

Loikka on Tour @ Nicaragua 2017 - Finnish Marriage of Dance and Film



Dance and dance film are the art of movement, action, choreography, music and images. Dance film is inherently international; the expressive power of movement can transcend language barriers and bring together people from different cultures. And therein lies the power of dance as a tool for dealing with even the more challenging themes and emotions. The viewer is free to hear, see and experience dance, film and music against the backdrop of his or her personal experiences – in dance film, there is seldom spoken language to limit how we understand or experience what we see or hear.

Finnish short dance film is peaking. During the last five years Finnish choreographers and filmmakers have discovered the art form and made it their own. Dance films are made professionally with a high standard and they have been highly successful in many international arenas.

Me - Story of a Performance by director **Jopsu Ramu** and choreographer **Johanna Nuutinen** has been awarded with multiple prizes in international festivals all over the globe. Film follows a performance from different perspectives: how it is perceived by the dancer, the audience and how it can be seen from an objective point of view as a mere code. Through these the interpretation of a different world – The Performance is created and we are all pulled into being a part of it.
(ME: English: I, Finnish: We, the Japanese: the eye).

60 second time limit is fascinating challenge to an artist's. Sometimes it is too short and sometimes you can show the whole universe in one minute. All is about how you execute the time. As an example for one-minute dance films we show two different execution from Finnish filmmakers. Both films have toured around the globe and been successful in international competitions. Film *JUMP* by Finnish **Taneli Törmä** and Swedish **Jan Vesala** won first prize in the online 60secondsdance competition in 2015 and *PISS* by **Mika Allasmäki** and **Kati Kallio** was granted 3rd prize in short film competition DesArte//DesCine in 2016.

SEE | OBEY by **Jouka Valkama** and **Susanna Leinonen** won the Loikka Audience Award 2016 voted by festival viewers. The film was originally made for two separate screens to the dance performance. *SEE | OBEY* tells simultaneously three different narratives about human emotions, every day events and conflicts by physical expression and movement.

Cold Storage is the first commissioned dance film in the Loikka Production Project, directed by **Thomas Freundlich** and choreographed by **Valtteri Raekallio**. In a film a lonely ice fisherman discovers his frozen prehistoric soul brother in the ice, multiple levels of time and reality blend together into a cinematic and kinetic exploration of alienation, dependency and friendship. Film have been selected to TV broadcasting and won multiple competition. Film was awarded as Best Film in FIVER International Dance film Competition 2017 in La Rioja, Spain.

PRANA is short experimental film by **Antti Ahokoivu** that lengthens the borders of dance and dance film. This choreographic and poetic film has now human dancers in it, but dance is done by floating scarf that represent energy of universe, circle of life.

Mutual understanding between people – is a topik in a film *Objects in the mirror are closer than they appear* by **Jukka Rajala-Granstubb**. The film that submerges Mexican flamenco and the Finnish countryside is a portray of dancer **Abraham Lezama Juarez** and his journey to find his own identity through dance. Love takes him to new surroundings, but dance provides a common ground to relate to reality.

Parody film *Body Language Zone* by director **Kim Saarinen** and choreographer **Johanna Keinänen** is one of the most successful short dance films from Finland. In the film we follow the body language consultant facing multiple challenges in today's corporate life and dealing with where surplus body language is placed. The film and dance artist Keinänen's performance has been awarded at multiple international festivals. Recently it was awarded the Best Film Prize in Stories We Dance film festival, Italy. *Film is in English with Spanish subtitles.*

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Duration of screening 52 minutes

Duration of whole program with initiation and Q&A about 80 minutes

Films

OBJECTS IN THE MIRROR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR (2014, FI/MX, 15'50)

Director / Cinematographer: Jukka Rajala-Granstubb

Choreography: Abraham Lezama Juarez

Composer: Jarryd Lowder, Abraham Lezama Juarez

Sound designer: Stefan Backas

Photo: Jukka Rajala-Granstubb

JUMP (2015, DK, 1'00)

Directors/ Choreographers: Taneli Törmä & Jan Vesala

Photo: Jan Vesala

SEE | OBEY (2015, FI, 14'00)

Director: Jouka Valkama

Choreographer: Susanna Leinonen

Composer / Sound designer: Kasper Laine

Photo: Jouka Valkama

BODY LANGUAGE ZONE (2015, FI, 10'00)

Director / Cinematographer: Kim Saarinen

Choreographer: Johanna Keinänen

Composer: Dave Forestfield

Sound designer: Kim Saarinen

Photo: Kim Saarinen

PRANA (2'41, FI/SW, 2017)

Director: Antti Ahokoivu

Music & Sound designer: Juho Luukkainen

Photo: n/a

ME - STORY OF A PERFORMANCE (7'30, FI/EE/JP, 2013)

Director: Jopsu Ramu

Choreographer & Starring: Johanna Nuutinen

Cinematographer: Mark Stubbs

Composer: Jukka Backlund

Photo: Mark Stubbs

PISS (1'00, FI, 2013)

Director: Mika Ailasmäki

Choreographer: Kati Kallio

Photo: Mika Ailasmäki

COLD STORAGE (2016, FI, 9'00)

Director: Thomas Freundlich

Choreographer: Valtteri Raekallio

Composer: Kimmo Pohjola

Photo: Thomas Freundlich