Finding Aid of the Saida Gerrard papers 0341

Finding aid prepared by Robert G. Vaughn
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Finding Aid of the Saida Gerrard papers 0341

Title: Saida Gerrard papers
Collection number: 0341
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 12.0 Linear feet10 boxes
Date (inclusive): 1930-1980
Abstract: The collection consists of costumes, manuscripts, programs, photographs, and clippings pertaining to choreographer/dancer Saida Gerrard from the 1930s through the 1970s.

Biographical Note
Saida Gerrard was a performer, choreographer, student, and teacher of modern dance. Born in 1913, she grew up in Toronto, Canada in a family of Russian Jewish immigrants. Her parents were amateur musicians who exposed her to music and dance at an early age. As a child, she studied music and dance at the Hambourg Conservatory of Music in Toronto and at the Toronto Conservatory of Music, including Dalcroze Eurythmics with Madeleine Boss Lasserre. She would go on to study dance and perform with some of the greatest individuals in modern dance, including Vilzak-Scholler, Margaret Craske, Hanya Holm, Louis Horst, Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, Martha Graham, Fe Alf, Amy Sternberg, and Benjamin Zemach.

In the late 1930s Gerrard moved to New York where she studied on scholarship with Hanya Holm at the Mary Wigman School. From 1943-1948, she studied modern dance techniques with Martha Graham. In 1945, she joined the Charles Weidman Company. During this time she studied composition with Weidman, Louis Horst, and Doris Humphrey. She was a principal dancer with the Charles Weidman Company on three national and five East Coast tours. Gerrard performed with Hanya Holm and Weidman for a festival at the New York City Center. She was also a principal dancer and soloist at festivals in Vermont, Massachusetts and New York. In addition to her dance performances she served as the Assistant Choreographer and soloist with the New York City Opera in performances of Aida, Traviata, and Love of Three Oranges. From 1945-1953, she frequently returned to Canada to serve as a guest artist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Gerrard taught the Graham Technique in New York from 1945 until 1950. From 1950-1953, she taught at the Humphrey-Weidman School.

In 1953, Gerrard moved to Los Angeles with her American pianist husband Aube Tzerko. While in Los Angeles, Gerrard taught master classes and gave lectures, demonstrations, and workshops at USC, UCLA, the Idyllwild Arts Festival, Los Angeles City College, the University of Judaism, and Pasadena City College, as well as a variety of other colleges and high schools throughout Southern California. She also gave performances and lectures on Hebraic dance and modern dance with Jewish themes at many of the Los Angeles area Jewish temples. From 1953-1960, Gerrard performed with the Saida Gerrard Theater Dance Company for the Long Beach Symphony, the Idyllwild Arts Festival, Bovard Auditorium at USC Schoenberg Hall at UCLA and at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. She choreographed and performed the operas The Consul at USC, Secret of Suzanne at the University of Judaism, and Hansel and Gretel for three consecutive years at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, CA.

In 1960, Gerrard began teaching at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. She was the Director of the Saida Gerrard School of Contemporary Dance, where she taught technique and choreography for adults, children, actors, and singers, from 1957-1970. From 1960-1964, Gerrard toured the West Coast with her Saida Gerrard Theatre Dance Company and performed twenty-seven concerts under the management of Columbia Artists. She choreographed and performed with a group of thirty dancers. Her company performed New Exodus with symphony and choir at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium in Santa Monica, and at the Shrine Auditorium and Wilshire-Ebell Theater in Los Angeles. She choreographed Don Giovanni in 1964, for the first season of the Los Angeles Opera, which was then called the Los Angeles Civic Grand Opera, at the new Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. From 1965-1969, Gerrard continued to perform and choreograph her works such as Marais and Miranda at the Morgan Theater in Santa Monica; Pimpinone at Royce Hall, UCLA; and The Bartered Bride at the Shrine Auditorium, Los Angeles. In 1973, she staged two Los Angeles performances, The Measure Taken by Bertolt Brecht at the Mark Taper Forum and The Golem at the Gindi Auditorium. The following year she staged sixteen performances as the Director of Dance for Theater Arts Program of Los Angeles. In 1975, Gerrard received a grant from the California Arts Commission, which she used to stage a performance of Ancestral Memories, music by Aaron Copland, with the Theater Dance Company at the Gindi Auditorium in Los Angeles.

Gerrard began working in Aspen, Colorado in 1971. She taught, studied, danced, and staged performances there until 1977. She choreographed contemporary opera and works by Mozart, Stravinsky, and resident composers; attended seminars at the Institute for the Humanities; and conducted summer workshops for Colorado Mountain College. In 1971, Gerrard became the Director and teacher of dance and choreography for the Aspen Music School and Opera. She would
continue in this position until 1977.

In 1977, Gerrard again focused her work in the Los Angeles area. She taught dance and choreography at the University of Judaism, where she also served as the Chairwoman of the Modern Dance Department, and at the Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles from 1977-1980. In 1980, she began teaching dance and choreography at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. She was also the Founder, Director and Choreographer for the Saida Gerrard Heritage Dance Company, which performed at the Immaculate Heart College, Temple Judea, University Synagogue, Temple Emmanuel, Stephen Wise Temple, and the Leo Baeck Temple, all of which are located in Los Angeles. The Heritage Dance Company focused on works related to her Jewish heritage.

Saida Gerrard's commissions included choreographed oratorios for the New York Philharmonic Chorus and the Toronto Peoples Chorus; Song of Miriam for the Detroit Folk Choir; New Exodus (Di Naye Hagode) for the Chicago Philharmonic Chorus and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Choir; and a grant from the California Arts Commission to choreograph Ancestral Memories. She performed as a soloist and principal dancer with the Toronto City Orchestra; Chicago Chamber Orchestra; Detroit Little Symphony Orchestra; Detroit Folk Choirs; Carnegie Hall and Town Hall Concerts, New York; and the Charles Weidman Theatre Dance Company. Gerrard served as the Director for the Carousel Dance Theatre for Children and the Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, III, Dance School; the Saida Gerrard Heritage Dance Company; the Aspen Music School and Opera; and the Modern Dance Department at the University of Judaism. She was the founder of the Sutro-Syler Dance Studio; the Carousel Theater; and the Heritage Dance Company. Her performances included Death and Transfiguration (1935); Dance Suite-Songs of Unrest (1935); Sea Shanties (1937), set to music composed by her husband, Aube Tzerko; and Die Naye Hagodah (1949), choreographed to Max Helfman's choral tone poem.


**Arrangement**

The first twenty-nine series are arranged alphabetically by dance title; the remaining nine series are arranged by format and contain materials associated with more than one dance or those not identified with a specific dance.

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Saida Gerrard papers, Collection no. 0341, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California

**Scope and Content**

The collection consists of materials created, collected and used by Saida Gerrard during the course of her career as a dancer and choreographer in Canada and in the United States. They consist of photographs, programs, audio and videotapes, scripts, notebooks, slides, correspondence, scores, and ephemera--chiefly organized by name of dance or performance when feasible.

**Conditions Governing Use**

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**Conditions Governing Access**

COLLECTION STORED OFF-SITE. Advance notice required for access.

**Acquisition**

The collection was donated by Saida Gerrard's niece, Lisa Gerrard, in 2007.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Carousel Dance Theatre for Children. -- Archives
Gerrard, Saida, 1913-2005 -- Archives
Helfman, Max -- Archives
Heritage Dance Company. -- Archives
Holm, Hanya, 1893-1992 -- Archives
Idyllwild Arts Foundation. -- Archives
Tzerko, Aube, 1907-1995 -- Archives
University of Judaism. -- Archives
Weidman, Charles -- Archives
Wigman, Mary, 1886-1973 -- Archives
Zemach, Benjamin -- Archives
Audiotapes
Choreographers--United States--20th century--Archival resources
Choreography--United States--20th century--Archival resources
Clippings
Correspondence
Costumes (character dress)
Dance cards
Dancers--United States--20th century--Archival resources
DVDs
Ephemera
Modern dance--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources
Modern dance--United States--20th century--Archival resources
Notebooks
Photographs
Programs (documents)
Publications
Scores
Videotapes

Adam and Eve

Historical note
Dance was written by Saida Gerrard.

Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs
Scope and Contents
8X10 photo of Saida Gerrard as Eve. Photo by Alfredo Valente. 1 photo.

Ancestral Memories

Box 1, Folder 2

Programs
Scope and Contents
Choreographed by Saida Gerrard. Performed at the Gindi Theatre at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. Date unknown. 6 programs.

Box 8

Audio
Scope and Contents
1 audio tape of "Ancestral Memories".

Aria de Capo

Box 1, Folder 3

Scripts
Scope and Contents
Script for Aria de Capo by Edna St. Vincent Millay. Choreographed by Saida Gerrard. 3 scripts.

Art of Benjamin Zemach, The
Art of Benjamin Zemach, The

Box 1, Folder 4-7  Photographs
Scope and Contents
Photographs of performances and rehearsals from the film "The Art of Benjamin Zemach". 18 B/W 4X6, 3 B/W 5X7, 1 color 4X6, 3 4.5X5.5 (1967), 25 total photos.

Bartered Bride, The

Box 1, Folder 8  Photographs
Scope and Contents
3.5 X 3.5 color photographs of dancers. 3 photos.

Box 1, Folder 9  Programs 1961
Scope and Contents

Box 8  Audio
Scope and Contents
1 reel of 1/4 inch magnetic audio tape.

Begin the Beginning

Box 1, Folder 10  Programs 1940
Scope and Contents
Program for "Begin the Beginning" performed in The Unity Playhouse, Forest Park, Pennsylvania on June 8, 1940. Saida Gerrard performed in two of the 16 dances. 1 program.

Bewitched Child, The

Box 1, Folder 11  Programs 1985
Scope and Contents

Country Dance

Box 1, Folder 12  Programs 1934-1935
Scope and Contents

Cradle Song, The

Box 1, Folder 13-15  Photographs
Scope and Contents
Photographs of Saida Gerrard in costume dancing solo. 4 8X10 B/W, 4 4.75X6.75 B/W, 5 3.75X4.75 B/W, 4 3.75X5.5 color, 1 3.75X4.75 negative. 18 total photographs.

Death and Transfiguration
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 16</th>
<th><strong>Programs</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td>Program for &quot;Death and Transfiguration&quot;, which was based on a Richard Strauss tone poem. Danced by Said Gerrard while she was a pupil of Mary Wigman. This event took place on February 14-15 (year unknown) at the Central High School of Commerce auditorium. 3 programs, 1 original and 2 photocopies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fancy Fanny's Judgment Day 1939**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 17</th>
<th><strong>Programs 1939</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td>Programs for the Carousel Theatre Group performance of &quot;Fancy Fanny's Judgment Day&quot;. Direction and choreography by Saida Gerrard. Presented by the Young Men's Hebrew Association and performed in the Kaufmann Auditorium, New York City, on February 26, 1939. 4 programs, 2 originals and 2 photocopies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fantasy 1939 1939**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 18</th>
<th><strong>Programs 1939</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td>Program for &quot;Fantasy 1939&quot; performed in the Adelphi Theatre, New York City. Presented by The Federal Theatre Project as part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Program. 1 original program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**House Divided, A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 19</th>
<th><strong>Programs 1947</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td>Programs for the Charles Weidman and Company productions of &quot;A House Divided&quot; by Lionel Nowak. Saida Gerrard dances in the role of the &quot;slave&quot; in both performances. The first program (photocopy) is for the performance which took place in The Ziegfeld Theatre in New York City on April 27, 1947 for the benefit of &quot;Spanish Refugees In Exile&quot;. The date and location of the performance listed in the second program (original) are not provided. 2 programs, 1 photocopy and 1 original.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hansel and Gretel 1955**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 20</th>
<th><strong>Programs 1955</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td>Programs for the Guild Opera Company production of &quot;Hansel and Gretel&quot;, an opera in three acts by Engelbert Humperdinck. Performances held in the Shrine Auditorium, Los Angeles from February 5 through April 17, 1955. Dream pantomime staged by Saida Gerrard. 8 original programs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend of Queen Sabbath, A**
Box 1, Folder 1-28  Photographs
Scope and Contents
Photographs from the performance of "A Legend of Queen Sabbath". 16 8X10 B/W, 1 5X6.5 B/W, 1 5X6.5 B/W photo card with the inscription "Happy Holidays", 1 5X6.5 B/W print, 1 3.25X5 photographs taken by Lyn Smith, the University of Judaism company photographer. All 4 of the smaller images are of the dancer Adria Chalfin. 19 B/W photographs and 1 print by Lyn Smith.

Box 1, Folder 29  Programs 1980
Scope and Contents
Programs for performances of "A Legend of Queen Sabbath" choreographed by Saida Gerrard.

Programs for the dance "A Legend of Queen Sabbath" which was performed April 25, 1980 at Temple Emanuel, Los Angeles. Part of the Weiss-Evans Memorial Concert. The concert included a performance of "A Legend of Queen Sabbath" performed by the Saida Gerrard Heritage Dance Company of Los Angeles and choreographed by Saida Gerrard. 4 originals and 1 photocopy. 5 total programs.

Original program for the May 2, 1980 Shabbat evening worship service at the University Synagogue, University of Judaism, Los Angeles, CA. Service included a performance of "A Legend of Queen Sabbath" performed by the Saida Gerrard Heritage Dance Company of Los Angeles and choreographed by Saida Gerrard.

Programs for the dance "A Legend of Queen Sabbath" which was performed at Temple Judea, Los Angeles. Date unknown. 1 original and 7 photocopies. 8 total programs.

14 total programs.

Box 1, Folder 30  Ephemera
Scope and Contents
Information about the dance "A Legend of Queen Sabbath". 5 2-page documents and 5 1-page documents. 15 total pages.

Box 9  Video
Scope and Contents
1 VHS cassette of "Queen Sabbath."

Machine, The 1938

Box 1, Folder 31  Programs 1938
Scope and Contents
Programs for "The Machine." Choreographed by Saida Gerrard and performed by the Toronto Skating Club. 1 original program taken from the 1938 issue of the periodical Carnival. 1 photocopy. 2 total programs.

Melange

Box 1, Folder 32  Photographs
Scope and Contents
17 color slides of children and Vic Benn.
Programs for "Melange". Written by Josef Marais and choreographed by Saida Gerrard. Performed by Saida Gerrard’s School of Dance, Los Angeles, CA. Performances were held December 13-31, 1966 in the Morgan Theatre, Los Angeles, CA. 2 originals and 2 photocopies.

Di Naye Hagode

Historical note

The title of the dance in Hebrew is "Di Naye Hagode". The English translation is "The New Haggadah" or "The New Exodus". Haggodah (or Hagode) is the Hebrew term for the Passover narrative.

Video

1 mini digital video cassette of "New Exodus" (Di Naye Hagode). Contains the entire dance, images from the Shrine performances, cast cut-ups, and rehearsals.
1 DVD of "New Exodus" (Di Naye Hagode). Contains the entire dance, images from the Shrine performances, cast cut-ups, and rehearsals. Running time = 27:13.
2 reels of 1cm film of "New Exodus" (Di Naye Hagode). Contains the entire dance, images from the Shrine performances, cast cut-ups, and rehearsals.
4 items total.

Photographs

Photographs of performances and rehearsals for "Di Naye Hagodah".
1 11X14 B/W, 6 8X10 B/W and 3 5X7 B/W photographs taken by Bill Isaacks.
6 5X7 color photographs taken by Lyn Smith of the University of Judaism, Los Angeles, CA.
12 5X7 B/W photographs taken by Irene Rosenfield, Venice, CA.
Uncredited photographers. 5 2.75X4.25 color, 18 3X5 color, 23 3.25X4.75 (10 B/W & 13 color), 1 5X7 B/W, 1 8X10 B/W, 33 color slides. 81 total uncredited photographs.
106 total photographs.

Notebooks


Programs 1963-1964

Program for "The World of Max Helfman" memorial concert held at the Shrine Auditorium, Los Angeles on March 22, 1964. "The New Exodus" ("Di Naye Hagode") choral ballet choreographed by Saida Gerrard. She also danced in the role of the "last survivor".
8 total programs.
Box 1, Folder 49

Correspondence
Scope and Contents
Correspondence from Cantor Samuel Fordis of the School of Fine Arts of the University of Judaism. A letter of thanks. Mention of payment for personal expenses. Letter is in regard to "The World of Max Helfman" memorial concert in which Saida Gerrard choreographed and performed in "Di Naye Hagode". 1 typed letter.

Box 2, Folder 1-2

Scores
Scope and Contents
1 spiral bound score with hand written notes by pianist Aube Tzerko.
1 German text for narrator and chorus.
1 handwritten score with parts.
1 copied choral score with handwritten notes.
1 handwritten score with notes for "The Wedding Dance".
1 opening narration.
8 total scores with parts and narration texts.

Box 8

Audio
Scope and Contents
3 reels of 1/4 inch magnetic audio tape.

Peacelike Mongoose, The
Historical note
Based on a fable by James Thurber. Occasionally billed as "A Peacelike Mongoose".

Box 2, Folder 3-6

Photographs
Scope and Contents
1 8X10 B/W, 4 3.5X3.25 B/W, 5 3.5X4.5 color photographs from Berko Studio, Aspen, CO.
10 total photographs.
5 8X10 uncredited photographs, 3 uncredited color slides. 8 total.
15 total photographs, 3 total slides.

Box 2, Folder 7-8

Notebooks
Scope and Contents
1 spiral bound notebook containing notes for "The Peacelike Mongoose". Possibly compiled while S.G. was at Loyola Marymount University.
1 bound notebook containing notes for "The Peacelike Mongoose".
2 total notebooks.

Box 2, Folder 9

Programs 1982
Scope and Contents
2 programs for "The Peacelike Mongoose". Performed in Aspen, CO.
2 original programs for "A Peacelike Mongoose". Performed April 23-24 and 29-30, 1982 at Loyola Marymount University.
4 programs total.
Box 2, Folder 10  **Ephemera**  
**Scope and Contents**  
2 typed pages of cast and production credits.

Box 8  **Audio**  
**Scope and Contents**  
4 audio cassettes.

**Pimpinone**  
**General note**  
"Pimpinone" has an alternate spelling of "Pimpinoni" on some of the materials.

Box 2, Folder 11-12  **Photographs**  
**Scope and Contents**  
1 5X9 B/W, 7 8X10 B/W photographs. Uncredited.  
8 photographs in all.

Box 2, Folder 13  **Programs**  
**Scope and Contents**  
1 original program for "Pimpinone". Date and location unknown.

Box 8  **Audio 1965**  
**Scope and Contents**  
2 reels of 1/4 inch magnetic audio tape. 1 reel is marked 07/13/65.

**Rhumba Ballet**  
**Historical note**  
"Rhumba Ballet" was written by Ernesto Lecuona and choreographed by Eugene Van Grona.

Box 2, Folder 14  **Programs**  
**Scope and Contents**  
1 original program for "Rhumba Ballet" danced by Saida Gerrard as part of Van Grona's Dancers ensemble. Performance at The Boston Opera House. Date unknown.  
1 original program for "Rhumba Ballet" danced by Saida Gerrard as part of Van Grona's Dancers ensemble. Performance at the Lyric Theatre January 27-29. Year unknown.  
2 programs total.

**Sea Shanties**

Box 2, Folder 15, Map-case 8, Drawer 1  **Photographs**  
**Scope and Contents**  
1 8X10 B/W photograph taken by Alfredo Valente.  
2 6.5X4.75 B/W photographs. Uncredited.  
1 10.5X14 B/W photograph mounted on matted board. Mat is broken in several places, but the photograph is unharmed.  
1 3.5X4.5 negative.  
5 items total.

**Sleepy Hollow 1948**  
**Historical note**  
The Carousel production of the 1948 Broadway show featuring the dancing of Saida Gerrard. Choreography by Anna Sokolow.
**Photographs 1948**

Scope and Contents

1 4.25X6.5 B/W photograph taken by Richard Tucker of Boston, MA.
1 4.25X6.5 B/W photograph taken by Will Rapport.

Both images are from the Carousel production of the Broadway show featuring the dancing of Saida Gerrard. 2 total photographs.

**Songs of Unrest 1935**

Historical note

"Songs of Unrest" is a solo modern dance suite in three parts, "Hunger", with percussion accompaniment, "Satire" by Prokofieff, and "Lament" by Villa-Lobos. Performed by Saida Gerrard.

**Programs 1935**

Scope and Contents

Programs for the modern dance suite "Songs of Unrest".


1 original and 1 photocopy of a program for "Songs of Unrest. Performed on March 25, 1935 in the Sculpture Court of Grange Park at the Art Gallery of Toronto, Canada. Her dance was preceded by a short talk.

6 total programs.

**Tapestry**

Historical note

"Tapestry" includes the dances "Pavanne", "The Night Her Blackest Sables Wore", and "Death and the Lady".

**Photographs**

Scope and Contents

1 4X5 B/W, 24 8X10 B/W photographs. All 25 are uncredited.
4 3X4.5 B/W photographs. Note: one of the photos is identified as USC while another is identified as New York; however, the locations appear visually to be the same place. All four are uncredited.
1 8X10 negative. Uncredited.
10 8X10 B/W photographs credited to Bill Isaacks.
6 7X9.5 B/W photographs credited to Kenneth Johnson, New York. 23 8X10 B/W photographs from a solo photoshoot with Saida Gerrard. 2 8X10 B/W proof sheets. 6 strips of negatives, each containing negatives of four photographs.
12 7.5X10 B/W photographs credited to Ruth Lert. Several are from "Death and the Lady", featuring Saida Gerrard with Ben Johnson.
1 5X7 B/W photograph credited to Irene Rosenfeld, Venice, CA.
1 5X7 and 3 8X10 B/W photographs credited to Constantine. From "Death and the Lady". Featuring Saida Gerrard with Ben Johnson.
19 8X10 B/W photographs credited to Harry Drinkwater, Los Angeles, CA. From "Death and the Lady". Featuring Saida Gerrard with Ben Johnson.
3 uncredited color slides.
117 total items.
### Tapestry

**Box 2, Folder 38**

**Dance notes**

**Scope and Contents**
- 26 pages of dance notes. Handwritten and typed.
- 7 sets of typed program notes. 2 pages per set.
- 33 total items.

**Box 2, Folder 39**

**Scores**

**Scope and Contents**
- 1 page photocopy score for "Pavane", part one of "Tapestry".

**Box 8**

**Audio 1965**

**Scope and Contents**
- 4 reels of 1/4 inch magnetic audio tape. 1 tape is marked February 16, 1965.

### They All Want To Get Married

**Box 2, Folder 40**

**Programs 1944-1945**

**Scope and Contents**
- 2 original programs for "They All Want To Get Married" by Julie Berns. Saida Gerrard billed as "specialty dancer." Public Theatre, New York, NY. English and Hebrew. 1944-45.

### Unanswered Question, The

**Box 2, Folder 41**

**Dance notes**

**Scope and Contents**
- 8 pages of handwritten dance notes on ruled paper.

**Box 8**

**Audio**

**Scope and Contents**
- 4 reels of 1/4 inch magnetic audio tape. 2 of the reels also contain "Visions and Prophecies".

### Visions and Prophecies

**Historical note**
- Five scenes: 1. Premonition and Warning 2. Predatory Antagonism (also listed as Predatory Climate of Dessension) 3. Strife and Destruction (also listed as Dynamic Antagonism) 4. Visions (also listed as Awareness of Need for Harmony) 5. Prophecy (also listed as Resolution Toward the Future)

**Box 9**

**Video**

**Scope and Contents**
- 1 reel of 1/4 inch video tape.

**Map-case 8, Drawer 1-2**

**Photographs**

**Scope and Contents**
- 1 10X6.25 B/W, 1 9.25X6.25 B/W, and 1 10X7.5 B/W photographs. Photographs are mounted on matted boards. Photography by Lyn Smith. 3 total photographs.

**Box 3, Folder 14**

**Dance notes**

**Scope and Contents**
- 10 pages of dance notes for "Visions and Prophecies". Notes on front and back of most pages.
Visions and Prophecies

Box 3, Folder 15

Programs
Scope and Contents
Programs for "Visions and Prophecies". Performed November 15 in the Philharmonic Auditorium. Year unknown. Choreographed by Saida Gerrard and performed by the Saida Gerrard Theatre Dance Co. 7 original and 3 photocopies. 10 items total.

Map-case 8, Drawer 1

Ephemera
Scope and Contents
4 items total.

Box 8

Audio
Scope and Contents
3 reels of 1/4 inch magnetic audio tape. 2 reels also contain "The Unanswered Question."

Vitebsk Trio

Box 3, Folder 1-13

Photographs
Scope and Contents
64 7.5X9.5, 1 4X6, and 2 5X7 B/W photographs taken by Lyn Smith.
2 4X6 color photographs.
3 8X10 B/W proof sheets.
1 slide.
73 total items.

Photographs
Scope and Contents
This series contains photographs which cannot be linked to a particular dance. Photographs are of dances, rehearsals, and class sessions. Photographer listed when possible. 97 items total.

Box 3, Folder 16, 26

Photographs
Scope and Contents
Photography by Arthur Dubinsky. 2 8X10 B/W photographs, 8 8X10 proof sheets. 10 items total.

Box 3, Folder 24

Photographs
Scope and Contents
Photography by Bill Isaacks. 5 8X10 B/W photographs.

Box 3, Folder 17

Photographs
Scope and Contents
Photography by Ruth Lert. 7 8X10 B/W photographs.

Box 3, Folder 18

Photographs
Scope and Contents
Photography by Jill Richards. 1 5X7 B/W and 4 3.25X4.75 B/W photographs. 1 8X10 proof sheet. 6 items total.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 19-21</th>
<th><strong>Photographs</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heritage Dance Company</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 4.25X3, 6 4.75X3.25, and 6 5X7 B/W photographs of Saida Gerrard teaching the Heritage Dance Co. at the University of Southern California. Photographer is not credited. 14 items total.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 22, 23, 25, 27</th>
<th><strong>Photographs</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 B/W and color photographs, 9 slides, and 1 proof sheet. Size ranges from 2.5X4.25 to 8X10. Uncredited professional and amateur photography of dances, rehearsals, classes, and candid photos. 32 items total.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 30</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 7X9 B/W photo of Fe Alf. Photo taken by Soichi Sunami, New York. 1934.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 25, 28</th>
<th><strong>Charles Weidman Company</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 8X10s, 7 3.5X2.25, and 1 5X7 B/W photographs of the Charles Weidman Company on tour. 2 slides of Charles Weidman. 10 photographs total.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 30</th>
<th><strong>Mary Wigman</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 3X5 B/W photograph of Mary Wigman. Uncredited.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 30</th>
<th><strong>Elizabeth Leese</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 8X10 B/W photograph of Elizabeth Leese. Signed by Leese. 1945.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 3, Folder 31-32</th>
<th><strong>Notes</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saida Gerrard's notebooks containing handwritten dance notes, contact info, appointments, and schedules. 9 notebooks total. Loose leaf notes related to specific dances and to dance in general. Handwritten and typed. 21 pages total.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Notes</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scope and Contents</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes related to specific dances and to dance in general. Handwritten and typed. 21 pages total. This sub-series also contains auto-biographical notes. 6 pages of handwritten auto-biographical notes on ruled paper. 2 pages of handwritten auto-biographical notes on legal sized ruled paper. 6 pages (2 handwritten and 4 typed) of auto-biographical notes. 2 copies (1 original, 1 photocopy) of typed auto-biographical notes. 4 pages each. 1 transcript of an interview with Saida Gerrard. The interview was conducted by Karen Wickre for the Research Center for the Federal Theatre Project at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, on February 21, 1978 in Hollywood, CA. 28 total pages. Transcribed from an audio tape by Rhoda Durkan in October, 1978. 6 total documents. 50 total pages. 71 total pages.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Finding Aid of the Saida Gerrard papers 0341**

### Notebooks

**Scope and Contents**

Saida Gerrard's notebooks containing handwritten dance notes, contact info, appointments, and schedules. 9 notebooks total.

### Programs 1934-1973

**Scope and Contents**

The programs in this sub-series are for events and workshops in which multiple dances were performed, or for which a particular dance cannot be identified.

Dated materials are from 09/27/34-03/21/62. Some materials are probably from before and after this range, but exact dates are not provided.

Most are in English, but a few are in Hebrew.

75 total items.

### Correspondence 1933-1998

**Scope and Contents**


### Correspondence

**Scope and Contents**


### Contracts

**Scope and Contents**

Contracts for performances and classes from 1945 - 1980. 18 contracts. 51 total items.

### Publications 1935-1994

**Scope and Contents**

*The Curtain Call*, volume 6, number 6, March 1935. The official publication of the Dominion Drama Festival, Toronto, Canada. 1 original, 2 photocopies. 3 total pages.


Scores 1961-1975

Scope and Contents
These files contain original and commercial scores:
Commercially produced scores and photocopies. 35 total scores.
"Variations on an Elisabethan Folk Tune". Composed by Richard Grayson, 1961. 2 scores.
Toka #94. Pavana - molto largo. Composed by Kenneth Klaus, March 15, 1975. Presented to
Saida Gerrard on March 20, 1975. 2 scores.
4 original scores total.
39 total scores.

Miscellaneous Ephemera

Teaching materials
Scope and Contents
This sub-series contains items related to classes, workshops, and seminars taught by
Saida Gerrard. Schedule of classes, programs, flyers, mailers, course packets, library
holdings, and lecture notes. 1940-
New York Joint Council United Office and Professional Workers of America, C.I.O., Idyllwild
Arts Foundation, University of Judaism, Aspen Music School, Sutro-Seyler School, UCLA, and USC.
78 items total.

Ephemera 1934-1980
Scope and Contents
This sub-series contains miscellaneous ephemera.
Written ephemera contains information about Jewish life and rituals, articles written
about Saida Gerrard, timetables, dance analysis, and library holdings. Originals and
photocopies. Mostly in English with some materials in Hebrew. 18 items total, 57 pages
total.
Visual ephemera contains items such as a 12"X12" needlepoint for the Heritage Dance
Co. (1980), a 17X34 drawing on paper (torn) of Saida Gerrard, signs and desk plates for
Saida Gerrard (4), works of art on construction paper (8), 6X24 paper advertisements for
Saida Gerrard & Co. (4), and images of Saida Gerrard cut from photographs for graphic
design (3). 20 items total.
This sub-series also contains items related to Saida Gerrard's dance studios.
Advertisements, business cards, programs, Credo and background info. New York
Wigman School of the Dance, New York; Studio of the Modern Dance, Toronto, Canada;
Gerrard Theatre Dance Co., Hollywood, CA; Saida Gerrard Heritage Dance Co.; School of
American Dance; Sutro-Seyler Studio, Los Angeles, CA; Studio of Contemporary Dance;
Los Angeles, CA; Studio of Creative Dance, Los Angeles, CA;
90 items total.

Clippings
Scope and Contents
These files contain clippings from newspapers and magazines. Scrapbooks and loose
clippings. The scrapbook and many of the photocopies contain multiple clippings.
Originals and photocopies. Mostly in English, but a few of the clippings are in Hebrew.
106 total items.
### Audio tapes

**Scope and Contents**

6 reels of 1/4 inch magnetic audio tape:

- 3 reels contain "He's got the whole world in his hands"; "Pretty little horses"; "God's gonna cut you down"; "Maybe she go"; "Another man done gone"; "Ox driven song".

- 1 reel contains Francais Quintet Concert.

- 1 reel contains excerpts from works by the composers Stockhausen, Penderecki, Pousseur, Harry Partch, and Boulez.


- 2 unmarked audio cassettes.

### Costumes

**Scope and Contents**

Costumes from Saida Gerrard's performances. 17 total pieces.