



Sunday, May 29, 2005

## Film fest to frame the unexpected

**LAURA BLEIBERG** Dance critic

In his new film, "The Cost of Living," British choreographer and director Lloyd Newson presents a simple short story of two guys on the fringes of society.

His characters, Dave and Eddie, are buskers with a funky clown act in an unidentified seaside town. Eddie yells at the customers. David gets harassed by a nosy fellow with a video camera. They hang out with friends. David wanders into a ballet class, initiating an impromptu pas de deux with a ballerina. It ends with Eddie (Eddie Kay) wondering if they shouldn't bag this place for more lucrative pastures. The kicker of this little gem is that David, portrayed by David Toole, is a dancer who has no legs. Newson, the perverse and fearless choreographer of DV8 Physical Theater (seen in these parts just once, unfortunately, with Newson's "Enter Achilles" back in 1997), treats David with nonchalant grace while squarely presenting both the hardships and beauty in David's life.

"The Cost of Living" is a dance film, or, to use the more up-to-date moniker, a "dance on film." It is one of more than 45 movies scheduled for the fourth annual Dance Camera West International Dance Film Festival at theaters around Los Angeles, Wednesday through June 25.

"The Cost of Living" is just one example of dance on film, an increasingly diverse bunch of category-busting movies that includes the old-fashioned musical, the experimental movie, the documentary, the archival. Dance Camera West co-directors Kelly Hargraves and Lynette Kessler have them all this year.

Here is a brief rundown of the DCW schedule. A number of these events are free. For more complete information, check the festival Web site, [www.dancecamerawest.org](http://www.dancecamerawest.org), or these phone numbers and Web addresses:

- 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater (REDCAT): "Views of Camera," Merce Cunningham Dance Company with director and longtime collaborator Charles Atlas. (213) 237-2800 or [www.redcat.org](http://www.redcat.org)
- 5 p.m. June 5 at the Aero (1328 Montana Ave., Santa Monica): "West Side Story" and after-screening panel including Rita Moreno, who portrayed Anita, and eight other dancers from the movie. Tickets at the box office beginning at noon June 5, or at [www.americancinematheque.com](http://www.americancinematheque.com)
- 7:30 p.m. June 10 at the Getty Center: "Carmen & Geoffrey," with Carmen de Lavallade in attendance. (310) 440-7300 or [www.getty.edu](http://www.getty.edu)
- 8 p.m. June 17, and 6 and 8 p.m. June 18, REDCAT: experimental short films programs. (213) 237-2800 or [www.redcat.org](http://www.redcat.org)
- 2 p.m. June 12, Hammer Museum: "Height of Sky," with filmmaker Morleigh Steinberg and choreographer Oguri. (310) 443-7000 or [www.hammer.ucla.edu](http://www.hammer.ucla.edu)
- 2 p.m. June 19, Hammer Museum: "Alonzo King Goes to Venice" and "Belated Premier." (310) 443-7000 or [www.hammer.ucla.edu](http://www.hammer.ucla.edu)
- 8:30 p.m. June 24, Japan America Theater Plaza: EZTV with Loretta Livingston & Dancers in Performance. Call (213) 680-3700.
- 8:30 p.m. June 25, Coldwater Canyon Park (12601 Mulholland Drive, Beverly Hills): 20 films screen outdoors at the TreePeople Center. Go to [www.treepeople.org](http://www.treepeople.org)