



**MANIFEST  
DANCE-FILM  
FESTIVAL  
28-30 July 2023**

**PROGRAM BROCHURE**

## ABOUT MANIFEST

Since its launch last year in venues in Pondicherry and Auroville, the MANIFEST DANCE-FILM FESTIVAL has garnered international attention with artists travelling from the US, EU and S Korea to attend South Asia's only dance-film festival.

Dance-films are a radical new genre blending the languages of cinema and dance attracting enthusiastic young audiences from across India. The festival was reviewed in the largest Indian digital film and dance platforms like Film Companion and Narthaki as well as national English dailies like The Hindu and The Telegraph. The Jury included international award-winning experts from across dance, film and academia. Films that premiered in MANIFEST '22 went on to win awards at prestigious film festivals across US, Canada and Europe.

Featuring India and Asia premieres of international dance-films, MANIFEST '23 received 242 submissions from across 5 continents. Films from 22 countries will be screened between 28-30 July in the Alliance Francaise Auditorium, Pondicherry.

The films are evaluated by distinguished members across arts, academia and entrepreneurship bridging gaps that have traditionally existed between these areas.

Opening with the India premiere of Neon Phantom, MANIFEST DANCE-FILM FESTIVAL provides a unique platform for Indian dance-filmmakers to present their work in the "Open Slot". There will be experimental performances, workshops and masterclasses by nationally renowned experts. The festival will close with a live contemporary Flamenco performance by French-Israeli dancer Naya Binghi.

## ABOUT AUROAPAAR

AuroApaar is a trans-media art centre working in the intersection of movement arts and digital media with a focus on dance-films. Based near Pondicherry, it has founded the first annual international dance-film festival in South Asia - the MANIFEST DANCE-FILM FESTIVAL. AuroApaar also pioneered the 'MANIFEST DANCE-FILM INCUBATOR' - a trans-media lab for dance-films with an emphasis on heritage movement arts.

**Ashavari Majumdar a.k.a Vajrasara**, Director MANIFEST DANCE-FILM FESTIVAL and Facilitator, MANIFEST DANCE-FILM INCUBATOR, is an artist whose movement-based work intersects image, movement, text. Her special interests are post-colonial aesthetics and cross-disciplinary processes.

**Abhyuday Khaitan**, Program Head MANIFEST DANCE-FILM FESTIVAL and Facilitator, MANIFEST DANCE-FILM INCUBATOR, is a cinematographer, director and producer. Post-covid he has found solace in editing old footage shot over years that may end up in a film.

## FESTIVAL TEAM

### FESTIVAL COORDINATORS:

**Aadya Sharma:** An architecture student and dancer, with a keen interest in photography, graphics and exhibiton design. She's passionate about exploring the intersections of various creative disciplines and what emerges through it.

**Aakriti Dhiman** Multi disciplinary artist, working primarily with still and moving images to weave narratives while engaging in various discourses. She is currently pursuing Masters in Photography Design from NID and is also a Dance Movement Practitioner.

### VOLUNTEERS:

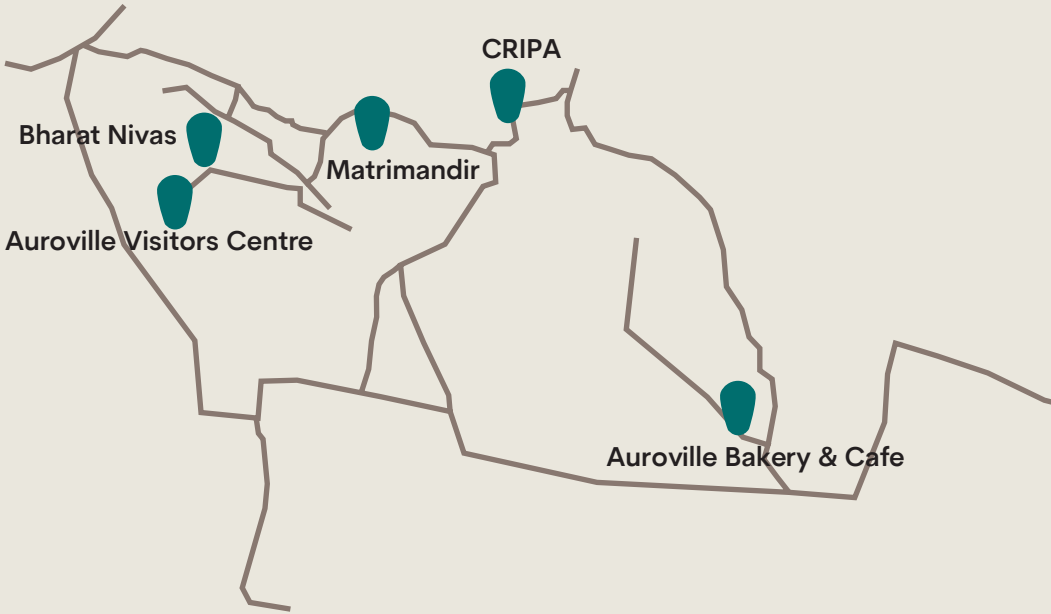
Sridarsun  
Mohammad Shaikh  
Akshara  
Purvi  
Chintan  
Chaitanya  
Joslin  
Prakhar

### VIDEO TEAM:

Sumukh  
Amintesh  
Harsha



# AUROVILLE



# WHITE TOWN, PONDICHERRY



# JURY MEMBERS

## **ANMOL VELLANI**

Anmol Vellani - is a theatre director, writer, curator, teacher, actor trainer and the founder and former executive director of the India Foundation for the Arts, an independent philanthropic organisation. His writing and talks—on arts entrepreneurship, the creative economy, cultural policy, the role of grant-making foundations, culture and development, arts collaboration and the performing arts, for example—have reflected on the insights he has gleaned from his long engagement with the arts and philanthropy. He studied philosophy at the Universities of Poona, Oxford and Cambridge and taught at Elphinstone College, Mumbai, in the 1970s.

## **PRERANA SHRIMALI**

Kathak dancer Prerana Shrimali is the recipient of multiple awards – including the Sangeet Natak Award . A former guru and repertory chief in the Kathak Kendra -the national institute for Kathak in New Delhi , Prerana combines rigorous traditional training from traditional masters with intellectual curiosity bringing her own unique insights into the form.

She has explored classical, medieval and modern poetry in Urdu, French, Sanskrit and Braj in her choreographic works and has also worked with modern Indian painting.

A performer-teacher-choreographer, Prerana has also presented her original thesis on 'Abstraction in Kathak' and published a book on Kathak in 2022'. She officiates on various panels on dance under the Ministry of Culture and is currently based in Jaipur where she has founded a Kathak institute- Kalaavart'-Prerana Shrimali Centre of Kathak'.

## **RV RAMANI**

RV Ramani is a cinematographer and award-winning filmmaker, who has carved his own niche, making impressionistic, personal films, as aspects of expression. Apart from collaborating with many filmmakers as a cinematographer, he has more than 30 independent films to his credit which have been presented at many national and international forums.

His recent feature documentary, 'Oh That's Bhanu', received the National Film Award - for Best Direction. RV Ramani regularly conducts filmmaking workshops at various Institutions and is presently working on independent feature documentaries.

**RADHIKA KHANNA**

Dr. Radhika Khanna is Head of the Department of Electronic Media and Mass Communication, Director in charge of Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC) at the University and founder of the Drishti Film Club of Pondicherry University. She is also one of the Founder Trustees of the International Association of Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) India Chapter.

**KIRSHNA DEVANANDAN**

Krishna Devanandan is a founder of the Auroville Arts Service and formerly principal dancer in Chandralekha's repertory. She has also worked with Padmini Chettur and Magic Lantern Theatre Group in Chennai. Her current interest is in improvisation.

# **SELECTED FILMS**





## IO|OI

**Francesco Lorusso**

How can a person change the world around them? Art is one of the most important tools that human beings have at their disposal to change thought, to move what seems to be sedimented, fixed, a petrified reality. In IO | OI, with a play of exchanges and reflections, a person and their creation dance together inside a post-industrial cathedral. The work of art and its creator guide each other step by step, exchanging parts and leaving behind more questions than answers, one above all: are we the creation or the creator?

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9min 8s | Italy

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Francesco Lorusso (Italy, 1993) has been directing and post-producing documentaries and short films. "Men are hungry too" (2019), produced by the AAMOD Foundation (in collaboration with Istituto Luce-Cinecittà and Scuola Holden) won the Zavattini award and was selected at IDFA 2019 and in numerous national and international festivals (MakeDox, Minsk International Film Listapad Festival, European Film Festival, Lucca Film Festival & Cinema Europa, Montecatini International Short Film Festival, Ischia Film Festival). He also directed and edited "Wavesland" (2020) produced by Apulia Film Commission, with the executive production of Fluid Produzioni and selected at numerous international festivals (ShortS International Film Festival, Giffoni Macedonia Youth Film Festival, Festival del Cinema Europeo Lecce, Visioni Corte International Film Festival).



## HISIN 15

### Naya Binghi

Hisin 15 is framed inside the parting conflict, mixed feelings between a new path of enthusiasm and the duel of leaving behind everything that has represented rootedness for us. An ode to Love, an independent love impregnated with freedom without ties, which will always last despite the uncertain future of following a path that will separate us from it. The energy of what we have lived together will remain forever.

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13min 47s | Israel

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Naya Binghi is an artist who combines flamenco and contemporary dance as an expression of struggle. In 2022 Naya won The Outstanding Creator and The Outstanding Performer of The 1 2 3 Program, for emerging choreographers Suzanne Dellal Center, Tel Aviv. Naya is the founder, choreographer, and dancer of the group Tablao Binghi which combines flamenco, Arabic music and contemporary dance. In 2021 she was selected as the best flamenco dancer in Israel by the ADI Foundation. Her video work "En la Sala de Espera" won the 2020 first prize for best creation from the Beer Sheva Fringe Theatre. She is a graduate of the Ironi Alef High School of the Arts in Tel Aviv. She danced with the second company of Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company and the flamenco company Remangar. Since 2019 her life takes place between Seville and Tel Aviv.



## FIRST DANCE 2.0

Jingqiu Guan

An intimate and playful duet between a one-year-old boy and his mother that serves as a memory capsule.

Dance in Focus Film Festival: Reflections, Los Angeles (2023) - Award Winner in the Professional Category

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2min 46s | United States

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Originally from Chengdu, China, Jingqiu Guan is a filmmaker, choreographer, and scholar who currently serves on faculty at Duke University as an Assistant Professor of Practice in Dance. Jingqiu's dance films and documentaries have been screened in a number of festivals worldwide and won various awards. Her film *Weight of Sugar* won the Best Dance Film Award and Best Choreography Award at Black Lives Rising Live|Virtual Dance Film Festival, NYC (2021) and the Outstanding Direction Award at Manifest Dance-Film Festival 2022. Her Student film *Family Portrait* won the Best Student Dance Film Award at San Francisco Dance Film Festival, CA (2020). Centering voices and expressions of women (particularly mothers), immigrants, people of color, as well as people of disabilities, her dance and film works engage with the exploration of cultural identities, motherhood, and address issues of racial justice and disability justice.



## NEON PHANTOM

Leonardo Martinelli

A delivery man dreams of having a motorcycle. He was told that everything would be like a musical film.

Winner of the Golden Leopard for Best International Short Film  
Nominated for the Short Film Award- BFI London Film Festival  
India Premiere

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20min | Brazil | Portuguese (with subtitles)

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Leonardo Martinelli is a filmmaker from Rio de Janeiro. His films have been selected at more than three hundred film festivals and museums worldwide, including Locarno, San Sebastián, BFI London, Clermont-Ferrand, Palm Springs, Montreal and others. Through a vote among several film critics, Leonardo Martinelli was listed as one of the Top 10 New Brazilian Filmmakers by Papo de Cinema. In 2021, his film Fantasma Neon won the Golden Leopard for Best International Short Film at the Locarno Film Festival. He also holds a Master's degree in Social Communication at PUC-Rio and is currently developing his first feature film, which was awarded at Locarno Residency.



## SAUDADE

**Sandra Cristina Pires Lopes, Sandra Ramy,  
Equis Alfonso Valdes, Inti Herrera**

Portugal & Cuba, two cultures separated by the ocean. The intimate relationship that each one maintains with the sea has been the link. This sea has made us look at each other. The relationship with the distant, the unattainable and with the earth, has returned us to a space of understanding of the human. This piece asks: What is recorded in the land of the one who leaves for the sea? What's left in which part of what leaves on the ground? What is Saudade?

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30min 20s | Portugal

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Sandra Lopes: In 2022 Sandra co-directed the multi-awarded experimental audiovisual "Saudade". She was Producer of the album "Ancestros Sinfónico" winner of the Latin Grammy 2022 as Best Folk Album.

Sandra Ramy: Choreographer, teacher and dancer of contemporary dance. Graduated from the National School of Arts in Havana in 1994.

X Alfonso: Multi-award-winning instrumentalist, composer, performer and visual artist, he has developed a multifaceted career that places him as one of the greatest artistic exponents of contemporary Cuba.

Inti Herrera: Graduate of the Higher Institute of Art (ISA), Film and TV Producer, graduated from the International Film and TV School of San Antonio de los Baños.

# ABSENT PRESENCE

Giorgia Ponticello

To perceive, from the Greek "touch at a distance". Absent Presence is the surreal journey of a disconnected body in an attempt to find itself in the spaces of an empty house. A game of perceptions, between the ambiguity of reflections and distorted shadows, which leads the viewers to wonder about the relativity of what they are watching: what is real to us? What can I move and what moves me?

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55s | Italy

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Artist, performer and graphic designer, Giorgia is trained at the Academy of Fine Arts in Genoa with a thesis on the relationship between performer and spectator: a project that will be selected among the finalists of the international screendance festival Fuori Formato 2021. She is currently involved as an interpreter in GOCCE - Ritual of community of Federica Loredan, performance that blends different artistic languages such as urban dance and body music.



## A QUIET THRILLER

Alessandra La Bella

Why when we find our selves in strange situations we choose not to follow our instincts?

How much responsibility do we carry in the fulfillment of our destiny? There is a place where human will and destiny meet and collide, pulled like a tight thread it stretches over our perception and understanding of time.

Human curiosity and the animalistic dance together in a slow dense rhythm where somehow naivety plays a silent but essential role.

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9min 22s | Germany

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Alessandra La Bella is an Italian born dancer and choreographer, currently based in Berlin.

After graduating at the Hamburg Ballet School, Alessandra has been working as a dancer for companies such as Gauthier Dance//Theaterhaus Stuttgart and Staatstheater Hannover. Her short dance film "A quiet thriller" has been invited to several film festival like Moovy Film Festival in Cologne (DE) and at the Golden FEMI Film Festival in Sofia (BG).



## STRUCK A BOW AND BONES

Feike Santbergen, Sara Ducat

Collective of dancers looking for connection through movement

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6min | France

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## TO GET YOU OUT OF THE RAIN

Mayara Helena Alvim

In a little boat, isolated in a sea of mountains, three people are being called through the water by a mysterious force to dance with their memories.

Best National Dance Film, 2022 - II D'olhar Festival Itinerante de Dança e Vídeo

Official Selection, 2022 - Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema

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13min 30s | Brazil

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Teacher and artist, Mayara has a degree and a bachelor's degree in Dance from UFV, effective teacher of Dance at the João XXIII Application College - UFJF (Federal University of Juiz de Fora). She is an actress and researcher at Cia de Teatro Sala de Giz. Master and doctoral student in Education at UFJF, she is part of the Center for Studies in Philosophy, Poetics and Education, where she conducts research around Cinema from a phenomenological and educational perspective.



## DISCARDED

Ilana Goldman

A solo dancer (wearing a dress made from the plastic trash she generated over four months) embodies simultaneously both a woman and planet Earth reckoning with the impact of humans on the environment. Through her dancing body, we see Earth's resilience and ability to accommodate outside forces, but also its vulnerability when fighting certain sustained assaults. \*Filmed on location at Glacier National Park as Artists-in-Residence.

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8min | United States

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Ilana Goldman is a dancer, choreographer, filmmaker, and Associate Professor of Dance at Florida State University. She was featured in the Berlin-based magazine "WomenCinemakers" for her film "InterState," which screened at Sans Souci Festival of Dance Cinema (US), Jacksonville Dance Film Festival (US), ScreenDance Festival Sweden, Braga International Video Dance Festival (Portugal), Mexico City Videodance Festival, Light Moves Festival of Screendance (Ireland), Thessaloniki Cinedance International Festival (Greece), St. Petersburg International Film Festival (Russia, Jury Award), among many others. Her three other dance films, "Convergence," "Fledgling," and "Threshold" (360-degree), also screened at multiple international film festivals.



## ONCE UPON A COMMON GROUND

Anja Neukomm, Laetitia Kohler, Naomi Kamihigashi

Three individuals search for balance with care, delicacy, struggle and humour within the walls of Castle Kyburg in Switzerland. Their goal is to find their personal balance, as well as a stable ground within their trio. It is a zoom in and out from the individual into a bigger picture. They are finding, defining and redefining their identity and needs, through interactions and common activities.

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19min 30s | Switzerland

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Anja Neukomm has trained as a contemporary dancer at the Zurich Tanz-Theater Schule, Switzerland and Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Journey Program in Israel. She currently works as a freelance dancer, choreographer and teacher.

Laetitia Kohler is a freelance who has studied at the Basel Dance Academy and the Zürcher Hochschule der Künste. She has been awarded the Migros Kulturprozent study award scholarship twice. Laetitia Kohler co-founded KoHalition dance in 2019.

Naomi Kamihigashi, studied Contemporary Dance at the Zurich University of the Arts. In 2017 she completed her internship in the Dance Company Nanine Linning at the Theater and Orchestra Heidelberg in Germany.



## NUMB

Vishal Chauhan

Numb talks about our identity. This production is a satire on human and patriarchal society. We humans have become so numb that we are unable to feel the pain of real problems. Many terrible things are happening in the outer world but all that negative news doesn't affect us anymore. Numb is about paralyzed and frozen human emotions, behavior and reaction.

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6min 47s | India

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'Vishal Chauhan' is an Actor & Director based in Ahmedabad, India. Vishal works part-time as an Art Director and Art assistant on local independent film productions and Advertisements. The core of Vishal Chauhan's career is the theatre where he has been awarded several times for his Acting. He has acted in more than 25 plays in Gujarati, Hindi & English and his Debut production as a Director "Jayaz Hatyare" has left a significant mark on people's minds. NUMB is the first directorial debut of Vishal Chauhan as a Filmmaker.



## ROOMS

Elysa Wendi, Jiekai Liao

Rooms is an introspective dance portrait of Albert Tiong – an enigmatic figure in the Singaporean contemporary dance scene – as he turns 50. At another threshold of his life, he reflects on the intimate milestones of his career and the journey taken to arrive at the present moment. Through meta-interventions in three rooms, each encapsulating an era of his personal history, Albert revisits buried mundane memories that shaped his coming-of-age as a dancer, choreographer and educator. In this process of a phantom confronting his former self, he uncovers the dreamed paths banished over time and a future Zenith still unconquered.

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14min 43s | Singapore

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Elysa Wendi is a Singaporean artist / filmmaker based in Hong Kong. She joins Jumping Frames Hong Kong International Movement-image Festival as curator since 2018 and co-founded Cinemovement in 2015, a platform facilitating the creation of dance films through a laboratory setting and cultural exchanges.

LIAO Jiekai (Singapore) is a filmmaker, visual artist and educator based in Tokyo. He holds a Master's degree in Film Directing from Tokyo University. His debut Red Dragonflies (2010) won the Special Jury Prize at Jeonju International Film Festival, and As You Were (2014) competed at film festivals in Tokyo, Torino and Nantes.



## LUMBRA

**Laia Molina Ruiz de Arcaute**

Lumbra is born from the need to connect with the darkest part of my being. We all know that there is no light without shadow. Like a day when the sun burns me and I just need a shade where I can refresh my body.

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3min 58s | Spain

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Laia Molina Ruiz de Arcaute, lives in a village near Vitoria-Gasteiz. She studied art therapy in Barcelona, She has also been in different dance academies learning different styles of urban and contemporary dance. She has worked as an art therapist and dance teacher. Lumbra is her debut film.



## DIANA /0742

Luisa Eugeni

In „Diana / 0752“, a film by Luisa Eugeni, based on an idea by Alexandra Morales, we follow dancer Alexandra Llorens through a brothel in Walle, a working-class neighbourhood in Bremen, a city in the north of Germany. Through the constant change of perspective, between host and visitor, camera and spectator, the film scrutinises society’s ambivalent attitude towards sex work and prostitution. The film was made as part of The Gone Together Project by Alexandra Morales and Unusual Symptoms, the dance company-in-residence at Theater Bremen.

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12min 18s | Germany

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Born in Assisi, (Italy) in 1987 currently enrolled at Moving Image Master, IUAV University Venice, achieved in 2019 a Master (Meisterschüler) in “Artistic spacial and body concept” by Andree Korpys e Marcus Löffler. Nel 2018 achieved an Art Diploma in “advanced ideas of filmic spaces and conceptual photography” by Rosa Barba (University of the Arts Bremen). In 2011 achieved a Bachelor degree in International Relations, at the University of Perugia, Italy. Thesis on Political Philosophy. Since 2016 is holder of Cusanuswerk foundation scholarship. Eugeni was awarded with the “Karin Hollweg Preis 2019”.



## QUIET

Lukas Zerbst

In *Quiet*, we accompany a dancer on a journey through nocturnal Bremen. Is he seeking silence, or indeed fleeing from it? In any case, he goes after the noise - not the obvious one, but the one you only hear when it is quiet. While he does, he escapes his city walk, again and again, by turning around, running, or jumping, and so he arrives in several completely different settings: in a forest, on a demolition site, in a field. The soundscape that welcomes him each turn calms him down at times, yet at others, it instils restlessness, even mania. The film draws attention to what the often overheard, the inaudible, does to the body when it becomes loud, when it begins to drown out the everyday soundscape.

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17min 31s | Germany

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Lukas Zerbst creates spatial interventions and site-specific installations in institutional or public space. He alters the found physical structure, manipulates electrical components, or artistically intervenes in digital content, for example through live camera performances.





## DELEITE

**Rosely Conz, Patrizia Herminjard**

Deleite honors the delicate balance of motherhood by exploring the embodied weight of the physical and psychological consequences of maternal caregiving. The juxtaposed delight and struggle of parenting are reflected in the title, Deleite, a play on words meaning both delight and 'of milk' in Brazilian Portuguese.

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8min 10s | United States

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Rosely Conz (MA, MFA) is a Brazilian choreographer, scholar, and educator. Her work focuses on issues of immigration, displacement, motherhood, and identity through media such as film, live choreography, and as a theme of her lectures/classes. Rosely is an Assistant Professor of Dance at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, where she continues her work in screendance, choreography, and dance education. Patrizia Herminjard, native to Switzerland, is a choreographer, filmmaker, dancer, and Lecturer in the Theater & Dance Department at Colorado College ('96). Patrizia's screendance works have been presented by Dance Camera West and Sans Souci Film Festival. Patrizia has performed with the Martha Graham Dance Ensemble. She earned her MFA from the University of California at Irvine.



## URBAN GENESIS

Fu Le

Phuong is released from prison and returns to her native village. She finds Khang, her childhood sweetheart. Khang runs a brickyard, but everything has changed, modernity is shaking up the world of his memories. Urban Genesis is a journey to the last brickyard of An Hiep Island in the heart of the Mekong Delta.

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18min | France

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Fu LE is an award winning filmmaker and choreographer in the Tetrapode dance company in France.

He started his artistic career as a sculptor, then trained in physical theater in Argentina, contemporary dance in Switzerland, and pursued his research in Taiwan, questioning social issues linked with urbanization.

He is now evolving on the edge between dance, and cinema.



# AURA

## Tang Chenglong

To see. To sense. To feel. To live. And finally, to be.

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9min 49s | China

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Tang Chenglong is a professional choreographer and director based in China. His past experience ranges from large-scale stage productions to experimental films. His dance films, *Gatha* and *L'Appat*, were awarded at many festivals around the world, including San Francisco Dance Film Festival, DesArts//DesCinés in France and the Academy-qualifying, Flat-pack film festival. Tang's most recent work is the dance film *Aura*.



## BEAST

Iwona Pasińska

eeny meeny miny humpy  
not your son nor your daughter  
eeny meeny rumpy-pumpy  
cling cling lamb for slaughter  
Which species is the biggest predator?

Behind seven lakes, seven hills, seven forests, there is a seemingly idyllic land. And in it, as if by magic, an unexpected meeting happens not only once but three times. The first time, as if from a flying carpet, we see an animalistic figure in the thicket. The second time, we observe a frisky animal herd colliding with otherness. For the third and final meeting, the moment when a man enters the ordered world of nature. How does the relationship between animals differ from the relationship between humans and animals? – this is asked by the creators of the sixth choreographic film project by the Polish Dance Theatre

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9min | Poland

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Iwona Pasińska is a choreographer, movement dramatist, theatre theorist, artistic director of Movements Factory and co-founder of the Movements Factory Foundation. She graduated from the F. Parnell Ballet School in Łódź. In 1997 Pasińska became the principal dancer of the Polish Dance Theatre (PTT) – Poznań Ballet. In 2016 she has become the Director of the Polish Dance Theatre.



## AT LAND

Maya Derren

At Land (1944) is a 15-minute silent experimental film written, directed by, and starring Maya Deren. It has a dream-like narrative in which a woman, played by Deren, is washed up on a beach and goes on a strange journey encountering other people and other versions of herself. Deren once said that the film is about the struggle to maintain one's personal identity.

The composer John Cage and the poet and film critic Parker Tyler were involved in making the film, and appear in the film, which was shot at Amagansett, Long Island.

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15min | 1944

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Deren was a muse and inspiration to such up-and-coming avant-garde filmmakers as Curtis Harrington, Stan Brakhage, and Kenneth Anger, who emulated her independent, entrepreneurial spirit. In his review for renowned experimental filmmaker David Lynch's *Inland Empire*, writer Jim Emerson compares the work to *Meshes of the Afternoon*, apparently a favorite of Lynch's.

Deren was a key figure in the creation of a New American Cinema, highlighting personal, experimental, underground film. In 1986, the American Film Institute created the Maya Deren Award to honor independent filmmakers.



## AT LAKE

### Mistaya Hemingway

At Lake is a surreal meditation on nature and the relationships between movement, landscape and chance. Interpreted through the lens of our current time and shot in Eastern Québec, At Lake is a revisioning of Maya Deren's iconic 1944 film, At Land. At Lake is driven by the themes of exploration, separation, duplicity and connection.

ARTFIFA - Official Selection

Short to the Point festival- Short Film Factory - Best Dance Film

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12min 32s | Canada

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Mistaya Hemingway is a freelance dancer, choreographer, filmmaker and urban thinker living in Montreal. She has danced with the Dutch National Ballet, Alberta Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and La La La Human Steps, where she danced as a soloist for nine years. Mistaya also studied acting in New York City and earned a degree in urban planning from Concordia University. Mistaya is focusing on projects that blend movement, music, film and the city. Presently, she is working on an immersive installation for architecture, dance and mixed reality technologies. At Lake is Mistaya's third dance film. Her latest film, Forward Back, will be released in 2024.



## BRAVE STEPS

Wilma Casal

The park is desolate, the lake filthy. No sound of joy is to be heard. Optimistic and determined to put an end to the gloom, Duckfoot leaves his pond and sets off.

But the gloom soon infects him. He meets friendly gestures with skepticism and the lines "it's in your hand" tempt him to take a hopeless step. Courage has left him.

But from a distance he realizes: every deed can have a great effect. He sees his chance to change the world, to gradually transform it into a sunny place.

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14min 46s | United States

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Wilma Casal is a New York City based dancer, choreographer and the founding director of both Wolf & Swan Company and The Common Blue Dance Studio.

Her pieces have been presented at Baruch Performing Arts Center, La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club's Ellen Stewart Theatre, Williamsburg Movement & Arts Center, Dixon Place, The Marjorie S. Deane Little Theater, Jennifer Muller/The Works, Hudson Guild Theater, Theatre 71 at Blessed Sacrament, and Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, as well as at the Russian House of Science and Culture and Haus Schwarzenberg in Berlin, Braga International Video Dance Festival, Manifest Dance-Film Festival, and the Houston International Film Festival.



## ASHES

Charles-Antoine Thériault

Over time, nature wilfully and circumstantially adapts to its environment, but when the cyclical clash between evolution and cataclysm occurs, nature's fight to reclaim its place often leaves scars that endure for many seasons. "Ashes" recounts the tale of a Heron and the 62 Lakes under his watchful eye, of the creation of these watery masses that now encompass the region of Saint-Hippolyte – a tragic tale of self-sacrifice that has become an eternal legend.

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9min 50s | Canada

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Charles-Antoine Thériault's strong desire is to put the human being first. This is his debut film.

"By creating this project, I wanted to bring together two completely different ways of telling a story. Oral tradition is the oldest way of telling a story. It is how we learn fairy tales and legends from generation to generation, and has been done as long as humans have been able to communicate. I wrote this text so that it could live and be imagined; only by listening to someone telling it to us." - Charles-Antoine Thériault





## MORNING

Holly Wilder

"Morning" is a dance film dedicated to those we've lost to the Covid-19 pandemic. Produced by award winning dance filmmaking duo, Wilder Project, the film honors the grief that has accompanied us through this period. In an exploration of aliveness, transition, and catharsis, the dancers claw through different textures of earth and water with a sense of reverence and surrender. Set to a reimagining of the traditional Appalachian spiritual, "Bright Morning Stars", "Morning" reminds us of the beauty of the sand under our feet and the breath in our lungs, and asks its viewers to consider that our collective reflection inspire us to create a world where we all can live.

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5min 25s | United States

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Named by Dance Magazine as one of "9 Screendance Artists You Should Know About", sibling duo, Holly and Duncan Wilder, are NYC based Wilder Project. Together they have produced 20 short dance films that have screened at over 50 film festivals on 5 continents, winning 14 awards. With Holly directing and choreographing and Duncan behind the camera, critics say their "raw, narrative movement vocabulary hits close to the heart." Their most screened film, "The Field", is an official selection of 26 film festivals, and in addition to festivals, their work has screened at venues like The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Museum of the Moving Image in NYC



## CIRCLE

Phillip Kaminiak

"Circle" is an analogy between the modern human being, living in mass cities, and the phenomenon of the circle of death - observed in nature with ants who are separated from the main foraging party and lose the pheromone track.

They begin to follow one another, forming a continuously rotating circle, commonly known as a "death spiral" because the ants might eventually die of exhaustion.

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6min 10s | United States

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Phillip Kaminiak is a 1982 born German / Polish Director of Photography, director and photographer who graduated from "Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin" ("German Film and Television Academy") in 2013. His films and documentaries have been screened at film festivals all over the world. His debut feature film "The Woman Behind the Wall" was nominated for the most prestigious German "Grimme" TV Prize. His short film "Cass&Lex" received several prizes and was successful at many festivals all over the world and gained 2.8 Million Views on Facebook. His Video Art Work "After Hours" was shown at the prestigious "C / O - Berlin" Gallery at the "No Photos on the Dance Floor! Berlin 1989–Today" amongst artists such as Wolfgang Tillmans. Phillip Kaminiak lives and works between Berlin and Mexico City.



## FORMOSAN BLUE MAGPIE

Hsiao-yin Peng

Cinedans Festival, Netherlands, 2022

TANZAHÖI - International Dance and Dance Film Festival, Germany, 2022

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12min 23s

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Peng Hsiao-Yin is artistic director of Danceecology, Taiwan. She has an M.F.A. from the Graduate Institute of Choreography, Taipei National, TNUA and a B.A. in agronomy, NTU. She is a former dancer of Neo-Classic Dance Company. In recent years she has been choreographing environmental dance theater and directing dance films. Her film, *Recycle Project*, was screened in many international film festivals, and she won the 1-min competition of short film in *Jumping Frames* 2017.



## GRANDIR

**Amandine Garrido Gonzalez**

Short film of dance, inspired by the intimate relationship between a daughter and her mother. Growing Up explores the depths of unique physical and emotional bonds, as well as the process of mutual and constant transformation that takes place during this human experience.

FIFEM - Film Selection

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6min 26s | Canada

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Amandine Garrido has many years of experience in the performing arts, bringing diverse experience as a dancer, choreographer and teacher. She graduated as a dancer with a degree in classical and contemporary dance in 2002. In 2008, she arrived in Canada through the Varekai show of the Cirque du Soleil where she practiced aerial art. In spring 2013, she joined the team of dancers of the dance company Sursaut. She has participated in several video-dance projects in Chile, one of which has been the subject of many international awards, she has just finished her second video-dance called Grandir where she participated as a choreographer, director and performer. This creation was made possible thanks to the support of the Conseil des arts et lettres du Québec, the zemmourballet, the CASJB and the magnificent work of Matthew Gaines, who is the second director.



## MOTHER MELANCHOLIA

Samantha Shay

Mother Melancholia by Samantha Shay is a multi-layered portrait of four women and a eulogy for the planet set to, and inspired by Sóley's album of the same title, a self-proclaimed soundtrack for the end of the world as we know it. Co-commissioned by Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch, the dance film approaches patriarchal politics and ecofeminism through an unguarded, unsettlingly beautiful meditation on the difficulty, and immediacy of being fully present in the world. Filmed in the surreal and eroding Icelandic landscape, Mother Melancholia is a quiet, yet urgent conduit between the internal world of the human experience, and the planet we inhabit.

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29min 34s | Iceland

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Samantha Shay is a multidisciplinary artist, performer, director of theatre and film, and movement artist. She is currently a Fulbright Scholar working with Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch. She is also the artistic director of Source Material – a production company formed in 2014. Her films have screened at San Francisco Dance Film Festival, Portland Dance Film Festival, CAPITOL Dance & Cinema Festival, Thessaloniki Cinedance International, and BAFTA and Academy Award qualifying festivals such as Flickers Rhode Island International Film Festival, HollyShorts, and CineQuest.

"Mother Melancholia" has been co-commissioned by Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch



## HER MAGNUM OPUS

**Marta Renzi**

A circle of friends gather to celebrate their mentor and learn that what lasts is those you leave behind.

Toronto Indie Filmmakers Fest - Best Female Filmmaker

Film Screenings at;

Dance on Camera Festival

ADF Movers by Movers

Dance Camera West

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1hr | United States

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Marta Renzi has directed, choreographed and edited more than 20 short films which have won awards in over 100 festivals both nationally and internationally.

She has received numerous choreographic commissions from dance companies and university dance departments to create live work such as *Book of Breath* and for dance film work such as *Plow Plant Reap* which is an official selection of the 2016 Dance on Camera Festival, co-presented by DFA and the Film Society of Lincoln Center.

She has served on the Artists Board of NYFA, and for a decade on the Board of Directors of Dance Films Association.



## SPIRALLING INTO DESIRE

Roohi Dixit

The Desire Project explores how we hold desire in our body. Of the firm belief that reclaiming and having agency around our desire is a path towards true empowerment, the project invites us to imagine what is possible for the community when eros is equally prioritised as logos. The latest iteration of the Desire project is a Movement x Film collaboration titled Spiralling into Desire. This film traces a woman's descent into her deep body to access and retrieve her true autonomy.

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15min | India

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Roohi is an award-winning Indian filmmaker. She started her career in the advertising industry as a copywriter with Lintas before moving onto making films. In her 25 years of experience since then, she has written, produced, and directed films across genres under the banner of her production house Zero Rules.

Roohi wrote her first fiction feature film FREAKY CHAKRA (starring Deep-ti Naval and Ranvir Shorey)

SPACES BETWEEN, her last experimental documentary was selected as part of the Indian Panorama and premiered at the prestigious IFFI festival.

Roohi has also produced and directed the critically acclaimed documentary SCATTERED WINDOWS, CONNECTED DOORS which won the Audience Choice award at the Mumbai International Women's film Festival and the Best Documentary award at VISAFF (Vancouver International South Asian Film Festival)



## LIGHT RISING

Andrea Hackl

### LIGHT RISING

is a poetic meditation,  
an ode to the uplifting forces carrying and supporting life.  
It's a murmur, it's a song.  
Inspired by natural cycles, elements and their interplay,  
diving into a space of liquid time,  
flowing onwards,  
falling and rising,  
a continuous becoming,

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6min 30s | Netherlands

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Andrea Hackl is a film maker and choreographer/performer. Her film SILENT FRAGMENTS has won two awards for Best Film @ Cinedanza Italy 2020 and Best Choreography @ InShadow 2020 and is being presented at this year's edition of CINEDANS in Amsterdam. Her last work BELE BELTZA has received the PEARL ARTIST PRIZE at POOL Festival '21 and an honorable mention at Cinedanza and various awards for Best Experimental / Art Film. Further, she is exploring the medium of video / installation in my performances.

As dancer she has toured major venues and festivals such as Biennale Venice, Saddler's Wells London, Trafo Budapest, and Theatre de la Ville Paris.





## TO THE MOON

### Two-One

One year, there was a sudden plague in Beijing. Almost everyone had it, and there was no cure. The Jade Rabbit became a young girl. She went from house to house and cured many people. In order to thank the Jade rabbit, people molded the image of the Jade rabbit with mud. Every day on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, every family would worship her, and affectionately called her "Rabbit man".

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10min 5s | China

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## OMEN

**Harlan Taney, Justin Clifton, Blake McCord**

Through dance and movement, OMEN tells the story of one woman's exploration of bravery and perseverance, intimately following her as she takes risks and overcomes fears. The film tells the story of our shared interdependence - and the beauty of surrendering to the unknown. OMEN was shot in the Grand Canyon National Park by award-winning filmmakers Harlan Taney, Justin Clifton, and Blake McCord of Sandcast Media. OMEN is a 10 minute dance film with a 17 min. companion documentary film.

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27min 31s | United States

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In 2014, 501(c)3 Dark Sky Aerial (DSA) was co-founded in Flagstaff, Arizona by five women, Abby Chan, Elisa Venezia, Carrie Reynolds, Isabelle Dove Robinson, and Joanie Garcia. As directors, we share a deep passion for dance, aerial arts, and storytelling through movement. Elisa Venezia is the head creative director. She inspires a sense of curiosity and has set in motion our groundbreaking work. Dark Sky Aerial's unique style of performance art is rooted in a rich tradition of modern dance, theatre and inspired by the human experience.

Our company has a unique style of performance art. Instead of choosing a traditional theatre space to mount our work, we have opted to utilize unexpected and non-traditional venues. For all of our in-person performances, we use a style of theatre referred to as ambulatory theatre to actively immerse the audience in our work

# **GALLERY FILMS**



## AND WE MIGHT BRIEFLY RESONATE

**Bill Vine**

A binaurally presented, music-led contemporary dance/screen dance film exploring the memory of space and of the body.

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15min | United Kingdom

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Bill Vine is a composer of experimental, electroacoustic and acousmatic music. *And We Might Briefly Resonate* is the first film he has produced. His primary areas of research are audience engagement/ participation, ecoacoustics & their artistic application, field recording, making the inaudible audible, 3D sound design/presentation, & the creation of interdisciplinary/intermedia art.

Bill is lead artist/artistic director for Flux:Intermedia, and his immersive intermedia projects have been funded by Arts Council England. He obtained his PhD in Composition from the University of East Anglia in 2015.



## BEFORE THE TRAIN

Tal Tamar Kronkop

Whilst trains symbolize progress and development, they often intrude on other forms of life and movements. Located in the politically charged Jerusalem Boulevard in Jaffa, *Before the train* is paying last respects to the present reality, before its past-present is erased and replaced by one dominant and alienating element.

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5min 33s | Israel

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Tal Tamar Kronkop studied at the Visual Theater School, Jerusalem and a master's degree in cinema and choreography at the London Contemporary Dance School. Tal Kronkop creates experimental films that reveal everyday choreographies in a specific place, while also creating new relationships with it. Through a choreographic-architectural view Kronkop documents spaces that are facing change.

# OBSTRUCTED VIEW

Mitchell Rose

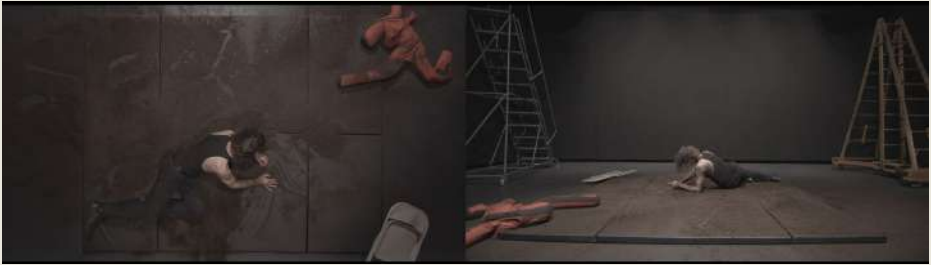
When we can't see all, what we do see we see anew. Here, 70 women weave together a choreographic thread from Bebe Miller.

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2min | United States

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Prior to becoming a filmmaker, Mitchell Rose was a choreographer. His company toured internationally for 15 years. Since graduating from The American Film Institute, his 39 films have won 100 festival awards. The New York Times called him: "A rare and wonderful talent." The Washington Post wrote that his work was "in the tradition of Chaplin, Keaton, and Tati—funny and sad and more than the sum of both." Obstructed View is the seventh film in his "hyper-match cutting" series. It has won Second Prize in World Fest Houston and a Jury Citation in the Thomas Edison Film Festival.



## DESCENT

### Greg Jenkins

A study of deterioration, futility, and the performativity of victory through the tropes of professional wrestling.

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9min 42s | United States

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Artist and filmmaker Greg Jenkins makes work that investigates issues of power and control by connecting to land, legend, and what we've left behind. His latest work is a journey through a phantom America, and a search for the myths and spectacles that remain. In the past year, he's exhibited in solo and group shows in Vienna, New York, Miami, Istanbul, and Los Angeles. His work has been acquired and commissioned by Yeezy, The Carlyle, Le Fouquet TriBeCa, Campari, and Palisociety. As a curator, Jenkins' critically-engaged and genre-bending shows have drawn comparisons to work by Bernadette Corporation and ART CLUB2000. For them, he's received a three-year arts development grant from the City of West Hollywood, and has been written about in artnet, Whitewall, Los Angeles Mag, LA Weekly, and Terremoto. Jenkins designed and taught a master's course on immaterial filmmaking at CalArts, and was an Alexander Mackendrick Scholar in the MFA program at there as well. Prior to his work as an artist, he studied the implications of art on International Relations, receiving the Philip Windsor Prize from the London School of Economics for his contributions.



## REBECOME THE ANIMAL

Courtney Mackedanz, Maxime Chudeau

Rebecome the Animal is a performed response to the exhibition Surplus Tension by Hannah Levy. Hannah Levy's exhibition in The Arts Club of Chicago's gallery, Surplus Tension, both invites and rejects corporeal engagement. Levy's sculptural forms allure a viewer with skin-textured materials and references to furniture while simultaneously (even flirtatiously) distancing spectators with cold metal, peaked talons, and a juxtaposition of references that are both playful and unsettling. Responding to the exhibition's sharp edges and soft insinuations, dancemaker Courtney Mackedanz embodies an inquisitive movement interaction with the exhibition, joining Levy's works in an artistic exploration of the relationship between the skin as a surface and the armatures of structure that lay beneath.

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16min 36s | United States

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Maxime Chudeau is an independent French filmmaker based in Chicago. As a scenography MFA graduate from Haute École des Arts du Rhin (Strasbourg, FR), Maxime's quest to making stories that challenge classic representation systems led him to a remarked experimental debut, CIRCVS MAXIMVS, which screened at various international film festivals. Courtney Mackedanz is a transdisciplinary artist living and working in Chicago. Her movement-based performances explore themes of embodied resistance and demonstrations of care within the context of received and embedded choreographic conditions such as nervous system architectures or algorithmic surveillance. Mackedanz earned her BFA in Performance and Visual Critical Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2013.





## THE BODY

**Nika Zhukova, Rimma Gefen**

"The Body" is a video art film about femininity, self-study and the expression of the woman's body, unique but still universal. "The Body" is about self-identification and the idea of an individual looking at itself as a separate biological unit. It was born as a performative experimental process of leaving prints of the artists's naked bodies on paper covered with charcoal, and came to life through stop motion animation.

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1min 15s | Israel

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Rimma Gefen started her studies in Graphic Design in The Polytechnic belonging to the Zaporogie National Technical University. Throughout her studies, Rimma found her passion for Animation.

In 2015, Rimma decided to move to Israel and joined the army. In 2019, Rimma got accepted into the BA program in Animation in the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem. During her studies she discovered a new world in experimental animation, which is the reason she chose to concentrate in Stop Motion.

Nika Zhukova studied Fine Arts in Chavon, The School of Design, where she got involved in experimental and conceptual processes about her origin and identity. In 2019, Nika moved to Israel with the purpose to continue her studies and connect to her Jewish roots. She is currently studying BA in Animation in the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem. Nika has decided to concentrate on the program of Stop Motion to continue submerging in experimental animation.



## UNDANCED DANCES THROUGH THE PRISON WALLS DURING A PANDEMIC

Suchi Branfman, Tom Tsai

In 2016, choreographer and educator, Suchi Branfman, began a five-year choreographic residency inside the California Rehabilitation Center, a medium-security state men's prison in Norco, California. The project, dubbed "Dancing Through Prison Walls," developed into a critical dialogue about freedom, confinement, and ways for surviving restriction, limitations, and denial of liberty through the act of dancing. The dancing abruptly ended in March 2020, when the California state prison system shut down programming and visitation due to Covid-19. The work was rapidly revised, and the incarcerated dancers began sending out written choreographies from their bunks to the outside world. The resulting collection of deeply imagined choreographic pieces, written between March and May of 2020, became Undanced Dances Through Prison Walls During a Pandemic.

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36min 02s | United States

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## WONDERLANE

Xavier De Santos

Reminiscing memories and stories of our days playing out in the streets and alleyways which are now no longer the norm, WONDERLANE is a nostalgic recollection of the curious and adventurous playgrounds of past freedoms. A dance film inspired by a collective of photographers who captured the streets of Britain fifty or more years ago, and the lost art of playing outside.

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11min 39s | United Kingdom

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Xavier De Santos is a Portuguese freelance dancer, choreographer and filmmaker based in Bristol, United Kingdom.

# STUDENT FILMS



## UMBILICAL CORD

Fan Mei

The thought of harmony shows great integration and inclusiveness, which is also reflected in the relations between people, between people and themselves, and between people and society. The starting point of the umbilical cord is such that it not only by the image of a piece of red cord to show a kind of man and nature, man and society and the symbiotic relationship between self, and starting from the perspective of women at the same time, the background is mainly combines the unique cultural phenomenon in the history to the thought liberation. It refers to the desire and expectation of freedom in bondage to liberate every independent individual in "harmony", and encourages people to break boundaries and be tolerant to diversity.

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5min | China

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Mei Fan, a 2019 student of Beijing Dance Academy, is the deputy director of "Project Operation Department" of Dachuang Commune of North Dance. She once participated in KAB international exchange activities on behalf of the club. Co-director Mai Zi and actor Yi Yangqianxi participated in MV shooting of Proverbs of Love. Participated in the shooting, publicity and stage work of Maya Hou's drama "Red Oleander"; Dance video "Umbilical Cord" was selected for Beijing International Film Festival; Original campus youth micro film "The Abyss" and so on.

Umbilical Cord was an Official Selection at BEIJING INTERNATIONAL DANCE VIDEO FESTIVAL



## SMOKING LOUNGE

Sarah Carrington

An exploration of neglect within a confined space.

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2min 54s | United States

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Sarah Carrington is from Richmond, Virginia , USA. Born into a family of dance teachers, dance has been a part of her life since the start. She is now 21 years old studying dance at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. Film peaked her interest early with her eye for frames and shots. She plans to keep making films and dancing as long as she can.

# SHAKE, SHIMMY & THE SPINS

**Aislinn Travis**

shake, shimmy, & the spins is a student screen dance by Aislinn Travis, May 2023 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. shake, shimmy, & the spins explores the differences between perception and reality, glamour and truth, and the juxtaposition of actions and consequences.

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3min 52s | United States

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## **NEW WAVE**

**Seungwan Jin**

a great escape from femininity.

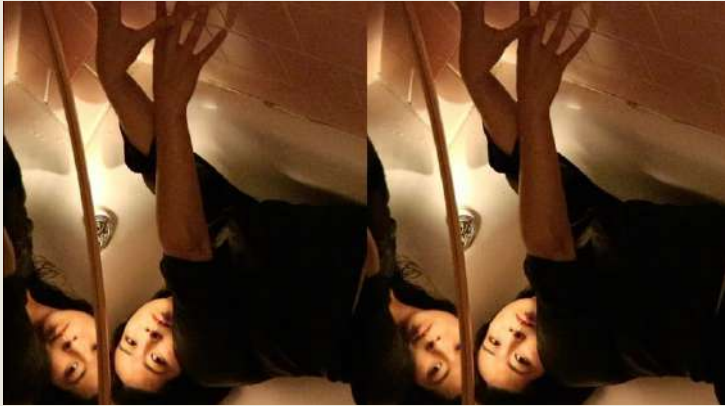
Korea National University of Arts, Film Department

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4min 37s | Republic of Korea

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## AM I ? I AM

**Samantha Matsumoto**

Am I dreaming or is life but a dream? Inspired by "Row Row Row Your Boat," Am I ? I Am submerges into the depths of one's reflection while looking out and looking in.

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3min 20s | United States

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Samantha Matsumoto began dancing in Elk Grove, CA and continued her dance training at UC Irvine, where she received a BFA in Dance Performance and a BFA in Choreography. Samantha is currently attending Saint Mary's College of California to earn her MFA in Dance – Creative Practice and her work was recently presented at the 2022 ACDA Screen Dance Festival. Samantha is excited to share her passion of dance and continue to grow as an artist while contributing to the community.



## RANGE (INTERVALO)

**Florencia Silva**

Muriel has to rehearse a play that is about to premiere and she is very stressed. Her loneliness and her obsession with improving her dancing skills summerge her into a constant calm in the present. Between the hecticism of rehearsals and her perfectionism, she starts to interwave different realities which lead to not being able to distinguish the reality of her life, the play and the imaginary.

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9min 30s | Argentina

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Florencia Silva was born in La Plata, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina (1996). She studies Director of Audiovisual Arts and Teaching at the National University of La Plata. She works as an independent audiovisual producer. She is a Professional Photographer graduated from the Vicente Viola Photo School Establishment. She is the co-director and cinematographer of the short film "Ahogar el nombre", which won the Beca Creación 2021 (Creation Scholarship 2021) by the National Art Fund.



## MINTON: UMBRUCH

Lucas Ackermann

With airy sounds and unhurried as tectonic plates, we enter a pass in the alps that constitutes the watershed between the basins of the Rhine and the Danube. A place which was already vital to the Roman Empire. A place of great upheaval or: UMBRUCH.

Fashion designer and performance artist MINTON takes us on a journey into the mountain world of the Julier Pass which is guarded by two modern towers and is home to ancient pillars that have guided travellers for the past 3000 years.

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5min 38s | Switzerland

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Lucas Ackermann was born in Chur and spent a large part of his childhood in the (Rhaeto-Romanic) Alpine region. After graduating from high school with a focus on biology and chemistry, he attended the propaedeutic course at the Zurich University of the Arts. In 2020, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Directing from the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. Since 2023 Lucas studies screenwriting at the Film University in Babelsberg. Lucas lives in Zurich and Berlin where he works as a writer and director.

His non-fiction short 'Kind Regards from the Anthropocene' had its World Premiere at Visions du Reel 2021 and was selected for Locarno Film Festival 2021.



## FOOTLESS BIRD

Xiao Yezi Sheng

"There is a kind of bird in the world. They spend their whole lives in the sky coz they are born without feet."

I try to discuss the topic of "immigration" in my dance film. Life is like a grand migration. Some people spend their whole lives on the move and have no fixed abode. But even if one is a "bird without feet", even if migration is the only "that choice" in our life, live in the present, incisively and vividly "force" alive!

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2min 43s | China

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# HYBRID CINEMA FILMS

In the slippages and spillages between stage and screen lies a world of magic and poetry. Join artists Puneet Jewandah ('Plastis', Sat 29 July, 7.30 pm) and Sugandh Lamba ( 'I am Paper', Sun 30 July, 7.30 pm ) as they explore the transition of movement choreography from stage to screen.

The live performance will be followed by screenings of the same choreography to expand the possibilities of the intersections of film and dance.

The dance-films on 'Zero Waste' were developed at the MANIFEST DANCE-FILM INCUBATOR #2 in collaboration with AuroApaar.

This is a foundation project implemented by the India Foundation for the Arts, IFA under their Arts Practice program made possible with support from Sony Pictures Entertainment Fund.

The Incubator was also supported by Hyundai Motors 'Art for Hope' with Equipment support from SONY India Pvt. Ltd.



## I AM PAPER

### Sugandh Lamba

There is a ton of waste all around us. Scattered somewhere, sometimes lying around in the corner, sometimes fluttering in the middle of the road. Without a purpose, without an identity. This is a story of a piece of paper floating around in the city aimlessly, in the end becoming a part of a heap on the beach, just until someone rescues it, upcycles it, gives it a new meaning.

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9min 13s | India

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Sugandh Lamba is a multidisciplinary artist and an educator. Her practice encompasses dance, theatre, photography and filmmaking. She is a trained Kathak dancer. Her training in Kathak began at the age of 5. She received her initial training at Pt. Birju Maharaj's Kalasharam and later Smt Kumdini Lakhia's Kadamb Centre for Dance. She is also trained in contemporary techniques - release and contact improvisation from Gati and Jazz from The Danceworx, New Delhi. A graduate in Mass Communication and Journalism, she has worked extensively for a decade as a video producer for prestigious media companies like NDTV GoodTimes and HT Mint. She now lives in Mumbai, imparting her knowledge to the youth of tomorrow, as an educator.



## PLASTIS

**Anmol Khurana, Puneet Jewandah**

'Plastis' explores the journey of a plastic being, born from the same elemental materials as other living creatures on our planet.

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12min 50s | India

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**Anmol Khurana**

Chandigarh based Anmol Khurana has been an engineering student who now works as a director, cinematographer and editor on short and feature film projects. His special interest lies in collaboration with movement artists.

**Puneet Jewandah**

Puneet Jewandah is a performer, choreographer and dance educator who has. She has trained in Bharatnatyam in India and in contemporary dance in Broadway Dance Centre, New York and Trinity College, London. Puneet is the founder of "The Engine Room" a performing arts company and is currently pursuing a Masters in Theatre from Punjab University.

# OPEN SLOT FILMS





## MAUNA

Darshan

"Mauna" is a silent film that explores the realm of hidden emotions. Through dance, it unleashes the transformative power of art, freeing us from emotional confines. Inspired by Nietzsche's words, "And those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music", it celebrates the beauty of dancing to our unique melody. "Mauna" invites reflection on our dynamic landscapes, encouraging us to embrace our deepest feelings. This immersive film transcends boundaries, connecting our inner and outer worlds. It reminds us of the profound connection between art and the human experience. "Mauna" is a captivating work of art that reminds us to find solace and express ourselves through dance and cinema.

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6min 42s | India

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Darshan is a filmmaker driven by an unyielding passion for storytelling. Starting as a talented photographer in 2010, his artistic evolution led him to the captivating realm of filmmaking by 2015. Darshan's creative prowess spans across writing, directing, and cinematography, crafting compelling narratives that leave a lasting impact on audiences.



## FALLIN

**Valentina Beatriz Sepulveda**

Two dancers are magnetically attracted and repelled to each other, embodying the dynamic of addictive attachment and codependency, commonly categorised in modern culture as the experience of falling in love.

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4min 59s | India

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Valentina is a thirty-year-old Chilean filmmaker and dancer, citizen of Auroville International Community in Tamil Nadu, India. She graduated from Film Direction and Social Communication at Universidad Católica de Chile in 2014. Since then, she's been working as a writer, director and film editor. Valentina also worked as a producer and assistant director in fiction pieces, as a producer in an international film festival and as a cinema teacher in her university, before she traveled part of the world and joined Auroville. From 2018 until beginning of 2020 she worked as a video maker, photographer and writer for different media units. Recently, after a period in lockdown, she started her own film production house, Ineffable Films.



## LITTLE THINGS

**Tania Thomas**

This short film is an attempt to bring light to the little things, into all that we tend to lose focus on as age gets in the way:

A child, neglected, finding comfort in all that we forget to notice, the pain of a girl going through heartbreak and each reminder of lost love, mourning the ones long gone by holding onto anything you have left of them. This is to capture what the little things can mean to each one of us, hope or memory.

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12min 30s | India

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Upasana Raghu is a 17-year-old arts student in pursuit of dance and theatre.

Sharan Raj is a filmmaker who has made an independent feature film.

Seema Jain is a multi-disciplinary artist who majors in visual art forms and is also exploring art documentaries, video installation and photography.

Tania Thomas is a theatre artist and writer.



## THE CLEAN UP

**Rupam Mishra, Pinar Ekinici**

The first step towards the white light of enlightenment is to get up and do the cleaning. Listen to the knock and act accordingly.

The Clean Up was developed and executed at AuroApaar Manifest Dance-Film Incubator #2 – with equipment support from Sony India Pvt Ltd. This foundation project is implemented by India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) made possible with support from Sony Pictures Entertainment Fund.

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8min 30s | India

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Rupam Mishra works with the Auroville Arts Service as a creative director, actor, and performer. She is also associated with Language Laboratory and Tomatis Research centre as a language coach. Rupam has worked with theatre companies Kathputliyan, Kalyan Theatre Group, and Rangashankara. She is the founder of Avantgardenr which uses theatre and dance as its core elements.

“ Working with indigenous theatre and dance troupes cemented my interest in performing arts. I believe learning even a tiny bit of this vast art will be a lifelong endeavour. ”

Istanbul resident Pinar Ekinici is trained as a programmer but is eager to explore filmmaking.



## KUSUMVANMAJH

Mihika Sengupta

The narrative is based on Rabindranath Tagore's poetry work, Bhanusingher Padabali which chronicles the romance between Radha and Krishna, a traditional theme of Indian poetry. Written in Brajboli with a pinch of Bangla, Tagore in his writings here seeks a connection with divinity through an appeal to nature and the emotional interplay of human drama. He wrote this work under the pen name of Bhanusingha wherein both his own name and pen name are heteronyms – both Ravi and Bhanu mean the sun. There are countless approaches to dance filmmaking but the one used in here is an emphasis on choreographing for the camera where the narrative is portrayed via movements through space, time, and music..

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14min 59s | India

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Mihika Sengupta is currently pursuing PhD in film studies from Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies. She has done her MA in Mass Communication from Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and BA (hons) Journalism from Delhi University. She is an amateur yet passionate filmmaker. Her first Documentary 'Panchkanya – women of strength' has been screened at various film festivals and has won awards. Her areas of interest for film making are Women's empowerment, History, Art, and Culture.



## SPAZ

**Anu Vaidyanathan**

A short musical and a riff on Spike Jonze's 'How they get there' as the ballad of an anthropomorphic surgical mask and it's effect on two strangers.

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2min 48s | Luxembourg

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Anu Vaidyanathan is a filmmaker, comedian and engineer whose memoir *Anywhere But Home* was long-listed for the Mumbai Film Festival's word-to-screen market in 2016. Her feature scripts have found themselves at the final rounds at Sundance and Rotterdam. As a comedian, she has gigged across greater Europe and London and has trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and Ecole Philippe Gaulier in France. "...Endurance is in the family." (*Harper's Bazaar*). "...inspiring, refreshing and full of surprises." (*Hindustan Times*). "India's Female Ironman" (*Wall Street Journal*). Her book and films are available on Amazon and on request.

# **ADDITIONAL EVENTS**

## PANEL DISCUSSION

### **Imaging the Body- beyond documentation and Orientalist tropes**

Experts drawn from across film and performing arts offer individual responses to the dance-films screened during the festival. The central focus will be the implications of the coming together of dance and film in the Indian context.

Panelists: Anmol Vellani, Prerana Shrimali, Ramani RV, Radhika Khanna, Krishna Devanandan

## MASTERCLASSES

### **Subject and Object : Questions for theatre lighting**

Anmol Vellani is a theatre director, writer, curator, teacher, actor trainer and the founder and former executive director of the India Foundation for the Arts, an independent philanthropic organisation. His talk and writings on art reflect his deep engagement with bridging arts and philanthropy.

Anmol Vellani will guide attendees on lighting performance in black box spaces in this session aimed at performers, light designers, directors and anyone interested in lighting techniques.

### **Lensing the body**

National award-winning filmmaker RV Ramani has made over 30 independent films. As a cinematographer, he has collaborated with numerous filmmakers and his works have been screened in prestigious film festivals all over the world.

In this masterclass, RV Ramani will give pointers on framing movement and directing movement-based sequences with reference to his own work as well as some films screened during the festival.

### **Kathak Appreciation**

SNA awardee Prerana Shrimali is one of the most renowned Kathak dancers of her generation. She is former guru of Kathak Kendra, Delhi – the national centre for Kathak and has been a regular member of various official panels on dance and research (Ministry of Culture) Government of India.

Prerana combines a rigorous traditional training with intellectual openness and curiosity. She has explored the synergy of dance with modern poetry ( Festival D'Avignon) and contemporary Indian paintings ( Raza Foundation).

Her research on the 'Abstraction in Kathak' and the influence of folk dance and classical texts on Kathak is an immense contribution to Indian dance.

In the session, acclaimed Kathak guru and performer SNA awardee Prerana Shrimali will guide attendees through a traditional Kathak presentation to help lay audiences understand this complex classical form .



# WORKSHOPS

## **Power Flow Movement**

Calling out dancers , movement lovers , yoga and strength practitioners to experience this session where you move in a flow using your power with the music.

## **Contemporary Flamenco Workshop**

Currently based in Seville, Spain-Naya Binghi combines rigorous training in traditional flamenco with extensive experience in contemporary dance. She is an emerging choreographer who has won multiple awards including 'Outstanding Creator' and Outstanding Performer' of the 123 Program, Tel Aviv in 2022.. She was also selected as the best dancer in Israel by the ADI Foundation in 2022.

Naya is the founder of Tablao Binghi which combines flamenco, Arabic music and flamenco dance. She is also a dance-filmmaker whose film 'En la Sala de Espera ' won the best prize in the Ber Sheva Fringe Theatre in 2020.

This workshop introducing contemporary flamenco is open to all regardless of previous dance experience.

## **Dance Reel by AV Improv Lab**

AV Improv Lab group is offering a live improvised performance in response to a dance-film screened during the MANIFEST DANCE-FILM FESTIVAL. Dance, theatre, music, and other media will be used as tools to communicate to the audience the individual and the group's spontaneous response to the story depicted in the movie.

## **L.O.S.T Movement Workshop**

– Thanuja Kartik. Akhil Joshy a.k.a Lucid, Arnold Amon. Allan Dev

An explorative movement journey where anybody and everybody can simply dance create their own authentic movement.

## **Contemporary Kuchipudi**

Recontextualising traditional Kuchipudi techniques, editing, devising a

Devising a Kuchipudi performance that puts the focus on the technique and the body.

Choreography and performance : Gururaju

