

Stephen Cobbett Steinberg Papers
San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum

INTRODUCTION

Provenance

The bulk of these papers were donated to S.F. PALM by Stephen Cobbett Steinberg before his death. The remainder of the materials were transferred to S.F. PALM after his death by Richard MacIntyre on October 8, 1991.

Restrictions

Entire collection is open for research use.

Publication Rights

S.F. PALM holds rights to all materials in this collection except for those whose copyright has been transferred to Richard MacIntyre.

Collection Number

991.12

Size

No. of boxes: 14

Linear feet: 5

Related Collections

Biographical Files

S.F. PALM Records

Dance Miscellaneous Files-Film, Video & Television

ABT Collection-50th Anniversary Gala

Related Books

GV 1583 On the Edge: Challenges to American Dance: D36
Proceedings of the 1989 Dance Critics Association
Conference

GV1786 San Francisco Ballet: the First Fifty Years
S32 S73
1983

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Related Videos

ABT 50th Anniversary Gala

Lew Christensen: the Triumph of American Dance

Nijinska: A Legend in Dance

That's Beach Blanket Babylon

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BIOGRAPHY

Stephen Cobbett Steinberg was born in 1949 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Emanuel and Virginia Steinberg. He attended Temple University and graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in English and American Literature. In 1970, he moved to San Francisco to attend graduate school at Stanford University. Along with winning research fellowships from Stanford's Department of English between 1971 and 1976, Steinberg also passed his Ph.D exam with honors in 1974. He taught courses in creative writing, introductory literature, advanced literature, and twentieth century aesthetics while at Stanford.

Steinberg began editing and writing for entertainment journals and books in 1976. He served as an arts editor for the San Francisco Sentinel from 1976-80 and as an associate editor for the San Francisco Review of Books from 1978-80. In 1978, he compiled and published Reel Facts, a collection of statistical data, essays, and lists on the history of the American film industry. He followed this book with the publication of two other reference works, The Dance Anthology and T.V. Facts, in 1980. Steinberg also composed librettos for two ballets performed by the Pacific Ballet, Angel Fire and Buddy's Song.

During the 1980s, Steinberg commenced several collaborative projects on dance with KQED-TV, the American Ballet Theatre, the San Francisco Ballet, and other arts groups. He wrote scripts for seven T.V. documentaries on dance companies and performers, including Lew Christensen: The Triumph of American Dance (1983) and Nijinska: A Legend in Dance (1989). In 1983, Steinberg was invited to write the script for SFB's 50th Anniversary Gala. As a result of his efforts, he was asked to write and co-produce five mini-documentaries on the history of ABT for its 50th Anniversary Gala in 1990. Many other organizations utilized Steinberg's writing talents for commemorative publications, including the Hotel Tax Fund, the Ethnic Dance Festival, the Oakland Ballet, the San Francisco Symphony, and the Stern Grove Festival.

The 1980s also marked the beginning of Steinberg's collaboration with the Archives for the Performing Arts. Hired as a Program Coordinator in 1983, Steinberg oversaw the establishment of programs in publishing, exhibiting, and

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lecturing at the archives. Between 1984 and 1991, Steinberg curated twelve exhibitions of archival materials on topics ranging from Lew Christensen and Isadora Duncan to dance photojournalism and theater posters. Steinberg also helped to co-direct two highly acclaimed conferences in San Francisco for the Dance Critics Association, Why a Swan? (1988) and On the Edge: Challenges to American Dance (1989).

Along with these scholarly contributions, Steinberg also coordinated the preparation of funding proposals and of publicity campaigns for the archives. He drafted proposals for the establishment of a Dance Research Center and a Dance Video Library at the archives and prepared long-range plans which assisted the archives in its expansion and move to its current facility at 399 Grove St.

In addition to all of these activities, Steinberg served on the Board of Trustees of the Theater Rhinoceros and the Ellen Webb Dance Co. and as a member of the nominating panel for the Isadora Duncan Dance Awards. He also acted as a researcher for a Mellon Foundation study on dance documentation and served on an NEA Choreography Fellowships panel. Between 1976 and 1991, Steinberg contributed 200 reviews and essays to such journals as the San Francisco Ballet Magazine, Cineaste, San Francisco Review of Books, and Dance Magazine. Unfortunately, his contributions to dance scholarship and to the preservation of dance documentation ended at age forty-two. Steinberg died of complications from AIDS on August 21, 1991.

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SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The Stephen Cobbett Steinberg Papers provide insight into Steinberg's life and scholarly research between 1976 and 1991. His contributions to dance scholarship are well-documented in planning and production files on film, television, and writing projects, as well as in samples of reviews and essays written for various performing arts journals. The papers encompass photos, correspondence, clippings, proposals, research notes, interview transcripts, press materials, and publications relating to Steinberg's role as a dance historian, archivist, and filmmaker.

Rather than providing an exhaustive account of Steinberg's work, these papers focus upon a selection of activities that Steinberg felt constituted his most significant contributions to dance scholarship. The papers were partially organized by Steinberg into series on T.V. & Film Projects, Dance Projects, and Writing Projects. These series have been maintained with sub-divisions for each different project.

A great deal of information is available on Steinberg's activities as an historian. Files are present on his production of documentary films for the ABT 50th Anniversary Gala and for commemorative films on Lew Christensen, Nijinska, and Beach Blanket Babylon. The papers also include research files on an NEA/Mellon Foundation-sponsored dance documentation study. These provide insight into the state of dance documentation in the Bay Area and highlight the need for better archival programs and facilities for the local dance community. Steinberg's research on dance is also evident in lecture notes for classes given at Stanford University and in articles he wrote for the San Francisco Ballet Magazine and New West and for Dance Critics Association conference proceedings.

The papers also reveal Steinberg's contributions as an arts administrator. Files are present on the organization of two international dance critics' conferences hosted by the Archives for the Performing Arts, as well as on the archives' long-range plans and efforts to establish a Dance Resource Center and a Dance Video Library. Steinberg's participation on an NEA panel for selection of choreography fellows and on the nominating committee for the Isadora Duncan Awards is well-documented in correspondence and minutes. In addition, the papers include documentation on publicity campaigns Steinberg conceived of and produced for WNET-TV, KQED-TV, and the archives. One aspect of

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Steinberg's career which is poorly documented is his organization of twelve exhibits for the Archives for the Performing Arts. The papers also do not contain documentation for Steinberg's research and production of San Francisco Ballet: the First Fifty Years.

Other collections at S.F. PALM that complement these papers are the Biographical Files, S.F. PALM Records, Dance Miscellaneous Files on T.V., Video, and Film, and the ABT Collection's materials on the 50th Anniversary Gala. The biographical file on Steinberg provides additional personal information in the form of resumes, obituaries, photographs, biographies, and tributes. The library also owns copies of several of Steinberg's monographs, as well as videotapes of the films documented in these papers.

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SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

SERIES I. FILM & T.V. PROJECTS
66 folders

Sub-series I. ABT 50TH GALA

Consists of correspondence, clippings, programs, souvenirs, research notes, scripts, and interview transcriptions Steinberg compiled while preparing film segments for ABT's 50th Anniversary Gala in 1990. Arranged alphabetically by record type and thereunder by date.

Sub-series II. CHRISTENSEN DOCUMENTARY

Includes correspondence, publicity, interview transcriptions, research notes, and scripts prepared by Steinberg in conjunction with the production of a KQED-TV documentary on Lew Christensen. Arranged alphabetically by record type and thereunder by date.

Sub-series III. NIJINKSA DOCUMENTARY

Contains schedules, photos, research notes, scripts, and interview transcriptions produced in the course of filming a KQED-TV documentary on the first female choreographer, Bronislava Nijinska. Also includes documentation on an exhibition organized by the De Young Museum on Nijinska, as well as citations for awards received for the documentary. Arranged alphabetically by record type and thereunder by date.

Sub-series IV. BEACH BLANKET BABYLON

Consists of correspondence, proposals, publicity, and scripts generated by Steinberg in conjunction with the production of a KQED-TV documentary on the contributions of Beach Blanket Babylon to the California theater scene. Arranged alphabetically by record type and thereunder by date.

Sub-series V. ASIAN-AMERICAN T.V. SERIES

Includes contracts and proposals prepared for Steinberg's participation in the creation of a KQED-TV series on San Francisco's Asian-American arts community. Arranged alphabetically by record type and thereunder by date.

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Sub-series VI. ODC MINI-DOCUMENTARY

Contains contracts and scripts relating to Steinberg's role as an advisor for a KQED-TV documentary on the history of the Oberlin Dance Collective. Arranged alphabetically by record format and thereunder by date.

SERIES II. DANCE PROJECTS
67 folders

Sub-series I. WHY A SWAN?

Consists of brochures, correspondence, reports, financial records, photos, publicity, and publications generated by Steinberg and the Dance Critics Association as they organized a seminar on Swan Lake in 1988. Arranged alphabetically by record type and thereunder by date.

Sub-series II. ON THE EDGE

Includes brochures, correspondence, reports, financial records, photos, publicity, and financial records relating to the organization of a Dance Critics Association conference focusing upon trends in dance on the brink of the 21st century. Arranged alphabetically by record type and thereunder by date.

Sub-series III. NEA/MELLON STUDY

Contains correspondence, surveys, and reports compiled by Steinberg as an NEA/Mellon researcher on dance documentation and preservation needs in the Bay Area. Arranged alphabetically by record type and thereunder by date.

Sub-series IV. ISADORA DUNCAN DANCE AWARDS

Consists of correspondence, minutes, programs, and publicity relating to Steinberg's activities as a member of the nominating committee for the Isadora Duncan Awards, sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Dance Coalition. Arranged alphabetically by record type and thereunder by date.

Sub-series V. DANCE RESEARCH CENTER

Consists of proposals written by Steinberg for enhancing the Archives for the Performing Arts' dance collections. Arranged chronologically.

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Sub-series VI. DANCE VIDEO LIBRARY

Contains grant proposals written by Steinberg for the establishment of a Dance Video Library at the Archives for the Performing Arts. Arranged chronologically.

Sub-series VII. KQED-TV PROJECTS

Includes paperwork relating to Steinberg's organization of publicity campaigns for KQED-TV programs on dance. Arranged chronologically.

Sub-series VIII. WNET-TV DANCE PROJECT

Consists of correspondence, publicity, and proposals relating to Steinberg's participation in the development of a television series on dance in world cultures. Arranged by record type and thereunder chronologically.

Sub-series IX. STANFORD LECTURE SERIES

Contains research notes and lecture outlines Steinberg prepared for a Stanford University class on love and sexuality in dance. Arranged chronologically.

Sub-series X. NEA PANEL

Includes paperwork relating to Steinberg's activities as a member of an NEA Panel for selection of candidates for choreography fellowships. Arranged by alphabetically by record type and thereunder by date.

SERIES III. WRITINGS
35 folders

Sub-series I. SFB MAGAZINE

Consists of program notes and articles written by Steinberg for the San Francisco Ballet Magazine between 1978 and 1988. Arranged chronologically.

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Sub-series II. CINEASTE

Contains film reviews written by Steinberg for Cineaste between 1976 and 1978. Arranged chronologically.

Sub-series III. NEW WEST

Includes reviews and articles written by Steinberg for New West in 1979. Arranged chronologically.

Sub-series IV. SAN FRANCISCO REVIEW OF BOOKS

Consists of dance reviews written by Steinberg for the San Francisco Review of Books between 1976 and 1978. Arranged chronologically.

Sub-series V. S.F. PALM

Contains long-range plans and annual reports prepared by Steinberg for the San Francisco Performing Arts Library and Museum between 1984 and 1991. Arranged by record type and thereunder by date.

SERIES IV. PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Includes letters Steinberg received during the last few months of his life, most paying tribute to his accomplishments. Arranged chronologically.

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CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I. FILM & T.V. PROJECTS
Sub-series I. ABT 50th Gala

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Contract	1989
	2	Correspondence	1989-90
	3	Financial Records	1989-90
	4	Gala Dinner	1/14/90
	5-6	Press clippings	Jan 1990
	7	Programs	2/20/90
	8	Proposal	1990
	9	Research-articles	1989
	10	Research-ABT film holdings at NYPL	1989
	11	Research-ABT rep. list	1989
	12-14	Souvenirs	1990
2	1	Log of tapes	1989-90
	2	Film sequence rights worksheets	1989-90
	3-4	Tape transcriptions	1989-90

Sub-series II. Christensen Documentary

3	1	Contract	1985
	2	Correspondence	1985
	3	Interview transcripts: -Ruby Asquith Christensen	1985
	4	-Gisella Caccialanza Christensen	1985
	5	-Harold Christensen	1985
	6	-Lew Christensen	1985
	7	-Willam Christensen	1985
	8	-Michael Smuin	1985
	9	Log of tapes	1985
	10	Publicity	1985
	11	Research	1985
	12	Script-Draft 1	1985
	13	" -Draft 2	1985
	14	" -Draft 3	1985
	15	" -five min. version	1985

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Sub-series III. Nijinksa Documentary

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
4	1	Awards	1989
	2	Baryshnikov filming schedule	1988
	3	Contracts	1988
	4	Credits	1988
	5	Exhibition-Press Kit	1986
	6	" -Clippings	1986
	7	" -transcript, A. Danilova	1986
	8	" -transcript, N. Youskovitch	1986
	9	Photos-filming of doc.	1988
	10	Photos-Nijinksa	
	11	Research-Nijinksa bio	1988
	12	Research-Articles by Nijinksa	1988
	13-14	Research-Articles	1988
	15	Research-Programs	1988
	16	Research-Dolin Interview	1988
	17	Research-Vilzak Films	1988
	18-20	Scripts	1988
	5	1	Tape log
2		Transcriptions: -Frederic Franklin	1988
		-Irina Nijinksa	1988

Sub-series IV. That's Beach Blanket Babylon

6	1	Awards	1986
	2	Contract	1986
	3	Correspondence	1986
	4	Proposal	1986
	5	Publicity	1986
	6	Scripts	1986

Sub-series V. Asian-American T.V. Series

6	7	Contracts	1989
	8	Proposals	1989-90

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Sub-series VI. ODC Mini-Documentary

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
6	9	Contract	1991
	10	Script	1991

SERIES 2. DANCE PROJECTS
 Sub-series I. Why a Swan?

7	1	Agenda	1988	
	2	Brochure	1988	
	3	Correspondence-Archives	1987-88	
	4	" -Funders	1988	
	5	" -Hotels	1988	
	6-7	" -Attendees	1988	
	8	" -Letters	1988	
			of support	
	9	" -SFB	1988	
	10	Final report	May 1988	
	11-12	Finances	1988	
	13	Isadora Duncan Award	1989	
	14	Photos	1988	
	15	Press releases	1988	
	16	Proposals	1988	
	17	Publicity	1988	
	18	Registrants	1988	
	19	SFB Production	1988	
	8	1	Proceedings-Corres.	1988-89
2		" -Drafts	1988	
3		" -Final Copy	1989	
4		" -Publicity	1989	
5		" -Reviews	1989	
6		" -Transcripts	1988	

Sub-series II. On the Edge

9	1	Brochure	1989
	2	Corres.-Archives	1989
	3	" -DCA	1989
	4	" -Funders	1989
	5	" -Hotels	1989

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	6	" -Letters of Support	1989
<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
9	7 8-9	" -Misc. " -Participants	1989
	10	Correspondence-Thank yous	1989
	11	Final Report	1989
	12	Finances-Expenses	1989
	13	Finances-Income	1989
10	1	Gov. proclamations	June 1989
	2	Photos	1989
	3	Press releases	April 1989
	4	Program hand-outs	June 1989
	5	Proposal	1988
	6	Publicity	1989
	7	Transcripts	1989
Sub-series III. NEA/Mellon Study			
11	1	Contact sheet	1990
	2	Correspondence	1990
	3	Survey questions	1990
	4	Completed surveys	1990
	5	Report on S.F. field research	Aug 1990
	6	Final report	1991
Sub-series IV. Isadora Duncan Dance Awards			
12	1	Correspondence	1987-91
	2	Nominating Committee	1987-88
	3	Nominating Committee	1989-91
	4	Policy guidelines	1987
	5	Programs	1989-90
	6	Publicity	1988-90
Sub-series V. Dance Research Center			
12	7	Proposals	1987

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Sub-series VI. Dance Video Library

12	8	Proposals	1988
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Sub-series VII. KQED Projects

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
12	9	Publicity	1989

Sub-series VIII. WNET-TV Dance Project

12	10	Correspondence	1990
	11	Press release	1990
	12	Proposal	1990

Sub-series IX. Stanford Lecture Series

12	13	Notes	1990
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Sub-series X. NEA Panel

12	14	Applicants	1990
	15	Contract	1990
	16	Correspondence	1990
	17	Panel members	1990

SERIES III. WRITINGS

Sub-series I. SFB Magazine

13	1	Prog. notes-Orpheus	Jul 1978
	2	Prog. notes-Song for a Dead Warrior	May 1979
	3	SFB's full-length works	Dec 1982
	4	Song for a Dead Warrior	Mar 1983
	5	Profile on R. Gladstein	Apr 1983
	6	SFB at Jacob's Pillow	May 1983
	7	Russell Hartley	Dec 1983
	8	Jinx	Apr 1984
	9	Lew Christensen	May 1985
	10	George Platt Lynes	Mar 1986
	11	Filling Station	Apr 1986
	12	Ballo della Regina	Jan 1988
	13	Swan Lake	Apr 1988
	14	SFB history	1987-88

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Sub-series II. Cineaste

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
13	15	Review: The Last Woman	Wint 1977
	16	Review: Pumping Iron	Sum 1977
	17	Review: Word is Out	Sum 1978

Sub-series III. New West

13	18	SFB's New Season	1/15/79
	19	ABT's Don Quixote	2/26/79
	20	Royal Ballet	7/16/79

Sub-series IV. San Francisco Review of Books

13	21	Some Time in the Sun	Oct 1976
	22	S.F. Film Festival	Dec 1976
	23	Secret Paris of the 30s	Feb 1977
	24	Preview of SFB Season	Nov 1977
	25	Turning Point	Jan 1978
	26	Loie Fuller	Feb 1978
	27	Coppelia	May 1978
	28	Paul Taylor Dance Co.	Jun 1978

Sub-series V. S.F. PALM

14	1	Annual report	1984
	2	" "	1985-86
	3	" "	1987
	4	" "	1988-89
	5	" "	1990
	6	Long-range plan	1985-89
	7	" " "	1991-93

SERIES IV. PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE

14	8	Letters received	1991
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