

the fifth annual sarah lawrence college
dancefilm festival

featuring work from before & during the pandemic/quarantine
created by students, faculty, & alums

saturday, april 25th
4-6 pm est

streaming online at
my.sl.c.edu/dancefilm

image: a cage by zhiwei wu

SARAH
LAWRENCE
COLLEGE
DANCE



A Cage

Zhiwei Wu '21 | 2019 | 4:00

It's a dance theater performance. Why do we want to be in the cage? The performance shows the living of a group of creatures that get confused about themselves and their surroundings. What are they? Why are they here in the cage? A resolution is perpetually needed.

Untitled

Alina Pontius '18 | 2020 | 6:29

Went out to play...

Will you dance for Wuhan?

Banyan Wang '18 | 2020 | 3:51

In the recent coronavirus epidemic that spread from Wuhan China, patients and nurses in the hospitals in Wuhan are using dance to help themselves recover from the stress of the sickness, overwork, and being quarantined and isolated. The film makes reference to these “park dances” and then connects the felt experiences of inhabitants of the hospital and viewers by inviting viewers to learn three park dance steps and to move together.

This Was Not Supposed to Be Performance Art, but Here We Are

Sophie Teachout '23 | 2020 | 8:03

This was originally filmed to document an improvisation at a local public park, but the unintended creative collaboration with other park-goers turned it into performance art, which was edited to become this film

EAT ME!

Jim Francis '17 | 2020 | 1:00

Set in the hedonistic playground of a busy Bangkok nightlife— a world where animals feast with pleasure on humans before they take the night away. The film is a critique of the overconsumption of meat and the consequences we all face in the Covid-19 era. Made with immediacy by Tomatoes collective.

Foil Dress Task

Catherine Eng '19 | 2020 | 4:00

The task was to make a dress out of tin foil, put it on, then move so it inevitably fell off. Once off, I hung it up and "ironed it" to try and flatten the foil again. Four dresses were constructed and reverted, it took 50 minutes and was shot from one angle next to an intersection and a construction site. This was three years ago. I for a long time, I couldn't make the footage work as a non-instillation style piece. But yet I kept returning to it in hopes of constructing something out of the pieces. Recently I've found myself with more time on my hands and returned to the project. But since I've been displaced from my home in NYC, all I could access were the rendered files that had been backed up on my google Drive. They had no sound, no order, and no context. Most were only 5 frames long. Luckily, I found an old version of the original edit that I could steal sound from. After that, I used chance based process to structure the work (numerical and alphabetical by render id) and then fine tuned it to become what I'd call an intuitive study of video transformation. Oddly enough, the editing process of this video has ended up mirroring the cycle of the original task, as I formed, destroyed, and tried to restore the footage in order to create a time event.

dancing through virus

Lu Shirley Dai MFA '19 | 2020 | 5:00

This film is part of the artist's "my window speaks" series, a personal project and an online initiative gathering works that document this special period of time. I made this short film in early February, only a few days after the virus news first broke out in China. It was an intense period of time filled with fear, anxiety and distrust. I browsed through all kinds of news in search of "the truth." I felt powerless that I could not help those who suffer. I had doubt and disappointment towards the government, its structure and capability. But I also had immense admiration and respect for the efforts and progress it has made. It's been over two months of self-quarantine, and things are slowly shifting, so is my state of mind. I trust the body in the actions of living through the most ordinary, repetitive daily functions. Washing the dishes, cleaning the floor, even lifting up the pot and moving it to the other side of the counter, all are channeled through the movement of the muscle, the bones, the blood cells. There is a force, a powerful yet scarcely realized force; the force of living, the force of moving, the force of the ordinary lives. Look, kites are flying high in the sky outside the window. Film by Lu Shirley Dai
Music credit: "I don't think about you anymore but," by Hungry Ghosts.

In the Sand

Leah Hewlings '20 | 2019 | 3:04

I completed this film as part of a Fall 2019 Sarah Lawrence class - Introduction to Animation Studies with Jason Douglass. It came about through collaboration; I directed and animated based around the work of composer Kat Carlsen and dancer Joey J. Haley. The film is primarily a rotoscoped animation of Joey's dance to Kat's music. The three of us were working through ideas on digital representations of the body, isolation and digital dispersion of the body, gender and orientation, and queer pop culture.

Le corps troublé, a story of dance making

Justine Fisset '20 | 2020 | 4:20

This film aims to picture mind and body's creativity during dance making within two different layers of troubled spaces: first, the dance studio but especially the dancer's body. The latter is sometimes an imprisoning entity that the dancer tries to tame, to master and to love in order to serve their art. Dance making puts the dancer in face of their physical boundaries which need to be overcome for the body to meet mind's expectations.

In

Zhiwei Wu '21 | 2019 | 4:00

In here

K and the Way

Patti Bradshaw (SLC Faculty) | 2016 | 7:45

Alumni: Jimmy Brenner, Jane O'Hara, and Pepper Fajans perform.

At This Time in Space

Katie Labadie '19 | 2019 | 3:49

A series of site specific compositions and improvisations, in which time has been manipulated, reflecting the chaos of work at an arts organization and the contrasting serenity of open space. This film was originally created for the internship program at SPACE on Ryder Farm, an organic farm in Brewster, NY that hosts artist residencies.

THEFIGHTFORMONSTROSITY

Hank Bamberger MFA '20 | 2020 | 9:55

This film celebrates the beauty of simplicity and the excessiveness of technology; in a dark time where everything seems to be at odds. I find so many artistic opportunities in the confluence of nature versus industrialization. Here, I play within a created world where I am able to explore both surreal realities. In this land of limbo, I work with the manipulation of costume and choreographic objects to evoke sensations of struggle, perseverance, and eternity.

My Sh*t Bang

Matt Lopez (SLC Faculty) & Melissa Ramos | 2019 | 3:07

Choreography from Sarah Lawrence College adjunct faculty, Matt Lopez and his partner, Melissa Ramos both on faculty at www.StepsNYC.com. #MelMattChoreography IG: @MattLopezABCDance IG: @MelissaRamosDance

– please stay for a q&a with the artists –

information & credits

about the festival

For its fifth year in 2020, the annual Sarah Lawrence College Dancefilm Festival focuses on student, alum, and faculty filmmakers. The festival is organized and curated by students, staff, and faculty of the college. It emerged out of Kathy Westwater's 2016 Graduate Seminar in Dancefilm. Find us at: fb.me/sarahlawrencedancefilm and www.instagram.com/dancefilmfest_slc/

2020 planning committee

Sophia Cutrubus, Emily Goucher, Abby Grant, Lily Padilla, Grace Smith, and Ruby Stigers

special thanks to

The filmmakers who have participated in this year's festival; Deby Finkelstein, Senior Director of College Events Winston Churchill-Joell, Director of Digital Services; John Jasperse, Dance Program Director; Carmen Hartigan, Coordinator for the Dance Program; and the faculty and staff of the Sarah Lawrence College Dance Program.