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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
with special screenings on October 5 and 12**

San Francisco, CA – San Francisco Dance Film Festival (SFDF) announces its 2017 selections for the 8th annual festival, featuring over 90 dance films from the Bay Area and 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&As with filmmakers, brief live performances, and special presentations. In addition, for the first time this year, SFDF will present 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. Also new on the bill is a dedicated venue for live performance captures, bringing important new works from Europe to San Francisco for the first time. 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 a celebration of Bay Area artists, including screenings of local shorts and the premieres of two new films from SFDF's annual filmmaking project, the Co-Laboratory. The closing program will culminate in an awards ceremony featuring, for the first time, cash prizes in eight categories.

Below are highlights of this year's programming. Complete information is available at www.sfdancefilmfest.org

FESTIVAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

Thursday, October 5, 7:00 pm

The Atrium Theater, Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco / Tickets: \$100

Marcelo Gomes: Anatomy of a Male Ballet Dancer

USA, 2017 (83 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. Every ballerina wants to dance with Marcelo, widely considered the greatest partner of his generation. Ranging 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. Marcelo Gomes will participate in a post-screening conversation with former ABT dancer Kristine Elliot and attend the reception with other special guests.

SPECIAL EVENT WITH UCSF

Enter the Faun

USA, 2014 (68 min)

Directors: Tamar Rogoff & Daisy Wright

Thursday, October 12, 4:00 pm - Byers Hall at UCSF's Mission Bay Campus, 1700 Fourth St, SF

Tickets: reservations required for free admittance

SFDFFF partners with UCSF/Reel Abilities and its Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science to present the documentary film *Enter the Faun*. An unlikely collaboration between a veteran choreographer and a young actor with cerebral palsy delivers astonishing proof that everyone is capable of transformation. As choreographer Rogoff trains Gregg Mozgala to dance, the two discover that her lack of formal medical training and his fears and physical limitations are not obstacles but the impetus for her choreography and their unprecedented discoveries. Rogoff and Mozgala will be joined immediately after the screening by dance therapist Anne Krantz and Dr. Kimberly Topp, UCSF's Chair of Physical Therapy for a discussion and Q&A.

Opening Night 2017: INTERNATIONAL SHORTS I

Thursday, October 19 at 7:30 pm - Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St, San Francisco

Tickets \$25 / Full Festival Pass \$125 / Festival Patron Pass \$225

See the San Francisco 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 local artists Natasha Adorlee Johnson (ODC/Dance Company Member, Artistic Director of Concept 04), and filmmaker Max Sachar (Pixar), who teamed up to co-direct *Take Your Time*, a five-minute short choreographed backward and filmed in a single shot, with impressive results (US Premiere). The screening will include a prosecco welcome and intermission reception for all ticket holders and filmmakers.

ADDITIONAL FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:

(World Premiere) *Fire and Ashes: Making the Ballet RAKU*

USA, 2017 (60-minute film comprised of a short documentary and 35-minute performance.)

Director: Shirley Sun; Choreographer: Yuri Possokhov, featuring current and former San Francisco Ballet Principal Dancers Yuan Yan Tan, Damian Smith, Pascal Molat

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

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, and 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.

Rebels on Pointe

Canada, 2017 (90 min) Director: Bobbi Jo Hart

Friday, October 20 at 9:00 pm – Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St / Tickets \$15

Rebels on Pointe is the first-ever cinema verité 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.

Shake The Dust

USA, 2015 (84 min) Director: Adam Sjöberg

Saturday, October 21 at 8:30 pm – Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St. / Tickets \$15

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.

A Swan Lake

Norway, 2014 (98 min)

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

Recorded live at Norwegian National Ballet.

Saturday, October 21, 8:00 pm - Variety Club Preview Room, 582 Market St. Ste. 101, SF / Tickets \$20

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.

Also on the live performance capture bill is Ekman’s *Midsummer Night’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 (120 min)

(North American Premiere) Director: Anna Matison

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

Feature-length fictional drama portraying 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, choreographer Radu Poklitaru’s “Symphony in Three Movements,” which is now included in the Mariinsky Ballet repertoire. Maestro Valery Gergiev plays himself in this dramatic film and also supported its production.

INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St / Tickets \$15

Three additional shorts programs include a full program of films by female filmmakers (Saturday, October 21 at 6:00 pm); "Around The World In Ten Films," a diverse sampling of shorts from Kenya to South Africa, Italy to Brazil (Sunday, October 22 at 4:00 pm); and a documentary program (Saturday, October 21, 4:00 pm) featuring people from around the world who overcome obstacles, question social norms, and create new communities through dance.

FREE EVENTS - REGISTER FOR FREE ADMISSION

BODY SCRIPTING WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 14, 12:00-2:00 pm - Jewish Community Center of SF, 3200 California Street

Tamar Rogoff and Gregg Mozgala offer a workshop in partnership with UCSF/ReelAbilities and SFDFP, coinciding with the screening of the documentary *Enter the Faun*. The film shows how the choreographer Tamar trained Gregg, an actor with cerebral palsy, to become a dancer. They will demonstrate the experimental methods used to transform Gregg's body. This two-hour workshop is open to all, from dancers to physical therapists, from people with disabilities to neurologists. *No movement training necessary. Limited to the first forty registered guests.*

FILMMAKERS' FORUM -

Friday, October 20, 1:00 - Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St.

Dance filmmakers from around the world will be present for a discussion about their films and their ideas for development in the field.

DISCOVERING DV8 FOUNDER NIGEL CHARNOK'S ARTISTRY THROUGH ARCHIVES

Friday, October 20, 2:00-3:00 pm - Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St.

UK filmmaker Graham Clayton-Chance discusses his short, *You*, which captures a provocative solo about love, sex, and relationships from the archive of late choreographer, dancer and writer Nigel Charnok, founder and member of the groundbreaking UK dance company DV8 Physical Theatre. Clayton-Chance will present through Nigel's personal archives a journey of this influential artist's life and his daring works before, during and after his work with DV8 in the late 80s including video excerpts from the controversial *Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men*.

The Body As Archive

Germany, 2016 (49 min) Director: Michael Maurissens

Friday, October 20, 4:30 pm - Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St.

The Body as Archive is a documentary based on research into ways the dancer's body can be regarded as an archive. The research is framed by a few hypotheses, e.g., is the body of a dancer only a repository of forms of usage? A fascinating and focused debate, illustrated with dancers in motion and presenting views from neurologists, choreographers, dancers and archivists in beautifully composed interviews.

VR PANEL: ENTERING THE DANCESCAPE

Sunday, October 22, 2:00 pm - Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St.

Guest filmmakers Aaron Rhodes, Luke Willis, Andrew Asnes and others discuss the myriad possibilities for virtual-reality dance films as they experiment with the latest in technology and filmmaking. The VR panel will be held in conjunction with SFDFP's "VR Experience," a hands-on exhibit of six immersive 360/VR dance films, to be screened throughout the weekend (see website for specific schedule).

ART/EXPERIMENTAL EXHIBITION

CATHARINE CLARK GALLERY - BOX BLUR 2.0 PROGRAMMING

Saturday, September 9 – Saturday, October 28 – 248 Utah Street, San Francisco / Free

Select art/experimental films will be screened in conjunction with the exhibition *Hollow and Swell* in the gallery's media room, beginning September 9. Films are directed by an international roster of filmmakers and include *Genome*, directed by Loughlan Prior and Jeremy Brick; *The Sum of All Parts*, directed by Peter Bilak and Lukas Timulak; *White Spirit*, directed by Aude Thuries; and *Womb*, directed by Gilles Jobin. Filmmakers will be in attendance for a Champagne reception on **Saturday, October 20 at 5pm.**

CLOSING NIGHT CELEBRATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

WITH 2017 CO-LABORATORY PREMIERES AND LOCAL SHORTS

Sunday, October 22, 6:00 pm - Brava Theater Center, 2781 24th St. / Tickets \$20

The 2017 Co-Laboratory, a unique collaboration between two teams of local choreographers and filmmakers, will premiere the project's two short dance films recorded at the SF Armory. 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 Qiying Lin featuring deaf local dancer Antoine Hunter will be screened as part of the celebration. The evening will conclude with SFDF's award ceremony, which, for the first time, will include cash awards for winners in eight categories, chosen by an invited jury.