



Speaking In God's Tongue

Friday, June 01, 2007 - Sergio Martinez, Socal.com Editor in Chief



A theologian/anthropologist has just reported in an obscure science journal that after laborious but veritable experimentation, he's been able to corroborate that indeed, divinities are involved in the creation of language. His findings however, leave all of us, speakers, speechless:

'If the gods could be credited with creating any one given language, it would be dance and not speech' the unidentified scientist extorted.

'In dance all emotion's retained, all content is unpolluted, all silhouettes amount to form. Unlike text, movement conveys feeling and raw emotion with more exactitude and lots less chatter and redundancy. Movement is like light. Movement is Light: instantaneous flashes unbound by neither space nor time' said the renegade theologian.

If you could understand divinities while they speak, you'd be sitting down watching contemporary dance in some obscure theatre. You'd be listening intently, with your eyes glued to the screen or stage, scanning keenly every move of those god-awfully graceful bodies. You'd probably say a prayer, with your hands, clapping thank god, thank god for the silence and the dance vocabulary.



Thank God, in the last few decades, there's been a major upsurge in the world of dance. And in the last few years, a steady increase of dance-related films. In LA, there's one authority in this department: **Dance Camera West**.

Led by **Lynnette Kessler**, DCW spearheads the surprisingly new category specializing in dance pieces specially choreographed for the camera. As part of their **6th Annual Film Festival**, DCW presents "**Local Makers – LA Choreographers and Directors**", a free outdoor screening taking place Saturday June 9th, 2007 at Cheviot Hills Recreation Center.

The outdoor facility will be turned into a 'cinematic cross-cultural display with four different screening areas. A perfect community event for family and friends on a summer evening'.

All the films being presented at this outdoor venue have one thing in common: each was created by both LA based directors and choreographers. The offerings range from commercial work, introspective artistic fare, cultural icons and upcoming and emerging artists.

The **Cheviot Hills Recreation Center** is located at **2551 Motor Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90064**. **Admission is free and no reservations are required.** The center can be reached by calling **310-837-4233**.

For more information please visit DCW's site at www.dancecamerawest.org
For details about the four screening areas and the specifics of the films shown, please see below:



On Saturday evening, June 9th, the park will be transformed into four different screening areas – two separate large areas with big screens where people can sit on grassy slopes at each (then alternate) and then the art gallery section where people can stroll and watch more intimate work up-close. Presentations on the two large screens will include a 'Musical Loop', an 'Urban Dance Loop' and in installation form the "Sense of Place Loop", and two smaller plasma screens will show

experimental shorts and art films.

The **'Musical Loop'** portion of the program will feature:

- The hilarious 20-minute film "**I Hate Musicals**" (w/ profanity)
- This year's Oscar winning short film "**West Bank Story**" including a filmed interview with choreographer Ramon Del Barrio and Chita Rivera comparing the two films on the 50th anniversary of *West Side Story*. Ramon is currently on tour with Ms. Rivera hence the taped interview. (Lewis you don't have the taped interview yet.)

The **'Urban Dance Loop'** portion of the program will feature:

- David LaChapelle's "**Krumped**", the 20-minute documentary that preceded his feature film *RIZE*, about the groundbreaking dance phenomenon that's been exploding on the streets of South Central LA.
- Multi-talented dancer, choreographer, director, pop song writer, MTV show creator, Wade Robson screens his film "**Within**."

The **"Sense of Place Loop"** portion of the program will feature two films that explore their environment - one the LA urban landscape the other the heat of the desert.

- Kevin Kane's "**Shelter**" explores displacement and survival through movement, gestural and abstract narrative. Features a multi-generational, multi-cultural cast of 22 performers as they travel through LA's inner urban landscape.
- Barry and Shauna Walker's "**Solara**", which takes place in the Mohave Desert, is about the passions that move us, the energies that flow from us, and about the changes that occur thereafter.
- Mariel McEwan's "**Ascent**" explores our human resistance to the inevitable flow of expansion as the dancer tries to move through rock formations that impede her movement.

The **'Art Gallery Loop'** portion of the program will feature:

- Six short films offering the exploration of the film medium and performance aesthetics. The work is a wide range of the emerging artist southern California has to offer such as Cari Ann Shim Sham to established choreographers like Maria Gillespie, Sarah Elgart, and Oguri.

Photo Credits:

Top Center Photo

an image from the short film: **Minotaur-Ex** (France, 2001)

Director: **Bruno Aveillan**

Choreographer: **Philippe Combes**

Photo Credit: Sylvain Ageorges

Middle Photo

One Flat Thing, reproduced (France 2006)

Director: **Thierry DeMey** (Belgium)

Choreographer: **William Forsythe**

Bottom Left Photo

Pavillon Noir (France/ Switzerland 2006)

Choreographer: **Angelin Preljocaj**
Director: **Pierre Coulibeuf**