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For Immediate Release

**SF DANCE FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS FOURTH ANNUAL EVENT,
SEPTEMBER 12-15, 2013
Screenings at The Roxie Theater and Delancey Screening Room**

SAN FRANCISCO—July 17, 2013—The San Francisco Dance Film Festival (SFDFF) announces its fourth annual festival—*dance screen 2013 with San Francisco Dance Film Festival*—to be presented at new festival venues* the Roxie Theater, Thursday September 12 and at Delancey Screening Room, Friday, September 13–Sunday, September 15. The complete lineup of films will be announced August 1, along with international guests and celebrations. For ticket information, please visit the San Francisco Dance Film Festival online at www.sfdancefilmfest.org.

*The originally announced venue for the event, Landmark’s Embarcadero Cinemas, cancelled all bookings due to delays in their renovations.

The four-day event will be produced in collaboration with world-renowned European media arts organization, IMZ—International Music + Media Center. Celebrating its 25th anniversary, IMZ’s dance screen is one of Europe’s oldest and most prestigious competitions and festivals for dance films, now partnering for the first time with a U.S. festival to present the best dance films from around the world.

The collaboration between IMZ’s dance screen and SFDFF marks a first for local filmmakers and artists from the dance community. Specifically, the partnership will enable SFDFF participants to meet the European distributors who support, create and distribute dance content to audiences worldwide. SFDFF’s Managing Director Judy Flannery notes, “We’re thrilled to welcome filmmakers, broadcasters, and distributors from around the world to *dance screen 2013 with San Francisco Dance Film Festival*. We’re confident they will enjoy discovering many of our local filmmakers and artists whose works will be seen during the festival. And SFDFF is delighted to be able to present many films and programs from Europe and the UK that reflect the dynamic, diverse world of dance.”

PUBLIC FORUM

On September 13 and 14, the program also includes a public forum of panel presentations with professionals from the field of dance, music, filmmaking, technology/media, education, and visual arts. In particular, industry leaders will have a chance to present and discuss topics that range from the evolution of dance on screen, an exploration of how science and technology influence dance, to effective pitching techniques for filmmakers. The forum will also explore the new dynamics involved in creating and distributing the growing art of screendance—dance choreographed specifically to the camera—to a global audience, attracting international broadcasters and distributors.

DANCE SCREEN 2013

The festival will screen nearly 50 films, with 21 additional films on viewing stations at the Museum of Performance + Design (MP+D). With many of the shorts programs screening at the Roxie and Delancey Theaters, MP+D will accommodate the special categories of programs that feature full-length performances or long form documentaries, available for public screening on viewing stations from September 12 -30 (Museum hours are Wednesday through Saturday 12:30- 7:30pm). All 70 films, including those screened at MP+D, will be in the competition with the jury selecting a best in each category. Awards will be presented on closing night and include the dance screen cash prize of \$5,000 for the best overall film and \$2,000 for the best student film.

Award Jury Members for the 2013 festival competition include the BalletBoyz®, with founders Michael Nunn & William Trevitt, hailed as pioneers for reaching a wider audience through their celebrated stage and television work; Ellen Bromberg, a choreographer, filmmaker, curator and educator with works presented on public television stations, online channels, and at numerous national and international dance film festivals; Lynette Kessler, producer, media consultant, curator and founder of Dance Camera West Dance Media Festival; and Muriel Maffre formerly with Hamburg Ballet, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo and San Francisco Ballet where she was principal for 17 years; she is currently the director of MP+D.

Festival program highlights include diverse dance styles and numerous local and international directors, presented through a broad selection of shorts, as well as highly acclaimed long-form productions. SFDFE Executive Director Greta Schoenberg says, “The screendance shorts are truly the heart of the festival. These mixed programs are popular with audiences and allow us to support more talented filmmakers by packing nearly fifty films into four days”. However, the collaboration with IMZ’s dance screen presents a unique opportunity for programs submitted by broadcasters and distributors, resulting in a number of full-length productions featured on public viewing stations at MP+D such as *Cinderella*, *Romeo & Juliet*, and San Francisco Ballet’s recent production of *The Little Mermaid*. Many of the filmmakers will be attending and participating in Q&A sessions after the films.

Selections will include notable productions such as:

- **MATTHEW BOURNE’S SWAN LAKE IN 3D** — a stunning re-interpretation of *Swan Lake* trades in the traditional female *corps de ballet* for a menacing cast of male dancers.
- **40M UNDER** — choreographer Alexander Ekman’s first lengthy film project, featuring the Cullberg Ballet.

- **BALLET BOYZ: THE NEXT GENERATION** — follows the meteoric rise of the all male dance company exemplifying 21st-century choreography. Hailing from the U.K., Ballet Boyz founders will also be in attendance.
- **ALICE’S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND: THE MAKING OF** — follows the creative process of Christopher Wheeldon’s *Alice In Wonderland* with the Royal Ballet.
- **BUDDING STARS** — profiles the young aspiring students of the Paris Opera School, where the greatest “étoiles” (i.e., principal dancers) are trained.

CO-LABORATORY PROJECT

The festival will also present the first Co-Laboratory project, a unique collaboration between three choreographers and filmmakers who will create three short dance films one week before the festival. Funded in part by The Kenneth Rainin Foundation, and in partnership with the Djerassi Resident Artists Program, the three original interdisciplinary works for the screen will be premiered on the closing night of the festival, September 15. SFDFFF intends to have the Co-Laboratory be an annual event to inspire and support local artists of different disciplines to collaboratively create dance films for local and global audiences. Co-Laboratory artists include choreographer Amy Seiwert with filmmakers John Haptas and Kris Samuelson; choreographer Yaelisa with director John Korty; and choreographer KT Nelson and Chris Mason Johnson, director. Bios for participants available at www.sfdancefilmfest.org/2013/festival-program/co-lab/.

PARTNERS

dance screen 2013 with the San Francisco Dance Film Festival is co-presented by the San Francisco Film Society and San Francisco Ballet. Each organization engages Bay Area dance and film communities, encouraging local filmmakers, dancers and enthusiasts to participate in the festival and conference. “There couldn’t be a more ideal group of organizations joining forces to bring this fantastic program of dance films to the Bay Area,” said Ted Hope, executive director of the San Francisco Film Society. “SFSS is thrilled to be working with these partners to share original work that represents the intersection of two essential art forms. Anyone with a serious interest in dance or cinema is going to want to be a part of this festival.” These partners appreciate the importance of this year’s festival and proudly assert their influence. San Francisco Ballet Executive Director Glenn McCoy said, “San Francisco Ballet is proud to collaborate on this year’s festival, *dance screen 2013*, which marks the first time that Dance Screen has been presented outside of Europe. It’s fitting that they have chosen San Francisco Dance Film Festival, an organization that reflects the innovation at the heart of the Bay Area, to be their U.S. presenting partner.”

ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO DANCE FILM FESTIVAL

The San Francisco Dance Film Festival was established in 2010 to give the Bay Area a much-needed platform for the presentation and further development of dance-based films. The Festival seeks to bring dance to wider audiences and supports interdisciplinary collaboration among artists by providing opportunities for education and creative exchange. SFDFFF’s programming covers this broad spectrum by highlighting sub-genres such as “screendance”, short experimental dance pieces created specifically

for the camera, as well as filmic interpretations of dance performances originally created for the stage. Feature documentaries focus on the process of creating dance—from historical profiles to behind-the-scenes views of today’s most innovative choreographers. SFDFFF’s year-round activities now include filmmaking workshops, lectures at universities and dance schools, and free film presentations at the public library.

“An impressive program of locally made and imported works. The sheer number of perspectives that these dance/film artists brought to their work was inspiring.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

“A wild, beautiful ride” – *San Francisco Examiner*

For more information, visit www.sfdancefilmfest.org.

ABOUT IMZ/DANCE SCREEN

The IMZ - International Music + Media Centre, based in Vienna, is a global non-profit association dedicated to the worldwide development, dissemination and promotion of music and dance through the audiovisual media. It is a forum for exchange and reflection whose core objectives are to serve as a high-quality advisory body in this industry and as a mediator between those organisations and individuals involved and interested in the fields of music and dance. It is the IMZ’s intention to make the performing arts available to a wide audience around the globe and help arts programmes occupy their rightful place in the media. Thus, the professional umbrella organisation acts as an interface between leading international producers, distributors, broadcasters of cultural programmes, opera houses, educational institutions and record labels focusing on classical, contemporary and world music, and jazz, as well as classical and contemporary dance. With the aim to enhance the co-operation in this media universe, the IMZ, since its foundation in 1961, under the aegis of UNESCO, has established an essential network that has grown to more than 150 members from 26 countries around the world. Its members, whether they are individuals or organisations, are closely connected to the audio-visual music and dance business and who work hard to make a difference in this cultural community.

The IMZ founded dance screen in 1988 as one of the first dance film and video competitions and festivals worldwide. It has ever since been a productive representative platform for a new genre that has engaged and inspired filmmakers, dance and video artists, distributors and broadcasters. It was established to create a dialogue between all these partners and to bring audiences in touch with dance from all over the world. Past editions of dance screen took place in Amsterdam in cooperation with Cinedans (2010), in Den Haag in cooperation with the Holland Dance Festival, Filmhuis Den Haag (2007), in Brighton (2005), in Monaco at the Monaco Dance Forum (2002) and in Cologne at the Media Park (1999). For more information about IMZ and Dance Screen, visit www.imz.at or www.dancescreen.com.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO BALLET

As America’s oldest professional ballet company, San Francisco Ballet has enjoyed a long and rich tradition of artistic “firsts” since its founding in 1933, including performing the first American productions of *Swan Lake* and *Nutcracker*, as well as the first 20th-century American *Coppélia*. San Francisco Ballet is one of the three largest ballet companies in the United States. Guided in its early

years by American dance pioneers and brothers Lew, Willam, and Harold Christensen, San Francisco Ballet currently presents more than 100 performances annually, both locally and internationally. Under the direction of Helgi Tomasson for more than two decades, the Company has achieved an international reputation as one of the preeminent ballet companies in the world. In 2005, San Francisco Ballet won the prestigious Laurence Olivier Award in the category of “Outstanding Achievement in Dance” and in 2006, it was the first non-European company elected “Company of the Year” in *Dance Europe* magazine’s annual readers’ poll. In 2008, the Company marked its 75th anniversary with a host of initiatives including an ambitious New Works Festival. Recent highlights include a tour to the People’s Republic of China, the celebration of Artistic Director & Principal Choreographer Helgi Tomasson’s 25th anniversary with the Company, and the United States premiere of John Neumeier’s *The Little Mermaid*, which was broadcast internationally, as well as nationally on PBS’s *Great Performances* “Dance in America” in December 2011. In 2012, SF Ballet’s ambitious tour schedule included engagements in London and Washington, D.C., as well as first-time visits to Hamburg, Moscow, and Sun Valley, Idaho. For more information, visit: www.sfballet.org.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO FILM SOCIETY

Building on a legacy of more than 50 years of bringing the best in world cinema to the Bay Area, the San Francisco Film Society is a national leader in exhibition, education and filmmaker services. SFFS is headed by Executive Director Ted Hope with the programmatic leadership of Director of Programming Rachel Rosen, Director of Filmmaker360 Michele Turnure-Salleo and Director of Education Joanne Parsont. The Film Society presents more than 100 days of exhibition each year, reaching a total audience of more than 100,000 people. Its acclaimed education program introduces international, independent and documentary cinema and media literacy to more than 10,000 teachers and students. Through Filmmaker360, the Film Society’s filmmaker services program, essential creative and business services, professional development classes, and funding totaling millions of dollars are provided to deserving filmmakers of all levels. The Film Society seeks to elevate all aspects of film culture, offering a wide range of activities that engage emotions, inspire action, change perceptions and advance knowledge. A 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, it is largely donor and member supported. Patronage and membership provides discounted prices, access to grants and residencies, private events and a wealth of other benefits. For more information visit www.sffs.org.

TICKET INFORMATION

Festival passes (\$300) are now available for purchase, which include access to all films, panels, parties, and viewing stations. Additional discount passes and individual tickets will be available on the festival website August 1. Student discounts are available. For ticket information, please visit the San Francisco Dance Film Festival at www.sfdancefilmfest.org.

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