

Robert J. McLeod Photography Collection

002.087

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Museum of Performance and Design, Performing Arts Library
2018 May 31
San Francisco, CA

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Summary Information

Repository	Museum of Performance and Design, Performing Arts Library
Creator - Photographer	McLeod, Robert
Title	Robert J. McLeod Photography Collection,
Date [inclusive]	1980-2002
Extent	7.0 Linear feet 7 records cartons
Language	English
Abstract	<p>This is a collection comprised of donated items featuring work printed photographs, film negatives and 35mm slides by Bob McLeod between the 1970's-1980's. McLeod worked for the <i>San Francisco Examiner</i> and the <i>San Francisco Chronicle</i> as a photographer and a photo editor for almost forty years, photographing several significant figures and events in the Bay Area. McLeod had a passion for photographing dancers taking classes, in rehearsals and during performances. The collection focuses primarily on ballet dancers and companies from the Bay Area including San Francisco Ballet. The collection also features work by his wife Beth Witrogen on the same subject of ballet dancers, companies, and performances.</p>

Biographical Note

Robert J. (Bob) McLeod (1946?-2006) was a San Francisco Bay native, growing up in Daly City. When McLeod was 12 years old, his father passed away, his older brother George then gave him his first camera, a Brownie Hawkeye. McLeod then began taking photos around his neighborhood, he would then process the photographs in the small darkroom that he had made himself in the family's basement closet. After attending San Francisco State University for a limited time, McLeod began to work at the *San Francisco Examiner* in 1967, first as a copy boy, working his way up to director of photography in 1989. He worked with both the *San Francisco Examiner* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* as a photographer and photo editor. Throughout his career, McLeod photographed significant events and figures of San Francisco history such as Harvey Milk, Patty Hearst, and the aftermath of the Loma Prieta earthquake.

McLeod was married to photographer, reporter, and *San Francisco Examiner* copy editor, Beth Witrogen for 25 years. Together they completed a series of images entitled *The Caregivers*, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1995. The series also won second place in the Peninsula Press Awards, and other awards and accolades.

McLeod's passion laid with photographing dancers in the Bay Area, from novices to professionals, including but not limited to Mikhail Baryshnikov, Rudolf Nureyev, and Gelsey Kirkland. McLeod also chronicled the rise of San Francisco Ballet principal Joanna Berman from her time at Marin Ballet School to the early years of her career at San Francisco Ballet. He photographed several other Bay Area companies such as Oakland Ballet, San Francisco Moving Company, and SF Dance Spectrum. His photographs offer a unique view of dancers in rehearsal and during performances. McLeod was diagnosed with lung cancer, though he was never a smoker. He retired a few months before his death on January 3, 2006 at his home in Antioch, California at the age of 59.

Scope and Contents

The collection is comprised of: photographs, photograph film negatives, and, 35mm slides by Bob McLeod and Beth Witrogen. The majority of this collection was created between the 1970's-1980's from McLeod's personal collection and works published for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Bob McLeod worked for the *San Francisco Examiner* and the *San Francisco Chronicle* as a photographer and a photo editor for almost forty years.

McLeod photographed multiple significant figures and events in the Bay Area. However, his passion was taking pictures of dancers. The collection focuses primarily on ballet dancers from the San Francisco Ballet as well as other Bay Area companies including Oakland Ballet, Marin Civic Ballet, and San

Francisco Moving Company. This collection includes images of dancers in performances, rehearsals, and for promotional materials.

The photographs taken by McLeod are evidence of the great changes that were happening in the San Francisco dance culture. Such as the emergence of San Francisco Ballet becoming a high profile company. McLeod and his wife Beth Witrogen photographed works by Lew Christensen and Michael Sumin. As well as documenting some of the first performances of Helgi Tomasson as the San Francisco Ballet artistic director. Tomasson has been regarded as the most important ballet choreographer of the 20th century.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Museum of Performance and Design, Performing Arts Library 2018 May 31

Restrictions

Entire collection is open for research use.

Copyright

Copyright has been assigned to the Museum of Performance + Design.

Provenance

Collection was donated by Beth Witrogen in 2002 with additional accessions made in 2014 and 2016.

Related Materials

Related Materials

Related collections include: American Ballet Theatre Collection San Francisco Ballet Archives Dance Companies Collection

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- American Ballet Theatre.
- Oakland Ballet Company.

Genre(s)

- Photographic Materials

Personal Name(s)

- Balanchine, George
- Baryshnikov, Mikhail
- Berman, Joanna
- Christensen, Lew, 1909-1984
- Cisneros, Evelyn
- Gil, Jean-Charles
- Robbins, Jerome
- Smuin, Michael
- Stowell, Christopher
- Tomasson, Helgi, 1942-
- Witrogen, Beth, 1948-

Subject(s)

- Choreographers--United States.
- Dance
- Dance--Ballet
- Dance--United States
- Dancers--United States
- San Francisco Ballet Association (San Francisco, Calif.)--History.
- San Francisco Ballet--History.

Series I: Performance

Collection Inventory

Series I: Performance

Scope and Contents note

This series contain images, photo negatives and 35mm slides. The performances include images of: Hamlet and Ophelia; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Rubies; Romeo and Juliet; Stars and Strips; Swan Lake; Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux; Nutcracker. These performances include primarily performance stills from the San Francisco Ballet between 1970's-1980's.

Hamlet and Ophelia 1986 This features the work of San Francisco Ballet's Hamlet and Ophelia. The file contains printed images, negatives, and 35mm slides.

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	3	Negative of San Francisco Ballet 1986-87
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance and Rehearsal Stills
	Box	Folder

Series I: Performance

Mixed materials	1	Mixed Images of San Francisco Ballet
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A Midsummer Night's Dream 1986 This features the work of San Francisco Ballet's A Midsummer Night's Dream. The file contains printed images, negatives, and 35mm slides.

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Mixed Images of San Francisco Ballet
Mixed materials	4	San Francisco Ballet Performance Negatives 1986-87
Mixed materials	4	Negatives of Multiple Ballet Companies
Mixed materials	2	Negatives of San Francisco Ballet 1986-89

Series I: Performance

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	3	Negatives of San Francisco Ballet 1986-1987
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	7	San Francisco Ballet 1980's
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	4	Miscellaneous Negative Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	4	Joanna Berman

Rubies 1987-1988 This features the work of San Francisco Ballet's Rubies. The file contains printed images, negatives, and 35mm slides.

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	4	Joanna Berman
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance and Rehearsal Stills
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	2	Negatives of SF

Series I: Performance

Mixed materials	Box 1	Folder Ballet 1986-89 Images of San Francisco Ballet
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Romeo and Juliet 1986-1987 This features the work of San Francisco Ballet's Romeo and Juliet. The file contains printed images, negatives, and 35mm slides.

Mixed materials	Box 5	Folder Performance and Rehearsal Images
Mixed materials	Box 3	Folder Negatives of San Francisco Ballet Performance 1986-87
Mixed materials	Box 2	Folder Projections of Multiple Ballets
Mixed materials	Box 3	Folder Negative of San Francisco Ballet 1986-87

Series I: Performance

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Images of San Francisco Ballet

Stars and Stripes 1986-1988 This features the work of San Francisco Ballet's Stars and Stripes. The file contains printed images, negatives, and 35mm slides.

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Images of San Francisco Ballet
Mixed materials	3	San Francisco Ballet Performance Negatives 1987
Mixed materials	6	Performance Images
Mixed materials	4	San Francisco Ballet Performance Negatives 1986-87
Mixed materials	6	San Francisco

Series I: Performance

Ballet
1986

Swan Lake 1986-1988 This features the work of San Francisco Ballet's Swan Lake. The file contains printed images, negatives, and 35mm slides.

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	3	San Francisco Ballet Negatives
Mixed materials	2	Negatives of San Francisco Ballet 1986-89
Mixed materials	6	Performance Images
Mixed materials	1	Performance Images
Mixed materials	6	Performance and Rehearsal Images
Mixed materials	5	San Francisco Ballet Performance and

Series I: Performance

		Rehearsal Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	5	Performance and Rehearsal Images

Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux 1988 This features the work of San Francisco Ballet's Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux. The file contains printed images, negatives, and 35mm slides.

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Images of San Francisco Ballet
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance and Rehearsal Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance and Rehearsal Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	5	San Francisco Ballet

Series I: Performance

Performance
Images

Nutcracker 1980-1989 This features the work of San Francisco Ballet's Nutcracker. The file contains printed images, negatives, and 35mm slides.

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	4	Tomm Rudd
Mixed materials	4	San Francisco Ballet Performance Negatives 1986-87
Mixed materials	4	Miscellaneous San Francisco Ballet Performances
Mixed materials	4	Miscellaneous Performances
Mixed materials	5	San Francisco Ballet Performance Images
Mixed materials	5	Performance and

Series I: Performance

		Rehearsal Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Images of San Francisco Ballet
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	5	San Francisco Ballet Performance and Rehearsal Images 2
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	3	San Francisco Ballet Performance Negatives
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	3	Negative of San Francisco Ballet 1986-87
	Box	Folder

Series I: Performance

Mixed materials	2	Photo Negatives 1986-89
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	2	Negatives of San Francisco Ballet 1986-88
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	7	7
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	5	San Francisco Ballet Performance and Rehearsal Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	6	Performance Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	6	Performance Images 4
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	7	San Francisco Ballet Nutcracker 1980

Series II: San Francisco Ballet Programs

Series II: San Francisco Ballet Programs This series includes images, photographic negatives, and 35mm slides of the San Francisco Ballet between the years of 1986-1988, which are the largest represented years in the collection.

Scope and Contents note

This series includes images, photographic negatives, and 35mm slides of the San Francisco Ballet between the years of 1986-1988, which are the largest represented years in the collection.

Season: 1986 1986 This file contains still images, negatives and 35mm slides of the San Francisco Ballet 1986 season. Romeo and Juliet, Medea, La Sylphide, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Stars and Stripes, and Nutcracker.

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	6	Performance Images
Mixed materials	3	Negative of San Francisco Ballet 1986-87
Mixed materials	4	San Francisco Ballet Performance Negatives 1986-87
Mixed materials	2	Negatives of San

Series II: San Francisco Ballet Programs

		Francisco Ballet 1986-89
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	2	Negatives of San Francisco Ballet 1986-88
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance Images 2

Season: 1987 1987 This file contains still images, negatives and 35mm slides of the San Francisco Ballet 1987 season. The majority of this file contains performances of: Dreams of Harmony, Rubies, La Sylphide, Romeo and Juliet, Stars and Stripes, and, Nutcracker

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Images of San Francisco Ballet
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	6	Performance, Rehearsal, and Promotional Images

Series II: San Francisco Ballet Programs

Mixed materials	Box 4	Folder San Francisco Ballet Performance Negatives 1986-87
Mixed materials	Box 6	Folder Performance Images
Mixed materials	Box 3	Folder San Francisco Ballet Performance Negatives 1987
Mixed materials	Box 3	Folder Negative of San Francisco Ballet 1986-87
Mixed materials	Box 1	Folder Performance and Rehearsal Images
Mixed materials	Box 2	Folder Negatives of San Francisco

Series II: San Francisco Ballet Programs

Ballet
1986-89

Season: 1988 1988 This file contains still images, negatives and 35 mm slides of the San Francisco Ballet 1988 season. This includes performances of La Fille Mal Gradée, Rubies, The Sons of Horus, Dreams of Harmony, Le Corsaire: Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux, and Swan Lake.

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance Image Negatives
Mixed materials	6	Performance and Rehearsal Images
Mixed materials	3	Miscellaneous Performance Slides
Mixed materials	2	Negatives of San Francisco Ballet 1986-88
Mixed materials	2	Negatives of San Francisco Ballet 1986-89
	Box	Folder

Series III: Joanna Berman

Mixed materials	1	Performance Images
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Series III: Joanna Berman 1970-1989 Joanna Berman was a student and then a prominent member of the San Francisco Ballet. McLeod documented both her time as a student and as a principal within the company. This series includes images of her in performances, during rehearsal and for promotional material.

Scope and Contents note

Joanna Berman was a student at Marin Ballet, and then a prominent member of the San Francisco Ballet. McLeod documented both her time as a student and as a principal within the company. This series includes images of her in performances, during rehearsal and for promotional material.

Perfromance

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance Images
Mixed materials	4	Negatives of Joanna Berman
Mixed materials	1	Performance Images
Mixed materials	1	Performance and Rehearsal Images
	Box	Folder

Series III: Joanna Berman

Mixed materials	1	Images of San Francisco Ballet
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	3	Joanna Berman

Rehearsal

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Performance and Rehearsal Images
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Images of San Francisco Ballet

Promotion

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	1	Images of San Francisco Ballet
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	4	Negatives of Joanna Berman
	Box	Folder

Series IV: Well-Known Dancers

Mixed materials

1

Miscellaneous

Series IV: Well-Known Dancers**Scope and Contents note**

McLeod photographed well known local and visiting dancers. These dancers include Ethan Stiefel, Mikhail Baryshnikov, and Rhonda Martin.

Box**Folder**

Ethan Stiefel

1

Performance
Images

Mikhail Baryshnikov

Mixed materials

Box**Folder**

5

Performance
Images

Mixed materials

Box**Folder**

5

Performance
and
Rehearsal
Images

Mixed materials

Box**Folder**

6

Performance
Images

Rhonda Martin

Mixed materials

Box**Folder**

1

Performance
Images

Series V: Famous Figures

Mixed materials	Box 1	Folder Performance and Rehearsal Images
Mixed materials	Box 2	Folder Negatives of SF Moving Company
Mixed materials	Box 2	Folder Negatives of SF Moving Company and SF Ballet's Cinderella

Series V: Famous Figures**Scope and Contents note**

Famous figures that McLeod photographed include: Jane Fonda, Carol Lawrence, and, Michael Tilson Thomas.

	Box	Folder
Jane Fonda	1	Negatives for SF Examiner

Series VI: Miscellaneous Materials

Carol Lawrence	1	Negatives for SF Examiner
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Michael Tilson Thomas	1	Negatives for SF Examiner
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Series VI: Miscellaneous Materials

Scope and Contents note

Within this collection there are several other primary source materials, including programs, stage notes, casting lists, and several publications of *Dance Magazine* published between 1976 to 1983.

Programs

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	3	San Francisco Ballet Program Information
Mixed materials	4	San Francisco Ballet 1986-1987

San Francisco Ballet Notes

Box	Folder
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Series VI: Miscellaneous Materials

Mixed materials	7	Miscellaneous
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	3	San Francisco Ballet Program Information
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	2	1989 Production Notes

Dance Magazine 1977-1983

	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	7	Dance Magazine 1/1977-7/1977
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	7	Dance Magazine 1/1976-8/1976
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	7	Dance Magazine 8/1979-5/1982
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	7	Dance Magazine 9/1977-4/1979
	Box	Folder
Mixed materials	7	Dance Magazine

Series VI: Miscellaneous Materials

4/1981-4/1983
and Other
Publications
