



For Immediate Release:

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Dance Camera West Announces Eighth Annual Dance Media Film Festival Throughout Los Angeles - June 2009

LOS ANGELES, CA – **Dance Camera West's** annual festival, recognized as one of the world's foremost celebrations of dance on film, announces the **Dance Camera West Eighth Annual Dance Media Film Festival** screening at venues throughout southern California in June 2009. A unique cinematic experience that focuses on the intersection of cinematography and choreography, the month-long film festival features all forms of dance media. Chosen by Los Angeles Magazine as "Pick of the Month" for their June 2008 issue, Dance Camera West (DCW) again partners with the city's most prestigious venues in offering a global perspective on a new visual language through a host of experimental shorts, documentaries, features, and symposiums with visiting international artists. Please visit DCW's website for continuous updates at 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 5, 2009. 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. DCW will present two days of programming at the Hammer Museum's Billy Wilder Theatre on Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14, featuring the new documentary, **AMERICAN MASTERS Jerome Robbins: Something to Dance About**. On Friday, June 19 DCW presents the **Choreography Media Honors**, showcasing award winning creative teams in a panel discussion. The month-long festival continues with an outdoor screening, **VideoDanza II**, Saturday, June 20 featuring artists from Latin America at the Braude Center Plaza in Van Nuys. On Sunday, June 21 at The Autry National Center a matinee program of two documentaries featuring indigenous artists exploring the contemporary sacred.

Known as one of the world's premiere presenters of dance media, Dance Camera West has expanded the audience for dance in Southern California with the presentation of more than 1,000 dance films since 2002. Speaking to its global diversity, festival founder and director **Lynette Kessler** explains, "Dance is an art form that is universally understood and celebrated. It can break down the language barriers that oftentimes separate Los Angeles' culturally diverse communities as it allows the audience to engage with dance media from around the world. In playing directly to an audience drawn from one of the world's great arts capitals, the festival provides wide access to innovative and experimental dance on-screen. In 2009, DCW builds upon the foundation of the previous seven festivals to bring to Southern California a selection of the most boundary-pushing dance films anywhere."

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 EMPAC (Experimental Media and Performing Arts) Commission, American Choreography Awards, Dance on Camera Festival in New York, Moving Pictures Festival of

Dance on Film in Toronto, and is a guest lecturer at UCLA, UC Irvine, and Cal Arts. Kessler sits on the board of directors for the following organizations: Buckminster Fuller Institute, Dance Channel TV, and the California Ear Unit. She is an active member of the advocacy groups: Arts for LA, California Arts Advocates, and Americans for the Arts. And most recently has been invited to the Media Arts Advisory Committee to guide the new Media Arts initiative to create the fifth arts content discipline for LAUSD (Los Angeles Unified School District). On May 31, 2009, Kessler will be presented with the 'Furthering the Visibility of Dance Award' at Dance Resource Center's 18th Annual Lester Horton Dance Awards.

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. The 2008 festival was featured in a *FOX News* segment, and *Los Angeles Magazine* selected Dance Camera West as its Pick of the Month for the June 2008 issue. 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. DCW was voted one of the "Top 25 Dance Organizations to Watch" by *Dance Magazine* in 2005 and 2006.

Dance Camera West events are supported in part by the Metabolic Studio of the Annenberg Foundation, Mortimer Levitt Foundation, James Irvine Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Quebec Government Office-Los Angeles.

See below for DCW's June 2009 Festival Schedule as of 3/30/09:

➤ **Fri. June 5 [8:00pm] and Sat. June 6 [6 & 8:00pm] At REDCAT in downtown LA**

"Screendance: A New Visual Language" (*contains adult content*)

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.

- Fri. June 5 – 8:00pm – Screening and Opening Night Reception

- Sat. June 6 – 6:00pm & 8:00pm (all three programs different)

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>)

- Tickets \$15 opening night (\$10 for CalArts or DCW members), \$10 for other screenings (\$7 for CalArts or DCW members)

➤ **Sat. June 13 [2:30pm] at Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles**

The Dancing Room

In Transylvania music accompanies most of the rituals of life and death. In this enigmatic dance film based on the choreography of **Kate Flatt**, the Hungarian band **Muzsikás** provide the music and are part of the action around a dozen characters from young to old. Although the music is traditional, the dance is contemporary and draws on many styles and traditions from round the world. Filmed in an eerie underground location, *The Dancing Room* is a powerful and memorable piece specially-worked for the camera.

Produced by the BBC, directed by **Simon Broughton**, executive producer Bob Lockyer.
Recorded in London 1995, 45 minutes

Skirball Cultural Center
2701 North Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049 (310-440-4500;
<http://www.skirball.org>)

Free - No reservations needed

➤ **Sat. June 13 [7:00pm] & Sun. June 14 [2:00pm & 6:00pm] at the Hammer Museum in Westwood**
“**Dance Iconoclasts**” – Three Programs over Two Days at the Hammer Museum

Sat. 6/13 at 7:00pm - **AMERICAN MASTERS Jerome Robbins: Something to Dance About**

- Q&A following screening with director Judy Kinberg and biographer Amanda Vaill

His was a life that inspired controversy, but no one disputes the place Jerome Robbins holds as the preeminent director/choreographer of American musical theater. He transformed Broadway with shows such as *West Side Story*, *Gypsy* and *Fiddler on the Roof* and he forged a career in ballet, first at American Ballet Theatre and then at New York City Ballet, with unparalleled artistry.

Directed and produced by six-time Emmy Award-winning filmmaker **Judy Kinberg** and written by best-selling Robbins biographer **Amanda Vaill**, it examines with candor and humor, his creative process, his perfectionism, and the controversies that plagued his life. Kinberg uncovers never-before-seen rehearsal footage and interviews many of his esteemed colleagues, including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Suzanne Farrell, Jacques d'Amboise, Chita Rivera, Stephen Sondheim and Arthur Laurents.

USA, 2008, 112 minutes

Sun. 6/14 at 2:00pm - **DANCE MOVIES - EMPAC -**

- Four short videos introduced by EMPAC curator **Hélène Lesterlin**

The DANCE MOVIES Commission is a program launched by the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY to support the creation of new works in which dance meets the technologies of the moving image. For the U.S. this marks the first commissioning body for new dance media since the demise of Alive From Off Center over twenty-five years ago. The four videos collected here represent the first works created through the 2008 DANCE MOVIES Commission Program. These experimental works for the screen vary widely in content and form, yet are united by the fact that they are crafted by a choreographer or movement-based artist. These works offer a voyeuristic view of a Russian dancer in Moscow; a testament to the invisible costs borne by veterans of the ongoing conflict in Iraq; an abstract play of movement and architecture in Argentina; and a poetic, autobiographical film shot entirely in Southern Africa by an international team.

USA, 2007 - 2008, 70 minutes

- **Kino-Eye** –

Kino-Eye shadows a dancer through contemporary Moscow. Immersed in an aesthetic of video surveillance, the dancer shifts in and out of glitches and static as video playback manipulates her image. Director Joby Emmons, Choreographer Elena Demyanenko.

USA/Russia, 2008, 8 minutes

- **Veterans** –

With an interest in making pieces for individuals who don't conventionally inhabit the “dance” frame, Los Angeles choreographer Victoria Marks and UK director Margaret Williams collaborate once again on this stunning short - *Veterans*. Five young veterans from the West Los Angeles VA Combat Rehab/ PTSD program explore through metaphors, dreams and magical story telling the “invisible” disabilities associated with military service.

USA/UK, 2008, 18 minutes

- **Propiedad Horizontal** –

Dancers in a narrow passageway create an elegant, abstract, and lively piece of pure movement and form. David Fariás, Carla Schillagi and Maria Fernanda Vallejos.

Argentina, 2008, 10 minutes

- **Nora** –

Nora is a dense and swiftly moving poem of sound and image that tells the story of a dancer growing up in Zimbabwe.

Choreographed by Nora Chipaumire, Directed by Alla Kovgan and David Hinton.

USA/Zimbabwe/Mozambique/UK, 2008, 35 minutes

Sun. 6/14 at 6:00pm - **Documenting the Creative Process**

– Two documentaries featuring the collaborative process of contemporary dance choreographers Akram Khan and Emilio Greco (2 films = 95 minutes)

- **Lettres sur le Pont** (Letters on the Bridge)

This documentary closely follows the creation process of the stage performance of *bahok*, a collaboration with British Bengal choreographer Akram Khan and the National Ballet of China. Bringing together classical and contemporary dancers from diverse cultures, traditions and dance backgrounds – Chinese, Korean, Indian, South-African and Spanish, reveals their sense of home and belonging in a globalized world. Akram Khan studied both kathak and contemporary dance and is an Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells in London. Features multi award-winning composer and musician Nitin Sawhney. Directed by Gilles Delmas.

France, 2008, 50 minutes

“Through this ultimately powerful piece, Khan captures both the exhilaration and the desolation of a world on the move.” — The Guardian

- **Imagined Hell** – (contains nudity)

Imagined Hell, a documentary based on the making of HELL, the 2007 large-scale performance by the Emilio Greco/ Pieter Scholten dance company, is more like paradise with its gutsy dancing and a satisfying electric guitar dual while being informed by Dante's *Inferno* and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Known for highly stylized movement and phenomenal unison work Greco has taken movement to new heights with his virtuosic company of eight dancers and has emerged as one of Europe's most electrifying dance innovators. Director Maite Bermudez (Venezuela) captures on film the creative process while the dancers search for ways to extend the boundaries and to unleash the unpredictable body as the notion of hell is broken down and deconstructed in order to build a new meaning.

Netherlands, 2008, 45 minutes

“A dance experience of such creative brilliance and overwhelming emotion that even the most jaded critic could not help but be moved.” — Dance Magazine

Hammer Museum – Billy Wilder Theater

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

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

➤ **Fri. June 19 [7:30pm] at Linwood Dunn Theater in Hollywood**

Choreography Media Honors Panel

Dance Camera West will present the third Choreography Media Honors, an event honoring the craft of choreography in media: "*Choreography, Collaboration and Cocktails*".

This year, in the form of a panel, several award winning creative teams will discuss their process of bringing choreography to the screen. Examining dance in film, television, video, and commercials that has had an impact on our industry will be screened and discussed in-depth. These teams may include the choreographer, director, DP, editor, producer, composer, etc. Dynamic audience participation encouraged.

Moderated by Daniel Ezralow the panel will be followed by an artist reception.

Panelists TBA. Check the website for updated information.

Linwood Dunn Theater
Pickford Center for Motion Picture Study
1313 N. Vine St., Hollywood, CA 90028
Tickets \$25 / Free parking
213-480-8633 www.dancecamerawest.org

➤ **Sat. June 20 [7:00pm] at Braude Center Plaza in Van Nuys**

VideoDanza II: Latin American Dance on Screen

– Music & Tango demonstrations, followed by screening after dusk (8:30pm)

DCW will present an outdoor screening event of Latin American artists for the second year. 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 Cuba, Argentina, Chile, and Columbia are at times deeply thought provoking, sublimely ethereal, and big-out-loud Wow! 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.

Martin Braude Center Plaza
6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91401

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

➤ **Sunday, June 21 [2:00pm] at The Autry National Center of the American West in Los Angeles**

“Contemporary Sacred: Indigenous Dance Artists in Contemporary Culture”

- A program of two films featuring First Nation and Native American artists
- Q&A with filmmaker **Philip Szporer**

Please join us for an afternoon exploring this cultural treasure, have lunch at The Golden Spur Café (open 9:00am – 4:30pm), and enjoy our matinee film program.

- ***Byron Chief-Moon: Grey Horse Rider***-

A documentary film featuring First Nation artist Byron Chief-Moon, *Grey Horse Rider* was directed by **Philip Szporer** and **Marlene Millar** and won “Best Documentary Short” at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. Byron Chief-Moon is a multi-talented actor, stuntman, dancer, choreographer playwright, and founder of the Coyote Arts Percussive Performance Association. Through art and life, his story is one of cultural survival. Themes of Chief-Moon’s dance creations begin with his people's traditional stories, his attachment to the land and his community, as well as the inner conflict he faces in existing within the Aboriginal culture and society at large. He is ensuring the preservation of his native language through its incorporation into his work, and he's adamant that the spoken legends of his people are passed on to the next generation, and to the greater community. Challenging the cultural construct is never easy, but Chief-Moon does so with steadfast determination and spirit. One of the main features is the name-giving ceremony for The Blood Nation of which until now has never been filmed.

Canada, 2007, 48 minutes

- Q&A with filmmaker Philip Szporer sponsored by Quebec Government Office-Los Angeles

- ***Water Flowing Together*** –

A documentary on legendary **Jock Soto** and his 25 year career with the New York City Ballet by filmmaker **Gwendolen Cates** is a moving, intimate portrait of an internationally renowned artist who is Navajo Indian, Puerto Rican, and openly gay. On the verge of retirement, one of modern ballet's most gifted and celebrated dancers is forced to contemplate life after dance.

Exploring identity, family, and transition, the film climaxes with his emotional departure from ballet at age 40 in 2005. As Soto reflects on his uncertain future, he also attempts to connect with his past, revisiting his Navajo roots and the cultural heritage to which he is at once detached and devoted. Soto's story defies stereotypes in the same way that his dancing transcends the expected. Written by Gwendolen Cates.

USA, 2007, 77 minutes

The Autry National Center of the American West
4700 Western Heritage Way (Griffith Park Campus), Los Angeles, CA 90027 (323-667-2000; www.autrynationalcenter.org)

- Tickets \$10, \$7 Autry and DCW members, free parking

The Autry National Center explores the experiences and perceptions of the diverse peoples of the American West, connecting the past with the present to inform our shared future.

More June dates, venues and programs TBA for Dance Camera West's Eighth Annual Dance Media Film Festival. Please visit DCW's website for continuous updates - www.dancecamerawest.org.

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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.com.