



Media contact:

Larsen Associates at (415) 957-1205 or publicity@larsenassc.com

Please do not publish this phone number as it is not the public information number

San Francisco Dance Film Festival Announces Lineup for 7th Fall Festival October 20-23 at Brava Theater Center in San Francisco

October 19 Kick-Off Event at Taube Atrium Theater, Veterans Building

San Francisco, CA – The San Francisco Dance Film Festival (SFDFFF) announces programming for its 7th fall festival October 20 to 23 at the Brava Theater Center in San Francisco. Seventy films from all around the globe, including many U.S. premieres, will offer Bay Area audiences a kaleidoscopic look at dance in its varied forms, both old and new. From the award-winning documentary on Nureyev’s dramatic defection in Paris and a compelling story about Calisthenics, a unique form of competitive dancing in Australia; to topics featuring Memphis Jookin and hip-hop and a revealing look at black dancers in the predominantly and historically white world of ballet, SFDFFF’s line-up will offer films that push the boundaries of great filmmaking and great dancing. For tickets and more information please visit www.sfdancefilmfest.org.

FESTIVAL KICK-OFF AND FUNDRAISING EVENT

Wednesday, October 19 at 7:00pm – Taube Atrium Theater
Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA

Rudolf Nureyev - Dance to Freedom

UK, 2015 (90 min.)

(U.S. premier) Writer/Director: Richard Curson-Smith

This close-focus dramatized documentary tells the extraordinary story of Soviet dancer Rudolf Nureyev’s defection to the West at the height of the Cold War. Filmed in St. Petersburg and Paris, the film is narrated by those involved in the events, including first time testimony from key participants, and includes performance re-enactments by Bolshoi star Artem Ovcharenko.

Also on the program is *In the Countenance of Kings*, a short film adaptation of Justin Peck's new work for San Francisco Ballet.

Opening Night 2016: INTERNATIONAL SHORTS I (73 min)

Thursday, October 20 at 7:30pm – Brava Theater Center

2781 24th Street, San Francisco, CA

An evocative and eclectic mix of short films from around the world opens the 2016 festival. The program takes us across the globe, from Tahiti and a joyful traditional dance in *Ori Tahiti*, to Glasgow and a labyrinthine foray through a mysterious empty swimming pool in *Maze*; onward to Finland for a humorous send-up of bureaucratic absurdities in *Body Language Zone* and further to a sobering depiction of the Syrian tragedy with *Message To...*

MEMPHIS JOOKIN: THE HISTORY OF STREET STYLE

Friday, October 21 at 7:30pm – Brava Theater Center

Pharaohs of Memphis

U.S., 2015 (56 min)

(West Coast premier) Director: Phoebe Driscoll

This fascinating film explores the Memphis Jookin community that sprang up from the streets in the 1980s and was originally a way to keep gang warfare at bay. The film employs contemporary dance competitions as well as archival footage to depict the complex world of Jookin, a style both inspiring and unrelenting. The film is soundtracked primarily by current Memphis hip-hop groups; Iron Mic Coalition, Preauxx, and The Sidewayz all contribute to the importance of localized music as related to dance.

Sharing the bill are two shorts *Without A Word* from UK director Youness Benali where movement is used to express raw feelings and emotions and *Crack the Cypher* by director Marites Carino, featuring the Canadian conceptual hip-hop duo Tentacle Tribe (Emmanuelle Lê Phan and Elon Höglund).

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 2 – LOST & FOUND (68 min)

Friday, October 21 at 9:30pm – Brava Theater Center

The second shorts programs features a collection of international films curated around the theme of “lost and found,” where the dramatic experience of getting lost, whether in the vast beauty of the expansive countryside, the comfort of a familiar place, or through being subjected to the perils of war, hopelessness, and even madness is offset by the transformative reassurance of finding oneself again. Films from South Africa, Germany, Argentina, France, and more make up this collection.

DANCE COMPETITION: ONE DANCER'S LAST CHANCE

Saturday, October 22 at 2:00pm – Brava Theater Center

Graceful Girls

Australia, 2015 (95 min.)

(U. S. premier) Director: Olivia Peniston-Bird

In the beautiful, demanding and uniquely Australian dance sport of Calisthenics, there is only one solo prize that matters: ‘Most Graceful Girl.’ Director Olivia Peniston-Bird’s feature documentary *Graceful Girls* takes a look at the generational legacy of this competition that is little known outside of Australia, and captures the emotional rollercoaster of winning and losing the coveted title.

The short film *itsy bitsy*, a whimsical collage of sound, color, and expressionistic movement by the twin Kusanagi Sisters, opens the program.

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 3 – FACES OF LOVE

Saturday, October 22 at 4:30pm – Brava Theater Center

International Shorts 3 presents a collection of nine shorts exploring the many faces of love. *In Passing*, starring four New York City Ballet dancers, depicts the crush of betrayal; *Tailored* humorously indulges in frenetic infatuation; *Click Clack Click* playfully presents fantasy gone awry and *The Girl in the Green Dress* depicts the pains of forbidden love. Films from New Zealand, Slovakia, and the United Kingdom round out the program.

BALLROOM: AGAINST THE ODDS

Saturday, October 22 at 7:30pm – Brava Theater Center

Kick Ball Change

Russia, 2016 (54 min)

(U.S. premier) Director: Guy Sadot

Kick Ball Change offers a glimpse into the creative, crazy and inspiring mind of Maxim Kozhevnikov who, although born visually impaired and with an imperfect development of the heart, went on to become a five-time professional ballroom dance world champion. The film takes the viewers on the long journey from concept to the stage, passing through modern art galleries in Las Vegas, a recording studio in New York, an Israeli dance club, and Maxim's parent's kitchen in Russia. It is a cinematic mosaic featuring Maxim's work, colleagues and teachers, friends and family members, who all together reveal to the viewer the world behind Maxim's fantastic dance-world life.

Also on the program are the shorts *Warehouse Samba*, where dancers dance to music made from the sounds of their own movements, and *Clave*, a spicy tale of romance about a young man's desire to win a girl's heart through salsa dance.

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 4 – SATURDAY NIGHT SHORTS

Saturday, October 22 9:30pm – Brava Theater Center

The final collection of screendance shorts from around the world, is centered on the themes of light, loss, oppression, and scaling heights told through dance. Anchored by the Australian autobiographical feature *Ward of the State*, about girls who were stolen from their families and placed in convents, the program also includes films from Mexico, Canada, and the U.S. and concludes with the world premier of Bay-Area filmmaker Austin Forbord's compelling new film exploring the plight of formerly incarcerated men and their relationship to their sons.

DANCE IN CUBA: STEP ONE

Sunday, October 23 at 2:00pm – Brava Theater Center

Primaria

U.S., 2016 (83 min.)

(West Coast premier) Director: Mary Jane Doherty

Primaria is a documentary following three young dancers throughout four years of their elite elementary-ballet training program in Havana, Cuba. The children's goal is to make it into the world-famous Ballet High School of Cuba at age 15. Through cinematic tableaux interwoven with intensely private moments at home and school, *Primaria* traces each child's blossoming over four years of grueling training until all three emerge as teenagers, poised to confront their futures.

Jody Oberfelder's colorful short, *Dance of the Neurons*, where twenty-four dancers playfully simulate the birth of neurons will open the program.

BLACK BALLERINA

Sunday, October 23 at 4:00pm – Brava Theater Center

Black Ballerina

U.S., 2015 (60 min.)

(West Coast premier) Director: Frances McElroy

Set in the overwhelmingly white world of classical dance the documentary *Black Ballerina* tells the stories of several black women from different generations who fell in love with ballet and of the challenges they faced pursuing their dreams of careers in classical dance. Despite the successes of such stellar artists as Misty Copeland, Olivia Boisson, and Kimberly Braylock, determined dancers of color still face formidable challenges.

Preceded by *CODA*, a short film that features animated dancers dissolving into particles of light, and *Reborn*, a uniquely intimate look at London's Royal Ballet principal dancer Lauren Cuthbertson.

CLOSING NIGHT CELEBRATIONS: FESTIVAL AWARDS AND LOCAL SHORTS 1 (58 min)

Sunday, October 23 at 6:00pm – Brava Theater Center

Festival awards will be presented by SFDFP's award jury members prior to the screening of the first of two local shorts programs that will close the festival. The first program includes films by Kate Duhamel, Amy Seiwert and Ben Estabrook, RJ Muna, and Walter Yamazaki, and a film featuring San Francisco Ballet principal dancer Maria Kochetkova and choreographer Jorma Elo.

CO-LABORATORY SCREENING AND LOCAL SHORTS 2 (64 min)

Sunday, October 23 at 7:45pm – Brava Theater Center

The 2016 Co-Laboratory films, a unique collaboration between two teams of local choreographers and filmmakers, will premiere two short dance films on the closing night of the festival. Choreographer Nicole Klaymoon, artistic director of the Embodiment Project, is paired with Chinese/Danish-American writer and director Joe Stillwater, and two award-winning artists, choreographer Deborah Slater and filmmaker/cinematographer Hervé Cohen form the second team.

A second program of local shorts will also be screened as part of the traditional closing night celebration for local choreographers, dancers, filmmakers and audiences. Included are shorts by champion Latin dancer, Tytus Bergstrom, and a twelve-minute documentary by Carmen Román, artistic director of Cunamacué, an Oakland-based dance company dedicated to the promotion and continuity of Afro-Peruvian culture.

NEW LOBBY INSTALLATION RUNS THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL

New to the Festival this year is the special stand-alone installation "Sand Castles" exploring architectural and atmospheric spaces. Featuring five international films chosen for their unique components, these films *Burning as it Runs* (U.S.), *Desert Widow* (U.S.) *Sand* (Sweden), *Snags in Palladio* (Italy), and *Otis Walks into the Woods* (U.S.) will be screened on continual display in the lobby of the Brava Theater during the entire four-day festival.

The Running Tongue

UK, 2016 (120' – loop)

(U.S. premier) Director: David Hinton
Catharine Clark Gallery
248 Utah Street, San Francisco, CA

SFDFE is collaborating with new partners to expand the festival's venues for presenting films that are suited for or were specifically made for a gallery experience. Catharine Clark Gallery in San Francisco will be including the film installation *The Running Tongue* created by UK choreographer Siobhan Davies and filmmaker David Hinton as part of the gallery's extended program *Box Blur*, which will be presented in conjunction with artist Kambui Olujimi's exhibition *What Endures*. From September 10 – October 29, *Box Blur* will explore the intersection of dance/movement and the visual arts with an exhibition, performances and events curated by Catharine Clark for her gallery. *The Running Tongue* will be screened at the Gallery multiple times during the Festival dates, October 20 – 23. Please contact the gallery for specific screening times: 415-399-1439 or cclarkgallery.com