



For Immediate Release:

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## **Dance Camera West Announces Seventh Annual Dance Media Film Festival Throughout Los Angeles - June 2008**

LOS ANGELES, CA – **Dance Camera West** (DCW), internationally recognized as one of the foremost dance film festivals devoted to the art of “dance made for the screen,” announces its seventh annual month-long festival, hitting venues throughout southern California in June 2008. This film festival, which features dance media in all forms, is a unique cinematic experience that focuses on the intersection of cinematography and choreography. The *Los Angeles Times* named the DCW festival ‘Best of LA’ for both 2006 and 2007. Partnering with some of our most prestigious venues in Los Angeles, the festival offers a global perspective of a new visual language. The programming consists of experimental shorts, documentaries, features, and symposiums with visiting international artists. Please visit DCW's website for continuous updates - [www.dancecamerawest.org](http://www.dancecamerawest.org). See below for the confirmed events.

The June festival opens at the REDCAT Theater in downtown LA, with its legendary kick-off party on Friday, June 6, 2008. Presenting "ScreenDance: A New Visual Language," three programs of short films from around the world will captivate audiences on Friday and Saturday night during the opening weekend. Continuing through the month with various programs the festival will present the second annual “Choreography Media Honors” on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, a new event created last year honoring the craft of choreography in media to be held at the Director’s Guild of America. Join DCW the following morning for a lively panel discussion with luminaries from the field of mainstream choreography. DCW will present two days of programming at the Hammer Museum’s Billy Wilder Theatre entitled “From B-boys to Ballerinas.” For fans of Russian Ballet stop by the Aero in Santa Monica on the 19<sup>th</sup> for Bertrand Normand’s ravishing documentary, *Ballerina*. The month-long festival continues with an outdoor screening, *Videodanza*, Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> featuring Latin American artists at the Braude Center Plaza in Van Nuys. A special screening of the award winning phenom *Across the Universe* with choreographer Daniel Ezralow at American Cinematheque’s Aero Theatre is Sunday, June 22.

Known for presenting the newest in dance media - where movement meets cinema - since 2002 Dance Camera West has brought over 800 dance films to southern California helping to expand the audience for all dance in Los Angeles. Festival founder and director, **Lynette Kessler** explains, “In the six years since DCW's first film festival, I have seen the opportunities for dancers and choreographers to perform diminish. At the same time, the demand for new and exciting work has only grown larger, leaving a crucial gap that DCW has sought to fill by screening at venues across Los Angeles the highest quality works of artists at the forefront of the medium of screendance. And in 2008, DCW is building upon the foundation we have created over the previous six festivals to bring to southern California a selection of the most boundary-pushing and challenging dance films from around the world.”

June 2008 Dance Camera West Festival Schedule (as of 4/15/08):

- Fri. June 6 and Sat. June 7 At **REDCAT** in downtown LA

### **Screendance: A New Visual Language**

Opening night screening and party on Friday followed by two different programs on Saturday. In three unique screenings over two days, this collection of 25 innovative dance

films from around the world explores the intersection between movement and cinema.

- Friday, June 6, 2008 – 8:00pm – Screening and Opening Night Reception
  - Saturday, June 7, 2008 – 6:00pm & 8:00pm (different programs)
- REDCAT, Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater (Walt Disney Concert Hall Complex)  
631 West 2nd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (213 237-2800; <http://redcat.org>)
- \$15 for opening night (\$10 for CalArts or DCW members), \$10 for other screenings (\$7 for CalArts or DCW members)

- Fri. June 13 at **Directors Guild of America (DGA)** in Hollywood

#### **Choreography Media Honors**

Dance Camera West will present the second Choreography Media Honors, an event launched last year honoring the craft of choreography in media. Selected from an international pool of work, the 90-minute program will feature outstanding achievements in film, television, commercials, and music video. The Directors Guild of America (DGA) will host the gala screening and reception.

Friday, June 13, 2008 – 7:30pm  
Directors Guild of America (DGA)  
7920 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046  
- Tickets \$50 – reservations: 213-480-8633 or [www.dancecamerawest.org](http://www.dancecamerawest.org)

- Sat. June 14 at **Hammer Museum's Billy Wilder Theater** in Westwood

*“From B-boys to Ballerinas” – the program at the Hammer this Father's Day weekend*

#### ***Inside the Circle*** – feature length film screening

B-boying was an integral part of early hip-hop in the 70's as street corner DJs noticed that dancers were exploding with creative moves during the breakdown sections (or breaks) of funk songs. Quickly labeled “breakdancing” by the media, this grassroots art form was over-hyped in the early 80's, and then seemed to disappear from view. But rather than dying out, b-boying went underground and it went global, and it has now evolved into an extraordinary dance form with a remarkably interconnected worldwide culture. *Inside the Circle*, an award winning documentary by Marcy Garriott, provides a unique window into this world as it follows the intense and intertwined stories of three Texas b-boys - Romeo Navarro (B-Boy City), Josh (MIND-180), and Omar (Mighty Zulu Kingz) - across several years. 102 minutes

- With special guest appearances by the filmmaker and featured dancers for a Q & A following the screening.

Saturday, June 14, 2008 – 7:00pm  
Hammer Museum – Billy Wilder Theater  
10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024 (310-443-7000; [www.hammer.ucla.edu](http://www.hammer.ucla.edu))  
- FREE admission, no reservations required; seating is first come first served

- Sun. June 15 at **Hammer Museum's Billy Wilder Theater** in Westwood

*“From B-boys to Ballerinas” (continues) – the program at the Hammer this Father's Day weekend*  
2:00pm *Contemporary Ballet (at its finest!) (2 films = 73 minutes)*

#### ***Sleepless*** –

Contemporary ballet choreographer Jiri Kylián created *Sleepless* in 2005 featuring six dancers from the Netherlands Dance Theatre (NDT). *Sleepless* presents a hallucinating blend of body parts that unexpectedly appear and disappear through a permeable back wall. NDT is superb, amusing and at times, leaves one gasping. Composer Dirk Haubrich uses the glass

harmonica and the slow passages of Mozart's Adagio and Rondo in C Minor to add a mysterious fragility. 23 min. Best IMZ Dancescreen 2007 Festival

***BODY\_rEMIX/gOLDBERG\_vARIATIONS*** –

If director Stanley Kubrick made ballets this is what it would look like! Choreographer Marie Chouinard from Montreal and her company of ten dancers execute variations on the exercise of freedom in this stage production from 2005 filmed in 2007. Often, the dancers appear on pointe and as a ballet company that is not unusual until those points become three or even four at a time. In extreme deliberation of the gesture, Chouinard integrates crutches, rope, prostheses, horizontal bars, and harnesses into her outrageously creative choreography. These props that could fetter some gives this master of movement a whole new vocabulary. Manipulations of Glenn Gould's recording of the Goldberg Variations by Bach adds to this aberrant ballet that looks at the age old story of the beauty and the beast. 2007, 50 minutes

6:00pm *Contemporary Dance Theatre (viewer discretion) (2 films = 75 minutes)*

***Dance Like Your Old Man*** –

Chunky Move, a contemporary dance company in Australia founded by Artistic Director Gideon Obarzanek in 1995, has earned an enviable reputation for producing a distinct yet unpredictable brand of genre-defying dance performance. Chunky Move's work constantly seeks to redefine what is or what can be contemporary dance within an ever-evolving Australian culture. In *Dance Like Your Old Man*, six women imitate their dads' dancing in a film about fathers as seen through the eyes of their daughters. These unseen men come to life through the dances and reflections of their children.

2006, 10 minutes; Best Documentary short film Melbourne International Film Festival

***Here After*** – *(viewer discretion)*

At the crossroads of fiction and dance, this film is an adaptation of *Puur* (2005), by Belgium director and choreographer Wim Vandekeybus and Ultima Vez. It combines excerpts from the Super 8 short film that accompanied the performance with 16 mm images from the studio and on location at Oye-Plage. The performers dance to the sounds of Fausto Romitelli and David Eugene Edwards (*Woven Hand*), and words of author P. F. Thomèse. Through flashbacks, *Here After* tells the story of an isolated community in which a power-mad tyrant commands an infanticide. In the danced sequences we see how the victims relive their memories in the hereafter, as though their emotions and traumas had permeated their bodies. Inspired by ancient biblical myths on the massacre of children, the film indirectly denounces today's genocide, terrorism and war. Depicting terror and its devastating effects on a community, the film explores such existential questions as life/death, culpability/penance, identity/memory, regret/negation and power/freedom. 2007, 65 minutes, 'Creativity Award' from the National Film Board of Canada at the FIFA (Festival International du Film sur l'Art) in Montreal.

Sunday, June 15, 2008 – 2:00pm and 6:00pm – different programs (see above)

Hammer Museum – Billy Wilder Theater

10899 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024 (310-443-7000; [www.hammer.ucla.edu](http://www.hammer.ucla.edu))

- FREE admission, no reservations required; seating is first come first served

➤ June 19 at **American Cinematheque at the Aero Theatre** in Santa Monica

***Ballerina***

Fans of Ballets Russes will enjoy *Ballerina* this resplendent documentary by director Bertrand Normand about the training and unique skills of five dancers from the Mariniinski Theater, formerly known as the Kirov Ballet. Rich with ravishing performances, it focuses on some of Russia's pre-eminent ballerinas. Featuring: Svetlana Zakharova, Uliana Lopatkina, Evguenia Obraztsova, Alina Somova.

France, 2007, 77 minutes, Russian/English/French Sub-Titles

Thursday, June 19, 2008 – 7:30pm  
American Cinematheque at the Aero Theatre  
1328 Montana Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90403 ([www.americancinematheque.com](http://www.americancinematheque.com))  
General \$10, Students/seniors \$8, AC Members \$7, DCW Members \$8  
Tickets available on [www.fandango.com](http://www.fandango.com)

- June 21 at **Braude Center Plaza** in Van Nuys

**Videodanza: Latin American Dance on Screen at Braude Center Plaza**

DCW will present an outdoor screening event of Latin American artists. Coming from a rich tradition of choreography and filmmaking these artists continue to re-define dance and cinema. This program of short films featuring work from Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay are at times deeply thought-provoking, sublimely ethereal, and laugh-out-loud funny. These are not the ordinary tango and salsa films but rather a new expression of dance made for the screen that has been flourishing in recent years throughout Latin America. It's the perfect community event for family and friends on a summer evening.

Saturday, June 21, 2008 – 8:00pm  
Martin Braude Center Plaza  
6262 Van Nuys Blvd.  
Van Nuys, CA 91401

- FREE admission, no reservations required: bring your own seating, blankets or chairs

- June 22 at **American Cinematheque, at the Aero Theatre** in Santa Monica

***Across the Universe*** –

Academy Award® winning revolutionary rock musical that re-imagines America in the turbulent late 1960's, a time when battle lines were being drawn at home and abroad. Come sing-along in this fast becoming cult film featuring songs by the Beatles. Choreographer Daniel Ezralow will be in attendance. 135 minutes plus Q & A

Sunday, June 22, 2008 – 5:30pm  
American Cinematheque at the Aero Theatre  
1328 Montana Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90403 ([www.americancinematheque.com](http://www.americancinematheque.com))  
General \$10, Students/seniors \$8, AC Members \$7, DCW Members \$8  
Tickets available on [www.fandango.com](http://www.fandango.com)

- June dates TBA – Several other events to be added soon to Dance Camera West's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Dance Media Film Festival

Dance Camera West founder and executive/artistic director, Lynette Kessler is an accomplished dancer, choreographer, and media artist with an MFA in Dance from the University of Michigan and a BFA in Dance from York University in Toronto. Known for her innovative collaborations and dance work for the screen that have been shown in film and video festivals worldwide, Kessler has received numerous awards including an Alden B. Dow Creativity Fellowship and an artist residency at Headlands Center for the Arts. She is a founding member of the Media & Dance Festival International Network, has served on dance film review committees for the American Choreography Awards, the Dance on Camera Festival in New York, the Moving Pictures Festival of Dance on Film in Toronto, and is a guest lecturer at UCLA, UC Irvine, and Cal Arts. This year Kessler has been invited to serve as a panelist for the EMPAC (Experimental Media and Performing Arts) Commission, which awards grants for experimental dance media of up to \$50,000. She was invited to join the Board of Directors of the Buckminster Fuller Institute in January 2008.

Dance Camera West is a non-profit organization committed to fostering and promoting the vibrant art of dance media from around the world. DCW aims to bridge the unique mix of film and dance communities

in Los Angeles through the exploration of this hybrid genre. DCW also strives to create a broader and more engaged audience for dance and dance media by merging both performance and cinematic aesthetic. DCW is one of only a handful of organizations in the world that present dance media, and the only one of its kind on the West Coast. DCW was voted one of the “Top 25 Dance Organizations to Watch” by Dance Magazine in 2005 and 2006. The Los Angeles Times selected the Dance Camera West Media Film Festival as one of the Ten Best dance events in Los Angeles for 2006 and 2007!

Dance Camera West is funded in part by the Annenberg Foundation, Mortimer Levitt Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Lloyd E. Rigler and Laurence E. Deutsch Foundation, and EarthWays Foundation.

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For more information, photos, or to interview Lynette Kessler, please contact Green Galactic’s Lynn Hasty at 213-840-1201 or [lynn@greengalactic](mailto:lynn@greengalactic).