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San Francisco Dance Film Festival Announces Lineup for 8th Annual Fall Festival October 19-22 at Brava Theater Center in San Francisco

San Francisco, CA – San Francisco Dance Film Festival (SFDFFF) announces line-up for the 2017 festival including films submitted by IMZ members. For the first time, SFDFFF has designated a special venue to screen live-performance captured films. Films from EuroArts and Bel Air Media—Alexander Ekman’s “Swan Lake” and “Midsummer Nights Dream”, the Dutch National Ballet’s “Mata Hari” and “The Ninth Symphony by Maurice Bejart” will all be screened at the 8th annual fall festival. The festival will feature over 90 dance films from around the world, running Thursday, October 19 through Sunday, October 22 across four venues. Along with screenings, the full festival will include opening and closing receptions, post-screening Q&A with filmmakers, brief live performances, and special presentations. Another new addition this year will be an exhibition of VR 360 films where participants in headsets can virtually step inside the dances of Paul Taylor, relive the history of Cuban dance, and more. An exciting collaboration with Catharine Clark Gallery will extend the festival with an exhibition of art/experimental films running from September 9 through October 28, 2017. The festival will wrap up with premieres of two new films from SFDFFF’s annual filmmaking project, the Co-Laboratory and other local shorts. The evening will culminate in an awards ceremony featuring cash prizes in eight categories.

Below are highlights from this year’s programming. Complete information is available at

www.sfdancefilmfest.org

FESTIVAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

7:00 pm, Thursday, October 5

The Atrium Theater, Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Marcelo Gomes: Anatomy of a Male Ballet Dancer

USA, 2017 (1hr 23 min.) (West Coast Premiere)

Directors: David Barba & James Pellerito

Anatomy of a Male Ballet Dancer is an engaging behind-the-scenes portrait of Brazilian-born American Ballet Theatre star Marcelo Gomes. Widely considered the greatest partner of his generation, every ballerina wants to dance with Marcelo. From his struggle to reach the top of the ballet world, to his complicated relationship with his father, the film takes us on Marcelo's journey from the heart of the

Amazon to the most important international stages. At the height of his athletic and artistic abilities, Marcelo manages his injuries and contemplates how long he can continue doing what he loves. Filmmakers and special guests will participate in a post-screening conversation and reception. Tickets: \$100

Opening Night 2017: INTERNATIONAL SHORTS I
Thursday, October 19 at 7:30 pm - Brava Theater Center (2781 24th St, SF)

See the SF Dance Film Festival's top short films of 2017 on opening night in an eclectic mix of screendance from around the world at the Brava Theater Center in San Francisco. Film highlights will include a provocative animated piece, *SAMT (silence)* from Aoun Chadi of Lebanon, about a fanatic dictatorship where dance is the secret code of silent resistance (Bay Area Premiere), and the US Premiere of *Juliet, Juliet, & Juliet* by Swedish choreographer Giovanni Bucchieri featuring veteran artists Ana Laguna and Stina Ekblad. Another US Premiere on the bill is the playful *Curing Albrecht*, by Jessica Wright & Morgann Runacre-Temple, commissioned by the English National Ballet. The screening will be followed by a brief discussion with the evening's filmmakers and will include a prosecco welcome and intermission reception for all ticket holders and filmmakers. Tickets \$25 / Full Festival Pass \$125 / Festival Patron Pass \$225

ADDITIONAL FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Fire and Ashes: Making the Ballet RAKU

USA, 2017 (60 min: Documentary plus complete performance)
(World Premiere) Director: Shirley Sun; Choreographer: Yuri Possokhov
Featuring current and former San Francisco Ballet Principal Dancers Yuan Yan Tan, Damian Smith, Pascal Molat

This illuminating one-hour film goes behind the scenes with composer Shinji Eshima and San Francisco Ballet resident choreographer Yuri Possokhov as they recount their collaboration with the original cast of the ballet "RAKU". The contributions of Butoh, martial arts, Zen chanters, the rigors of rehearsal, and the enduring friendships of the artists are all featured in the documentary preceding the stunning performance which was recorded in a film studio.

(Friday, October 20 at 7:00 pm - Brava Theater Center (2781 24th St) / Tickets \$15)

Shake The Dust

USA, 2015 (1 hr., 24 min.) Director: Adam Sjöberg

From executive producer and rapper Nasir "Nas" Jones and journalist-turned-filmmaker Adam Sjöberg, *Shake The Dust* chronicles the influence of breakdancing, exploring how it strikes a resonant chord in the slums, favelas and ghettos of the world and far beyond. Showcasing some of the most jaw-dropping breakdancing moves ever committed to film, *Shake the Dust* is an inspiring tribute to the uplifting power of music and movement. With the short *Ghost Story*, featuring celebrated flex dancers Storyboard P and Ghost. **(Saturday, October 21, 8:30 pm - Brava Theater (2781 24th St) / Tickets \$15)**

Rebels on Pointe

Canada, 2017 (1 hr. 30 min.) Director: Bobbi Jo Hart

Rebels on Pointe is the first-ever cinema verite documentary that intimately follows Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, the all male, drag ballet company founded in 1974 that has a cult following around the world. **(Friday, October 20 at 7:00 pm - Brava Theater Center (2781 24th St) / Tickets \$15)**

A Swan Lake

Norway, 2014 (1 hr., 38 min.)

(West Coast Premiere) Director: Jeff Tudor; Choreographer: Alexander Ekman

Recorded live at Norwegian National Ballet.

As a follow-up to *Rare Birds* (USA/Norway, 2014) by director T.M. Rives, the Festival's popular 2015 award winner for Best Documentary that took audiences deep into the process behind Swedish choreographer Alexander Ekman's wild and elaborate production of "A Swan Lake", the Festival will present a vibrant capture of the full finished stage work. Never before seen in San Francisco, *A Swan Lake* has become a sensation in Europe, nominated for the 2014 Prix Benois de la Danse. **(Saturday, October 21 at 8:00pm) - Variety Club Preview Room 582 Market St. Ste. 101, SF / Tickets \$20)**

Also on the live performance capture bill is Ekman's *Midsummernight's Dream* with the Royal Swedish Ballet, *The Ninth Symphony by Maurice Bejart* filmed live in Tokyo, and *Mata Hari* by award-winning choreographer Ted Brandsen featuring the Dutch National Ballet. **(Saturday, October 21, see schedule for times) - Variety Club Preview Room 582 Market St. Ste. 101 / Tickets \$20)**

After You're Gone

Russian Federation, 2016 (2 hr.) (U.S. Premiere) Director: Anna Matison

Feature-length drama portraying an acerbic, retired Bolshoi dancer Aleksey Temnikov, played by Sergey Bezrukov, one of Russia's most celebrated actors, as he struggles to reconcile his tumultuous life and create a lasting work after being diagnosed with a degenerative and fatal condition. The film commissioned a new ballet, "Symphony in Three Movements," by choreographer Radu Poklitaru which is now included in the Mariinsky Ballet repertoire. Maestro Valery Gergiev plays himself in this dramatic film and also supported the production of the film.

(Saturday, October 21 at 1:00 pm) - Brava Theater Center (2781 24th St) / Tickets \$15)

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

Three additional shorts programs include a program of films by female filmmakers, (Saturday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m.); "12 under 10", a diverse sampling of screendance shorts under 10 minutes (Sunday, October 22 at 4:00 p.m.); and a documentary program (Saturday, October 21, 4:00 p.m.) where people from around the world overcome obstacles, question social norms, and create new communities through dance. **Brava Theater Center (2781 24th St) / Tickets \$15**

CLOSING NIGHT CELEBRATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY WITH 2017 CO-LABORATORY PREMIERES AND LOCAL SHORTS

The 2017 Co-Laboratory, a unique collaboration between two teams of local choreographers and filmmakers, will premiere the project's two short dance films. This year's teams include choreographer Robert Dekkers with filmmaker Marta Dymek and RAWdance (choreographers Wendy Rein, Ryan T. Smith) with filmmaker Shelley Lewis. A collection of local shorts including films by Walter Yamazaki with Diablo Ballet, Mimi Cave, RJ Muna with choreographer Dexandro Montalvo and Dance Theater of San Francisco, and a moving silent film by Qiyang Lin featuring deaf local dancer Antoine Hunter, will be screened as part of the celebration. The evening will conclude with SFDFFF's award ceremony, which, for the first time, will include cash awards for winners, chosen by an invited jury, in eight categories. **(Sunday, October 22 at 6:00pm - Brava Theater Center (2781 24th St) / Tickets \$20)**