

LOS ANGELES CITY BEAT



~Barry & Shauna Walker's *Solara* ~

"The Dance Camera West Film Festival" is a lot of things at a lot of places, but one thing it isn't is stale. Launched in 2002, the still young, annual festival features one month of all-new programming and events. Plus, its very premise – spotlighting dance films and dance for the camera – is pioneering in and of itself. "It really is sort of the future," says founder and executive director Lynette Kessler. "It's not even the future, it's now."

Some of Kessler's programming ideas debut this week, including a "Choreography in Media Honors" winners screening Thursday at the Directors Guild and a screening Sunday of Claire Denis's *Vers Mathilde* at the Aero Theatre in Santa Monica. But the one owing perhaps the most to "now" is Saturday's "Local Makers" event, which screens works by L.A. directors and choreographers and, according to Kessler, wouldn't have been possible in the festival's early years.

"Usually if we show 50 films throughout the month, maybe three will be from the U.S. because there's just so much more work being produced in other countries. They've had funding for the last 20 years for artists to develop their work," she explains. "What has happened in the last five years is that more and more people are making work in the States, and also more L.A. dance artists are moving into dance in media." She credits the increased accessibility of filmmaking in addition to the visibility of Dance Camera West itself. "A lot of them have been coming to the festival, and seeing the work that other artists globally are doing."

"Local Makers" is free to the public and takes place outdoors at the Cheviot Hills Recreation Center in four different areas, divided into the categories of Musical, Urban Dance, Sense of Place, and Art Gallery. Among the more prominently featured shorts are Ari Sandel's Oscar-winning *West Bank Story* and

David La Chapelle's Krumped.

"What's so interesting about the show is that it's so diverse and crazy," Kessler enthuses. "It's like L.A.'s equivalent of going to the drive-in. You know, why would anyone in L.A. want to go and sit in their car and watch a film? So this is sort of like a wandering cinema."

—Alfred Lee

Local Makers – L.A. Choreographers and Dancers. Cheviot Hills Recreation Center, 2551 Motor Ave., L.A., (310) 837-4233. Sat. at 8 p.m. Free. Dancecamerawest.org.

Thursday, June 7, 2007



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