



Dancing in the Trees

By Andrea Kirk, Editor

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The Dance Camera West grand finale at TreePeople is something that I've been looking forward to since missing the event last year. I was intrigued by the concept of integrating projected film with the outdoor environment - not just showing film outside.

TreePeople headquartered in Coldwater Canyon Park, an environmental organization, and **Dance Camera West**, a dance organization that showcases innovative dance from around the world via film, seems an odd couple. Creating an outdoor film event (a part of the 4th Annual Dance Camera West Festival) using architecture (the newly completed TreePeople Conference Center) surrounded by a wooded landscape presented a series of creative and technical challenges. The marriage worked perfectly and as DCW cofounders Lynette Kessler and Kelly Hargraves intended, the event itself became a large art installation made up of each of the individual film installations, the environment and the audience.

Some of the film exhibits were set up so that an audience could sit or stand in front of and watch as in a theater, outdoors under the stars with city lights below. Other exhibits were projected from ground level onto and within the building and nearby trees. As the audience walked between the projector and the projection surface they altered the film images - in effect becoming a part of the installation.

The exhibition, as a whole, works on several artistic levels: as art, as dance and as film. I personally was interested in it as art and looked forward to seeing the visual effect created by the combination of audience movement, film movement and dance movement.

The Dance Camera West Festival is an annual event that aims to make the art of dance and film more accessible to Los Angeles audiences. It takes place in venues throughout the Los Angeles area during the month of June. If you missed this year's festival, stay tuned for next year's. It will no doubt be different. Nothing stands still in dance and film or stays the same in Los Angeles - and that's what it's all about.

A screen inside the TreePeople Conference Center shows one film while outside another film is projected from ground level onto the exterior walls and reflects off the window glass giving a multidimensional effect. Some of the audience added their own dance movements onto the projections.