



“Hoop”
Director: Marites Carino
Choreographer and Dancer: Rebecca Hall

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Dance Camera West Announces Tenth Anniversary Dance Media Film Festival, Los Angeles June 2011

Getty Center, UCLA’s Department of World Arts and
Cultures/Dance, UCLA Fowler Museum, Hammer Museum

(Los Angeles, CA) -- A pair of Frisian horses engage in a tender give-and-take; visceral hand-to-hand combat in the Normandy region is gradually deconstructed into graceful and temperate choreography; riders on a city bus throw caution to the wind to interact with one another in shocking, uninhibited ways.

The 33 independent films from 10 countries in **Dance Camera West’s 10th Anniversary Dance Media Film Festival**, to be held **June 16-19 in Los Angeles**, serve to resist and challenge traditional Western notions of dance. Presented through the narrative strategy of “screendance,” audiences are required to rely on instinct and imagination to overcome conventional conceptions of choreography and movement.

Screendance is a unique cinematic experience that merges cinematography and choreography. “**Screendance** stirs the imagination and adds a whole new dimension to understanding movement,” says **Lynette Kessler, founding director of Dance Camera West**. “Our festival includes numerous visual abstractions where the core perception of “dance” as we know it may not exist. We present stimulating and sometimes provocative films that, as our name invokes, are never purely about dance nor wholly concerning film. They might, in other words, depict movement in a conceptual context, with all the eccentricities **screendance** offers as a storytelling medium.”

The festival, which is **free to the public**, opens June 16 at the **Getty Center** with a private pre-screening reception for invited guests and **DCW Membership Pass holders** (see www.dancecamerawest.org for information). The opening night program, “**Global Screendance 1**,” features nine short dance films from around the world, including several U.S. premieres. Shaped by their environments and sociopolitical contexts, the artists’ work in this collection offers various perspectives on a unique need for expression.

For a closer look at transmedia storytelling, **Dance Camera West** presents a full-day conference entitled “**Dance Media: An Active Spectrum**,” to be held on **Friday, June 17**, at **UCLA’s Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance**.

Designed for **dance media's** artistic, academic, and commercial pursuits, the panel discussions will bring together artists, dancers, educators, innovators, and creative and business professionals from the television and film industries. The "Active Spectrum" presents a necessary forum for discussion and networking amongst established and emerging artists facing today's opportunities to produce content across a multitude of platforms. Dinner and a members' reception at **UCLA's Fowler Museum** will follow, with an outdoor screening of nine short films, "**Global Screendance 2**," the second of three unique programs of international short dance films.

The annual "**Weekend at the Hammer**" portion of the festival begins **Saturday, June 18**, with a screening of the multi-award-winning documentary "**The Last Tightrope Dancer in Armenia**." Eight short films of global screendance including a short performance film featuring dancer **Louise Lecavalier** with choreography by **Edouard Locke** of **La La La Human Steps** follows.

Saturday evening, **Oscar-nominated director Mike Figgis** joins **Krista Smith, West Coast Editor of *Vanity Fair***, for a director's talk prior to the **U.S. Premiere of his "The Co(te)lette Film."** Figgis has emerged as a visionary filmmaker who thrives on taking artistic risks, leaving his audience with a long lasting aesthetic impression and visceral experience. A post-screening Q&A and reception with Figgis rounds out the program.

The festival wraps up **June 19**, when the **Hammer Museum** spotlights **three documentaries featuring iconic figures in dance**. Of significant note is "**Never Stand Still**," to be introduced by award-winning producer and director **Ron Honsa**. "**Never Stand Still**" is an inspiring film about dance and the extraordinary performers who have dedicated their lives to it; it was filmed on location at **Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival**, a National Historic Landmark and America's longest running international dance festival.

"The hybrid **screendance** medium is diverse," says Kessler, "encompassing a broad range of cinematographic styles, exhibition formats, and subject matter traversing global perspectives. Audiences, whether or not they are dancers, will be treated to transformative visual experiences that merge performance and cinematic aesthetics."

The 2011 **Dance Camera West 10th Anniversary** event is supported in part by Mortimer Levitt Foundation, Metabolic Studio of the Annenberg Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, and Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Consulate of Mexico in Los Angeles, Consulate for the Netherlands in New York, National Secretary of Culture of Argentina. Our official hotel sponsor is Hotel Palomar Los Angeles/Westwood. This year's community partners include Cinedans Festival Amsterdam, New FilmMakers Los Angeles, and Los Angeles Filmforum.

Please visit **DCW's website** for continuous updates - **www.dancecamerawest.org**.
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ABOUT LYNETTE KESSLER

Dance Camera West founder and executive/artistic director Lynette Kessler is an accomplished dancer, choreographer, and media artist with an MFA in Dance from the University of Michigan and a BFA in Dance from York University in Toronto. Known for her innovative collaborations and dance work for the screen that have been shown in film festivals worldwide, Kessler has received numerous awards including a Lester Horton Dance Award, Alden B. Dow Creativity Fellowship, and an artist residency at Headlands Center for the Arts. She is a founding member of Media & Dance Network (MAD), has served on dance film review committees for EMPAC (Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center) Commission, American Choreography Awards, Dance on Camera Festival in New York, Moving Pictures Festival of Dance on Film in Toronto, and is a guest lecturer at UCLA, UC Irvine, and Cal Arts. Kessler sits on the board of directors for the following organizations: Buckminster Fuller Institute, Dance Channel TV, and the California Ear Unit. She is an active member of the advocacy groups: Arts for LA, California Arts Advocates, and Americans for the Arts. And she's also on the Media Arts Advisory Committee to guide the new Media Arts initiative creating a fifth arts discipline for Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

ABOUT DANCE CAMERA WEST

Dance Camera West (DCW) 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.

CONTACT

For complete schedule information, trailers, or high-res photos, go to www.dancecamerawest.org. To interview DCW's founder Lynette Kessler or other festival participants, please contact Counterintuity's Lisa Singelyn at 818-731-0935 or lisa@counterintuity.com.