manifest
dancefilm festival 2022
dance-films intersect with dance and cinema

post-pandemic there has been an explosion of dance-films and festivals around the world
In its first year, MANIFEST selected 40 independent dance-films from more than a 100 submissions from around the world. Films screened included full length documentaries, short films and student films.
110 submissions
40 selected films
26 countries
02 venues
The history of dance on film

One of the first films was a recording of a dance performance.
While dance on camera is commonly associated with musicals, contemporary artists are defining a new genre.

Still from "Downriver" (Switzerland)
Dance-films are typically short and without speech, communicating mainly through dance/movement

Still from "Out of Time" (UK)
From short fiction narrative, full-length documentaries to design-oriented, highly stylised treatments - MANIFEST '22 presented an entire spectrum of possibilities.
The range of themes reflected global interests like the 'environment', 'love stories', 'the social impact of the machine'.
Notable films in MANIFEST 2022

From digitally restored classics like "Kalpana" (Ind) to the genre-defying "Its Not My Body" (HK) and the ironically humorous "Pindrop" (South Korea) MANIFEST presented a spectrum of international approaches to dance-films.
The films were curated around themes like "MACHINE", "ECO", "ROOTS" (migration) and "LOVE". The 'body as home' emerged as a theme specific to dance-films.
Dance-films on colonialism and migration from Asia and South America reflected the specific concerns of the Global South.
Asian premiere

International films like "Habiter le Seuil" (France) "My Lovely Home (Iran) / "When the Night Falls" (Finland) had their Asian Premiere at MANIFEST '22. Many films went on to be "Officially Selected" at prestigious festivals like Dance on Camera (New York), In Shadow (Lisbon), Cinedans (Amsterdam)
Asian Section

A dedicated Asian Section in MANIFEST supported the view that Asian dance-films reflect/shape a contemporary Asian aesthetic.
Panel discussions and Q&As

Building critical discourse around dance-films in India is crucial. MANIFEST '22 featured vibrant discussions, paper presentations and Q&As on dance-films.
PANEL DISCUSSION

'Dance-Films: neither here nor there'
- towards defining a bi-lingual genre'
International artists in conversation with MANIFEST director Ashavari Majumdar during the online Q&A
The audience of artists, academics, students and art lovers were actively engaged in the discussions.
Venues

State-of-the-art auditoriums in Alliance Fancaise Pondicherry and the Cinema Paradiso in Auroville hosted MANIFEST '22
As the only international dance-film festival in South Asia, MANIFEST garnered considerable media coverage with previews and reviews in national English language dailies like *The Hindu* and *The Telegraph*.

The festival was covered by the largest specialist digital platforms on Indian film and dance like *Film Companion* and *Narthaki*. It was also featured in regional publications like *The Hindu Pondicherry* and *Yatra e-magazine*. 
"MANIFEST is the first attempt at a full-fledged offline dance-film festival in India."

Sankhayan Ghosh for Film Companion

"MANIFEST screened some powerful short films."

Kathakali Jana for The Telegraph
Korean dance-filmmaker Hyun Tsang Cho narrated humorous anecdotes about the making of 'Pindrop'
Madhuja Mukherjee, Professor Film Studies, Jadavpur University presented an exhaustive analysis of Kathak dancer Sitara Devi’s work in cinema.
Independent researcher Shruti Ghosh presented a lively talk on the use of the term 'choreography' in the Hindi film community.
Awards

The purpose of the MANIFEST awards is to support independent artists in an unexplored territory. Awards were given for outstanding work in Direction, Choreography, Sound, Music, Editing, Cinematography and 'Best Film'.

HyunTsang Cho receives an award for Choreography' from the jury
Collaborations and partnerships

- Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Puducherry
- Alliance Francaise, Puducherry
- Radico
- Inn Pondiville
- Tasmai art gallery
- Narthaki
The curators

Ashavari and Abhyuday combine two decades of collaboration across film and dance to the only annual international dance-film festival in South Asia.
AuroApaar

www.auroapaar.org

Manifest Dance-Film Festival

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Thank you