

Dance Camera West Film Festival
December 10, 2008

The 2008 Dance Camera West Festival continued its exponential momentum in providing Southern California with culturally rich and diverse dance media programming. This year's festival attracted 4000 audience members and set new records for sold-out and near-capacity shows. We are happy to report a 30% increase in audience from 2007! We screened 90 films and presented over 450 artists with several participating during festival events.

The seventh annual Dance Camera West Film Festival brought the most outstanding examples of dance on screen to several of Los Angeles's most innovative arts venues. This year's festival presented works by directors and choreographers from all over the world while offering a diverse mix of events. The support and funding we received has enabled us to support the work of more than two dozen local artists during 2008. We brought the best in international dance film to LA audiences, presenting work from 40 international artists. These efforts help to secure a strong and vibrant dance film community in the city of Los Angeles.

During the 2008 festival, Dance Camera West distributed 20,000 postcards announcing the festival. Each week we sent emails to 6,000 previous patrons announcing each event throughout the month. Our publicist secured articles and photos in *Dance Magazine*, *Los Angeles Magazine* (Pick of the Month), *Los Angeles Times*, *LA Weekly*, *LA CityBeat*, *LA Yoga*, and *Whole Life Times*. Our online listings included Flavor Pill, Socal.com, LAist, Buzzine, and 247gay.com. The DCW festival was also featured in a FOX News segment that can be found on the homepage of our website along with our full press coverage in our press section: www.dancecamerawest.org.

*DCW is one of the greatest resources in Los Angeles.
Joanna Friedman, Freedom Films*

Dance Camera's 2008 festival partnered with six other organizations this year including Roy and Edna Disney Cal Arts Theater (REDCAT), Director's Guild of America, Hammer Museum, American Cinematheque at the Aero Theater, Braude Center Plaza, and the Los Angeles Film Festival

During three screenings at the REDCAT, we presented 25 artists from around the world, bringing an array of new screen dance to LA audiences. Eight of our featured artists traveled from all over the continent, including Montreal and Toronto, to attend our opening weekend events. Opening night was sold out, and we reached near capacity (200 seats) for both screenings the following night. Dance Camera West hosted a highly energetic reception in the REDCAT Lounge at our opening reception, with several media crews covering the event, including FOX News.

*Truly remarkable programming by Lynette Kessler – such a contribution.
– Roberta Shaw, dance media editor*

Dance Camera West Film Festival
December 10, 2008

During our weekend at the Hammer Museum we presented “From B-Boys to Ballerinas,” which included three different programs of documentaries and narrative dance films. Choreographers represented included Marie Chouinard of Montreal, Jiri Kylian of Netherlands Dance Theatre, Wim Vandekeybus of Belgium, and Chunky Moves, a modern dance company from Australia. Director Marcy Garriott, along with two of the featured dancers of the documentary *Inside the Circle* attended the screening from Austin, Texas, and engaged in an effective Q&A. We reached near capacity for each of the three screenings in the 300-seat Billy Wilder Theatre. These events were offered free as part of the Hammer Museum Public Programs. The breadth of this programming allowed us to broaden our reach and diversify our audience by attracting new audiences from Southern California’s widespread Hispanic community.

On our third weekend we presented a special outdoor screening of ten short dance films by 19 Latin American choreographers and directors, at the Braude Center Plaza in Van Nuys. Sitting on the grass on a hot summer evening, a wide-range of audience members enjoyed a relaxed and easily accessible way to experience both dance and independent film. This free event helps to expand the presence of dance in Los Angeles because it is a unique and unconventional presentation of dance, attracting an audience that might not attend dance events in a traditional theater setting. In the past, our outdoor screening events have attracted 400-500 people annually; however this date (June 22) had a record-breaking heat wave of 109° in the Valley. We considered canceling the event, but were very pleased that more than 200 people attended the evening event and gave positive feedback and encouraged us to host more events in the San Fernando Valley, which has few contemporary dance offerings.

American Cinematheque’s Aero Theatre hosted our closing reception and screening of the feature film *Across the Universe*, followed by a Q&A with choreographer Daniel Ezralow, who offered an astute perspective on ways that choreographers can translate their movement ideas to cinematographers and directors. Ninety guests attend the catered pre-screening reception and we reached full capacity for the screening in the Aero’s 500-seat theatre.

Other programs included the Choreography Media Honors at the Director’s Guild of America, a re-mastered *Bye Bye Birdie* in conjunction with the Los Angeles Film Festival, and the documentary *Ballerina* with American Cinematheque.

*DCW brings the dance community of LA together in a new way.
These dance films allow a new conversation about dance to emerge
and add a new dimension to understanding movement in our everyday lives.
– Kate Lutz*

Dance Camera West’s goal is to give artists and arts organizations the opportunity to create, interpret, present, and perform artistic work through the annual Dance Camera West Dance Film Festivals. We are able to measure the success of our goals by the level of interest in the festival, as shown by the overwhelmingly large number of audience members and participants who turned out for our events in 2008. In many instances we

Dance Camera West Film Festival
December 10, 2008

achieved greater audiences than we had space to accommodate, demonstrating the exponential growth our organization has experienced over the last seven years. Each year we add new types of events, and this ongoing expanded programming enables us to reach broader and more diverse audiences.

Following each 2008 event we encouraged audience members to express their thoughts in our comment book. This was an effective tool for garnering feedback as well as praise for our programming. We also conducted a poll for an audience award for the REDCAT series of New Visual Language programs. Again, as in years past, there was lively participation in the discussion for the audience award.

What a great way to experience Los Angeles and the world at the same time.
– Audience member

With the various venues and the international range of work presented, DCW continues to benefit the Los Angeles Dance Community and the dance film community at large. During the 2008 festival we created events for artists and art lovers of all genres and levels of experience to come together around their excitement or curiosity about dance film. This community building spanned generational, cultural, and artistic layers. In addition to building community, the festival's programming informed audiences on a deep aesthetic level.

The Los Angeles audience is becoming more sophisticated with each year's festival. Their level of engagement has risen through dialogue, attendance, membership and demand. Our international status continues to grow, and DCW has built a reputation for delivering a collection of dance media that is at times thought provoking, sublimely ethereal, and laugh-out-loud funny, covering a wide variety of movement styles.

Thank you DCW for your originality that is ahead of its time.
– Lia Azeal, DCW member

Dance Camera West would again like to express its profound gratitude to all of our funders for the 2008 DCW Dance Film Festival. A full list of the 2008 contributions can be found on our website under Community Partners, (www.dancecamerawest.org/partners.htm). Your support has led to greater funding from foundations and individual donors, and has helped us broaden our board of directors and member/audience base. Dance Camera West has enjoyed continuous growth since its inception in 2002, and our annual budget has risen exponentially each year. We look forward to the opportunity to bring more intriguing dance media to Los Angeles in future, dedicating ourselves both to the genre of dance media and our community.