

STUART SEBASTIAN PAPERS

MS - 252

Special Collections and Archives
Paul Laurence Dunbar Library
Wright State University

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Spring 1994

INTRODUCTION

The papers of Stuart Sebastian were accessioned into Dunbar Library's Special Collections and Archives on May 2, 1991. They were donated by the executor of Mr. Sebastian's estate, Jean Galen, who was also the Business Manager of the Dayton Ballet Company. The papers in this collection date from 1966 to 1991 and fill 14 Hollinger boxes and 262 file folders. The collection is arranged into 10 series as follows:

Series I: Alphabetical Subject Files
Series II: Dayton Ballet Company Administrative
 Papers
Series III: Performance Records
 Subseries 1: Dayton Ballet
Company
 Subseries 2: DBC Touring Company
 Subseries 3: Ballet Festivals
 Subseries 4: Antwerp/Camelot
Series IV: Teaching
Series V: Photographs
Series VI: Clippings
Series VII: Personal
Series VIII: Miscellaneous Correspondence
Series IX: Oversized Materials
Series X: Computer Files

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection. Related collections include the Dayton Ballet Company Records (MS-48) and the Josephine Schwarz Papers (MS-218).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Stuart Sebastian was born July 26, 1950, in Dayton, Ohio. His parents were long-time Dayton Journal Herald staff member, Virginia Sebastian, who died in 1988, and William R. Sebastian, who died when Stuart was 3.

Stuart began studying dance in 1957 with Dayton Ballet founders Josephine and Hermene Schwartz at the Schwartz School of Dance, and joined the Dayton Civic Ballet as a trainee at age 12 in 1962. The next year, after auditioning for New York City Ballet founder and choreographer, George Balanchine, he was selected in a highly competitive national program for a Ford Foundation scholarship.

At 14, Sebastian choreographed his first ballet for the Dayton Civic Ballet, Birthday of the Infanta. The following year he had his first paid dancing position with the Cincinnati Summer Opera. After graduation from Colonel White High School, he joined the Harkness Youth Ballet in New York and toured Europe with the Harkness Ballet.

Sebastian then became a principal dancer with the National Ballet of Washington, D.C. where he partnered Margot Fonteyn when she performed as a guest artist with the company. He also attended American University and graduated with magna cum laude honors.

In 1974, he choreographed a work for the Dayton Ballet entitled Willoughby, which captured the attention of Joffrey Ballet director, Robert Joffrey and the Metropolitan Opera's, Anthony Bliss. Sebastian then embarked on a career as a free-lance choreographer, working in the U.S., England, and Germany.

In 1980, he returned to the Dayton Ballet as director and choreographer, quickly making his mark by bringing in new dancers, creating the company's first full-length ballet (Sleeping Beauty) and leading the company to New York for a warmly received series of performances there.

In 1990, he began a new association as house choreographer with the Royal Ballet of Flanders, where his Camelot was well received, and he announced he would be stepping down after 10 years with the Dayton Ballet.

Stuart Sebastian eventually choreographed over 25 ballets, including six full-length works. He died of AIDS on January 16, 1991, at the age of 40.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Series I, Subject Files, are arranged alphabetically by correspondent or subject and cover the years 1978-1991. They contain personal and professional correspondence to Sebastian from colleagues in the dance world as well as friends and family. Also contained within these files are papers pertaining to the Dayton Ballet and to Sebastian and his artistic work with other dance companies and schools. Files also contain letters written by Sebastian on both personal and professional subjects. Other items include photos of dancers and newsclippings pertaining to the person or subject within the files.

Series II contains miscellaneous administrative records for the Dayton Ballet Company. Of note in this series are several artistic and philosophy statements: the DBC Five-year Plan, the Touring rationale file, the Two-year Artistic Plan contained in the New Works Budget file, the Report to the DBC Board, and the handwritten outline of Stuart's teaching philosophy contained in the DBC Administrative Records file. There are copies of Stuart's evaluations of individual dancers in the DBC Administrative Records file. This series also contains several long range planning reports, including one from William H. Inglis, an independent consultant. Records also show the merger of the Dayton Ballet School with the Jon Rodriguez Ballet School. There is a file of press releases and another of miscellaneous DBC correspondence. The files of this series are arranged alphabetically by subject or file title. Span dates are 1967-1990.

Series III consists of performance records of the DBC with Sebastian as Choreographer and Artistic Director. It also contains records of his work as an independent/visiting choreographer. These records are broken down into five subseries as follows:

1: Dayton Ballet Company 2: Dayton Ballet Touring Company
3: Ballet Festivals, and 4: Antwerp/Camelot performance. The files of this series contain press releases, programs, correspondence, clippings, stage notes and designs, costume charts, itineraries, and schedules pertaining to performances. Span dates are 1968-1989.

Series IV contains materials pertaining to Sebastian's teaching activities. Included are lecture notes, invitations, itineraries, and correspondence. Papers in this series demonstrate the range of Sebastian's audiences and students, from high school dancers to professionals. Span dates are 1980-1989.

Photographs, Series V, contains mostly black and white photographic prints, although there are also a fair amount of color 35mm snapshots. A large number of the images are either publicity or performance photographs of Stuart. There are also photographs taken by Sebastian in conjunction with a photography class he took while attending American University. The photographs in the series are only partially labeled and identified on the back by Stuart. The series also contains some color slides and 35mm proof sheets. Photographs date from ca 1973 until the late 1980's.

The newspaper clippings in Series VI are mostly reviews of performances in which Sebastian either danced, directed, or choreographed. Also included are feature articles about Stuart and his career and general feature articles about the Dayton Ballet Company. The majority of the clippings are from local Dayton papers, and many contain only a single reference to Sebastian. Span dates are 1966-1990.

Series VII, Personal, includes a selection of Stuart's creative writing efforts, and autobiography written for a class assignment, passports, high school diploma, birth certificate, and a program from his ten-year high school reunion. Last in this series are materials from a few courses taken at American University, a paper on a dinner with philosopher Mortimer Adler, and a play by Sam Shepherd. Span dates are 1950-1989.

The miscellaneous correspondence in Series VIII contains letters and cards from various friends and associates in the dance world. Subjects range from personal life to professional dealings to politics. Span dates are 1982-1986.

Series IX, Oversized Materials, includes Sebastian's diploma from American University, ballet posters and programs, costume drawings, oversized photographs, and prints.

Series X, Computer File Printouts, is a hard copy of Sebastian's files from his personal computer. It is a mass of unorganized material which has been arranged by the archivist into chronological order. Information in these printouts include Ballet annual reports, budget and expense reports, rehearsal schedules, program notes, and correspondence, both personal and professional. Span dates are 1984-1990.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

SERIES I: ALPHABETICAL SUBJECT FILES

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	American Dance Guild, Inc.	1985-1986
	2	Arkelian, Linda	1982
	3	Association of Ohio Dance Companies	1981-1982
	4	Ballet Repertory	1981
	5	Ball State University	1985
	6	Berdes, Beth	1986
	7	Baker, Judith (Channel 16)	1980
	8	Ballet des Jeunes	1983
	9	Boston Choreographers Showcase	1979
	10	Brewer, Bill	1982
	11	Clanin, Diana	1986
	12	Corbet, Lynne	1981
	13	Cook, Susan	1983
	14	Choreography - Academy Washington Ballet	n.d.
	15	Cultural Arts Council of Houston	1989
	16	Dance Masters of America	1977
	17	Disney Pan Am Ceremony	1987
	18	Duseldorf, W. Germay	1984
	19	Elking, Erinn	1985-1986
	20	Bill Evans Summer Dance	1984
	21	Fanger, Iris	1985
	22	Gaden Concert Association	1979
	23	Gary, Risa	1985
	24	Giannone, Mary	1981-1985
	25	Grimaldi, Nick	1983
	26	Grant information	1975
	27	Gubert, Louise	1981
	28	Heinz-Bosl-Stiftung	1980-1981
	29	Hoeflin, Eugenia	1983
	30	Hobart, Julia	n.d.
	31	Huber, Anne	n.d.
	32	Hurley, Laura	1985
	33	Hyatt, Gigi	1980-1981
	34	Indianapolis Ballet Theater	1982
	35	Jamison, Daniel	1984-1988
	35	Kenyon College	1979
	36	Language of Dance Center	1979
	37	Lipke, Dora	1986
38	Mato, Steve	1985	
2	1	Maxmen, Jerrold and Mimi	1983-1989
	2	Misc. correspondence, dancers	1981-1983
	3	National Ballet Theater	1971-1973
	4	Neece, Sara	1978
	5	New York performance	1972
	6	Natl. Assoc. for Regional Ballet	1980-1983
	7	Ohio Arts Council	1980-1989
	8	O'Neal, Christine	n.d.

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	9	O'Neal, Christine	1983
	10	Personal repertory	1974-1982
	11	Palfrey, Ellen	1983
	12	Peters, Bryan	1985-1986
	13	Jacob's Pillow	1982-1983
	14	Pimster, Stuart	1985
	15	Pittsburg Ballet	1975-1977
	16	Roberts, Michael	1979
	17	Ripplin, John	n.d.
	18	Robinson, Greg	1981-1982
	19	Rosen, Michael	n.d.
	20	Sandback, Patricia	1985-1986
	21	Satinoff, Jeff	1986
	22	Sebastian, Lorah	n.d.
	23	Sutton, James	1984
	24	Thomas, Michael	1987
	25	TCU performance	1969
	24	Walter Terry Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund	1986
	25	Themmen, Ivanna	1984
	26	Thompson, Bill	1983
	27	Tilford, Joseph	1982
	38	Valor's Company of Dancers	1983
	39	Verso, Edward	1986
	30	Verity Family	1983-1984
	31	Victory Theater	n.d.
	32	Williams, Julius	1985
	33	Zappia, Mary Kay	1985

SERIES II DAYTON BALLET COMPANY ADMINISTRATIVE PAPERS

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	1	Artistic Plan	1988-1993
	2	Carlisle Project	1988-1991
	3	Consultation for DBC, Dr. Wm. Inglis	1983
	4	Misc Ballet Correspondence	1967-1987
	5	Misc. Administrative Records	1975-1988
	6	DBC Dance Center	1988
	7	DBC 5-year Artistic Plan	1983-1988
	8	DBC Touring Rationale	1983
	9	DBC NEA Evaluation	1988
	10	DBC Board of Trustees Retreat	1989
	11	FEDAPT-Organizational Assistance for the Performing Arts	1987-1988
	12	New Works Budget	1989-1990
	13	Press Releases	1980-1984
	14	Report to DBC Board of Trustees	1981
	15	Second Home: Two City Ballet Proposal	1984-1987
	16	Wright State University-DBC II	1984

SERIES III: PERFORMANCE RECORDS**Sub-series 1: Dayton Ballet Company**

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
4	1	30th Anniversary Season	1968
	2	1977-78 Season	1977-1978
	3	Blair Hall Repertory	1980
	4	Winter Ballet-Victory Theater, Sleeping Beauty (debut)	1980
	5	Fast Company	1980
	6	1980-81 Season	1980-1981
	7	Repertoire Listing	1980-1987
	8	Winter Concert	1981
	9	Fast Company	1981
	10	Spring Concert-Victory Theater	1981
	11	Sleeping Beauty (Aurora)	1981
	12	Sleeping Beauty (Terre Haute)	1981
	13	Sleeping Beauty (Cleveland)	1981
	14	Sleeping Beauty (Springfield, OH)	1981
	15	Sleeping Beauty (Xenia)	1981
	16	Sleeping Beauty (Columbus, IN)	1981
	17	Sleeping Beauty (Newark)	1981
	18	1981-82 Season	1981-1982
	19	1981-82 Season	1981-1982
	20	Brown Bag Concerts	1983
	21	Dayton Art Institute Dance Exhibition	1983
	22	Stage Struck	1983
	23	1983-84 Season	1983-1984
	24	University of Dayton performance	1984
	25	1984-85 Season	1984-1985
	26	Hamilton performance	1985
	27	Smith & Schnacke Dinner w/perf.	1985
	28	1985-86 Season	1985-1986
	29	1986-87 Season	1986-87
	30	Evocation	1987
	31	50th Anniversary Season	1987-1988
	32	Winter Concert	1988
	33	Fall Program	1988
	34	Sleeping Beauty	1988
	35	DBC Repertory	1988-1989
	36	University of Dayton performance	1989
	37	The Night Before Christmas	1989
	38	Winter Concert	1989
	39	Carnival of the Animals	1989
	40	DBC Repertory	1989-1990
5	1	Dracula, premiere performances	1990
	2	Dracula	1989
	3	Dracula	1989
	4	Dracula	1989

Sub-series 2: DBC Touring Company

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	1	Blair Hall - Sinclair College	1974
	2	Blair Hall - Sinclair College	1976
	3	New York - The Seasons	1976
	4	Berkshire Theater	1978
	5	Crooked Tree Arts Council	1980
	6	Muskeegan Repertory	1980
	7	NCR Sugar Camp	1981
	8	Allegheny College	1980
	9	Aurora, IL	1981
	10	New Philadelphia	1980
	11	Huntsville, AL	1980
	12	Jackson, MI	1981
	13	Hamilton, OH	1981
	14	Montecello, IN	1981
	15	Columbus, OH	1981
	16	Englewood, OH	1981
	17	Chattanooga, TN	1981
	18	Springgrove, PA	1981
	19	St. Mary's, OH	1981
	20	Richmond, IN	1981
	21	Middletown, OH	1981
	22	Elyria, IL	1982
	23	Kokomo, IN	1982
	24	Lehigh Valley, PA	1982
	25	Ashland, OH	1982
	26	Piqua, OH	1982
	27	Athens, OH	1982
	28	Hamilton, ONTARIO	1982
	29	Saginaw, MI	1982
	30	Worthington, OH	1982
	31	Wabash, IN	1982
	32	South Bend, IN	1983
7	1	Fast Company press pack	1983
	2	DBC Touring schedule	1983-1984
	3	Blair Hall	1983
	4	Owensboro, KY	1983
	5	Dance Arcade	1983
	6	Findley, OH	1983
	7	New York, NY	1983
	8	Lehman College	1983
	9	Lancaster, PA	1983
	10	Bloomsburg, PA	1983
	11	Queensborough, NY	1983
	12	Joliet, IL	1983
	13	Youngstown, OH	1983
	14	Newark, OH	1983
	16	Tiffin, OH	1984
	17	Springfield, OH	1984
	18	Dance Arcade	1984

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
7	19	Celina, OH	1984
	20	Zanesville, OH	1984
	21	Piqua, OH	1984
	22	Miami University	1985
	23	Marietta, OH	1985
	24	Dayton Art Institute	1985
	25	Worthington, OH	1985
	26	Kokomo, IN	1985
	27	Sandusky, OH	1986
	28	Pittsburgh, PA	1986
	29	Kokomo, IN	1986
	30	Oneida, NY	1987
	31	St. Mary's, OH	1987
	32	Tiffin, OH	1988
	33	University of Dayton	1989

Sub-series 3: Festivals

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
8	1	Northeast Regional Ballet Association	1984
	2	Cinti. Summer Opear Festival	1984
	3	Shall We Dance	1986
	4	Berkshire Theater Festival	1986
	5	Jordan Jerash Festival	1988
	6	Michigan Chorographer's Festival	1988

Sub-series 4: Camelot (Antwerp)

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
9	1	Camelot	1989
	2	Camelot	1989
	3	Camelot	1989

SERIES IV: TEACHING

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
9	4	Schwarz School	n.d.
	5	Dayton Ballet Dance Center	ca. 1985
	6	Lecture/Demo Welty Jr. High	1980
	7	Tuscarawas Philharmonic	1980
	8	Wright State University	1981
	9	Wright State University	1982
	10	In School program	1982
	11	Wright State University	1982
	12	Dayton Ballet Summer Session	1983
	13	Lewisburg, OH	1983
	14	MUSE Machine	1983
	15	Wright State University	1983
	16	Warren, OH	1983

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
9	17	Wright State University	1984-1985
	18	In School program	1985
	19	Dayton Ballet Dance Center	1986
	20	Hawthorne School	1988
	22	Introduction to Dance	1988
	23	Jordan Academy, Butler University	1988

SERIES V: PHOTOGRAPHS

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
10	1	Washington School of Ballet	1974
	2	Color and B/W snapshots	1974-1985
	3	Misc. color negs.	n.d.
	4	Slides	n.d.
	5	8 x 10 B/W prints	1970s & 1980s
	6	8 x 10 B/W prints - Stuart portraits	1970s & 1980s
	7	8 x 10 B/W prints	1970s-1980s
	8	DBC Publicity	1980s
	9	Basic Photography - American Univ.	1974
	10	Misc color prints	n.d.

SERIES VI: CLIPPINGS

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
11	1	Reviews	1960s-1980s
	2	Reviews	1960s-1980s
	3	Reviews	1960s-1980s
	4	Reviews	1970s-1980s
	5	Reviews	1970s
	6	Reviews	1972
	7	Reviews	1978
	8	Reviews	1984
	9	Reviews	1982-1990
	10	Features	1988-1990
	11	Personal Interest	1960s-1980
	12	Personal Interest	1960s-1980
	13	Personal Interest	1982-1983

SERIES VII: PERSONAL

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
12	1	Poetry and creative writing	1967-1989
	2	"The Opera and the Ballet"	1985
	3	Community and the Arts manual American University	1974
	4	Course materials American Univ.	1974
	5	Ten-year High School reunion	1978
	6	Passports	1970-1980
	7	Biographical information	1963-1984

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
12	8	Autobiography	1965
	9	Birth certificate	1950
	10	High School diploma	1968
	11	Dinner/ Mortimor Adler	1983
	12	Sam Shepherd play	n.d.
	13	Trip to Soviet Bloc	1976
	14	Trip to Soviet Bloc	1976

SERIES VIII: MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
12	13	Correspondence	1982-1984
	14	Correspondence	1986

SERIES IX: OVERSIZED MATERIALS

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
13		Ballet posters and drawings	1970-1990
OS 30	5-6	Ballet posters and drawings	1970-1990

SERIES X: COMPUTER FILES PRINTOUTS

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
14	1	Computer Files Printouts	Jan-Apr 1984
	2	Computer Files Printouts	Apr-Nov 1984
	3	Computer Files Printouts	Jan-May 1985
	4	Computer Files Printouts	May-Dec 1985
	5	Computer Files Printouts	Jan-June 1986
	6	Computer Files Printouts	July-Nov 1986
	7	Computer Files Printouts	Jan-May 1987
	8	Computer Files Printouts	May-Dec 1987
15	1	Computer Files Printouts	Jan-Sept 1988
	2	Computer Files Printouts	Jan-Apr 1989
	3	Computer Files Printouts	May-Dec 1989
	4	Computer Files Printouts	1990
	5	Computer Files Printouts	n.d.