

VCU Dance news

V i r g i n i a C o m m o n w e a l t h U n i v e r s i t y

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VCU Dance Opens the 2007-2008 Season with Dancing for the Camera

Richmond, VA – As the first event of its NEXUS 2007-2008 season, Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Dance and Choreography presents **Dancing for the Camera, works selected from the 12th Annual American Dance Festival (ADF) Dancing for the Camera International Festival of Film and Video Dance**. A screening of five short films will be presented **Wednesday, September 5, 2007, Grace Street Theater, 934 West Grace Street, Richmond, VA. 8:00 PM**. Tickets are \$5, available at the door. Rambucks accepted. For more information, contact the Grace Street Theater at 804-828-2020.

VCU Dance faculty member Martha Curtis curated this selection and says, "This screening offers innovative approaches to screen space—digital images, stage spaces, natural landscapes and vast architectural environments are infused with the energy of dance." Directors from the U.S., England, Australia, Canada and Israel take on time, space, control, the psyche, and more in six films that will seduce your eyes and sharpen your mind.

In *Moebius* (England, 2007), directed by Claudia Kappenberg, the body works as a projection surface for an archival film and becomes a moebius strip, an infinite loop of past and present. Four dancers working within four spaces of a warehouse to connect a single movement phrase make up *Connect 4* (USA, 2007), directed by Nadia Oussenko.

Director Charlotte Griffen uses animated images to bookend a fusion of choreography and percussion, bringing a raven to life within a cinematic canvas in *Raven Study* (USA 2007), which received the ADF Dancing for the Camera Outstanding Student Work Award.

Crossing each other through a labyrinth of corridors, drawing a path of potential meeting points which constantly fail to satisfy, dancers negotiate territory and control in *Give me a Break* (Israel 2007), directed by Noa Shadur. *Give me a Break* was awarded the ADF Dancing for the Camera Certificate of Distinction. In a different approach to boundaries, Cordelia Bevesford takes us on a sensory journey revolving around the idea of the mind and its inner workings flowing back and forth like the sea. Her film *The Shape of Water* (Australia 2007) explores the symbolic connection between water and the human psyche.

The ADF Dancing for the Camera: International Festival of Film and Video Dance is directed and curated by Douglas Rosenberg. Nicolle Wasserman served as Curatorial Assistant. The 2007 jurors, in addition to Mr. Rosenberg, were Rebecca Davis and Heidi Latsky. ADF Dancing for the Camera has screened to international audiences more than 250 dance films from over 20 countries. ADF Dancing for the Camera Festival is held at the American Dance Festival each summer in Durham, North Carolina. Heralded as “One of the nation’s most important institutions” (*New York Times*), ADF has a sustained record of creative achievement which is indivisible from the history of modern dance.

Dancing for the Camera is the first event in VCU Dance NEXUS, the 2007-2008 season which, with a stunning array of performances, film screenings, guest artist residencies and master classes, promises all the energy and explosive creativity of a national festival. Funding for the 2007-2008 season is graciously provided in part by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Elmwood Fund, the Sydney and Frances Lewis Foundation, and VCUarts.

The presenting program of VCU Dance is committed to building and enlightening dance audiences in the University and Richmond community while providing opportunities for artists to present and create work. Recognized by professional dancers and choreographers as “a place where things are happening,” Virginia Commonwealth University’s Department of Dance and Choreography offers a vibrant and stimulating atmosphere where students prepare for careers in dance.

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