



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

A Finding Aid to the Bella Lewitzky Scrapbook, 1937-1950, in the Archives of American Art

Jayna M. Josefson

The digitization of this collection received Federal support from the
Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund

2025/1/2

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Bella Lewitzky scrapbook
Date:	1937-1950
Identifier:	AAA.lewibell
Creator:	Lewitzky, Bella
Extent:	1 Microfilm reel
Language:	English .
Summary:	The Bella Lewitzky scrapbook dates from 1937 to 1950. Found is a scrapbook concerning Lewitzky's career as a dancer in southern California as a member of the Lester Horton Group and her participation in the Dance program of the Federal Theater Project, Works Progress Administration. Found are magazine and newspaper clippings, playbills, and theater programs.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

The collection was lent for microfilming in 1964 by Bella Lewitzky and was returned after filming.

Location of Originals

Originals returned to Bella Lewitzky after microfilming.

Available Formats

The collection has been microfilmed on reel LA08. The microfilm has been digitized and is available on the Archives of American Art website

Processing Information

The collection was microfilmed on Reel LA08 and was returned to Bella Lewitzky after filming. The microfilm was described in a finding aid by Jayna Josefson in 2025 and the microfilm was digitized in 2024 with funding provided by Smithsonian Collections Information System (CIS) IRM Pool Fund.

Preferred Citation

Bella Lewitzky scrapbook, 1937-1950. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

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Biographical / Historical

Bella Lewitzky (1916-2004) was a ballet dancer and American modern dance choreographer in Los Angeles, California. Lewitzky was educated in San Bernadino, California and moved to Los Angeles to dance with the Dance program of the Federal Theater Project, Works Progress Administration. Later, she joined the Lester Horton Group where she became the troop's prima ballerina.

Scope and Contents

The Bella Lewitzky scrapbook dates from 1937 to 1950. Found is a scrapbook concerning Lewitzky's career as a dancer in southern California as a member of the Lester Horton Group and her participation in the Dance program of the Federal Theater Project, Works Progress Administration. Found are magazine and newspaper clippings, playbills, and theater programs.

Arrangement

Due to the pre-existing microfilm arrangement, the collection is arranged as one series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Names:

Federal Theater Project (Calif.)
Horton, Lester, 1906-1953

Occupations:

Dancers -- California -- Los Angeles

Container Listing

Series 1: Scrapbook, 1937-1950

Scope and Contents: A scrapbook contains printed materials relating to Lewitzky's career as a dancer in Los Angeles. Found are magazine and newspaper clippings about general dance performances, the Lester Horton dance group, and the dance program of the Federal Theater Project. Also found are playbills and theater programs. Of note is the cover of the June 1950 issue of *Dance*, featuring Bella Lewitzky on the cover.

Reel LA08.lewitzky, [Scrapbook, 1937-1950](#)
Frame 901-939

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