

BROWN PAPERS
JOSÉ BROWN PAPERS

- Provenance:** An outright gift of George Cummings, a friend of Brown, on November 11, 2014, with some additional materials from Judy Masee, July, 2014.
- Ownership:** The José Brown Papers are owned by Reed College.
- Access:** Please contact the Special Collections Librarian at Reed College for access to the Papers.
- Size:** The José Brown Papers consist of three manuscript boxes, 1 ½ linear feet.
- Processed by:** Gay Walker
- Date:** January 2, 2015

Biography

José Vernon Brown was a professional dancer, choreographer, and teacher. Born in Gary, Indiana, in 1950, he attended Reed for two years from 1967 to 1969, then transferred to the California Institute of the Arts, where he majored in dance. He danced in the New York companies of Pearl Lang, Kei Takei's Moving Earth, and Rudy Perez and Rael Lamb's Dance for a New World.

As director of his own company, Changing Dance Theatre, Brown choreographed and performed in New York, Japan, Denmark, Spain, Italy, and Greece. His last work in Copenhagen was *King Lear*, translated by novelist Peter Hoeg and performed in the National Museum. In Tokyo he performed in the Noh Theater of Hideo Kanse, and in New York his choreography was seen at Hundred Grand, PS. 122, the Merce Cunningham Studio, La Mama Theatre, and St. Mark's Church, where Brown's production *Satyricon 2000* was performed. His last performance in Portland was a solo dance concert, *Soldiers*, given on April 1, 1995.

José Vernon Brown died on 1 May 1996 at the age of 46, of complications from AIDS.

[Based on the article on "José Brown Arte Povera" by Louise Steinman '73, in *Reed* magazine, May 2001.]

Scope and Contents

The Papers consist of programs, posters, announcements, and clippings covering Brown's career as a dancer, dance teacher, and choreographer/author of his own dance/theatre projects, particularly while with his own company, Changing Dance Theatre. The scripts for several of

his own projects are included. Performances are documented from Denmark, Greece, Italy, Japan, Spain, New York City, and Portland, Oregon. There are also some photographs, correspondence, and personal notes and papers. These materials span from the early 1970s through the mid-1990s.

Box Index

BOX 1

- 1:1 Address books with notes
- 1:2 Articles
- 1:3 Artwork
- 1:4 A/V I: *Soldiers and Satyricon 2000*; José Brown in Japan, 90 minutes, 5/1/83
- 1:5 A/V II: Portland, OR 4/1/95; Last tape April '96
- 1:6 Biographical materials

BOX 2

- 2:1 Changing Dance Theatre: Press releases
- 2:2 Changing Dance Theatre: Programs, posters, announcements, resumes I
- 2:3 Changing Dance Theatre: Programs, posters, announcements, resumes II
- 2:4 Classes
- 2:5 Clippings
- 2:6 Dance images (photocopies)
- 2:7 Death certificate, obituary, etc.
- 2:8 King Lear / José Brown (text and notes)
- 2:9 Letter: José Brown to Fred Rothchild
- 2:10 Letter: José Brown to Doris (his mother)
- 2:11 Letters: José Brown to Judy Masee
- 2:12 Letter drafts
- 2:13 Notes

BOX 3

- 3:1 Photographs
- 3:2 Proposals for dance projects
- 3:3 Reviews
- 3:4 Social Security Papers
- 3:5 Tarot
- 3:6 Tarot decks
- 3:7 *Water Rituals*
- 3:8 *Where the Moon Goes* (play and presentation script)

In General Art Oversize Box

Where the Moon Goes (poster)