

#2

1950s - DAVID DANCES BECAUSE HE MEETS JAMES WARING - HE SAYS - AND - BECAUSE HE MEETS VALDA SETTERFIELD - HE BECOMES A HUSBAND - AND HE KEEPS DANCING.

#1

1959 - I'm sure - David says to Valda - after monthsa rehearsals together - you can get - a better guy than me. But if ya don't - he says - d'ya wanna marry me? She don't say no.

#2

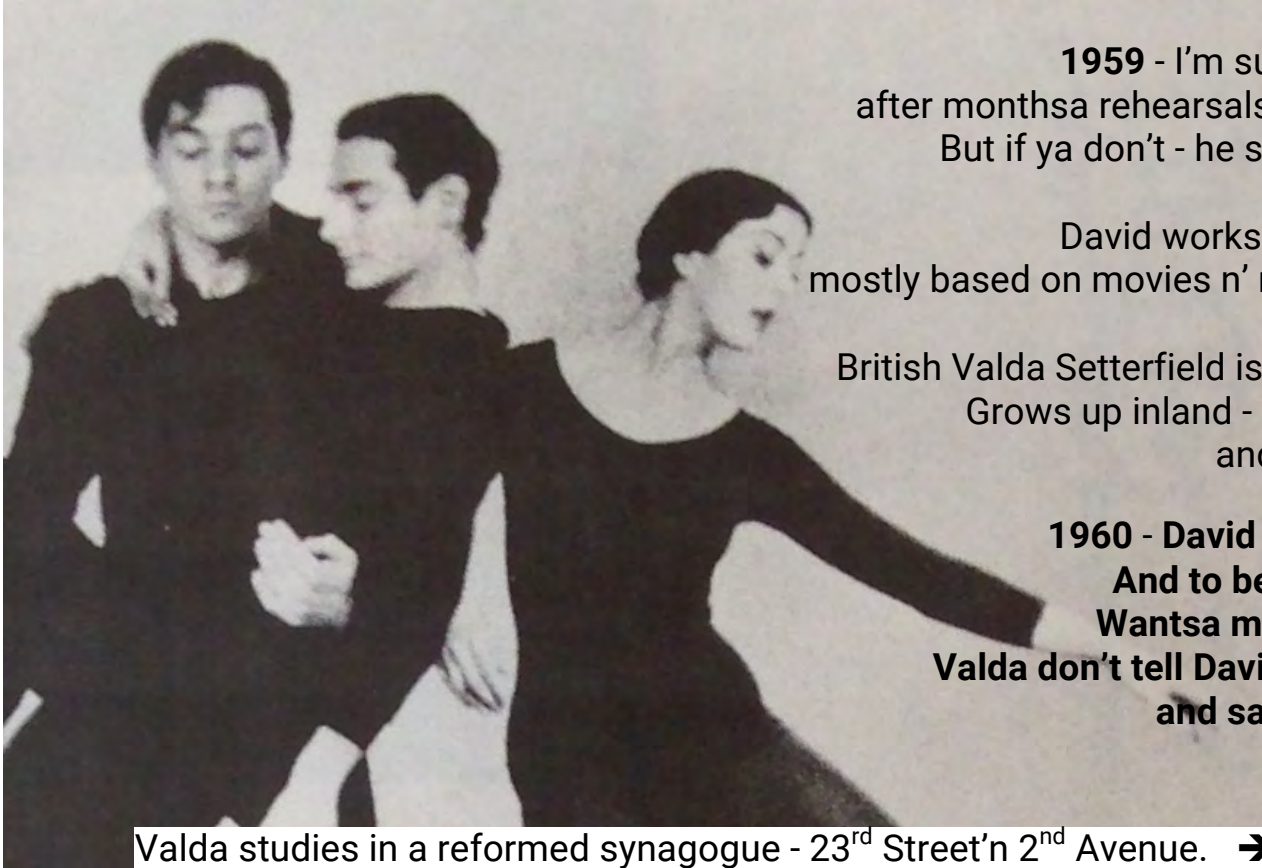
David works at what he imagines - a BOYFRIEND is - does - mostly based on movies n' novels - equally uninformed - about HUSBAND.

#1

British Valda Setterfield is born Church of England - in Westgate-on-Sea. Grows up inland - during WW 2 - she says - in boarding schools - and Catholic convents - to avoid German bombs.

#2

1960 - David Gordon asks Valda Setterfield - to marry him. And to become a Jew. No - he ain't religious - he says. Wantsa make Russian Jewish grandma Fannie - happy. Valda don't tell David - her mother hears - she's marrying a Jew - and says - isn't it lucky his name is Gordon



Valda studies in a reformed synagogue - 23rd Street'n 2nd Avenue. →

Reads *When The Jewish People Was Young* - becomes a Rachel.

Fannie's mother was Rachel. Maybe the name'll make Russian Fannie happy.

1980s - David works with Baryshnikov. Wantsa make Russian Misha happy

- Misha says happy? I'm not happy type. (see '80s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 2)

Russian Fannie also ain't HAPPY TYPE.

She says - a Jew is born - ya don't make a Jew.

But she gets fond - n'fonder - of European Valda. She calls Valda - Zelda.

Or loving diminutive - Zeldalah. Gives Zeldalah bags fulla flowered hankies.

Teen sisters Rose'n Paulie - inna summer - worked in a handkerchief factory.

Fannie peels oranges for Zeldalah - n'peaks in Yiddish -

if David translates - Fannie pinches him - she'll never learn - Fannie says.

CERTIFICATE OF CONVERSION

This is to record that *Valda Ann Setterfield* having sought to join the household of Israel by accepting the religion of Israel and promising to live by its principles and practices was received into the Jewish Faith

on *January 23, 1961*

corresponding to the Hebrew date *Shevat 6, 5721*

at *East End Temple, New York, New York*

Valda Setterfield

SIGNATURE

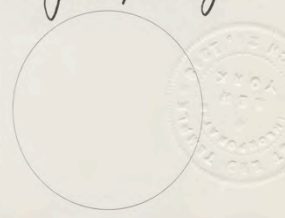
David Gordon

SIGNATURE

Barbara Jean Kaito

SIGNATURE

Rabbi Paul Soloff





#1

December 17 - 1960

James Waring - and Dance Company - left to right - Valda Setterfield - David Gordon - Vincent Warren - Kathy Ramsay - and - James Waring - presents 2 dances - at Fashion Institute of Technology. *Tableaux* - with *Music for Strings* - by Terry Jennings - photo by Dan Entin and *Peripateia* - with electronic music - by Richard Maxfield - plus piano - violin - and saxophone - performed by - David Tudor - Terry Jennings - and La Monte Young - and with - "changing scenery" - created in performance - by George Brecht

1960s
John F. Kennedy (1961-'63)
Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-'69)
Richard Nixon (1969-'74)

Civil Rights Act - 1960 - Civil Rights Act - 1964
Voting Rights Act - 1965 - Civil Rights Act - 1968

JULES FRIFFER



Myths, 'Cain's Book' & 'The Cousins'

the village **VOICE**

De Sapio Accepts Challenge for Party Control—Mayor Claims Leadership

By LEO EGAN
Less than twenty-four hours after the public election, the political coalition that gave Senator John F. Kennedy New York's forty-five electoral votes began coming apart at the seams.

His disintegration was signalled by Carmine G. De Sapio in a statement assailing former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman, key figure in the Democratic reform group, and Alex Ross, Liberal party master of strategy.

The statement accepted Mr. Lehman's election night challenge to a final fight for control of the party organization in the city and state.

At the same time it appeared to rule out any chance of a Democratic-liberal party coalition for next year's Mayoral election in New York City and for the Governorship election in the state in 1962 if Mr. De Sapio remains in control of the party machinery.

Kennedy's Delicate Problem
Mr. De Sapio, leader of the Democratic and Democratic National Committee for New York, suggested Michael H. Friedlander, the Democratic State Chairman, and a number of party leaders in the city and upstate before issuing his statement.

Matson Is Honored a Postscript to History

Collier House Art Laboratory, Fulton St., Center Bldg. II



KENNEDY'S VICTORY WON BY CLOSE MARGIN; HE PROMISES FIGHT FOR WORLD FREEDOM; EISENHOWER OFFERS 'ORDERLY TRANSITION'

DEMOCRATS HERE SPLIT IN VICTORY; LEHMAN ASSAILED

By DOUGLAS DALES
Political leaders voiced dissatisfaction yesterday over the way permanent personal registration functioned here Tuesday in its first test in a Presidential election.

Charges were made that thousands of persons had been disfranchised because they were unable to survive election inspectors that they had registered and were eligible to vote.

How many voters may have been so affected was concededly a guess. But a check of the Supreme Courts in the five boroughs indicated that more than 1,200 persons had gone before the justices for orders directing the inspectors to permit them to vote.

"There was a minimum of 10,000 denied the right to vote," Abraham Goldstein, said.

Continued on Page 45, Column 5

REGISTRATION SET-UP CALLED FAULTY HERE

By HOMER HIGGART
Senator John F. Kennedy accepted in solemn mood today his election as President.

He pledged all his energy to advancing "the long-range interests of the United States and the cause of freedom around the world."

He made this pledge inside the flag-decked Hyannis Airport at 1:15 P. M., an hour after Vice President Nixon, his Republican opponent, had conceded defeat.

His wife, Jacqueline, stood at his side as the 43-year-old President-elect faced 200 reporters and massed batteries of TV cameras and gave his victory statement to the nation.

Behind him were arrayed the Kennedy family: his father, former Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy; his mother, three sisters and three brothers.

No Sign of Jubilation
The Kennedy showed no evidence of jubilation. All were expressions of solemnity. Mr. Kennedy's margin of victory was too slender to stir much elation. Some of his aides acknowledged disappointment over the slim margin gap in the popular vote.

Mr. Kennedy, after responding to applause with a dignified bow and a smile, first read the telegram from Mr. Nixon congratulating him and extending congratulations. "The Senator



THE MESSAGES WERE CONGRATULATORY: Senator John F. Kennedy displaying telegram at Hyannis, Mass. With him are Mrs. Kennedy, his parents and Robert F. Kennedy, left, and R. Sargent Shriver, a brother-in-law.

KHRUSHCHEV NOTE SALUTES KENNEDY

Message of Congratulations Asks for Negotiations on Tensions in World

Text of Khrushchev message will be found on Page 42.

By The Associated Press. MOSCOW, Nov. 9—Soviet

State	Rep. Dem.	Sen. Dem.	State	Rep. Dem.	Sen. Dem.
Alabama	5*	10	Ohio	25	1
Alaska	3	0	Oklahoma	5	0
Arizona	4	0	Oregon	6	0
Arkansas	8	0	Penn.	32	0
California	20	0	Rhode Island	1	0
Colorado	6	0	S. Carolina	4	0
Conn.	8	0	S. Dakota	4	0
Del.	1	0	Tennessee	11	0
Florida	10	0	Texas	24	0
Georgia	12	0	Utah	4	0
Hawaii	3	0	Vermont	3	0
Idaho	4	0	Virginia	12	0
Illinois	21	0	Washington	9	0
Indiana	13	0	W. Virginia	5	0
Iowa	10	0	Wisconsin	12	0

ASSEMBLY DELAYS U.N. CONGO DEBATE

Postpones It Indefinitely, 48-30, as Soviet Backs Step—U. S. Move Fails

By KATHLEEN TELFORD
The United Nations General Assembly voted tonight to postpone the debate on the Congo indefinitely.

The 48-30 vote, with eight abstentions, was on a surprise move made by Ghana with the help of Guinea and Nigeria and the enthusiastic support of the Soviet bloc.

RESULTS DELAYED

Popular Vote Almost Even—300-185 Is Electoral Tally

By JAMES HESTON
Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts finally won the 1960 Presidential election from Vice President Nixon, by the astonishing margin of less than two votes per voting precinct.

Senator Kennedy's electoral vote total stood yesterday at 300. Just thirty-one more than the 269 needed for election. The Vice President's total was 185, fifty-two additional electoral votes, including California's thirty-two, were still in doubt last night.

But the popular vote was a different story. The two candidates ran virtually even. Senator Kennedy's last last night was little more than 300,000 in a total tabulated vote of about 60,000,000 cast in 145,526 precincts.

That was a parity for the Senator of less than one-half of 1 percent of the total vote—the smallest percentage difference between the popular vote of two Presidential candidates since 1880, when James A. Garfield outmaneuvered Winfield Scott Hancock by 7,000 votes in a total of almost 9,000,000.

End Divided Government
Nevertheless, yesterday's voting radically altered the political balance of power in America in favor of the Democrats and put them in a commanding position in the Federal and state capitals unknown since the heyday of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

They regained control of the White House for the first time since 1952 and thus ended divided government in Washington.

This **T**estimonial

witnesses that

Valda Ann Setterfield and David Ralph Gordon

Were **U**nited **I**n **M**arriage

in the City of

New York

On January 28, 1961 Shevat 12, 5721

SECULAR DATE

HEBREW DATE

In accordance with the rite of Israel and in compliance with the laws of the State of New York

Rabbi Paul Salafy

Witness Barbara Jean Kautz Rabbi Witness Walter Skon





#1

**Valda has no relatives - at her own wedding -
no family of her own -
and no American dancer friends - no friends.**

**David's aunts - the Wunderlich sisters - choose the flowers -
the wedding cake - the food and drink - they run the show -
and aunt Irene takes all the pictures - with her Brownie.**



#2

1961 - David's aunt Yetta and her husband - 1 of the Sams - walk Valda down the aisle. Who decides that?

← Inna photo - who curls Fannie's hair? How come she wears lipstick?

#1

Fannie's wandering husband - David's grandpa Morris - "Moishe" - Wunderlich - appears. (see '30s/40s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 1)



← Moishe is searched for - by Aunt Irene and located - and invited. He attends 1st daughter's 1st son's wedding'n hands over some cash. Irene musta made him. David never sees him again.

#2

David's friends Michael Brill'n 1st wife Judy Weinberg Brill are invited. (see '50s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY)

Also David's college friend Kastle - who is Valda's Maid of Honor - and becomes Kastle Brill - Michael's 2nd wife - a coupla years after.

↪ Mike's 1st wife Judy is in the hat.

↪ 2nd wife Kastle sits in fronta Judy.

David's friend Norma Fire is in San Francisco - finding - meeting - and marrying husband #1.

David's high school friend Walter Shorr is best man.

← Valda sits in Michael Brills lap.

Rose and Sam walk back up the aisle - after the I do's.

Sam thanks God David is married - n'cries with relief.

David is touched by the photo of his father's tears.



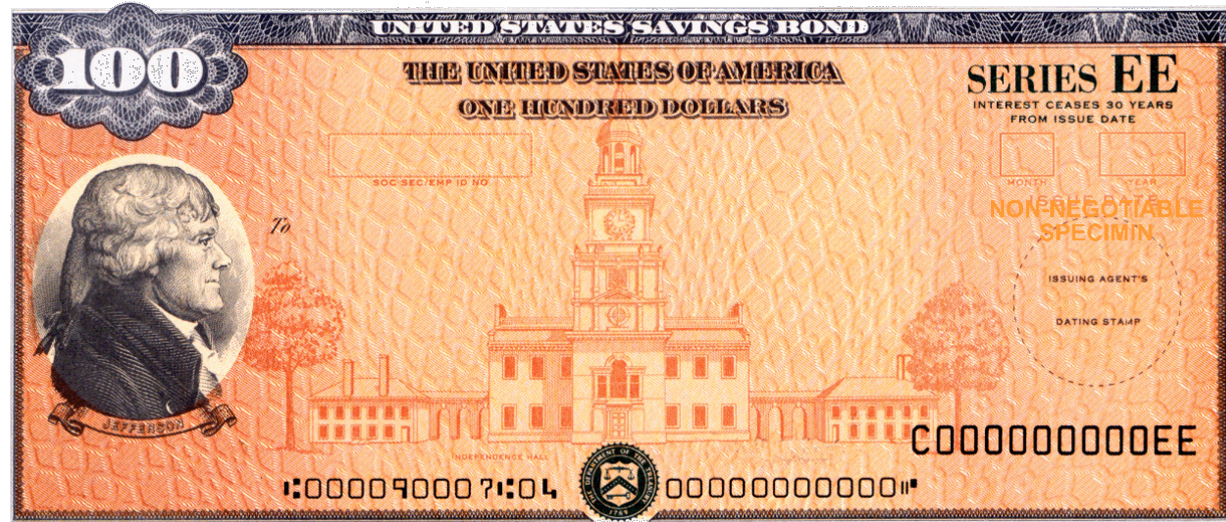
#1

Valda Setterfield dances with David Gordon.
David's brother Barry at left -
Aunt Ruth at right.



#2

Rose'n Sam save up to buy \$100 savings bonds →
 save up to buy 4 of 'em -
 to pay fa David's **1949** Bar Mitzvah party - but - the
 party's in Fannie's living room -
 (see '30s/40s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 2)
 across the hall from Rosie's living room -
 so they save the savings bonds -
 till **1961** - 12 years later -
 for David'n Valda's wedding present.



#1

After the wedding - Sam drives newlyweds to Ruth Sobotka's garden apartment -
 10th street between 1st'n 2nd Avenues.

1st night they are married - Valda Setterfield and David Gordon count cash -
 checks and savings bonds - and fall asleep in Ruth's apartment - in her bed -

#2

← Ruth Sobotka is a ballet dancer - a costume designer - 2nd wife of filmmaker Stanley Kubrick -
 and a friend of Jimmy Waring - and of David Vaughan - who are also friends of each other -
 and Ruth is on tour with NYC Ballet.

#1

Valda Setterfield - when she arrives in the US - is introduced to Ruth - by David Vaughan.
 And Valda is invited - by Ruth - to be her roommate - on East 10th Street.

And Ruth asks Valda if she has a boyfriend - and suggests Jimmy's friend - David Gordon.
 David gets invited to parties - by Jimmy - in Ruth's East 10th Street living room - and garden.
 He don't talk much - Ruth says - and he only eats bread'n mustard. But he looks interesting - so -
 why not? David - he says later - don't know howta eat exotic foods Ruth serves - he tells Valda -
 it's why he only eats bread'n mustard.

#2

When Ruth leaves NYC Ballet - she begins to be an actor. In **1967** - Ruth becomes mysteriously ill.
 Goes into the hospital - and - unexpectedly - she dies.

#1

At Ruth's memorial service - Ruth's handsome Viennese mother - Gisl - pronounced Geezil - with a hard G. Wikipedia has her as Gisela.
 She is at the chapel door - her face - this morning - is powdered. She wears a black hat - with a veil and white gloves.
 She greets dancers - actors - and artist friends. Thank you for coming - she says - and shakes the hand of each guest and -
 David says - she shakes my hand. Gisela is poised - a polite hostess - she buries her only child today - her beautiful talented daughter.
 Who Gisl will be tonight - alone at home - David thinks - is nobody's business.



#2

In my family - David says - funeral behavior is less restrained.

Men are bewildered - and angry - as they hover or pace and glare.

They wear dark suits they never wear. They smell of camphor or mildew.

Yamulkes slide dangerously around - on top of their greased combed hair - or balding heads.

Red-eyed women wear black lace shmattes - bobby pinned to hair they woke up with.

They weep and howl and rock back and forth. They beat their breasts and call to God.

Oh my God - oh Harry. Harryharryharry. Oh my God. Oh my God. Ohhhh Hareeeee



#1

Old animosities are strictly adhered to.

Nobody talks to nobody they don't talk to - since the last wedding - or the last funeral.

Everybody thinks everybody else behaves badly.

Cries too much - not enough.

Wears the wrong thing - looka that hat - d'ya believe that hat?

Some nerve. She has her nerve!

Did she ever do for Harry? Did she come? Did she call?

Now she carries on. Who's she fooling?

Oh my God. Harryharryharryharreeee.

◀(1940s - 141 Ludlow Street - Nieberg and Sons Funeral Home - between Rivington and Stanton Streets)

When I'm a kid - David says - ya can live-eat-sleep'n die - on Ludlow St.

#2

Some mourners don't see each other fa so long. How long?

Oh my God, I didn't see you since I don't know when.

You put on a coupla pounds - don't say no.

C'mere'n gimme a hug. Ya call that a hug?

I gotta sit down - mourners hafta sit - where's a chair?

Hafta stand - Can't sit no more.

Hafta pee - where's the toilet? I hope it's not upstairs - or downstairs.

Hafta go outside to grab a cigarette. Wait - I hafta get my lighter. Stand smoking in exhausted cliques. Doctor told ya to - inhale - stop smoking.

#1

Rosie smokes - she says - if I'm nervous. Or if she has a headache. Or after she eats. Or instead of eating. Or if I'm nervous - she says.

Sam smokes before he goes to bed - or if he wakes inna night to pee - and 1st thing inna morning before he shaves and - all day in his 2 jobs - just before he starts - or right after he finishes - or on a break - and - secretly if he ain't supposed to on Jewish holidays.

Smokes till he finally can't breathe no more - without the oxygen tube'n the tank next to the bed - and - Rosie only smokes - after Sam hasta stop sitting inna kitchen - by herself - blowing smoke - outta the window.

#2

1961 - Night after we marry - we have tickets - Valda says - expensive orchestra ballet tickets - at the old Met Opera House.

Don't know what we see - David says - but Valda wears a red silk organza designer dress - a Lanz dress - from a designer resale shop.

David discovers - inna '60s - people buy'n sell used clothing. It's a real business - he says - not just like me wearing uncle Alfred's old suit.

#1

Rose Gordon - my mother Rosie - packs every single thing her # 1 son owns - David says - into cardboard boxes - and ties 'em with string. And piles 'em up ready to go.

They useta say - David says - inna old days - here's ya hat - what's ya hurry?

Valda finds a 1st floor 3 room rent-controlled apartment - useta be a Janitor's - Avenue A and St. Marks Place - inna back - opposite Tompkins Square Park. →

3 rooms - in a row useta be called a railroad apartment and David - with Sam's help - tears cockroach egg infested pre-war molding offa the walls.

Digs through 8 layersa linoleum fulla old postmarked postcards'n envelopes - torn newspaper pages'n pennies - snapshots and candy wrappers.

#2

David'n Sam drive around depositing debris in dumpsters.

Valda and David stay at Ruth's - till Avenue A is ready - or readier - before they begin married life - on the lower east side of Manhattan - where David actually grows up - but which - is just beginning to be called - "the east village."

#1

David has 3 display jobs that 1st year. 3 months each starting with S. Klein on the Square - then - Saks Fifth Avenue - and - Best & Company.

He gets the S. Klein job for himself - he lies about experience - David says.

His friend Christopher McKenna gets the next uptown upscale 2 jobs for David.

#2

1961 - Election registration happens - where I went to Public School - he says - at night - in the lobby of PS 160 ↘

Rose is 1 of the neighborhood women - who register voters.

I make an extra few bucks - Rosie says - besides - it gets me outta the house.

She sets her hair with pin curls - puts on a dress'n heels - favorite little gold hoop earrings - and Coty L'Origan cologne.

Richie and me - when we're kids - save up - David says - and buy her Coty L'Origan - her favorite -

for Mother's Day.

#1

Valda and me are on our way - from our 1st apartment - at St Marks Place and Avenue A -

and we're all dressed up too - going I don't know where - but we stop off to visit Rosie - at PS 160 -

so Valda can see where I went to school -

and I wanna show Rosie working - I wanna show us all dressed up to Rosie - and Rosie wantsa show us off - Valda and me - to all the other women she works with - for election registration.

I don't actually know - David says - inna '60s - or ever - who my mother - or my father - ever votes for. They never say and I never ask.



#1

Inna '60s - Rosie'n Fannie get mugged in Coney Island - in fronta Fannie's house - the only house she ever owns - or is ever gonna own - Rosie's shoulder is dislocated - as she fights to keep her handbag.

#2

Original Coney Island homeowners move out or die off - and grown up kids don't wanna live in Coney Island - no more - so city pays absentee landlords - divides houses - rents floors n'rooms - and Rose and Sam convince Fannie to sell - the Coney Island house →

at 30th Street between Mermaid'n Surf Avenues - (not the real house but 1 that looks like it)

#1

Fannie - and Hymie - the lifetime boarder - and Rose and Sam - and daughter Lois all gotta move.

So Fannie finally hasta throw things out - so David convinces her -

there's a market - fa vintage clothes'n objects - and he can get her cash -

she lets him inna closets - and drawers - n'boxes'n bags - and I sell her things - David says.

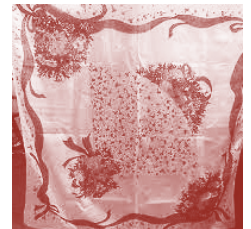
#2

I sell the aunt's old things - he says -

1940s summer jersey play suits - n' Corday bags - with Lucite handles - hand crocheted by Rosie and the Wunderlich sisters - and platform shoes in original boxes - n' black funeral hats with veils in original boxes →

and I sell 'em and give Fannie cash - or I write checks - and I give what I can't sell to the Salvation Army - but I write checks like I sold what I can't sell - and I make Fannie happy - David says.

That's when Fannie gives Valda the monkey fur jacket. →



And more flowered ↑ handkerchiefs.

#1

And - inna kitchen table drawer - table where I useta tweeze Fannie's chin hairs - on Ludlow Street - I find decksa cards with cards missing - hair pins'n busted barettes and halfa paira earrings - and I find - David says - **the marriage license - and a divorce decree.**



#2

1940s and '50s -

Sam Schrift - the barber - has a shop on Rivington Street.

Cuts my father's hair'n mine - David says - Richie's too.

Probably Alfred's n'Hymie's? Anyway - he dates Fannie **inna '50s** - maybe DATES ain't the right word. They go around together. →

Sam Schrift - another Sam - wantsa marry David's grandma - which David only finds out at the enda ConeyIsland - because he's cleaning out the kitchen table drawer.

#1

Fannie gets as far as a legal American divorce - from Moishe Wunderlich - David says - but she backs out - she says - before the Yiddish divorce. Why didya? David asks the same kinda questions all his life.

Once - my grandma Fannie says - you open yourself up to 1 man... she says - David don't ask what she means.

Sam wantsa marry her - she says - but he's tireda waiting around - so he marries another woman - but before they stop going around together - he takes her to meet his niece Shirley Schrift - who - it turns out - getsta be actress Shelley Winters. Fannie has a snapshot - David remembers - stuck inna side of her dresser mirror frame - on Ludlow Street - of her'n Shirley hugging - and laughing.



#2

1961 - after a yeara long days inna stores'n store windows - David says - i'm not good at this - 9 to 5 or 6 - 6 days a week - over and over - dunno howta stay married if I do this - okay - quit - Valda says - let's go to Europe - yes - she says it'n he does it - you can meet my friends - and my family - Valda says - and figure out what to do next. Valda don't entirely understand - David has never been anywhere - really - nowhere - barely outta Manhattan. He never travels voluntarily. He's a vomiter. Sick on anything that moves - he says - trains - buses - cars or carousels.

#1

1961 - Valda and David are married 1 year when Valda books cheap passage on a cruise ship that never crossed an ocean. Fulla old travelers on something called - *Tour of a Lifetime*. Valda'n David eat meals - together at a table with 3 women named Elsie. The Elsies fall'n break body parts inna rough crossing. David is seasick alla way to Southampton - walks unsteadily - to meet Valda's aunt Vera - and uncle Geoffrey - who drive their Rolls Royce - onto the pier. David - who never before went anywhere - and never packed to go anywhere - and might be gonna be in Europe - how long? Dunno. Hasta show Valda's family she didn't marry down don't he? So - he loads 8 suitcases fulla clothes into ↓ Vera'n Geoffrey's Rolls.

#2

Drive to Birchington to meet parents-in-law - Eileen'n Val - at the Turf Accountant storefront. What's a turf accountant?

Valda's father's a bookie? Drive to Westgate-on-sea - to meet aunt Elaine - Eileen's sister - and uncle Sonny - in real estate - and cousin Shirley - a gym teacher - Valda says - and - aunt Cissa - really Iris - Eileen'n Elaine's sister - who runs a garage - pronounced garredge.

Bridge Hotel is across the street ↓ from the old Osbourn/Setterfield Dairy)



#1

Teatime. Milk? Sugar?

Biscuit? Thanks. Silence.

Things as dear in New York as in London - Elaine asks.

Dear means costly. Haven't been in London - David says. Silence.

More tea? Brown bread? Butter? No thanks. Silence.

Are things as dear in New York - Cissa asks.

Yes'n no - David says. 1 more aunt - 1 other tea time -

aunt Marjorie - Val and Vera's sister. And uncle Bill her husband - grows orchids. Nobody likes 'em - Valda says.

David recognizes Valda's family tea talk - when he sees'n hears his 1st Harold Pinter play.

#2

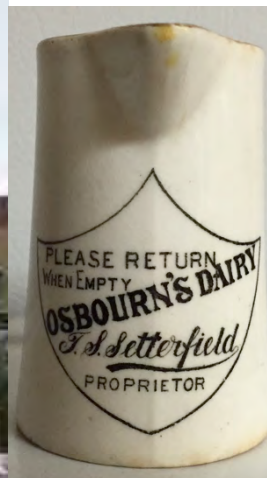
1961 - as they cross the channel to France -

David adds ferries -to his travel sick list. Valda don't speak French.

David uses high school "je ne sais pas" in Paris.

The French don't find him charming or amusing - nor he them.

There are torn newspaper squares - on a nail - inna toilet - of the cheap hotel - on the Rue Boissy d'Anglas - off the Place de la Concorde.





#1

In Italy Valda speaks Italian. Translates menus - and money inna flea market. Offer 2 - David says. But - David - Valda says - she's asking for 5. Yes - I know - but we'll get it for 3 - or 3'n a half. David recognizes the language of bargaining. Sam gets him a Sunday job - selling damaged Arrow dress shirts - at Sosinsky's - on Orchard Street fa \$3 a day. Get ya bargain shirts. Name brands. 2 fa da price-a 1. Sosinsky son shows David - howta hold his hand - over the damage - till the shirts inna bag.

#2

← Porta Portese Italian vendors - enjoy drama'n comedy - of buying'n selling - Like Orchard Street Jews - but they sell real Italian sweaters - made in Italy - in Italy. And Italian leather shoes. And - if ya get thirsty - ya can drink limonata - or - acqua minerale - instead a seltzer.

David eats'n drinks and sees all the beautiful Italian things - in all the shop windows. And the beautiful people - who stroll'n smoke on Via Veneto - and all the other Vias. David sees Fellini's *La Dolce Vita* in **1961** - and now I'm in the middle of it - he says.

#1

Valda and David stay with Valda's friend - painter Jack Dowling - in Positano → and in a blackout - we carry lit candles down to the sea - with a lotta laughing Italians - and Germans - and eat pasta and drink wine by candlelight.

Walk back up the hill and make love inna dark - David says - on a thundery night.

#2

In Florence - David watches Valda - to see howta eat his 1st artichoke. Never saw an artichoke. She tears off the 1st leaf - and dips it in Italian olive oil. He does too.

In Rome - they meet artist Cy Twombly. Somebody in NY says if you're in Rome call Cy.

Valda - bolder than David - does - and they are invited - to have dinner "out" with Cy - and his wife and his friends. Everyone - David discovers - meets "out" to eat.

David asks Valda to sit - at the opposite end a the table - so he can mirror her moves - watch what - and how - she eats - pick up the right fork.

#1

We can tell each other - after dinner - what they say - he says. He's nervous. Will we run outta things - now we're married - he says - to say to each other?

#2

David makes a lista everywhere in Europe he hasta go.

Alla cities in alla Hollywood movies. And alla foreign films he sees with Jimmy Waring.

Once in Italy - however - he says - maybe we don't needta go anywhere else. Valda kindly says ok - so they sorta start to "live" in Rome.

Like everybody in Rome - **in 1961** - they try to be in *Cleopatra* - shooting in Cinecitta - with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.

But Valda'n David don't have head shots - or resumes - so it ain't gonna work -and they ain't gonna work.





Inna '50s - In New York - when David works on his father Sam's truck - he learns howta load the cartons and bagsa mail - from Sam - with no wasted space. David figures out howta pack more and more into the 8 suitcases and he invents a kinda train station packing system.



#1

1961 - Valda faints in a crowded Roman movie house. Jack Palance in *Attila the Hun*. Dubbed. Italians movie houses sell all the tickets they can? Valda'n David are standing. Watching a movie standing? Valda says: I need to sit down. OK. Oh, where'd she go?

#2

David looks - man gestures - woman with hat - he says - ahhhhh - mimes fainting.

#1

David finds Valda in a manager's office.

A brown stain drips between nostril'n upper lip - from an old smelling salt bottle she carries in her purse.

#2

Here's a new Valda. Pale and fragile. Needs to be taken care of.

#1

But they still gotta go - David says - to Venice don't they? Now we're alla way here in Italy - David says - don't we? Valda kindly says ok - better pack the 8 suitcases.

#2

They come to Europe with too many things - and buy too many more.

Cases are fuller and heavier.

#1

#2

← **David's 8 suitcase train station packing system** -

Valda gets onna train and heads to a compartment. Opens window - David throws 8 suitcases inna window. Valda fills overhead racks'n David gets on'n finishes job. Valda and David pretend compartment is full - and lay down - and pretend to sleep - and fall asleep. Sometimes people open the door but they see all the suitcases - and are discouraged - but sometimes a whole Italian family opens the door - n'they ain't easily discouraged so Valda'n David sit up - and Valda smiles n'says hello in Italian - and sometimes they share their food with us.

Chilly'n wet in Venice. Very small - very cheap - very cold hotel room. Valda needs to lie down - please. We sleep in our clothes - close together. Valda needs a woolie. She washes the toes of her stockings - and the crotch of her panties. Valda wants a boiled egg'n toast'n a cuppa tea. Or a little soup - please. Spend our last lire to get a photo ↓ n'stay outta the cold rain - wait inna warm studio - for it to be printed'n touched up.



#1

#2

David - with his dramatic teenage imagination - developed in local lower east side Loews movie houses - begins to see himself disembarking - pale and gaunt in New York - yes - he says - I was married - to the beautiful British dancer Valda Setterfield. But she died in Venice.

#1

They arrive - broke - in Paris early in December. Valda - in layers of houndstooth checkered wool - walks a long way to BOAC. Aunt Vera's husband Geoffrey's brother - is named Keith. Keith Granville - Valda says - is "someone" at BOAC. Valda don't exactly know what - but she says his name. People at desks say - ohhh - Kees Grrranveelle - oui. They phone him. He phones Geoffrey'n Vera. They send francs. - and - in London - Valda sees a doctor.

#2

1961 - Valda'n David join Vera - for a matinee - in her box - at Doyly Carte's Mikado.

1st time David ever sees - ↓ Gilbert and Sullivan.

#1

**At the interval - Valda calls the doctor - for test results.
Valda is pregnant.**

#2

So - not knowing howta be a real dancer - or a real husband - or howta really take care of himself - or anyone else - David's gonna be a father.

What is he thinking? Better move to a 2 bedroom - David says .

Don't wanna say - when the kid grows up - ya dunno what we hadda give up fa you.

#1

1962 - Valda'n David move to the Greenwich Village brownstone - top floor through - at \$125 a month - double their Avenue A rent - and Jimmy Waring moves - into Valda'n David's 131 Avenue A apartment - where he lives for the resta his life.



#1

It's **1962** - and David hears reports about Robert and Judy Dunn's composition workshop - at the Cunningham studio. After studying composition with Jimmy Waring - most of what's discussed at the Dunn/Dunn's comp class - is not new to me - he says. But Bob is very sweet and either generous or permissive. Depends on who he's being sweet to. I am - David admits - impatient. Judy Dunn - Brooklyn College dance club alumni - who David never meets in college - and wonderful Cunningham dancer - watches the clock. Sometimes - if comments or questions begin to percolate - or go on too long - Judy says - let's not "open cansa worms."

#2

1962- who's in the class - and what they say or do - is interesting to David - Fred Herko → never really does the assignment - David thinks. But he always gets up when it's his turn. Does something or other - bizarre'n amazing. I envy his ability - David says - to make it up onna spot - and to repeat the damn stuff he did - if 1 of us - often me - smartassedly asks to see it again.

#1

Yvonne Rainer was - n'still is - serious about everything. Steve Paxton - as he's done most of my knowing him - asks the damnedest questions. Turns the world upside down - and puts everybody on the spot.

#2

Valda comes to class once in a while - she's pregnant - with son Ain - who - we dunno yet is a son - inside her big'n bigger belly.

We give a lecture at Pratt commissioned by Mike Brill - who teaches there - **see David writes about himself.**

#1

↙ Elaine Summers says - **in 1962** - I understand chance procedure. She understands writing names of body parts - for instance - she says - on pieces of paper. And qualities of movement on other piecesa paper - and I can throw 'em all inna hat - she says. And mix 'em all up - and pull out 2 at a time. For instance "ankle" and "percussive." But the thing she can't figure out - Elaine Summers says - is - what do you do then? And Valda says - I know. I know just how you feel. I can't figure it out either. That's why - Valda says - I don't make dances.

#2

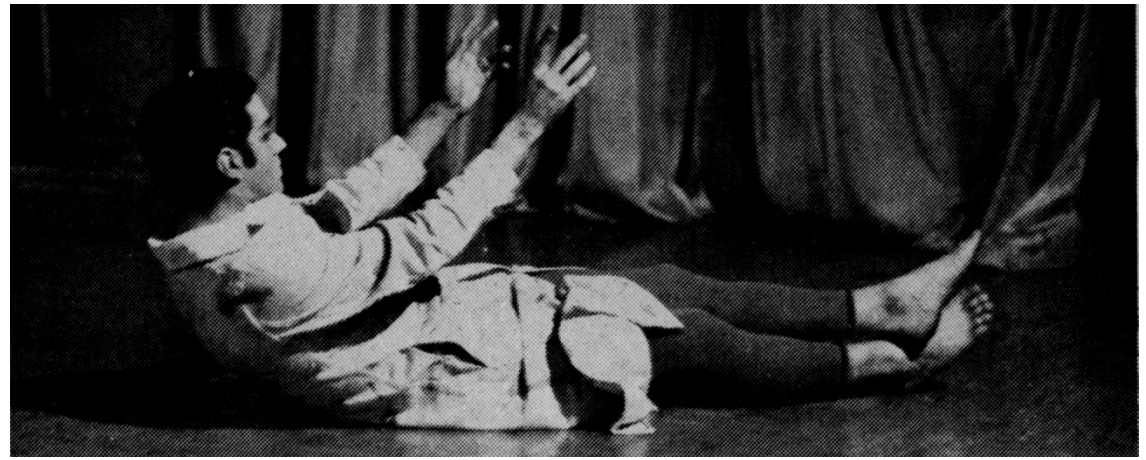
1962 - DAVID MAKES MANNEQUIN - A SOLO - FOR THE DUNN/DUNN'S WORKSHOP.

Spirals slow - to a horizontal position - inna too small bath tub - inna too small bathroom at 131 Avenue A - and waits for the A200 to kill the crabs - he musta got sitting in only his dance belt - onna bare benches - he says - inna dressing rooms - inna Cunningham studio.

#1

At 1st Judson Church performance - of *Mannequin* - Jimmy Waring lets the air outta balloons - balloon music - as David sings - Fanny Brice song - *Second Hand Rose* - with a Yiddish accent - learned off a gift LP from Jimmy - and a Nancy Walker's song - *Get Married Shirley* - off a record borrowed - from Norma Fire. Costume is bloody biology lab coat - ↓ - donated by artist - science teacher - friend Kastle.





#1

1962 - David performs *Mannequin* at 1st Judson Church evening.

1972 - 10 years later - he teaches *Mannequin* to 40 people. (see '70s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 1)

Instead of a Fanny Brice song or Nancy Walker's song that David sings at the Judson - performers hum - softly - any song they choose.

#2

Assume *Mannequin* stance - Karen Smith writes in 1972 - NYU Drama Review - (see '70s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 1) - body erect - knees bent softly - feet apart'n parallel - right leg slightly forward - arms against torso - forearms at right angles point forward - eyes forward - fingers wiggle constantly as body begins to pivot - arms open to the side. We each hum softly - Independent of each other - pivot continuously - almost imperceptibly from that position round to the left. Hold upper bodies in original position - slowly extend arms out to each side - as we turn - draw right arm around parallel to left. Gradually twist around - face diagonally across room. Arms stretch in front - fingers moving - carefully lower ourselves to floor. Disentangle and extend our legs - ankles crossed - and lower our backs to the floor

#1

Arms remain perpendicular to torso. Slowly lower arms. Upper arms rest alongside body. Forearms straight up - fingers still gently moving.



*David Gordon in solo sequence from **Mannequin Dance**.*

Photos Peter Moore.

#2

1962 - Bob Dunn says we all hafta use **Erik Satie's *Gymnopedie*** - for a new dance.

David asks - do I hafta work on the music? Bob says no. Can I work off the music? Bob says yes.

So - smart alec David works - without the music. Moves through all of 131 Avenue A - the railroad rooms.

#1

I begin inna long foyer - he says. Dance into - and through - the kitchen. ↓ Kneel and mime planting a flower.



David imitates moves - and gestures -

← of Billy Eckstine singing - *That Old Black Magic* -

That old black magic has me in its spell - that old black magic that you weave so well - those icy fingers up and down my spine - the same old witchcraft when your eyes meet mine -

through 2 living rooms - David moves'n - into the 1 window bedroom - with ½ navy - ½ white linen curtains -

David designs - and - Valda sews. David loves that room - with - only room for a bed - he says.

Gonna hafta move somewhere else - with 2 bedrooms - before the kid is born - David says.

Don't wanna begin fatherhood - giving up the room I love - for the kid I ain't met yet - he says.

#2

1962 - Satie solo is called *HELEN'S DANCE* - after Helen Lee Seitelman - (see '50s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY)

David handwrites - describes'n lists - what he's gonna do - in *Helen's Dance* - ↓ - on yellow typing paper.

#1

David hears - how does he?

Helen has an abortion.

Don't find out - till too late - she

has a tumor.

David goes to the hospital - Mrs. Seitelman is there.

Helen's sleeping - her mother says.

David sits nexta the bed and watches Helen sleep.

Helen's thick dark hair is pulled taught -
from a center part - into 2 skinny braids.

Her eyes - when she opens 'em -are so large -
and her teeth are so large in her thin face -

and her eyeglasses are too big to stay on.

She wakes. Her hand reaches out. We hold hands.

We talk. I talk. I'm doing - David says and - uh -

I'm gonna do - uh - something else.

He - David - nervously tries ta fill the silence.

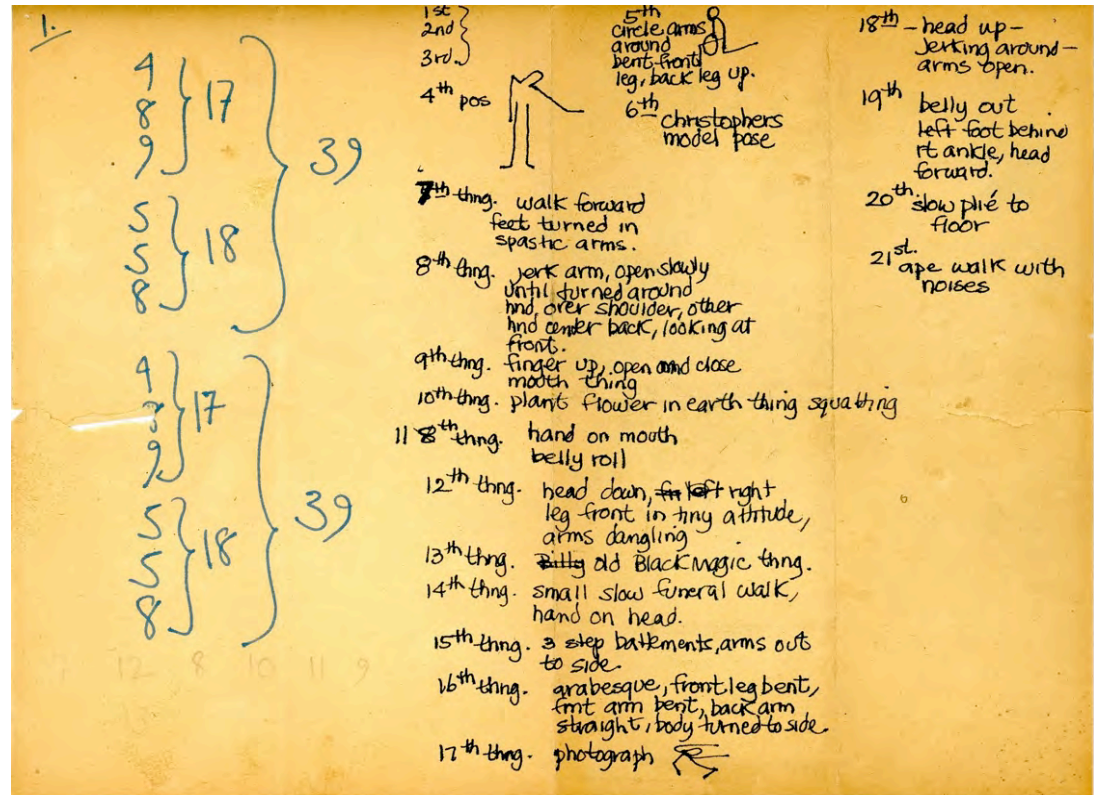
I don't think to say - he says - I love you.

Helen cries out in pain. Nurse gives her another shot.

She falls back asleep. Does Helen know she's dying? Do I know?

I visit every day. There is no good day. 1 day I stand in fronta Helen's empty bed. Nobody warns me.

Miss Seitelman died - nurse says. She was 24 - David says to the nurse - 24 - like me.

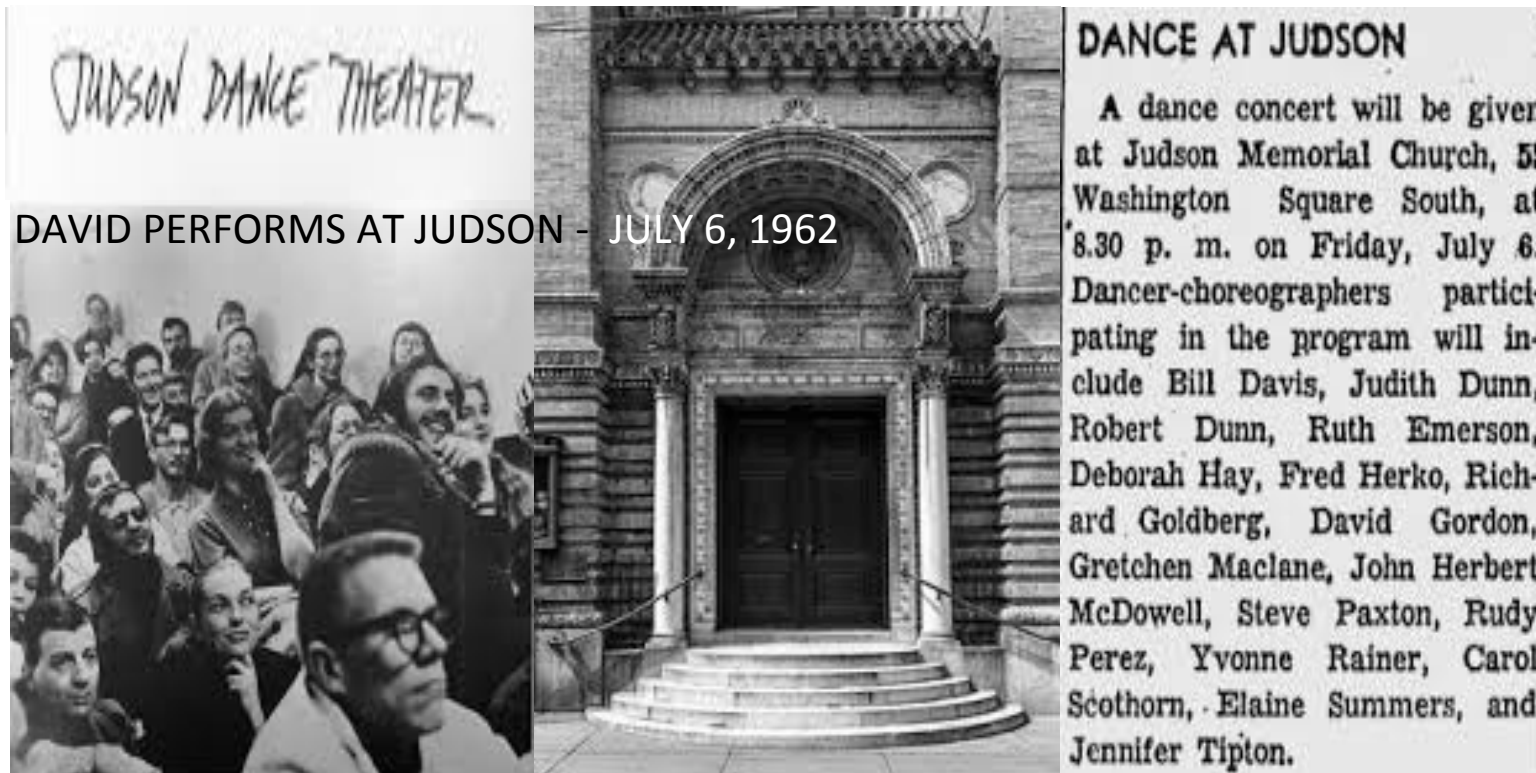


#2

David says - in 2016 - I don't know why - he says - I'm not at Helen's funeral with a friend - no friend of mine - or ours - no frienda Helen's or mine - from school - when we were all in school - in high school - or in college - is with me - Rose and Sam are with me - David says - at Helen's funeral. Sam musta rented a car? Or borrowed a car. Traffic is terrible - and we're gonna be late -so I jump outta the car - David says. I run - crying - onna highway - he says - in between cars - and up a hill - to the cemetery. I dunno where it was - is. Where was it? How do I know where to go? This is like a dream - or a movie.

#1

At the cemetery - David stands at the back - he says. Helen's father'n mother - her brother Leon'n Helen's husband - Mr. Cabrera - did David ever know his 1st name? They stand near the coffin - and - the rectangular hole inna ground - and David stands at the back. Mr. Seitelman talks quietly about Helen - to a small group of seated family? Friends? David don't know - I don't recognize anyone. Helen's father begins to read aloud - some poetry Helen wrote - he says - in high school - and in college. He reads a poem David recognizes - she wrote it to me - **inna 1950s** - when we were boyfriend and girlfriend. When we were kids together.



DAVID PERFORMS AT JUDSON - JULY 6, 1962

#2

1962 - *Helen's Dance* - and *Mannequin* - are cheered at the Judson - and David Gordon imagines the audience loves him - and he loves 'em back. Until they don't - **in 1966** - and then he don't. (see '60s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 2)

#1

Inna '60s - David talks to Rose - by phone - late at night. They watch old movies on TV. Late Show and Late Late Show.



#2

July 3rd 1962 - 11 PM - or so - Rose calls. Valda answers. The actor inna channel 2 film - Rose says. What's his name? David's playing scrabble downstairs - Valda tells Rose. With neighbors Judy'n Michael Brill. I'll tell him to call you. Waked by Rose - Valda realizes she has pains. Calls David. He comes up and times the pains.

7 minutes - 4 minutes - 1 minute - 8 minutes - 8?

David calls Rose. Rose wakes Sam. Rose'n Sam drive to Manhattan. Pick up Valda'n David.

Valda is a clinic patient at New York Hospital. Valda's water breaks inna lobby.

#1

Rose'n Sam sit inna lobby all night - waiting for their 1st grandchild. David's upstairs with Valda - but - his too rhythmic un-syncopated caresses - Valda says - are irritating. Why dontcha wait downstairs - she says - with ya parents? David sits with Rose'n Sam inna lobby - at 3 PM Sam says - what the hell's goin on? David calls upstairs. It's a boy. 8 pounds 9½ ounces. Count his fingers and toes - Sam and Rose say - David does.

Ain Heller Bern Gordon is born **July 4, 1962**.

Jewish babies are named for dead people. **AIN** is for Anna. Sam's mother Anna - (see '['30s/40s ARCHIVEOGRAPHY - Part 1](#)') -

HELLER is for Helen Lee Seitelman - the Helen of *Helen's Dance*.

BERN is for Bernhard - Valda's young uncle - who dies at sea in World War 2.

#2

Grandpa Sam Gordon - the mailman - says - every year - ever after - happy birthday to Ain Gordon - and - I coulda had July 4th off - Sam says - you owe me.

#1

July 6, 1962 - 1st Judson Church Performance is 2 days after Ain is born. David visits Valda'n Ain at NY Hospital - kisses 'em both g'bye - taxis downtown to the Church - when do I go on - he asks at the door. Now - they say. He takes off his shoes - puts on Kastle's bloody lab coat - enters - takes the opening position. Parallel feet -1 in front of the other - casual 4th position - arms bent at his sides - fingers move gently -

like underwater sea weed - as he begins to sing -
Father had a business, strictly 2nd hand - everything from goldfish to a baby grand - stuff in our apartment came from Father's store even things I'm wearing - someone wore before - It's no wonder - that I feel abused - I never get a thing that ain't been used.

#2

Ain Gordon comes home to freshly painted -

baby bedroom 🐣
 no air conditioning.

When I'm a kid -
 David says - I sit -
 onna fire escape -
 we all do -
 to get a breeze -
 onna hot night -
 I can live -
 with no AC -
 he says.

Besides -
 it'll be ugly -
 inna window.
 Besides -
 west village rent -
 is double -
 east village rent.
 Besides -

I only just about
 make a living -
 designing store
 windows - he says - so who can afford an air conditioner?
 David holds out - with no AC - for 3 years -
 Valda and Ain let him.



