

Jocelyn Vollmar Papers

Museum of Performance & Design
May 2009

INTRODUCTION

Provenance

The Jocelyn Vollmar Papers were donated to the Museum of Performance & Design by Jocelyn Vollmar in June of 1992 and on June 30, 2007.

Restrictions

No Restrictions.

Publication Rights

Vary with material.

Collection Number

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Dorian Chong and Marianne Carden (1992); Allison Gillette (May 2009)

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Jocelyn Vollmar Papers, Museum of Performance & Design

BIOGRAPHY

Jocelyn Vollmar was born on November 25, 1925 in San Francisco and received her first ballet lessons from her mother, Wilma Wilkie, a former actress. Her father, a wholesale business executive, provided unstintingly for Jocelyn and her sister, Gale, during the difficult Depression years. In 1938 at age twelve, Jocelyn entered the then five-year-old San Francisco Opera Ballet School. It became her immediate love and at seventeen she joined the fledgling company. She received all of her training from Harold, Willam, and Lew Christensen. In 1939, 1940, and 1944 respectively, she appeared in the original full-length American premieres of Coppelia, Swan Lake, and The Nutcracker, all by Willam Christensen.

Vollmar officially joined the San Francisco Ballet in 1943 and became a soloist in 1947. This affiliation, along with dancing for the San Francisco Opera, did not constitute a full schedule of performing. For this reason, Vollmar went to New York and joined the New York City Ballet for two seasons, the American Ballet Theatre for two tours, and the Metropolitan Opera for a season. In 1950, she went to Europe to study for the summer but ended up staying for three and a half years upon being invited to join the Grand Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas in Paris. She there rose to the leading rank of "etoile." From 1954-1956, she was one of three leading ballerinas in the Borovansky Australian Ballet.

Returning home, she appeared from 1956 through 1972 as prima ballerina of the San Francisco Ballet. She danced leading roles in numerous Christensen ballets, including Filling Station, Swan Lake, Beauty and the Beast, and Lady of Shalott. In December 1972, Vollmar concluded a thirty year career by dancing in the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy in The Nutcracker. Thus she came full circle to her birthplace and to the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House - the scene of her debut and farewell.

In addition to her long career as a performer, Vollmar also made contributions to ballet as a choreographer and teacher. Between 1960 and 1973, she choreographed eleven ballets for the San Francisco Ballet's summer choreography workshops. The company also performed one of her ballets, Figures in F, as part of its 1972 season. Upon her retirement from performing, Vollmar served as Assistant Director of the San Francisco Ballet School and then as a teacher and administrator for the Marin Civic Ballet until 2005.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The Jocelyn Vollmar Papers chronicle the ballerina's rise to stardom and twenty-year affiliation with the San Francisco Ballet. The collection includes newspaper and magazine clippings reviewing Jocelyn Vollmar's career with San Francisco Ballet, Marquis de Cuevas Ballet in Paris and Borovansky Ballet in Australia, photographs of Vollmar in performance and on tour with the San Francisco Ballet and performance programs and souvenir programs for the San Francisco Ballet. The collection, in addition to these contents, contain personal papers, a press kit, performance prospectus, a book of poems written by Vollmar, an invitation to a luncheon and tour itinerary.

- Series I NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE CLIPPINGS
32 Folders
Contains clippings relating to ballets performed by Vollmar while in the San Francisco Ballet. A large portion relates to the extensive tours the San Francisco Ballet took in the late 1950's, some article being written in foreign languages. There are also clippings discussing Vollmar as a professional dancer, personal interviews and her legacy at San Francisco Ballet.
- Series II PERSONAL PAPERS
2 Folders
Contains personal phone numbers and a poem written for Willam Christensen by Jocelyn Vollmar on his 90th Birthday.
- Series III PHOTOGRAPHS
34 Folders
Contains both personal photographs as well as professional dance photographs of Vollmar while dancing for San Francisco Ballet.
- Series IV PRESS KITS
1 Folder
Contains a press kit from the 1960-61 San Francisco Ballet season.
- Series V PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS
24 Folders
Contains programs in which Jocelyn Vollmar participated during her time with the San Francisco Ballet. A large number of these programs come from the tours taken during the late 1950's with the San Francisco Ballet.
- Series VI PROSPECTUS
1 Folder
Contains prospectus relating to Jocelyn Vollmar or performances by Vollmar during her years at the San Francisco Ballet.
- Series VII PUBLICATIONS
1 Folder
Contains the book of poems, "Sing with the Seasons" written by Jocelyn Vollmar.
- Series VIII SOUVENIR PROGRAMS
8 Folders
Contains souvenir programs in which Jocelyn Vollmar participated or collected from her time at San Francisco Ballet.
- Series IX SPECIAL EVENTS
1 Folder

Contains an invitation to a luncheon honoring San Francisco Ballet from January 15, 1957.

Series X TOUR ITINERARY
1 Folder
Contains tour itineraries in which Jocelyn Vollmar participated with the San Francisco Ballet.

CONTAINER LISTING

SERIES I: NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE CLIPPINGS

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder and Contents</u>
Box 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. San Francisco Civic Ballet 1944; <i>Nutcracker Ballet</i>.2. San Francisco Civic Ballet 1947; General and <i>Parrada</i>.3. San Francisco Civic Ballet 1948; <i>Persephone</i>.4. Marquis de Cuevas Ballet 1953; General.5. Borovasky Ballet 1954; <i>Giselle and Les Sylphides</i>.6. Borovasky Ballet 1955; <i>Giselle, Graduation Ball, Petrouchka, Les Presages, Swan Lake, Les Sylphides</i>.7. San Francisco Ballet 1956; <i>Nutcracker</i>. Borovansky Ballet 1956; <i>Le Beau Danube, Fifth Symphony, Graduation Ball, Swan Lake, Les Sylphides</i>.8. San Francisco Ballet 1957; Tour of Arc of Free Asia including Burma; China; Hong Kong; India; Philippines; Singapore; <i>Black Swan; Concerto Barocco, Don Quixote; Double Concerto; The Dryad; Jinx; Tarot; Theme and Variations</i>.9. San Francisco Ballet 1958; General; <i>Beauty and the Beast; Lady of Shalott; Mendelssohn; Nutcracker</i>, South American Tour; General; Brazil; Columbia; Ecuador; El Salvador; Mexico; Paraguay; Peru; Uruguay; Venezuela; <i>Balletino; Con Amore; Concerto Barocco, Don Quixote; The Dryad, Jinx; Black Swan</i>.10. San Francisco Ballet 1959; General; <i>Beauty and the Beast; Far East Tour; Egypt; Lebanon; Turkey; Black Swan; Don Quixote; Filling Station; Lady of Shalott; Serenade</i>.11. San Francisco Ballet 1960; General; <i>Beauty and the Beast; Caprice; Lady of Shalott; Nutcracker; Swan Lake</i>.12. San Francisco Ballet 1961; General; <i>Beauty and the Beast; Con Amore; Jinx; Lady of Shalott; Nutcracker; Shadows</i>.13. San Francisco Ballet 1962; General; <i>Black Swan</i> from Australia; <i>Beauty and the Beast; Divertissement d'Auber; Nutcracker; Original Sin; Swan Lake; Variations de Ballet</i>.14. San Francisco Ballet 1963; General; <i>Beauty and the Beast; Divertissement d'Auber; Nutcracker; Original Sin; Sonnet; Triptych</i>;

Variations de Ballet.

15. San Francisco Ballet 1964; General; *Jest of Cards*.
16. San Francisco Ballet 1965; General; *Balletino; Beauty and the Beast; Concertino; Defeat; The Face of Death; Life-a Do it Yourself Disaster; Scherzando; Song Without Words*.
17. San Francisco Ballet 1966; General; *Beauty and the Beast; Pygmalion; Sinfonia*.
18. San Francisco Ballet 1967; General; *Balalaika; Beauty and the Beast; Facets; Lady of Shalott; Life-a Do It Yourself Disaster; Maturity; Much Ado About Nothing; Psychal; Symphony in D; Winter Etchings*.
19. San Francisco Ballet 1968; General; *Dance Suite; Games; Impressions in Black and White; Much Ado About Nothing; Prima Sera; Song Without Words; Wind Song*.
20. San Francisco Ballet 1969; General; *Changes; Fantasma; Games in 4/4 Time; Il Distratto; Masquerade; Tarantella for Ten; Trios Con Brio*
21. San Francisco Ballet 1970; General; *Tapestry*.
22. San Francisco Ballet 1971; General; *Autumn Dance; The Mistletoe Bride; Nutcracker*.
23. San Francisco Ballet 1972; General; Jocelyn Vollmar's farewell performance as the Sugar Plum Fairy; *Con Amore; Figure in F; Jinx; N.R.A.; Nutcracker; Variations de Ballet*.
24. San Francisco Ballet 1983; San Francisco Ballet at 50.
25. San Francisco Ballet 1992; History of the Nutcracker Suite.
26. San Francisco Ballet 1994; Nutcracker: Fifty Years of a Treasured Classic.
27. San Francisco Ballet 1999; New production of Nutcracker.
28. San Francisco Ballet 2000; Biography of Jocelyn Vollmar.
29. San Francisco Ballet 2002; Biography of Jocelyn Vollmar.
30. San Francisco Ballet 2003; Landmarks in the History of San Francisco Ballet.
31. San Francisco Ballet 2006; Biography of Jocelyn Vollmar.
32. San Francisco Ballet; Undated.

Series II PERSONAL PAPERS

Container Folder and Contents

- Box 1 1. Phone Numbers of San Francisco Ballet personnel.
 2. Poem: Written by Vollmar for Willam Christensen's 90th Birthday.

Series III PHOTOGRAPHS

Container Folder and Contents

- Box 1 1. San Francisco Ballet: 1963.

2. San Francisco Ballet: 1964.
3. San Francisco Ballet: 1966.
4. San Francisco Ballet: Autumn Dances.
5. San Francisco Ballet: Beauty and the Beast.
6. San Francisco Ballet: Don Quixote.
7. San Francisco Ballet: Games in 4/4 Times.
8. San Francisco Ballet: Lady of Shalott.
9. San Francisco Ballet: Princess Aurora.
10. San Francisco Ballet: Prokofiev Waltzes.
11. San Francisco Ballet: Pygmalion.
12. San Francisco Ballet: Pyramus and Thisbe.
13. San Francisco Ballet: Schurzando.
14. San Francisco Ballet: Song Without Words.
15. San Francisco Ballet: Swan Lake.
16. San Francisco Ballet: Portraits.
17. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Argentina (1958).
18. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Bombay (1957).
19. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Brazil (1958).
20. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Burma (1957).
21. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Ceylon (1957).
22. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Columbia (1958).
23. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Ecuador (1958).
24. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Egypt (1959).
25. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Ethiopia (1959).
26. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Greece (1959).
27. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Honduras (1958).
28. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Philippines (1957).
29. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: San Francisco (1957).
30. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Singapore (1957).
31. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Sudan (1959).
32. San Francisco Ballet: Tours: Syria (1959).
33. San Francisco Ballet: Unidentified.
34. San Francisco Ballet: Venues: Stern Grove.

Series IV PRESS KITS

Container Folder and Contents

Box 1 1. San Francisco Ballet: 1960-61.

Series V PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS

Container Folder and Contents

Box 1 1. San Francisco Civic Ballet 1947.

2. San Francisco Civic Ballet 1948.
3. San Francisco Ballet 1957.
4. San Francisco Ballet 1958.
5. San Francisco Ballet 1959.
6. San Francisco Ballet 1960.
7. San Francisco Ballet 1961.
8. San Francisco Ballet 1962.
9. San Francisco Ballet 1963.
10. San Francisco Ballet 1964.
11. San Francisco Ballet 1965.
12. San Francisco Ballet 1966.
13. San Francisco Ballet 1967.
14. San Francisco Ballet 1968.
15. San Francisco Ballet 1969.
16. San Francisco Ballet 1970.
17. San Francisco Ballet 1971.
18. San Francisco Ballet 1972.
19. San Francisco Ballet 1983.
20. San Francisco Ballet 1992.
21. San Francisco Ballet 2003.
22. San Francisco Ballet: Undated.
23. KAFE FM 1962.
24. San Francisco Opera 1960.

Series VI PROSPECTUS

Container Folder and Contents

Box 1 1. San Francisco Ballet.

Series VII PUBLICATIONS

Container Folder and Contents

Box 1 1. Vollmar, Jocelyn. *Sing With the Seasons*. California Publishing Company: San Francisco, CA: 2004.

Series VIII SOUVENIR PROGRAMS

Container Folder and Contents

Box 1 1. San Francisco Ballet 1946-47.
 2. San Francisco Ballet 1958.
 3. San Francisco Ballet 1959.
 4. San Francisco Ballet 1961.

5. San Francisco Ballet 1963.
6. San Francisco Ballet 1964.
7. San Francisco Ballet 1965.
8. San Francisco Ballet 1971.

Series IX SPECIAL EVENTS

Container Folder and Contents

- Box 1 1. Luncheon in honor of the San Francisco Ballet invitation, January 15, 1957.

Series X TOUR ITINERARY

Container Folder and Contents

- Box 1 1. San Francisco Ballet tour itineraries for Far East Tour and 1962 Tour.