

The Dance Librarians Discussion Group met online via AdobeConnect on January 30, 2014 at 11:00 AM (EST)

Attendees: Jackie Bryan (Saint Leo University), Dominique Bourassa (Yale University), Jeff Katz (New York Public Library), Kathleen Goodyear (Ohio State University), Alan Green (Ohio State University), Felicity Brown (University of Maryland), Jenny Yap (San Jose State University), Helice Koffler (University of Washington)

Our special guest was filmmaker, Nancy Buirski, who was on hand to answer a variety of questions about her new documentary, *Afternoon of a Faun: Tanaquil Le Clercq*. The film, which had its world premiere at the New York Film Festival in the fall of 2013, is currently receiving its first theatrical screening at the Eleanor Bunin Monroe Film Center in New York. Although no specific date has yet been set, it will be shown on PBS as part of the *American Masters* series and released as an educational video on the same date of its initial airing.

Nancy eloquently discussed many topics, including how she became committed to making a film on the life and work of the legendary New York City Ballet ballerina (whose dance career was cut short when she contracted polio during a company tour of Europe) after becoming mesmerized by a brief clip of Le Clercq performing that was included in *Something to Dance About*, a 2008 documentary about Jerome Robbins. Nancy answered questions about her research process, the challenges in obtaining archival material for the film (which includes candid photographs taken by Robbins when he visited Le Clercq in Warm Springs, Georgia during her convalescence, as well as footage from home movies taken by noted photographer Martha Swope of a trip she made with Le Clercq to Europe) and the difficulties in fundraising for documentaries. We also spoke about Le Clercq's own work as an author ([*Mourka: The Autobiography of a Cat*](#) (1964) and [*The Ballet Cook Book*](#) (1966) and sources of interviews with Le Clercq in which she discusses her later teaching and coaching of Balanchine ballets. Nancy in particular recommended Barbara Newman's [*Striking a Balance*](#) (1982; to be reissued) and an unpublished interview with Le Clercq filmed by Virginia Brooks.

Although most attendees had the opportunity to view the trailer online before the meeting, no one present had seen the film in its entirety. Nancy, who is very interested in feedback from librarians (and all viewers), graciously offered to meet with the group again after more people had been able to see the film. She suggested contacting [Kino Lorber](#) directly to express your interest about arranging a showing in a city near you.