



Dance Camera West Announces Free Dance Media Film Festival June 16-19

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33 independent films from 10 countries in Dance Camera West's 10th Anniversary Dance Media Film Festival, June 16-19 throughout Los Angeles, will serve to resist and challenge traditional notions of dance.

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Presented through the narrative strategy of "screendance," merging cinematography and choreography, audiences are required to rely on instinct and imagination to overcome conventional conceptions of choreography and movement.

"Screendance stirs the imagination and adds a new dimension to understanding movement," said Lynette Kessler, founding director of Dance Camera West. "Our festival includes visual abstractions where the core perception of 'dance' may not exist. We present stimulating and sometimes provocative films that, as our name invokes, are never purely about dance nor wholly concerning film."

The festival, which is **free** to the public, opens June 16 at the Getty Center, with screenings of nine short dance films from around the world.

For a closer look at transmedia storytelling, DCW presents a full-day conference at UCLA on June 17 entitled "Dance Media: An Active Spectrum." An outdoor screening of nine short films follows.

"A Weekend at the Hammer" begins June 18, featuring award-winning documentaries, global screendance shorts, and a talk by Oscar-nominated director Mike Figgis prior to the U.S. Premiere of his "The Co(te)lette Film." Figgis is 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 members' reception with Figgis rounds out the program.

The festival concludes June 19, with a visual spotlight on iconic figures in dance and extraordinary performers who have dedicated their lives to it.

"The hybrid screendance medium is diverse," says Kessler, "encompassing a broad range of cinematographic styles, 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 festival 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.

For complete information, go to www.dancecamerawest.org.

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