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Dance Camera West Festival May 2 through May 27

Dance Camera West, a festival of dance made for film, was launched in Los Angeles last year at the Getty Center as a special event hosted by “Friday Nights at the Getty.” Enthusiastic audiences inspired producers of the event—Topangan Lynette Kessler and Kelly Hargraves—to expand its 2003 program, highlighting this new film genre that merges dance and film aesthetics.

The second annual Dance Camera West Festival begins on Friday, May 2 at the Getty Center and continues through May 27 at several locations in Los Angeles, including the Getty Center, the Skirball Center, the Egyptian Theater, Laemmle’s Music Hall, Track 16 @ Bergamot Station and EZTV Cyber Gallery at 18th Street Arts Complex.

Thirteen films selected from over 175 entries from around the world will be screened at the Getty on Friday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, May 3 at 3 p.m. The films, ranging from numerous experimental shorts of 4 to 11 minutes to several longer works, present an array of humor, drama, beauty and rhythm not usually seen on film or stage.

[Still from the film, “Boy,” directed by Peter Anderson and Rosemary Lee, in which a 10-year-old boy is transformed into a super hero.]

This year’s event will also feature short, experimental films at Bergamot Station, as well as several dance documentaries at theaters around town. A dance film panel discussion, a screening library and a reception for festival entrants to show and discuss their work, round out the month-long event.

Kessler, who worked with Hargraves to bring Dance Camera West to Los Angeles last year, describes dance for screen as a rich medium that redefines dance and cinema.

“It relinquishes cinematic narrative to present the art of images and dance in the same breath,” said Kessler. “It stretches our imagination and the way we think about dance.”

“Horses Never Lie,” directed by Kathy Prosser.

•Among the films screening at the Getty on Friday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m., are: “Xing,” in which a dancer dangerously performs in the crossroads of some of Los Angeles busiest intersections; “Black Spring,” a dramatic exploration of passion and motive in

contemporary African dance; and “Ere Mela Mela,” a witty movement poem created by two performers and stop motion photography.

•At the Getty on Saturday, May 3, at 3p.m., the films include: “Ellie,” a woman’s dynamic course through a dark city into a deserted wilderness and “Groat Center for Sleep Disorders,” a choreographic comedy of unwitting movement and emotion.

For reservations for the Getty Center screenings, call (310) 440-7300 or visit www.getty.edu. Admission is free. Parking is \$5.

At the Laemmle Music Hall in Beverly Hills on Friday, May 9, will be “Etoiles: Dancers of the Paris Opera Ballet,” a new documentary by Nils Tavernier that celebrates the legacy of the Paris Opera Ballet, weaving together rehearsal and tour footage of classical ballets and contemporary works. Nils Tavernier, son of filmmaker Bertrand Tavernier, endeavors to understand the psychology of dance by talking candidly with some of the biggest stars in dance today about how and why they endure the emotional and physical hardships of their profession.

For screening times call (310) 274-6869 or go to www.laemmle.com.

•At Bergamot Station Track 16 Gallery in Santa Monica on Friday, May 9, at 8 pm. will be “Art of Moving Images,” an evening of several short films and performance art.

The films show how this hybrid art belongs neither among the purely representational nor among the visual arts.

Admission is \$5. Reservations are recommended. Call (310) 264-4678 or visit www.track16.com for information .

At EZTV Cyberspace Gallery from May 14 to May 21, there will be a video archive of 175 entries for this year’s festival and an opportunity to view your own festival selections.

The gallery archive is open noon to 4 p.m. daily at 18th Street Arts Complex, 1629 18th #6, in Santa Monica. For more information call (310) 829-3389 or go to www.eztvmedia.com. Reservations are not necessary.

Also at EZTV, on Saturday May 17, at 7:30 p.m. Festival entrants will show and discuss their works in person, followed by a reception, refreshments and music.

•At Skirball Cultural Center on Sunday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m., will be the documentary film “Dance Under the Swastika,” which explores the careers of dancers and choreographers and the aesthetics of dance during the Nazi era.

For tickets and information call (323) 655-8587 or go to www.skirball.org.

•Several films will also be screened at the American Cinematheque at the Egyptian Theatre: “Last Dance, Pilobolus and Maurice Sendak” is a behind-the-scenes portrait of the stormy, often hilarious collaboration between author-illustrator Maurice Sendak and the acrobatic dance company Pilobolus, on a Holocaust-inspired work.

Screenings are May 2 at 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.; May 3 at noon, which includes a discussion with the director and dancers, and 5 p.m.; May 4 at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.; May 5 and May 9 at 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.; May 10 at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.; and May 11 at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

“In the Mirror of Maya Deren,” and “Queen of the Gypsies, A Portrait of Carmen Amaya,” will screen as a double feature on Tuesday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m.

For more information call (323) 466-FILM or go to www.egyptiantheatre.com.

For more information about the Dance Camera West festival visit www.dancecamerawest.org.
