

GOOD TIMES * THE BEST OF CALENDAR



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Twirls on Film

Borne from a humble two-night event at the Getty Center a year ago, Dance Camera West blossoms forth this month as a full-fledged festival of dance on film — or screen dance or whatever you want to call the hybrid of movement and motion pictures that's been gaining momentum over the past decade. Dance-film festivals, too, have been cropping up pretty much everywhere except here in Dream Machine Central, the likeliest of locales one would think. Fortunately, co-directors Kelly Hargraves and Lynette Kessler are intent on catching dance lovers, film buffs and cultural vanguardistas up fast on the international phenomenon with three weeks of screenings spread across the city. The festival gets rolling this weekend with two programs of experimental films demonstrating the flexibility of the visual-kinetic genre, from the stop-motion short *Ere Mela Mela* to *Black Spring*, a docudrama about contemporary African dance, to *Hit and Run*, a feature-length film about urban club kids. Of the 13 selections culled from 175 entries, only four are by U.S. filmmakers; Los Angeles is represented by physical humorist Mitchell Rose's crowd-pleasing *Case Studies From the Groat Center for Sleep Disorders* (pictured above) and Morleigh Steinberg's *X-ing*, featuring local butoh artist Oguri. Other DCW highlights include an evening of performance art and selected shorts; the controversial documentary *Dance Under the Swastika*, which investigates the effect of Nazi politics on the career and aesthetics of founding modern dancers such as Mary Wigman and Rudolf Laban; *Last Dance*, a behind-the-scenes look at a tempestuous collaboration between author-illustrator Maurice Sendak and the dance company Pilobolus; and *In the Mirror of Maya Deren*, a portrait of the avant-garde filmmaker whose 1945 *A Study in Choreography for Camera* can be considered the first of this genre.

—Sara Wolf

Dance Camera West opens at the Getty Center, Harold M. Williams Auditorium, 1200 Getty Center Dr., Brentwood; Fri., May 2, 7:30 p.m., & Sat., May 3, 3 p.m.; free but reservations required. (310) 440-7300. Festival continues through Tues., May 27, at various venues. See Film Special Events for reviews. For a complete schedule, visit www.dancecamerawest.org.
