



stills from *Dzi Croquettes* courtesy the filmmakers & Dance Camera West

For Immediate Release:

June 17, 2010

Dance Camera West and Grand Performances Present
Dzi Croquettes
Free Outdoor Screening
During Its 9th Annual Dance Media Film Festival
At California Plaza in Downtown Los Angeles
Sunday, June 27, 2010

LOS ANGELES, CA - **Dance Camera West** (DCW) presents an outdoor screening of *Dzi Croquettes*, a lively Brazilian documentary exploring the outrageous all-male cabaret group of the same name, as part of **Grand Performances** at **California Plaza** in Downtown Los Angeles on Sunday, June 27, 2010 at 8:00pm. The cabaret group – Dzi Croquettes – used an empowering sexuality to counter Brazil’s military dictatorship and revolutionize the gay movement worldwide during the 1970’s. Co-director **Raphael Alvarez** will be in town to introduce the film. The event will mark the closing of DCW’s 9th Annual Dance Media Film Festival. Grand Performances events are held in California Plaza between 300 and 350 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90013 (213-687-2190; <http://www.grandperformances.org/>). Admission is free and no reservations are required. The film contains adult content. Street and lot parking are available. For more information please visit DCW’s site at www.dancecamerawest.org.

Directed by **Tatiana Issa** and Raphael Alvarez, this revealing documentary explores the legacy of the daringly original, all-male dance and theater group, Dzi Croquettes. They served not only as outrageous entertainment that combined the language of cabaret with the imagery of Rio’s Carnival, but also as a peaceful form of resistance through glitter, sequins, and dance. Banned and censored under Brazil’s harsh military dictatorship of the 1970s, Dzi Croquettes openly mocked the regime and challenged traditional notions of gender by projecting male virility while dressed in feminine garb during their liberating productions. American Lennie Dale, a Broadway bad boy who lived in Brazil for several years, guided the group with rigorous dance training in the style of Jack Cole and Bob Fosse, elevating the group to absolute professionalism with theatricality and precision. The group was much loved by luminaries such as Mick Jagger, Jeanne Moreau, Josephine Baker, and especially Cabaret star Liza Minnelli, who became a personal friend and helped pave Dzi Croquettes’ way to a European tour and fame. Through a mix of stunning period

footage from their shows and lively talking head interviews, the film recalls the personalities and performances that celebrated individual freedom. Dzi Croquettes won the Best Documentary Jury Award and the Audience Award at the Rio de Janeiro Film Festival.

- Portuguese, English, French dialogue with English subtitles
- Brazil 2009, 95 minutes
- Adult content
- Narrated by co-director Tatiana Issa (Her father, Americo, worked with Dzi Croquettes as a set and lighting designer)
- Co-director Raphael Alvarez will introduce the film
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For more information on this film please see Jay Weissberg's 10/27/09 review in [Variety](#).

Recognized internationally for its presentation and celebration of dance on screen, Dance Camera West's 9th Annual Dance Media Film Festival hosts screenings and events at venues throughout Southern California in June 2010. Dance on screen, or "screendance," is a unique cinematic experience that focuses on the intersection of cinematography and choreography. The festival includes this as well as all forms of dance media. Once again Dance Camera West partners with the city's most prominent venues in offering a host of screenings, installations, and panel discussions with visiting international artists. Besides Grand Performances, this year's venue partners include: REDCAT (The Roy and Edna Disney/CalArts Theater), Los Angeles Theatre Center, the Hammer Museum, Screen Actors Guild, Timothy Yarger Fine Art, and the Cheviot Hills Recreation Center.

Grand Performances: Grand Performances is Southern California's premier presenter of free performing arts programs and a landmark nonprofit arts institution established with a primary focus of bringing together diverse audiences within the City of Los Angeles. Events are held during the summer from June through September with at least one performance per weekend, usually more. Established in 1986, Grand Performances is in the Financial District of Downtown Los Angeles in the California Plaza.

California Plaza: Grand Performances events are held in California Plaza, an urban amphitheatre with a waterfall and reflecting pools in a courtyard surrounded by skyscrapers. People frequently show up a couple hours before events and picnic. The official seating areas are open two hours before each performance. Paid parking located under California Plaza (351 S. Olive Ave). Street parking is free all day Sunday. For directions, see: www.grandperformances.org/en/gp/about/directions.html

Dance Camera West: Dance Camera West is a nonprofit organization committed to fostering and promoting the vibrant art of dance media from around the world. DCW aims to bridge the unique mix of film and dance communities in Los Angeles through the exploration of this hybrid genre. DCW also strives to create a broader and more engaged audience for dance and dance media by merging both performance and cinematic aesthetics. DCW is one of only a handful of organizations in the world that present dance media and the only one of its kind on the West Coast. The 2008 and 2009 festivals were featured in FOX News segments, Los Angeles Magazine selected Dance Camera West as its "Pick of the Month" for the June 2008 issue, the Los Angeles Times selected the Dance Camera West Media Film Festival as one of the "Ten Best" dance events in Los Angeles for 2006 and 2007, and DCW was voted one of the "Top 25 Dance Organizations to Watch" by Dance Magazine in 2005 and 2006. This year's 2010 Dance Camera West Festival is supported in part by Mortimer Levitt Foundation, James Irvine Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural

Affairs, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and Chora, a project of the Metabolic Studio, a direct charitable activity of the Annenberg Foundation.

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Dzi Croquettes