



The Clodna O’Riordan Papers

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**The National Dance Archive of Ireland
Glucksman Library
University of Limerick**

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Reference Code: IE 2135 N2
Title: The Clodna O’Riordan Papers
Dates of Creation: 1955-1969, 2010
Level of Description: Fonds
Extent and Medium: 44 items (29 files)

CONTEXT

Name of Creator: O’Riordan, Clodna (1941-2002).

Biographical History: Clodna O’Riordan and her sister Sally were among the first pupils of the Irish National Ballet School, which was set up in 1954 by Blanaid and Eoin O’Brolchain and Cecil French Salkeld. The school was located at 19 Ely Place, Dublin, and its first director was Valentina Dutko. Dutko was replaced in 1956 by Patricia Ryan, during whose directorship the school evolved into the National Ballet Company.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Donated by Clodna O’Riordan’s sister Sally Corcoran to the National Dance Archive of Ireland on 22 August 2010.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content: Programmes, press cuttings, photographs, letters, and certificates collected by Clodna O’Riordan. The items reflect the early years of the Irish National Ballet School and O’Riordan’s subsequent interest in ballet and other forms of dance.

Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling Information: All items have been retained except for a small number of duplicates, which have been destroyed.

Accruals: Further accruals are not expected.

System of Arrangement: Documents have been arranged into four series according to their form (programmes, press cuttings, photographs, and other items), and thereunder chronologically by year.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Conditions Governing Access: Unrestricted access to most items. One item contains personal information relating to people other than Clodna O’Riordan and is closed until 2041 to protect individual privacy. This item has been identified in the descriptive catalogue.

Conditions Governing Reproduction: Standard copyright regulations apply to all items. For photocopying or reproducing material, please consult with the staff.

Language/ Scripts of Material: English.

Physical characteristics: Paper documents and photographs in good condition.

Finding Aids: A hard copy of the descriptive catalogue is available at the National Dance Archive of Ireland.

DESCRIPTION CONTROL

Archivist's Note: Papers arranged and described by Anna-Maria Hajba.

Rules or Conventions: This description follows guidelines based on *ISAD(G)* 2nd edition, 2000, *Irish Guidelines for Archival Description*, 2009, *National Council on Archives: Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names*, 1997, and *EAP Guidance on Data Protection for Archive Services*, 2018.

Date of Description: March 2011. Updated March 2020.

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1 PROGRAMMES (1955-1969)

1.1 Performances by the Irish National Ballet School (1955-1961)

- 1/1/1 1955
Programme of a recital of ballet by the Irish National Ballet School performed at the Olympia Theatre, Dublin on 3 July 1955. For related press reviews, see **2/1**.
4 pp.
- 1/1/2 1956
Programme of a recital of ballet by the Irish National Ballet School performed in the Dagg Hall, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Westland Row, Dublin on 24-29 September 1956. The programme is signed by some of the dancers and some members of the school council. For related press reviews and photographs, see **2/2** and **3/1**.
4 pp.
- 1/1/3 1957
Programme of a recital of ballet by the Irish National Ballet School performed in the Dagg Hall, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin on 1-6 July 1957. The programme is signed by some of the dancers, some members of the school council, and by the school director Patricia Ryan. For related press reviews, see **2/3**.
4 pp.
- 1/1/4 1958
Programme of a recital of ballet by the [Irish] National Ballet School performed in the Dagg Hall, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin on 10-15 November 1958. The programme is signed, with a short dedication to O'Riordan, by the guest dancer Jelko Yuréska. For related press reviews, see **2/4**.
4 pp.
- 1/1/5 1961
Programme of a recital of ballet by the National Ballet Company accompanied by the Radio Eireann Light Orchestra at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin on 30 May-3 June 1961.
12 pp.

1.2 Performances by other Dance Companies (1956-1966)

- 1/2/1 1956
Programme of a performance by Luisillo [Luis Pérez Dávila] and his Spanish Dance Theatre at the Olympia Theatre for the week commencing 10 September 1956.
8 pp.
- 1/2/2 1956
Programme of a performance by Luisillo [Luis Pérez Dávila] and his Spanish Dance Theatre at the Olympia Theatre for the week commencing 17 September 1956.
8 pp.
- 1/2/3 1957
Programme of a performance by the Ballet Español de Pilar Lopez at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin in September 1957.
16 pp.
- 1/2/4 1958
Programme of a performance by the American Ballet Theatre at the Olympia Theatre, Dublin on 18-19 June 1958.
12 pp.
- 1/2/5 1959
Programme of a performance by Antonio [Gades] and his Spanish Ballet Company on 15-17 June 1959 at the Theatre Royal, Dublin during the Dublin International Festival of Music and the Arts.
4 pp.
- 1/2/6 1959
Programme of the performance of *Il Teatro Dell' Opera Da Camera* at the Gaiety Theatre during the Dublin International Festival of Music and the Arts on 16 and 19 June 1959.
8 pp.
- 1/2/7 1963
Commemorative booklet produced for the visit of the Bolshoi Ballet to Ireland in July-August 1963. The booklet comprises a short history of the Bolshoi and brief biographies of some of the leading dancers and the principal choreographer Leonid Lavrovsky.
16 pp.

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- 1/2/8 1963
Programme of 'Grand Divertissements' performed by the Bolshoi Ballet at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin in July-August 1963.
24 pp.
- 1/2/9 1965
Programme of a recital of ballet by the Bolshoi Ballet at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin on 23 August-4 September 1965.
12 pp.
- 1/2/10 1966
Programme of a performance of Verdi's *Rigoletto* during the Festival of Italian Opera by the Dublin Grand Opera Society at the Gaiety Theatre on 18 May-11 June 1966.
8 pp.

1.3 Other Performances (1957-1969)

- 1/3/1 1957
Programme of a performance by the Chinese Classical Theatre in October 1957 at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.
12 pp.
- 1/3/2 1969
Programme of a performance by French cellist Paul Tortelier and his daughter, pianist Maria De La Pau, at the RDS Concert Hall, Dublin on 25 September 1969.
12 pp.

2 **PRESS CUTTINGS (1955-1959)**

- 2/1 [1955]
Press reviews from Irish newspapers of a recital of ballet by the Irish National Ballet School at the Olympia Theatre, Dublin on 3 July 1955. Also a press cutting bearing a photograph of three young female ballet dancers taken during the performance. For a related programme, see 1/1/1.
4 items

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- 2/2 [1956]
Press reviews from Irish newspapers of a recital of ballet performed by the Irish National Ballet School in the Dagg Hall, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin on 24-29 September 1956. For a related programme and photographs, see 1/1/2 and 3/1.
2 items
- 2/3 [1957]
Press reviews from Irish newspapers of a recital of ballet performed by the Irish National Ballet School in the Dagg Hall, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin on 1-6 July 1957. For a related programme, see 1/1/3.
5 items
- 2/4 [1958]
Press reviews from Irish newspapers of a recital of ballet performed by the Irish National Ballet School in the Dagg Hall, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin on 10-15 November 1958. For a related programme, see 1/1/4.
4 items
- 2/5 [1959]
Press cuttings relating to Irish National Ballet School pupil Judith McGilligan, who has been given a contract by Leonide Massine to join his new dance company in Genoa. For related photographs, see 3/2 and 3/3.
2 items

3 PHOTOGRAPHS (1956-1959)

- 3/1 [1956]
Black and white photographs (140 x 88 mm) taken by James O'Callaghan during a recital of ballet in the Dagg Hall, Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin on 24-29 September 1956. One of the images features Valentina Dutko, the first director of the school. For a related programme and press reviews, see 1/1/2 and 2/2.
5 items
- 3/2 [1959]
Black and white photograph (206 x 253 mm) of Judith McGilligan posed in costume in *attitude avant*, taken by the Irish Times in November 1959. The photograph appeared in the *Sunday Review* on 22 November (for which see 2/5). The photograph is signed and dedicated to O'Riordan by Judith McGilligan.
1 item

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3/3 [1959?]
Black and white head and shoulders portrait (168 x 218 mm) of Judith McGilligan.

1 item

4 OTHER ITEMS (1957-2010)

4/1 21 November 1957
Letter from Rosemary [Johnston], 48 Upper Mount Street, Dublin to Cliodna O’Riordan, conveying social news and giving a lively character sketch of opera producer John Copley.

1 item

4/2 April 1958
Certificate issued by the Association of Russian Ballet to Cliodna O’Riordan on her completion of the elementary examination with credit.

1 item

4/3 22 August 2010
Letter from Sally Corcoran to Dr Catherine Foley, World Academy of Music, University of Limerick providing a short biography of her sister Cliodna O’Riordan and a brief outline of the nature and range of the collection donated by Corcoran. *Closed. Review 2041.*

1 p.

4/4 22 August 2010
Photocopy of 4/3, with personal details redacted.

1 p.