



The Brian Bunting Papers

N78

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

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Reference Code: IE 2135 N78

Title: The Brian Bunting Papers

Dates of Creation: 1953-2016; predominantly 1953-1967

Level of Description: Fonds

Extent and Medium: 1 box, 3 outside items (64 files)

CONTEXT

Name of Creator(s): Bunting, Brian (b. 1946)

Biographical History: Brian Bunting was born in Belfast in 1946. He attended St Mary's Christian Brothers Primary School and later the Grammar School in Barrack Street, Belfast. At the age of 7, his parents sent him to the Patricia Mulholland School of Irish Dancing. In 1954, he was part of the junior support cast in *Cúchulainn*, the first major Irish Ballet produced by Patricia Mulholland, with Norman Maternaghan (Maen) in the lead role. Over the subsequent years Brian also danced in the later Irish Ballets produced by Patricia Mulholland, including *The Dream of Angus Óg*, *The Owl' Lammas Fair*, *The Mother of Oisín*, *The Children of Lir*, *Phil the Fluter's Ball*, *Celtic Anthology*, and the *Variety Market*. In 1958, Brian won the inaugural Junior Northern Ireland Championships (Boys). He was part of the team of Patricia Mulholland dancers that performed at festivals in the Royal Albert Hall, London, and Cork (1962), Royan in France (1964), and the Isle of Man and Leeds (1967). Brian joined the Northern Ireland Civil Service in 1963. Owing to work and family commitments, he left the dancing school and stopped Irish dancing in 1968. He retired from the NICS in 2005.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Donated by Brian Bunting to the National Dance Archive of Ireland on 7 June 2016.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Scope and Content: This collection comprises photographs, programmes, and memorabilia collected by Brian Bunting as a record of his time in Patricia Mulholland's School of Irish Dancing. The material relates to Mulholland's choreographies in which Bunting performed, and to festivals in which he participated as a member of Mulholland's team. Of particular note are designs by Mercy Hunter for costumes worn by Bunting in some of these performances (see **1/2/1**, **1/8/1**, **1/9/1**, and **1/13/1-2**).

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

Accruals: No accruals are expected.

System of Arrangement: The material has been arranged in three series. Series 1 contains material relating to Patricia Mulholland's choreographies, which have been listed chronologically by date of first performance. Series 2 contains material relating to

festivals in which Brian Bunting participated as part of Patricia Mulholland's team. This material has been arranged chronologically according to the date of the festival. Series 3 contains photographs of general Irish dancing interest, and assorted programmes, mainly of Patricia Mulholland's anniversary and other tours. Also included in this section is a recording of an interview with Brian Bunting. The material in this series has been arranged thematically by form and thereunder 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 French.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements: Mostly paper documents and photographs in good condition. Items 1/2/3, 1/3/1, 1/7/1, 1/8/2, 1/12/1, and 3/3/1 require a PC or laptop with a Windows Media Player or similar.

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

Related Units of Description: For additional material relating to Patricia Mulholland's choreographies and her School of Irish Dancing, see N29 (Patricia Mulholland Papers) and N65 (Norman Maen Papers) in the National Dance Archive of Ireland.

Publication Note: Many of the photographs and costume designs in this collection were used to illustrate Joyce Ann MacCafferty's book *The Deep Green Pool. The Life, Work and Legacy of Patricia Mulholland* (Derry: Guildhall Press, 2007).

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: January 2019. Revised May 2020.

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The Brian Bunting Papers

1 PATRICIA MULHOLLAND'S IRISH BALLETS (1953-1979)

1.1 Cúchulainn, 1953

1/1/1 [1953?]
Black and white photograph (178 x 128 mm) of (L-R) Barry Kinghan, Patricia King, Patricia Mulholland, and Norman Maternaghan rehearsing a scene from *Cúchulainn*, with Mulholland adjusting Patricia King's dress. Brian Bunting is standing in the background between Mulholland and Maternaghan.

1 item

1/1/2 [1953?]
Black and white photograph (148 x 100 mm) of (L-R) John Doherty, Tom Crangle, John Garvin, Kevin Campbell, Brian Bunting, Norman Maternaghan, Patricia O'Neill, Margot Bell, Olive Melville, and Grainne Agnew performing in a hurling scene in *Cúchulainn*. With an enlargement (297 x 209 mm).

2 items

1/1/3 April 1954
Programme accompanying performances of *Cúchulainn* in the Empire Theatre, Belfast on 6-10 April 1954.

16 pp.

1.2 A Piper, 1955

1/2/1 [c. 1955]
Design by Mercy Hunter for a costume for Butcher's Boy in *A Piper*. Outsize.

1 item

1/2/2 [c. 1955]
Black and white photograph (212 x 159 mm) of a scene from *A Piper*. Dancers include (L-R) Joyce Ann Henry, Frances Tomelty, John Doherty, Frankie McLaughlin, Tom Crangle, Patrick Traynor (as Piper), Tom McDade (partially hidden), Brian Bunting, and Eileen Agnew (kneeling). Image by the Northern Whig and Belfast Post, Belfast.

1 item

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1/2/3 [c. 1980s]
DVD containing a recording of a performance of *A Piper*. Duration: 00:20:15. The quality of recording is poor.
1 item

1.3 The Dream of Angus Óg, 1956

1/3/1 [c. 1980s]
DVD containing a recording of a performance of *The Dream of Angus Óg*. Duration 00:47:18. The quality of recording is poor.
1 item

1.4 The Black Rogue, 1959

1/4/1 [c. 1959]
Programme of *The Black Rogue*.
1 item

1/4/2 [c. 1959]
Black and white photograph (215 x 166 mm) of (L-R) Patricia Mulholland with Brian Bunting (as the gander), Margot Bell (as ta fairy), John Melville (as the father), and Kevin Campbell (as a villager) in costumes from *The Black Rogue*.
1 item

1.5 The Oul' Lammas Fair, 1959

1/5/1 [c. 1959]
Black and white photograph (129 x 89 mm) of Tom Graham as the soldier, Sheelagh McDade as Mary Ann, and Brian Bunting as one of the mashers in *The Oul' Lammas Fair*.
1 item

1/5/2 [c. 1959]
Black and white photograph (129 x 89 mm) of John Garvin, Kevin Campbell, Olive Melville, Brendan Campbell, Patricia Boden, Sheelagh Gilligan, Ciaran Doherty, Brian Bunting, and Seamus Agnew performing in *The Oul' Lammas Fair*.
1 item

N78/

1/5/3 [c. 1959]
Black and white photograph (128 x 89 mm) of Jim Rooney, Tom Graham, Brian Bunting, Kevin Campbell, Brendan Campbell, Reggie McClure, Seamus Agnew, Ciaran Doherty, John Garvin, and Dermott Brooks performing the men's chorus dance in *The Oul' Lamma's Fair*.
1 item

1/5/4 [1959?]
Press cutting bearing a photograph of a scene from *The Oul' Lamma's Fair* performed by the Patricia Mulholland Dancers in the Dominican School, Belfast.
1 item

1.6 The Variety Market, 1960

1/6/1 [c. 1960]
Black and white photograph (158 x 206 mm) of (front) Stella O'Neill, Brian Bunting, and Patricia O'Neill, and (back) Gerry O'Hare and Seamus Agnew as Teddy Boys and Art Students in *The Variety Market*. Image by Independent Newspapers Limited, Dublin.
1 item

1.7 Phil the Flutter's Ball, 1961

1/7/1 [c. 1980s]
DVD containing a recording of a performance of *Phil the Flutter's Ball*. Duration 00:32:31. The quality of recording is poor.
1 item

1.8 The Children of Lir, 1961

1/8/1 [c. 1961]
Design by Mercy Hunter for a yellow and red costume, 'Nobleman, Court of Bor the Red' in Act 1 Scene 1 of *Children of Lir*. With a related fabric sample. Outsize.
2 items

1/8/2 [c. 1980s]
DVD containing a recording of a performance of *The Children of Lir*. Duration 01:10:03. The quality of recording is poor.
1 item

1.9 The Hound of Culann, 1964

- 1/9/1 [c. 1964]
Design by Mercy Hunter for a brown and grey costume for the warrior Fergus Mac Roig in Scene 1 of *The Hound of Culann*. With two related fabric samples. Outsize.
3 items

1.10 The Philanderer, 1966

- 1/10/1 [1966]
Black and white photograph (128 x 89 mm) of Brian Bunting, John Garvin, and Gerry O'Hare with the musician Paddie Bell (1931-2005) from the Corrie Folk Trio at a rehearsal of *The Philanderer*.
1 item

1.11 Cúirt An Mheán Oíche, 1966

- 1/11/1 23 September 1966
Press cutting relating to the adaptation for television of Bryan Merryman's poem *Cúirt An Mheán Oíche* [*The Midnight Court*], choreographed by Patricia Mulholland.
2 pp.

1.12 Deirdre, 1979

- 1/12/1 [c. 1980s]
DVD containing a recording of a performance of *Deirdre*, with a short introductory note. Duration 00:32:12. The quality of recording is poor.
1 item

1.13 Unidentified Choreographies, c. 1953-1961

- 1/13/1 [c. 1953-1961]
Design by Mercy Hunter for a green costume, 'Courtier to King of the North', in Act 2 Scene 4 of an unidentified performance. With two related fabric samples.
3 items

N78/

1/13/2 [c. 1953-1961]
Hand-painted canvas belt made to the design of Mercy Hunter for an unidentified performance.

1 item

2 FESTIVALS (1962-1967)

2.1 Portadown, Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland, 1962

2/1/1 1962
Programme of a Festival of Folk-Dancing in the Town Hall, Portadown.

40 pp.

2.2 Royal Albert Hall, London, UK, 1962

2/2/1 [January 1962]
Press cuttings relating to Patricia Mulholland dancers and their forthcoming performance at the Royal Albert Hall.

3 items

2/2/2 [January 1962]
Brian Bunting's luggage label supplied by Hotel Eden, London.

1 item

2/2/3 12 January 1962
Admission ticket to a performance of the New Year Fold Dance Festival at the Royal Albert Hall.

1 item

2/2/4 [c. 1962]
Brochure promoting the Ukrainian folk-dancing group Orlyk, with an introduction to the folk-dances of Ukraine.

4 pp.

2/2/5 January 1962
Souvenir programme to accompany the English Folk Dance and Song Society Festival at the Royal Albert Hall on 12-13 January 1962.

16 pp.

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2/2/6 [January 1962]
Black and white photograph (164 x 120 mm) of Patricia Mulholland dancers performing a country dance on stage at the Royal Albert Hall. The dancing couples include anti-clockwise from back left (facing the camera) Kevin Campbell and Stella O'Neill; Jim Rooney and Lynne Maxwell; John Garvin and Patricia O'Neill; Seamus Agnew and Grainne Agnew; Dermott Brooks and Hilda Holden; Tom Graham and Sheelagh McDade; Reggie McClure and Olive Melville; and Brian Bunting and Anne McManus. Photograph by J. Antony Heywood of Cambridge.
1 item

2.3 Cork, Ireland, 1962

2/3/1 [1962]
O'Flynn's Hotel business card.
1 item

2/3/2 20 May 1962
Visitors' festival admission tickets.
2 items

2/3/3 [May 1962]
Fragment of a press cutting relating to the International Choral Festival at the Imperial Hotel, Cork. *Fragile and damaged.*
1 item

2/3/4 May 1962
Souvenir programme of the ninth International Choral Festival in Cork city on 16-20 May 1962. The title page and back cover have been signed by festival participants.
52 pp.

2/3/5 [May 1962]
Black and white photograph (88 x 125 mm) of three West Indian dancers at Cork Festival, including Alva Shelley on the far right.
1 item

2/3/6 [May 1962]
Black and white photograph (88 x 125 mm) two West Indian dancers with Patricia Mulholland dancers outside O'Flynn's Hotel, Cork city. The dancers from Ireland include (L-R) Seamus Agnew, Brian Bunting, Stella O'Neill, Sheelagh McDaid, Anne McManus, Marlene Baillie, Hilda Holden, Grainne Agnew, Margot Bell, and Clive Melville.
1 item

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2/3/7

[May 1962]

Black and white photograph (125 x 88 mm) of West Indian dancers saying goodbye to Patricia Mulholland dancers at Kent Station, Cork. The dancers on the right include Hilda Holden, Olive Melville, Grainne Agnew, Brian Bunting, Patricia Mulholland, and Stella O'Neill [?].

1 item

2.4 Royan, France, 1964

2/4/1

[1955?]

Booklet by Pierre Hélias entitled *Danses de Bretagne*, with photographs by Jos le Doaré. In French.

36 pp.

2/4/2

[1964]

Black and white photograph (98 x 158 mm) of Patricia Mulholland dancers posing on the steps of an aeroplane at Belfast Airport. Members include from top left Jim Rooney, Kevin Campbell, John Garvin, Brian Bunting, Marlene Baillie, Margot Bell, Valerie Canavan, Frances Tomelty, Patricia O'Neill, and Patricia Mulholland. Image by George Craig of Belfast.

1 item

2/4/3

[1964]

Black and white photographs (128 x 89 mm) of Patricia Mulholland dancers in a café in Paris. The girls in the front (L-R) include Frances Tomelty, Margot Bell, Patricia Mulholland, Marlene Baillie, Patricia O'Neill, and Valerie Canavan. The boys at the back include (L-R) Jim Rooney, Brian Bunting, and Kevin Campbell.

2 items

2/4/4

[1964]

Black and white photograph (178 x 131 mm) of a reception in Casino, Royan. The Irish male dancers are in the foreground with their backs turned to the camera. Other dancers shown in the image include the Bretagne Dancers to the rear and the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band to the left. Image by M. Lemoine of Royan.

1 item

2/4/5

[1964]

Black and white photographs (127 x 89 mm) of Bretagne Dancers seated at a table.

2 items

N78/

- 2/4/6** [1964]
Black and white photograph (127 x 89 mm) of the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band during a parade in Royan, with Patricia Mulholland, Patricia O'Neill, and Kevin Campbell following in the rear.
1 item
- 2/4/7** [1964]
Black and white photograph (127 x 89 mm) of (L-R) Brian Bunting, Patricia Mulholland, Marlene Baillie, Patricia O'Neill, and Kevin Campbell during a parade in Royan.
1 item
- 2/4/8** [1964]
Black and white photograph (178 x 131 mm) of Patricia Mulholland dancers during a parade in Royan. Members include (L-R) Valerie Canavan, Kevin Campbell, Margot Bell, Marlene Baillie, Brian Bunting, Jim Rooney, Patricia O'Neill, Frances Tomelty, John Garvin, and Patricia Mulholland. Image by M. Lemoine of Royan.
1 item
- 2/4/9** [1964]
Black and white photograph (178 x 131 mm) of (L-R) Frances Tomelty, Patricia O'Neill, Valerie Canavan, Margot Bell, and Marlene Baillie (partially visible at end) performing on stage at the open-air Beach Theatre in Royan. Image by M. Lemoine of Royan.
1 item
- 2/4/10** [1964]
Black and white photograph (178 x 131 mm) of (L-R) Valerie Canavan, Kevin Campbell, Margot Bell, John Garvin, Frances Tomelty, Patricia O'Neill, Jim Rooney, Marlene Baillie, and Brian Bunting performing on stage at the open-air Beach Theatre in Royan. Image by M. Lemoine of Royan.
1 item
- 2/4/11** [1964]
Black and white photograph (127 x 89 mm) of Jim Rooney, John Garvin, and Brian Bunting with French friends seated at a table in Royan.
1 item
- 2/4/12** [1964]
Black and white photograph (127 x 89 mm) of Brian Bunting (sitting down in a white collared shirt) with friends on a beach in Royan.
1 item

2.5 Isle of Man, UK, 1967

2/5/1 [1967]
Colour photograph (175 x 123 mm) of the Irish team. Front row (L-R): Marlene Baillie, Kevin Rafferty, Joyce Ann Henry, John Garvin, Sheelagh Gilligan, Brian Bunting, Patricia Mulholland, Kevin Lawson, Catherine Gilmore, Gerry O'Hare, and Ursula Quinn. Back row (L-R): Linda Connolly, Niall Boden, Frances O'Hara, Edmund Henry, Frances Tomelty, Ciaran Doherty, Michelle Forster, Kevin Campbell, Sharon Tansley, and Reggie McClure.

1 item

2/5/2 [1967]
Colour photograph (175 x 123 mm) of the Irish men's team. Front row (L-R): Kevin Rafferty, Brian Bunting, Niall Boden, Kevin Lawson, and Kevin Campbell. Back row (L-R): John Garvin, Edmund Henry, Reggie McClure, Ciaran Doherty, and Gerry O'Hare. With a reduced-size duplicate (127 x 88 mm).

2 items

2.6 Leeds, UK, 1967

2/6/1 8 July 1967
Folded card containing the evening dance programme of the fourteenth Festival of Scottish Dancing at the University Refectory, Leeds.

1 item

2/6/2 8 July 1967
Programme of the fourteenth Festival of Scottish Dancing at the City of Leeds Training College, Leeds. The front cover has been signed by participants.

1 item

2/6/3 [8 July 1967]
Printed sheet containing the evening dance programme of the Scottish Country Dance Club Festival.

1 item

3 OTHER (1958-2016)

3.1 Photographs (c. 1950s-1960s)

- 3/1/1 [1958]
Black and white photograph (215 x 165 mm) of the winners of the inaugural Northern Ireland Championships with the Mayor of Bangor and his wife. The winners featured in the image include (L-R) Grainne Agnew, Brian Bunting, Kevin Campbell, Bridie Kemp, and Irene McCann. Image by Dinneen Photographer, Belfast.
1 item
- 3/1/2 [c. 1950s]
Black and white photographs (204 x 151 and 215 x 142 mm) of a group of twelve dancers performing a three-hand reel. The dancers include All-Ireland champions Maureen McCann (1945), Brian Coleman (1946), and Patricia King (1949 Junior). Images by W. D. Fry, Belfast.
2 items
- 3/1/3 [c. late 1950s-early 1960s]
Black and white still (156 x 113 mm) from a Northern Ireland Tourist Board film showing a group of dancers performing to an audience at Red Bay, county Antrim. Dancers include Dermott Brooks, Olive Melville, Margaret Robinson, Brian Bunting, Ursula Quinn, Margot Bell, Grainne Agnew, Tom Graham, Patricia O'Neill, and Jim Rooney. Photograph by the British Travel and Holidays Association.
1 item

3.2 Programmes (1962-1991)

- 3/2/1 21 July 1962
Programme of an evening of Irish song and dance with Brendan O'Dowda, Mary McEvoy, the Patricia Mulholland Dancers, and David Curry and his orchestra at BMA Belfast.
12 pp.
- 3/2/2 [c. 1962]
Programme of a performance by Patricia Mulholland's Irish Ballet. The evening's repertoire included *The Twisting of the Rope*, *The Hound of Culann*, and *The Variety Market*.
8 pp.

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- 3/2/3** 1978
Programme of Patricia Mulholland's Irish Ballet tour. 12 pp.
- 3/2/4** [1981]
Programme of Patricia Mulholland's Irish Ballet 30th anniversary season. 1 item
- 3/2/5** March 1989
Programme of performances by Patricia Mulholland's Irish Ballet at Belfast Civic Arts Theatre on 7-11 March 1989. 16 pp.
- 3/2/6** 3 March 1991
Programme of Patricia Mulholland's Irish Ballet 40th anniversary season performance at Belfast Civic Arts Theatre. 16 pp.

3.3 Recordings (2016)

- 3/3/1** 7 June 2016
DVD containing a podcast in which Dr Catherine Foley interviews Brian Bunting about his interest in dance and his times with Patricia Mulholland's School of Irish Dancing. Duration 00:24:34. 1 item