



The Barbara Clarke Papers

N48

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

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Reference Code: IE 2135 N48
Title: The Barbara Clarke Papers
Dates of Creation: 1943-1995
Level of Description: Fonds
Extent and Medium: 39 items (39 files)

CONTEXT

Name of Creator(s): Clarke, Barbara (1938-2007).

Biographical History: Barbara Clarke was born in Dublin in 1938. She started dancing at the age of 4 at the Burchill School of Dancing on St Stephen's Green, Dublin, where she studied both ballet and tap. Her first stage appearance was in the Burchill School of Dancing Recital at the Gaiety Theatre in 1943 at the age of five. From the very beginning, she showed exceptional talent and enthusiasm, and steadily built up her skills by undertaking dance and teaching qualifications. As she progressed, she began to help Miss Burchill with the younger classes and continued to participate in the school's regular recitals at the Gaiety Theatre. As there was no full-time work for dancers in Ireland in the 1960s and 1970s, Barbara trained as secretary at Alexandra College, Dublin, and worked in that capacity for a firm of stockbrokers in the city. She dedicated her spare time to dance, both as a performer and a choreographer, and gained countrywide publicity through her appearances in RTÉ's popular programme, *Shall We Dance?* She continued her involvement in the art form until 1992, when a stroke called a halt to her active dancing career.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: The collection was donated by Barbara Clarke's brother, Gordon Clarke, to the National Dance Archive of Ireland on 8 February 2012.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content: Photographs, certificates, contracts, and correspondence illustrating Barbara Clarke's development from a child dance enthusiast to an accomplished amateur dancer, and her contribution to the development of dance as a popular art form in Ireland in the mid-twentieth century.

Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling Information: All records have been retained.

Accruals: Accruals are unlikely.

System of Arrangement: Documents have been divided into three series according to their form, and thereunder arranged chronologically by date.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Conditions Governing Access: Unrestricted access to all items.

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; one item in Irish.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Paper documents and DVDs in good condition. Items **N48/1/4-5** require a PC or laptop and software capable of opening JPEG, PDF, and Word files.

Finding Aids: A hard copy of the descriptive catalogue is available at the Special Collections and Archives Department, Glucksman Library, University of Limerick.

ALLIED MATERIALS

Existence and Location of Originals: The originals of **N48/6-39** have been retained by the donor.

Related Units of Description: Film footage of an early Burchill School of Dancing recital at the Gaiety Theatre is lodged in the Norman Hodgson Collection in the RTE Archives.

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: February 2012. Revised October 2020.

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The Barbara Clarke Papers

1 PHOTOGRAPHS (1943-1982)

Also see **2/31**

- 1/1** 1943-1963
 Photograph album containing programmes of recitals by pupils of Burchill School of Dancing at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, with related press cuttings and black and white photographs of Clarke between the ages of 8 and 24. The first images depict Clarke in the garden of her home, posing in costume after each performance. Later images feature Clarke during performances with her fellow dancers, including Ethel Ormston, Albert Regent, and Clarke's dancing partner Barry Drumm. The images relate to performances given in June 1946, June 1948, November 1950, February 1953, May 1956, April 1958, May 1960, and June 1962. Also contained in the album are press cuttings relating to Clarke's first television appearance in December 1961. *Fragile, with several loose items.*
- 54 pp.
- 1/2** 1961-1970
 Scrapbook containing press cuttings, programmes, and photographs providing an insight into Clarke's career as a dancer between the ages of 22 and 32. The material includes screen shots, photographs, and press cuttings relating to her appearances with Albert Regent, Rosalie ('Roly') Hodgson, and others in the RTÉ programme *Shall We Dance?* (1961-1963); programmes of recitals by pupils of Burchill School of Dancing and of Jack Cruise Christmas and summer productions with related press cuttings and photographs (1965-1967); press cuttings relating to Eveline Burchill and her School of Dancing (1968); and programmes of performances by the Dublin Ballet Club at Dagg Hall and Cork Municipal School of Music in 1968 and 1970. *Fragile, with some loose items.* Outsize.
- 56 pp.
- 1/3** 1971-1982
 Scrapbook containing press cuttings, programmes, and photographs illustrating Clarke's career as a dancer and her continuing interest in the art form in later life. The material includes programmes, press cuttings, and photographs of recitals by pupils of Burchill School of Dance and Dublin Ballet Club (1971-1973); costume and props lists; press cuttings relating to Eveline Burchill and her School of Ballet and its former pupils; and programmes of performances choreographed by Clarke, mostly for Dublin Dance Theatre, with related press cuttings and photographs (1974-1982). Outsize.
- 52 pp.

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1/4 January 2012
DVD containing digital images as JPEG-files of the contents of **1/1-3**.
1 item

1/5 January 2012
DVD containing digital images as JPEG, PDF, and Word files of all items listed in this catalogue, and some additional material, including Clarke's birth certificate, driving licence, and insurance forms, images of her dancing pins and medals, and press cuttings and photographs not found elsewhere in the collection.
1 item

2 CERTIFICATES (1945-1960s)

2/1 Spring 1945 (date of original)
Photocopy of a Grade 1 children's examinations pass certificate issued by the Royal Academy of Dancing.
1 item

2/2 Spring 1947 (date of original)
Photocopy of a Grade 2 children's examinations pass certificate issued by the Royal Academy of Dancing.
1 item

2/3 March 1949 (date of original)
Photocopy of a Grade 3 children's examination pass certificate issued by the Royal Academy of Dancing.
1 item

2/4 May 1949 (date of original)
Photocopy of an invitation to a Grade 4 children's examination in dancing at 122 A St Stephen's Green on 14 May 1949.
1 item

2/5 [May 1949] (date of original)
Photocopy of the results of Barbara Clarke's Grade 4 children's examination in dancing.
1 item

2/6 May 1949 (date of original)
Photocopy of a Grade 4 children's examination pass certificate issued by the Royal Academy of Dancing.
1 item

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- 2/7** March 1950 (date of original)
Photocopy of a Grade 5 children's examination pass certificate issued by the Royal Academy of Dancing.
1 item
- 2/8** 30 November 1954 (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by St John Ambulance Brigade for a course of instruction in first aid.
1 item
- 2/9** 22 March 1955 (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by St John Ambulance Brigade for a course of instruction in home nursing.
1 item
- 2/10** 30 September 1955 (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by Alexandra College for the successful completion of a full course of lectures and the passing of a theoretical examination in cookery, laundry, household management, needlework, household science and hygiene, and business affairs.
1 item
- 2/11** [1955] (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by Alexandra College for a full course of instruction in household management.
1 item
- 2/12** [1955] (date of original)
Photocopy of an Irish-language version of **2/11**.
1 item
- 2/13** 1956 (date of original)
Photocopy of a Stage 1 elementary certificate issued by the Royal Society of Arts, London, for a course in book-keeping at Alexandra College, Dublin.
1 item
- 2/14** 1956 (date of original)
Photocopy of a Stage 1 elementary certificate issued by the Royal Society of Arts, London, for a course in English at Alexandra College, Dublin.
1 item

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- 2/15** 1956 (date of original)
Photocopy of a Stage 1 elementary certificate issued by the Royal Society of Arts, London, for a course in typewriting at Alexandra College, Dublin.
1 item
- 2/16** December 1956 (date of original)
Photocopy of a speed certificate in Pitman's shorthand issued by the Pitman Examinations Institute, London.
1 item
- 2/17** 14 February 1959 (date of original)
Photocopy of a result sheet issued by the All Ireland Board of Ballroom Dancing for Rumba, Samba, Jive, Paso Doble, and Tango, Bronze Grade.
1 item
- 2/18** 2 April 1960 (date of original)
Photocopy of a result sheet issued by the All Ireland Board of Ballroom Dancing for Cha Cha Cha, Bronze Grade.
1 item
- 2/19** 24 April 1961 (date of original)
Photocopy of a result sheet issued by the All Ireland Board of Ballroom Dancing for Rumba, Samba, Jive, and Paso Doble, Gold Grade.
1 item
- 2/20** 7 June 1962 (date of original)
Photocopy of a result sheet issued by the All Ireland Board of Ballroom Dancing for Waltz, Slow Foxtrot, Quickstep, and Tango, Gold Grade.
1 item
- 2/21** [1960s] (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by the All Ireland Board of Ballroom Dancing for a Bronze Grade in Cha Cha Cha.
1 item
- 2/22** [1960s] (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by the All Ireland Board of Ballroom Dancing for a Senior Bronze in Latin American dancing.
1 item
- 2/23** [1960s] (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by the All Ireland Board of Ballroom Dancing for a Silver Grade in Latin American dancing.
1 item

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- 2/24** [1960s] (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by the All Ireland Board of Ballroom Dancing for a Gold Grade in Latin American dancing.
1 item
- 2/25** [1960s] (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by the All Ireland Board of Ballroom Dancing for a Gold Grade in modern ballroom dancing.
1 item
- 2/26** [1960s] (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing for a Silver Medal in ballroom dancing.
1 item
- 2/27** May 1974 (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by the Royal Academy of Dancing for Barbara Clarke having passed the elementary examination of the Academy and elected a student member.
1 item
- 2/28** [1970s] (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by the All Ireland Board of Ballroom Dancing for Barbara Clarke having satisfied the examiners in her technique and general knowledge of Latin American dancing and admitted an associate member.
1 item
- 2/29** [1970s] (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by the All Ireland Board of Ballroom Dancing for Barbara Clarke having satisfied the examiners in her technique and general knowledge of modern ballroom dancing and admitted a member.
1 item
- 2/30** November 1977 (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by the National Association of Teachers of Dancing for Barbara Clarke having satisfied examiners in her technique and general knowledge of Latin American dancing and admitted an associate member.
1 item

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2/31 1978 (date of original)
Photocopy of a membership card issued to Barbara Clarke by the National Association of Teachers of Dancing. Also on the same page is a photocopy of a newspaper photograph of Rosalie Hodgson and Barbara Clarke dancing at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, dated June 1965.
1 item

2/32 April 1981 (date of original)
Photocopy of a certificate issued by the National Association of Teachers of Dancing for Barbara Clarke having satisfied examiners in her technique and general knowledge of modern ballroom dancing and admitted a member. Also see **3/2**.
1 item

3 CONTRACTS AND CORRESPONDENCE (1961-1996)

3/1 1961-1963:1973 (dates of originals)
Photocopies of correspondence between Barbara Clarke and RTÉ, including her original letter of application for a position of dancer on Irish television. Also photocopies of related contracts and payment notices, mostly concerning the programme *Shall We Dance?*
4 pp.

3/2 30 January 1996 (date of original)
Photocopy of a letter from Morosini Whelan School of Dancing, 2 Leslie Court, Phibsboro, Dublin 7, attaching **2/32**.
2 pp.