

Ile Ife Films

Finding aid for

Arthur Hall Collection

Date range: 1957-2008

Bulk dates: 1973-2008

Finding Aid created by Gemma Scott, 2017

Copyright Ile Ife Films

Creator: Bruce Williams

Primary Format and Extent: film (15,380 ft.) : si & sd., color ; 16 mm

Secondary Format and Extent: video (263 hours.) : sd., col. ; 3/4 in.;

12 cubic feet

Abstract: The film and videos of the Arthur Hall Collection include moving image performances, interviews, documentation of educational events, and completed promotional films as well as audio recordings, photographs, scrapbooks, and other ephemera related to the moving image materials.

Call number or identifier: Arthur Hall Collection

Language: The material is in English

Acquisition Information: This media was collected by Bruce Williams, Director of Ile Ife Films, the non-profit organization supporting the moving image legacy of Arthur Hall. They are currently being stored at Northeast Historic Film, and seek a permanent home in an academic library. Future additions to the records are expected.

Access Restrictions: The media is open to research.

Copyright: Copyright remains with Ile Ife. For more information contact iifahc@gmail.com or (207) 322-7748

Cite as: [item title], year, format, Arthur Hall Collection, [permanent library name]

Summary: Arthur Hall (b.1934, d. 2000) was an internationally known dancer and choreographer. In 1958 he founded the Afro-American Dance Ensemble in Philadelphia, and remained the artistic director there for thirty years. In 1968 Hall was founder of the Ile Ife Black Humanitarian Center on Germantown Avenue and in 1972 the Ile Ife Museum. He was a movement specialist for the National Endowment for the Arts, an instructor of dance at Dartmouth College, and worked as a visiting artist in schools and universities across the country, most notably along the East Coast of the United States and in Arizona. Hall was renowned for his outstanding choreography inspired by African and African-American dance. He shared his knowledge and gift of dancing with many generations of youth and adults.

In his later life Arthur Hall lived in Camden, Maine, where he was the artistic director of the nonprofit Ile Ife Films and the Arthur Hall Collection. He performed as a member of the New England touring artist roster.

The collection started because during his lifetime Arthur Hall encouraged filmmakers to document his work, which he kept tabs on. Later Hall worked with filmmaker Bruce Williams to collect and preserve the film and video in the collection, and Bruce Williams is still actively collecting materials related to the collection and making them accessible through digital resources.

Scope and Content and Arrangement: The media in the Arthur Hall Collection includes video tapes, audio tapes and films documenting performances that Arthur Hall made or directed. The strength of the collection is found in the unique choreography and contexts in which Arthur Hall worked. His accessible style of spiritual and lyric choreography was both intriguing on stage and in educational institutions where he worked with performers and learners of all ages, body types, and abilities.

The video tapes of performances in schools range from 1977-1998 and include pre-show footage of Arthur directing children and school staff. The films of performances range from 1977-1998 and illustrate the rich theatrical experience Arthur Hall created through his choreography.

The materials are organized by media type, and then by date and title.

In addition to moving images the collection includes photos, scrapbooks and posters

Subjects:

- Dance
- African American Dance
- Dance—Religious aspects—Shamanism
- Dance—Africa—Folklore

Related Materials:

Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult the following resources:

[Contents listing:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/104gNL43bCCF7oPpATRWmD8n511mc32BR4uKd7lkb-HA/edit?usp=sharing>