
LOOK BACK

manifest

dancefilm festival 2022



dance-films

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

still from 'NAVIGATION' (Canada)



The range of themes reflected global interests like the 'environment', 'love stories', 'the social impact of the machine '.

Still from "SOLO" (Russia)



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

Still from Kalpana (India)



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

still from GRAVIDA (US)



Dance-films on colonialism and migration from Asia and South America reflected the specific concerns of the Global South

Add Still from invisible Inheritance (Brazil) a little bit of body text



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





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Q&As

The audience of artists, academics, students and art lovers were actively engaged in the discussions

Venues

State-of-the-art auditoriums in Alliance Francaise 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'**

HyunTsang Cho during a Q&A



'Starlight: Sitara Devi and the figuration of the dancing body in cinema'

Madhuja Mukherjee ,
Professor Film Studies,
Jadavpur University
presented an exhaustive
analysis of Kathak dancer
Sitara Devi's work in cinema



Alliance Française
Pondichery

While most of her films have not survived in their material form, historical readings of Indian cinemas have also – broadly speaking – circumvented the question of dancing bodies, and the import of Sitara Devi's star-persona in films.

My enquiry, therefore, concerns her performances,
and her on/off-screen figurations, as apparent through the films in which Sitara Devi played decisive roles,
fuel such explorations.



'Locating and Defining Choreography in Hindi Film Dance'

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



JURY



Madhuja Mukherjee

Professor
Film Studies
Jadavpur University



**Arjun
Gourisaria**

National
Award-
winning
filmmaker



Anita Ratnam

Contemporary
performer

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



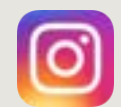
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Manifest Dance–Film Festival



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Thank you