

Guide to the Ruth St. Denis Collection

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f17h0f>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	The Ruth St. Denis Foundation
Title:	Ruth St. Denis Collection
ID:	MS-00249
Date [inclusive]:	1916 to 1984
Physical Description:	3.78 Cubic Feet (1 box, 3 oversized boxes)
Physical Description:	5.90 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Ruth St. Denis Collection (1916-1986) contains materials relating to the St. Denis School of Dance in Los Angeles, California. Included are scrapbooks containing magazine cutouts from early 20th century performers and celebrities and programs featuring St. Denis or performances honoring her memory.

Preferred Citation

Ruth St. Denis Collection, 1916-1986. MS-00249. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Modern dance pioneer Ruth St. Denis, nee Ruth Dennis, was born on January 20, 1879 in Newark, New Jersey. Her training began as a child with the practice of physical exercises developed by Francois Delsarte. As a teenager, she appeared in Broadway musicals and was a protégé of David Belasco, a theatrical producer. She combined spirituality, eastern culture, and religion in her dance routines. Christian themes were also explored and depicted in her works.

In 1914, she married dancer Ted Shawn and they headed dance companies that performed around the world. They formed Denishawn, which was a dance company, a school with branches across the country, and a concept of dance.

St. Denis continued to perform until she passed away at the age of 89 on July 21, 1968.

Source:

Thom Hecht, "Ruth St. Denis (1879-1968) America's Divine Dancer," last accessed June 22, 2018, http://www.danceheritage.org/treasures/stdenis_essay_hecht.pdf

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Scope and Contents Note

The Ruth St. Denis Collection (1916-1986) contains materials relating to the St. Denis School of Dance in Los Angeles, California. Included are scrapbooks containing magazine cutouts from early 20th century performers and celebrities and programs featuring St. Denis or performances honoring her memory.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1985 by the Ruth St. Denis Foundation, Inc.; accession number 85-112.

Processing Note

In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Joyce Moore arranged the materials, wrote the finding aid and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Names and Subjects

- Dancers
- Theater programs
- Ballet
- Ballet dancers
- Modern dance
- St. Denis, Ruth, 1880-1968

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Programs of performances, 1916 to 1986 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 01
Laban Institute of Movement Studies, certification project, 1981	box 01
Scrapbooks, approximately 1930 to 1980 Physical Description: 2 Items	oversized box 02
Scrapbook, approximately 1930 to 1980	oversized box 03
Scrapbook, approximately 1930 to 1980	oversized box 04