



# **Guide to the Joe Nash Collection, 1946-1999**

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This collection guide was produced in **2009**.

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American Dance Festival Archives

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## Table of Contents

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<a href="#">Summary</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Background</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Administrative Information</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Names and Subjects</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Collection Inventory</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Printed Materials, 1946-1999 and undated</a> .....	5

## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

Joe Nash collection, 1946-1999

**Creator:**

Nash, Joe

**Abstract:**

Joe Nash (1919-2005) was a self-taught dancer and prominent historian of African-American dance history. Collection includes photographic prints, programs, clippings, fliers, and other printed materials.

**Extent:**

0.21 Linear Feet

**Physical Location:**

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the American Dance Festival Archives.

**Language:**

English

**Language:**

Material in English

**Collection ID:**

ADF.011

**Permalink:**

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/adfnashjoe/>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Joe Nash Collection, American Dance Festival Archives.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

## **Background**

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### **Scope and Content**

Collection includes photographic prints, programs, clippings, fliers, and other printed materials.

### **Biographical/Historical**

Joe Nash (1919-2005) was a self-taught dancer and prominent historian of African-American dance history. Growing up in New York City during the Harlem Renaissance, Nash was inspired by the black arts movement. After returning from his World War II military service, he immersed himself in a self-directed study of dance literature and photography. In the late 1940s and '50s, Nash performed on Broadway and toured with influential modern dance artists such as Pearl Primus and Donald McKayle. He also began teaching and lecturing on dance history in Philadelphia and New York. Nash was a consultant and lecturer at the American Dance Festival from the 1990s until his death in 2005. He was widely considered one of the leading experts on the role of African-Americans in the development of modern dance. During his life, Nash donated materials from his vast archival collection to the New York Public Library, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, The Arthur Hall Collection in Philadelphia, Florida A&M University, the American Dance Festival, and the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Ohio.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

American Dance Festival Archives

### **Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research.

Please contact the American Dance Festival Archives (adf@americandancefestival.org) to arrange for use of these materials.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

### **Use Restrictions**

Copyright for official American Dance Festival administrative records is held by the American Dance Festival; all other copyright is retained by the authors of items in these papers, or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law.

### **Acquisition Information**

The Joe Nash Collection was received as a gift.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Rachel Cotterman, July, 2009

Encoded by Dean Jeffrey, July, 2009

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## **Names and Subjects**

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- Nash, Joe.

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## **Collection Inventory**

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### **Printed Materials, 1946-1999 and undated**

Printed materials about Joe Nash, 1988-1999  
"Pioneers in Negro Concert Dance" by Joe Nash  
in Dance Women/Living Legends  
"Dancing Many Drums" by Joe Nash in  
National Scene Magazine Supplement, Sept./  
Oct. 1976  
Talking Drums! The Journal of Black Dance, A  
Memorial Tribute to Alvin Ailey, May, 1990  
Joe Nash resumes  
Theater Grottesco and Rennie Harris  
Puremovement at The New Victory Theater  
program, 1999

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Ruth Page Awards and Benefit program, 1998

Ruth St. Denis with Ted Shawn program

Pearl Primus and Group program, 1946

Donald McKayle and Company program, 1956

Jacob's Pillow Festival program, 1954

Barton Mumaw publicity

Martha Graham publicity

Valerie Bettis photograph

Diane McIntyre photograph, 1979

100 Poster Masterpieces auction catalog, 1981

[Return to Table of Contents](#)