



SEASON 43
DANCE DISCUSSIONS

NARRATIVE & DANCE: EXPLORING DANCE AS FILM

As part of our virtual presentation of Season 43, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago presents Jonathan Fredrickson's work, *The Sky Was Different*, premiering online December 3, 2020 and as a student matinee December 9-18, 2020. To accompany this work, we have created a series of multi-media study guides, with a new topic each week. These guides are designed for middle and high school students and contain videos, discussion questions, and lesson prompts.

LET'S DIVE IN!



TODAY'S AGENDA

1

WHAT ARE DANCE FILMS?

2

RELEVANT VOCABULARY

3

WHERE HAVE WE SEEN DANCE ON FILM?

4

CONTEMPORARY DANCE FILMS

5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

6

CONNECTIONS - CURRENT DANCE FILMMAKERS

WHAT IS DANCE AS FILM?

DANCE FILM/SCREENDANCE

The combination of choreographic ideas and cinematic techniques including editing and camerawork.



"Screendance is a moving image work, the content of which has choreographic compositional intention, combined with the technical and creative language of cinema"



VOCABULARY

EE.
LET'S GO!



First, let's start with some important terms.



Dance Documentation

- The use of film to record a work intended for live performance.
- Dance documentation is often used for archival purposes.



Dance Film

- The combination of choreographic ideas and cinematic techniques including editing and camerawork.



Storyboard

- When planning a dance film, many directors draw or write out the shots they plan to use for their film. This acts as a roadmap for the process of shooting and editing footage.

FILM ELEMENTS

SHOT

The footage from one cut to another.

LOCATION

The place where you choose to shoot your film.

CUT

The switch from one piece of footage to another.

FRAMING

The presentation of visual elements in an image, especially the placement of the subject in relation to other objects.

SUBJECT

Who or what you are filming.

EDITING

The act of stitching together and manipulating raw footage into a cohesive whole.

WHO CREATES A DANCE FILM?

Just like a stage performance, a dance film is a collaboration with many artists.

* Choreographer

A person who composes the sequence of steps and moves for a performance of dance.

* Videographer/Filmmaker

The person who films the work. Sometimes the videographer is also the co-director.

* Composer

A musician who is an author of music in any form, including vocal music (for a singer or choir), instrumental music, electronic music, and music which combines multiple forms.

* Performers

A person who acts, creates music, or dances in front of audiences.

* Editor

The person who puts together the footage into a complete film, following the director's and/or choreographer's artistic vision.

* Director

The person who guides the filming process to achieve their or the choreographer's artistic vision. Sometimes the director and the choreographer are the same person.

HOW DOES THE ROLE OF THE AUDIENCE CHANGE WHEN DANCE IS ON FILM?

If you're used to seeing dance on stage you may be wondering - what happens to the connection between audience and performer with a dance film?

IN THE THEATER

- [Get dressed for the performance](#)
- Go out for dinner/drinks
- Can only watch on the specific ticket date/time and at that location
- [Invite a friend and watch together](#)
- [Pre/post show talks](#)
- [Read the program](#)
- Talk with audience members about the performance (intermission/after)
- Lobby experience
- [Clap at the end of performance](#)
- The performance only exists in that moment.
- Repeat the steps above if you want to see the performance again.
- Only available on specific dates.



DANCE FILMS

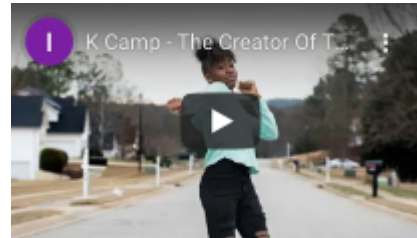
- [Get dressed for the performance](#). Dress up OR wear pajamas
- Order in dinner and drinks/pick up snacks
- Choose where/when you want to watch the performance
- [Invite a friend and watch together](#), even if you are far apart
- [Pre/post show talks](#)
- [Read the program](#), watch the trailer, explore the dance discussion guides
- Rewind to see your favorite moment or pause to discuss
- Chat with friends about the work.
- [Clap at the end of the performance](#). Or the beginning. Or the middle. No one's watching you, who cares?
- Learn a phrase from the performance and share with friends.
- Watch the performance again. And again.

Seeing dance films may feel unfamiliar if you are used to the theater experience, but we see dance on film in lots of familiar ways. Here are three examples that, while not dance films, explore concepts of dance on film.

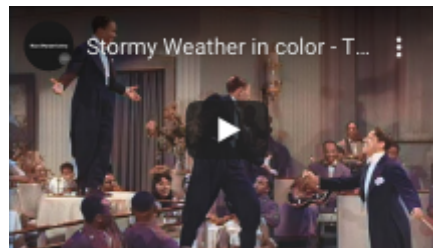
WHERE DO WE SEE DANCE ON FILM?



Music Videos



Social Media



At the Movies

Dance Documentaries

You may also have seen dance in a documentary. Dance documentaries serve to capture stage performance, traditional dances, and the stars of the dance field for future generations, as well as to provide access to dance for those who cannot see it in person and for dance education programs.



Filmed Stage
Performance



Documenting Dance
Forms

Haiti Fieldwork, 1936
motion picture | Duration: 0:56:22 | filmed in 1936 in Haiti on
16mm by Katherine Durham, this clip shows traditional dance.
The film also includes footage of La Citadelle; cockfighting; Mart...

The Library of Congress



Choreographic
Process
Documentary



Highlighting Field
Leaders

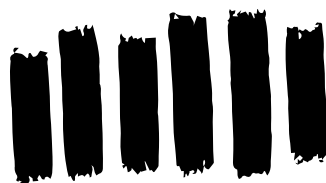
The Six Seasons

Documentary on Akram Khan's "Desh"

medici.tv

DANCE AS FILM

EXAMPLES AND
DISCUSSION



In contrast to the types of dance on film above, where the dance is a part of something else or was created for the stage, Dance Films are dances created as complete performances to be viewed on screen.

“**WATCH
THIS
VIDEO**” →



Continuum

"Continuum" is a choreographic fiction where the thematics of time and space are explored through the symbolism of sand's matter in animation mixed with live-action.

LET'S → DISCUSS AND ANALYZE

QUESTION →

How does the use of animation enhance the movement?

01

QUESTION →

What elements were only possible because this piece was created for film instead of the stage? How did these elements add to your experience of the piece?

02

QUESTION →

How does the framing of certain shots change your perspective?

03

DANCE AS FILM

Here are three more dance films. As you watch them, look for how the choreographer and director use the elements of film listed in our vocabulary section to create a unique performance environment.



Slack Jaw

A movement film to the sounds of the awe-inspiring Amelia Meath: vocals; Nick Sanborn: chord organ; and Jenn Wasner: piano.

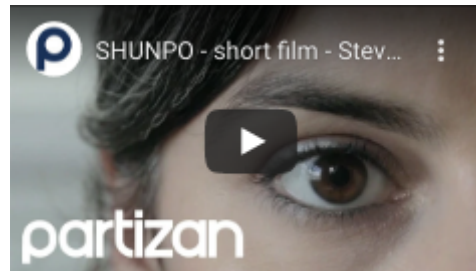


Cost of Living

The Cost of Living is a British physical theatre dance film made in 2004 by DV8 Films Ltd. The film uses dance, dialogue and physical theatre to tell the story of two street performers and their interaction with other performers in Cromer, a seaside resort town, at the end of the summer season.

Shunpo

What if we could escape our daily routine for a moment ? A Step, just one, that could move us miles away from here, in a second; a flash step. A Shunpo.



WHAT DID YOU SEE?



QUESTION
→

What are 2 similarities and 2 differences between the dance films above?

01

QUESTION
→

Choose one of the dance films above. What part of it caught your attention and why?

02

QUESTION
→

What would you create a dance film about? How would you use technology to make it interesting?

03



CHECK OUT THESE DANCE FILMAKERS FOR MORE!

[Talía Koylass](#)

[Gabrielle Wiltz](#)

[Mitchell Rose](#)

[Margaret Williams](#)

[Maya Deren](#)

[Kyle Hanagami](#)

[Phillip Chbeeb](#)

[Emma Portner](#)

[Nel Shelby](#)

[Lil Buck](#)

[Coal Rietenbach](#)

[Mark Freeman](#)

[Dance Films Association](#)

[Screen.Dance](#)

[San Francisco Dance Film Festival](#)

[Jumping Frames](#)

[Seoul Dance Film Festival](#)

[DANCE@30FPS](#)

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- The Six Seasons*. Directed by Gilles Delmas, performance by Akram Khan, Lardux Films, 2012.

THANK YOU!

Join us next week for a new dance
discussion!





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