-white photographic prints
Scope and Content Note
Includes photographs of actors Lisa Czobel, Sylvia von Rodenberg, Ernst Deutsch, Albert Bassermann, Else Bassermann, Tilla Durieux, and Alexander Moissi.

Box : Folder 1 : 2, 568-H-4
Schoop family circa 1905- circa 1920
Physical Description: 54 black-and-white photographic prints, 26 photographic negatives
Access Information
Photographic negatives are restricted.
Scope and Content Note
Includes photographs of Schoop as a child with her parents and brother, and a photograph of Schoop acting as Gretchen in "Faust."

Box : Folder 1 : 3-5, 568-H-4
Trudi Schoop: commercial portraits by Mannell London and others circa 1930-circa 1939
Physical Description: 76 black-and-white photographic prints, 2 photographic negatives
Access Information
Photographic negatives are restricted.

Trudi Schoop Comic Ballet

Box : Folder 1 : 6
Candid photographs circa 1920-circa 1939
Physical Description: 28 black-and-white photographic prints
Scope and Content Note
Includes photographs of Trudi Schoop with Alfred Fischer in St. Moritz, Switzerland; Trudi Schoop dancers in casual attire; and Trudi Schoop with brother Paul Schoop.

Box : Folder 1 : 7-10
Portraits by Margot Meyer, Vandamm Studio, Kurt Kahle, and Anna Riwkin circa 1931-circa 1939
Physical Description: 139 black-and-white photographic prints
Scope and Content Note
Includes portraits of dancers Elisabeth Lesse, Helga Weigert, Max Fickel, Meta Krahm, Niels Björn Larsen, Werner Herrmann, Didi Lederer, Jeanette Dublow, Hanna Berger, Gitta Wallerstein, Ellen Liy, and Otto Ulbricht, and musical director and composer Lothan Perl.

Productions
Box : Folder 2 : 1-2

**Alles aus Liebe [All for Love] circa 1931-circa 1939**

- Physical Description: 64 black-and-white photographic prints
- Scope and Content Note
- Photographed by Kurt Kahle.

Box : Folder 2 : 3-4

**Die Blonde Marie [Blond Marie] circa 1931-circa 1939**

- Physical Description: 49 black-and-white photographic prints
- Scope and Content Note
- Photographed by Anna Riwkin, Kurt Kahle, and Heinz Guggenbühl. Includes three photographs of the cast with Shirley Temple.

Box : Folder 2 : 5

**Fridolin Unterwegs [Fridolin on the Road] circa 1931-circa 1939**

- Physical Description: 12 black-and-white photographs

Box : Folder 2 : 6-8

**Unidentified productions circa 1931-circa 1939**

- Physical Description: 56 black-and-white photographic prints and 3 contact sheets
- Scope and Content Note
- Photographed by Dora Horovitz, Anna Riwkin, Kurt Kahle.

Box : Folder 2 : 9

**Miscellaneous unidentified photographs**


- Physical Description: 0.05 linear feet
- Arrangement
- Alphabetical by format

Box : Folder 2 : 10

**Biographical information 2006-2007, undated**

Box : Folder 2 : 11

**Offprint: "Warum denn tanzen," Schweizer Spiegel circa 1931-circa 1939**


- Physical Description: 0.45 linear feet
- Series Scope and Content Summary
- This series comprises clippings, correspondence, contracts, and other company records of the Trudi Schoop Comic Ballet and manager Alfred Fischer, including some files on other artists Fischer managed.
- Arrangement
- Alphabetical by format
- Restrictions
- Access to fragile original clippings is restricted. Researchers must use photocopies.

Box : Folder 2 : 12, 3 : 1-2, 568-H-2

**Clippings 1931-1938, 1999, undated**

- Access Information
- Fragile original clippings are restricted.
- Scope and Content Note
- Clippings were gathered by a variety of press clipping services.

Box : Folder 3 : 3, FB-30 : 7

**Contracts, touring lists, and other materials 1935-1940, undated**

**Correspondence**

- Alfred Fischer

Box : Folder 3 : 4

**Personal 1933-1940, undated**

- Scope and Content Note
- Includes letters from actresses Lucie Mannheim and Luise Rainer.

**Professional 1934-1940**

Box : Folder 3 : 5-6  
Trudi Schoop Comic Ballet 1933-1939, undated

Box : Folder 3 : 7  
Other artists managed 1933-1940, undated

Box : Folder 3 : 8  
Miscellaneous correspondence and financial documentation

Box : Folder 3 : 9  
Trudi Schoop 1934-1940

Box : Folder 3 : 10  
Miscellaneous correspondence and ephemera 1936, undated

Box : Folder 3 : 11  
Artwork undated

Box : Folder 3 : 12, FB-30 : 8, XOS1  
Broadsides and announcements 1938, undated

Box : Folder 3 : 13  
Event programs 1934-1939, undated

Box : Folder 3 : 14  
Souvenir programs circa 1935-1939

Series 4. Programs and broadsides 1934-1939

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series comprises broadsides, announcements, and event and souvenir programs for Trudi Schoop Comic Ballet performances.

Arrangement

Alphabetical by format