

LA WEEKLY

calendar

CALENDAR * FILM SPECIAL EVENTS

May 2 - 8, 2003

DANCE CAMERA WEST

As part of a monthlong festival celebrating dance and film (see Good Times, page 65), two evenings of dance-based shorts testify to the myriad possibilities of blending the media. The problems inherent in filming dance, of course, lie in the question of how to make cinematic a stage-bound art form dependent on the human figure, without compromising the integrity of that figure and its movements. In the best of these shorts, each medium enhances the other to achieve an entirely new form. Directed by Benoit Dervaux, with choreography by Heddy Maalem, the brilliant *Black Spring* intercuts solo and ensemble dances — shot by a camera that is itself carefully choreographed — with jumpy Super-8 footage of prosaic African scenes (a port, a busy street). What emerges, slowly and thoughtfully, is a rich, sensual take on the African experience and its history, which posits dance as one of its most elemental parts. Similarly, *Boy*, by Peter Anderson and Rosemary Lee, muses on the primality of dance, as a remarkably expressive youth moves among sand dunes, leaping, creeping and lending instinctive grace to boyish élan. From the UCLA National Dance/Media Project comes *X-ing*, directed by Morleigh Steinberg. Butoh dancer Oguri, halfway between hipster and homeless guy in rubber boots and shimmery black coat, moves through a busy city intersection. Shot from a voyeuristic distance, Oguri's organic movements — here an arm-waving skip through the crosswalk, there a terrifying pause at the center of a forking boulevard — render him at once of a piece with the urban action surrounding him and singularly apart from it. The cumulative effect of the deceptively simple formula is stunning. On the lighter side, *Erè Mèla Mèla* uses stop-motion animation to propel a lovely, comical pas de deux. (Getty Center Harold M. Williams Auditorium; Fri., May 2, 7:30 p.m. & Sat., May 3, 3 p.m. 310-440-7300, www.getty.edu)

—Hazel-Dawn Dumpert