

Akbank Sanat International Dance Films

14:30 - 16:00 Session

Bella

98' - ABD, 2022, English, Without Subtitles

Director: Briget A Murnane

About the Film

A feature-length film about the life, work, influence and impact of California-based choreographer/Arts Activist Bella Lewitzky. Described as "One of the greatest American dancers of our age," (Walter Terry) Bella Lewitzky was a talented, strong, out-spoken artist, who dedicated her creative life to protect the rights of every American citizen.

17:00-18:40 Session

Beast

9' - Poland, 2021

Director: Iwona Pasińska

About the Film

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.

Still life on the Island

15'45" - Netherlands, 2020

Director: Nicole Beutler, Claire Bontje

About the Film

The poetic dance film *Still life on the Island* by the visual choreographer Nicole Beutler pays tribute to slowing down and nature's power. It is an impressive encounter between technique and landscape. In dialogue with the wind and tides on the beach of West-Terschelling, *Still life on the Island* creates space for beauty, comfort and a new, healing balance. It is a meditative ritual about being together at a distance, with each other and the natural space around us.

The Edge

5'06"- Türkiye, 2023

Director: Recep Akar

About the Film

Some of us are aware, some of us are not, but we are all teetering back and forth on the edge of the same cliff, trying to keep our balance. Will a wind take us down, will a hand grab us and pull us over the edge, can hope sustain us in these uncertain and turbulent times? "TheEdge", is a short film about the fragile balance of life and existential questions.

Thick Skin

2'31"- Colombia, 2023

Director: Laura Steiner

About the Film

To be able to live in Bogotá, you need a skin that can adapt, that can turn reptilian when it doesn't stop raining for weeks and that can go soft when the woman in the corner shop gives you a free morning coffee. *Thick Skin* is a dance film that takes the viewer through the Colombian capital high above the Andes with stylized movement that speaks of life in the bustling city.

Cosmoception

8'21"- Türkiye, 2021

Director: Aslı Öztürk, Gizem Aksu, Melissa Ugolini

About the Film

This experimental short dance movie is based on a journey of 5 women from Istanbul to discover deeper layers of their city, Istanbul in order to tune with archaic and organic relationship between

micro-cosmos of their body and macro-cosmos of their city, geography. Within historical, symbolic and elemental meaning of an aqueduct, Mağlova; they find different ways of exploring and embodying their empowerment; their female energies. As they get closer the natural forces within and beyond, they gather and get power to come out of the plastic cocoons; which refer to political suffocation, expectations and restrictions of public morality. Cosmoception may be the collective sensations when female energies are awakened and touch to the various layers of body, mind, soul, and city.

One Stands Ready: Ozhigaabawi

7'07" - USA, 2021

Director: Jamie Kamala Wood

About the Film

Female Jingle Dancers and Male Fancy Dancers offer a combined piece in honor and recognition of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (specifically amongst Native American and Alaskan Native women).

Pas de Trois

7'08" - France, 2022

Director: Guillaume Herment-Berrebi

About the Film

The dancers, agglomerated at first to each other, and to the floor will gradually separate, stand up, individuate, discover themselves, learn to dance for themselves, and then together in a growing energy burst leading to a final climax full of desire. We will have started from a primitive nucleus, to end up with a desiring trio, free from conventions.

Bulabulay mun? (Variation)

12' - Taiwan, 2022

Director: Maurice Lai Yu-man

About the Film

bulabulay mun? How are you?
Greetings after greetings from the same ocean
are dedicated to you who protect your homeland with your life.
Mountains and oceans still remember

the history of tears and blood that has been swamped by waves.
Heaven and earth never forget
those who have guarded with their lives
Ancestral spirits!
History is still waiting.
One day eventually,
the sun can stop weeping!

Tjimur Dance Theatre adopted the “e ne lja sinvaudjan a nia qati” from Southern Paiwan to reconstruct this historical battle that has been forgotten as time goes by. We walked in step like soldiers going to war. With the ever-changing rhythms of the ancient ballad, once again, we shouted to heaven and earth. Shouldn't those who defended their homeland a hundred years ago be carved in history?

Uğultular

4'28" - Türkiye, 2022

Director: İlyas Hayta

About the Film

The story is about a couple.

On Mending

4'55" - Italy, 2021

Director: Shawn Fitzgerald Ahern, Emilie Louise Leriche

About the Film

A reflection on the beauty and inevitability of impermanence, On Mending is a short dance film that follows a community's attempt to process overwhelming loss. The film and its characters wind their way through a vast and barren alpine landscape, an abstract land of memory and nostalgia. At its root On Mending is a contemplation on support, on community, on the action of releasing what we can no longer carry with us.

Offering

5' - Canada, 2023

Director: Marlene Millar

About the Film

Offering creates a meaningful and joyful convergence between the Migration Dance Film Project's body percussion artists and emerging artists from dance (gigue, contemporary, street) and circus arts. The choreography uses the power of procession in Montreal's urban borough of Little Burgundy to amplify its storyline of (re)imagined homescape in the era of mid-pandemic. The procession formed by movement artists from across communities weaves its way through urban corridors, neighbourhoods, green spaces — an uncoiled assemblage of nomadic storytellers anchored in the intimate knowledge of individual and shared experiences in unison. Offering imbues movement in stillness within our city and takes refuge in its powerful migratory patterns traced across our urbanscape.

19:30-21:00 Session

How is everyone in İstanbul?

29'12''- Türkiye, 2022

Director: Melih Kıraç

About the Film

How do bodies respond to the nature of memory storage, forgetting, and remembering? What do the lost bodies do?

Inspired by the "Memento İstanbul - Hristoff Family Archive" exhibition organized by Çıplak Ayaklar Kumpanyası at Yapı Kredi Culture and Arts in 2022, the performance titled "How is Everyone in İstanbul?" met the audience in the exhibition area. The performance engaged in a dialogue with the exhibition, which focused on the different dimensions of being an İstanbulite, by exploring the connection with İstanbul through the theme of "being an İstanbulite," as experienced in the lives of a family of Bulgarian descent spanning three generations who have experienced different aspects of being İstanbulites. The arrangement of the exhibition, the organization of the space, and the themes that emerged throughout the performance and movement during the exhibition not only captured the visual record of the performance in the video of the show but also transformed it. Through technical and artistic interventions at the editing table, it turned into a video performance independent of the exhibition.

Ruins Within Ruins

9'23''- Greece, 2024

Director: Lefteris Parasyris

About the Film

A group of dancers positions themselves between the ancient and modern ruins of the island of Crete,

Greece. Drawing inspiration from its rich heritage, they craft a series of kinetic forms and patterns influenced by folk dances and Minoan frescoes. These installations, whether harmonising with or contrasting against the island's culture, offer reflections on historical memory and the Cretan identity.

City of Dreams

13'59"- USA, 2023

Director: Lefteris Parasyris

About the Film

City of Dreams is a danced love letter to New York City. Created in collaboration with Battery Dance, this trio of connected vignettes explores the magic that's around any corner when we let go and allow imagination and reality to coexist.

Then or Now

35'- USA, 2023

Director: Roswitha Cheshier, Will Tuckett

About the Film

Is it necessary for me to write obliquely about the situation? Is that what you would have me do?

Back To Rio

4'31'- Brasil, 2022

Director: Lucas Stuvok

About the Film

Back to Rio is a worthy tribute to Cidade Maravilhosa (Rio's most famous nickname that translates to "wonderful city") through Tap Dance. This dance film captures the most cinematic visuals of Rio de Janeiro and makes Hollywood groove to the carioca bossa with the orchestral version Girl from Ipanema by Tom Jobim.

