

DANCE ON CAMERA SYMPHONY SPACE

DANCE ON CAMERA AND SYMPHONY SPACE ANNOUNCE LINEUP FOR 2026 DANCE ON CAMERA FESTIVAL, FEBRUARY 6-9

Programs will highlight experimentation, global diversity, and reflections on tradition.

New York, NY (January 8, 2026) – Dance on Camera and Symphony Space are proud to present the 54th edition of Dance on Camera Festival, running from February 6–9, 2026. In the second year of their partnership, the world's longest running dance festival will highlight an ambitious program celebrating artistic legacy, global perspectives, and the future of dance on film. Selected from nearly 250 submissions, Dance on Camera will feature 33 films from 12 countries, reinforcing its commitment to international voices and the evolving language of movement on screen. This year's selections span intimate portraits, technological experimentation, and powerful reflections on history, identity, and transformation.

“Tobin Del Cuore’s *Through Memory* and Jennifer Lin’s *About Face* bookend an eclectic slate of selections for this year’s festival,” said co-curator Michael Trusnovec. “The first reveals how the history of modern dance continues to resonate and shape its future, while the second captures an essential dialogue—one that confronts and seeks to evolve outdated portrayals of Asians in ballet and beyond. Together, they show how dance on film can be a powerful lens for examining and transforming legacy.”

Continuing a partnership that began with the 2025 festival, Dance on Camera and Symphony Space will co-present the 2026 festival’s screenings in Symphony Space’s the Leonard Nimoy Thalia Theater, welcoming growing audiences and expanding opportunities for dialogue around dance on film. Notes Edward J. Budz, Director of Film Programs at Symphony Space, “Symphony Space is thrilled to be expanding our film offerings through this partnership with Dance on Camera. The festival joins our robust slate of programs that bring the arts from across the globe and across disciplines -- theater, opera, fine art, and dance -- to full cinematic life, at accessible prices, with extraordinary artists both on screen and behind the scenes. There is a particular joy in sitting shoulder-to-shoulder in a darkened theater and sharing in the magic that unfolds on screen.”

Innovation and experimentation remain central to the 2026 program. Jonas Åkerlund’s *DuEls* pushes the limits of both performance and cinema, reflecting the festival’s bold approach to these principles. “*DuEls* features exquisite technological innovations in performance and editing while altering gravity amongst the Vigeland Museum’s sculpture collection,” noted co-curator Shawn Bible. “*RENDERING* by Phillippe Noguchi and Artur Miranda captivates our senses through imaginative kaleidoscoping vignettes in a void space of unexpected perspectives.”

As part of the festival’s ongoing commitment to representation and artistic courage, Dance on Camera will also present *Rojo Clavel (Red Carnation)* as a Global Feature selection. “*Rojo Clavel (Red Carnation)* is a candid and beautifully crafted portrait of queer artist Manuel Liñán

as he confronts the gendered traditions of flamenco,” Trusnovec adds. “Through his expressive choreography and dancing, as well as thoughtful conversations with collaborators, family, and teachers, this film offers an exploration of Liñán’s artistry that is both courageous and profoundly human.”

The 2026 lineup also amplifies new voices, including three first-time filmmakers. Among them is Daniel Gurton, whose film *Spoken Movement: Family Honour* offers a deeply personal and emotionally resonant perspective. “Gurton depicts the intricacies of a strained family dynamic through complex gestures and the powerful vocalization of the daughter and father’s shared pain,” says co-curator Irishia Romaine. “The film’s physical and emotional honesty offers an authentic portrayal of generational trauma and the desire for power, making it a standout selection in this year’s program.”

“The selected films reflect Dance on Camera’s enduring commitment to showcasing diverse artistic voices and dance styles, while also spotlighting technological innovation and the expressive potential of dance on screen,” says Trusnovec.

Tickets for the 2026 Dance on Camera Festival go on sale January 9th, 2026. Tickets are \$10 for Dance on Camera and Symphony Space members, \$14 for seniors and students, and \$17 for the General Public. All Access Passes are \$99 for members, seniors, and the general public and \$59 for students with valid ID.

For additional information regarding the festival or to purchase tickets, please visit Dance On Camera at dancefilms.org and Symphony Space at symphonyspace.org, and follow us on social media @dancefilms and @symphonyspace.

FILMS & DESCRIPTIONS

All films screen at Symphony Space’s Leonard Nimoy Thalia Theater.

FEATURES

DuEls

Jonas Åkerlund, 2024, Norway, 60m

DuEls is a dance film by the renowned Swedish director Jonas Åkerlund, based on Nagelhus Schia Productions’ successful dance performance choreographed by Damien Jalet and Erna Omarsdottir, first presented at the Vigeland museum in Oslo in 2020. Through a series of short and visceral pieces in the form of a tour performance through the museum, the dance contributes to release the concentrated energy in Vigeland’s iconic sculptures

Through Memory

Tobin Del Cuore, 2025, USA, 65m

Through Memory explores the rich dance heritage of the 92nd Street Y (92NY) while chronicling acclaimed choreographer Aszure Barton’s creative process with Limón Dance Company as they bring the new work “Join” to life, commissioned by 92NY. Filmed over two years, three compelling narratives intertwine: 92NY as a crucible of American Modern dance, the enduring legacy of Limón Dance Company, and Barton’s intimate journey of artistic creation. By excavating layers of choreographic memory, the film illuminates how artistic legacies endure and transform, tracing the Limón Company’s evolution from its groundbreaking origins to its vibrant contemporary practice.

Rojo Clavel (Red Carnation)
Roser Corella, 2024, Germany/Spain 85m
US Premiere

Rojo Clavel (Red Carnation) follows flamenco dancer Manuel Liñán on his journey to find freedom through art and self-expression. As he takes the stage, dance becomes a space where he explores identity, love, and the human body's power to communicate. The film challenges traditional flamenco boundaries, blending them with personal authenticity and emotional depth. Through intimate performances, Rojo Clavel delves into the tension between tradition and individuality, revealing the vulnerability and strength that define Manuel's artistic path. Interweaving past and present, it portrays dance as both rebellion and liberation—a universal language of connection, love, and resilience that transcends cultural borders and speaks directly to the human spirit.

About Face: Disrupting Ballet

Jennifer Lin, 2024, USA, 60m
New York Premiere

About Face spotlights Georgina Pazcoguin and Phil Chan as they challenge the dance world to rid ballet of Asian racial stereotypes and make it more inclusive. Gina, a soloist with the New York City Ballet, and Phil, an author and choreographer, launch the global Final Bow for Yellowface movement. They ask dancers to jettison offensive "yellowface" caricatures from ballets like *The Nutcracker* and *La Bayadère*. In real time, the Scottish Ballet updates its version of the Chinese dance to both high praise and stinging backlash. Phil takes on a bigger challenge of reimagining a full-length ballet: the problematic Bayadére. He boldly transports the story from ancient India to a Hollywood studio in the 1920s. *About Face* vividly shows the tension and risks the two artists endure as they push an art form, created for the entertainment of kings and queens hundreds of years ago, to be more relevant to diverse audiences today.

Last Dance At The Sundance Stompede

Graham Clayton-Chance, 2025, USA, 50m
New York Premiere

In November 2023, over 800 people from all over the world gathered in San Francisco to attend the Sundance Stompede, an LGBTQ+ country-western dance weekend with four days of workshops and exhibition performances across three venues. After 27 years this year is the final Stompede. As we journey into the final weekend, a film about country western dancing reveals deeper insights into the power of dance - not only to create community but to offer a profound healing of bodies and minds.

Mama Dancers

Jingqiu Guan & Yang Tao, 2025, USA, 50:30m
NY Premiere

Six diverse professional dancers navigate the dance of life as they balance the rhythms of motherhood and their demanding careers, unveiling the joys, struggles, and triumphs of pursuing their dreams.

An American in Paris

Vincente Minnelli, 1951, USA, 113m
75th Anniversary Screening

An American in Paris, winner of six Academy Awards including Best Picture, is a sparkling American musical romantic comedy film inspired by the 1928 jazz-influenced symphonic poem *An American in Paris* by George Gershwin. Starring the incomparable Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron in her film debut, Oscar Levant, Georges Guétary, and Nina Foch, the film is set in Paris and was directed by Vincente Minnelli from a script by Alan Jay Lerner. The music is by George Gershwin with lyrics by his brother Ira, with additional music by Johnny Green and Saul Chaplin, the music directors. In 1993 the film was selected for preservation by the United States Library

of Congress in the National Film Registry for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant". It is ranked number nine among AFI's Greatest Movie Musicals.

SHORTS

A Snake in the Grass

Fu Le, 2025, France/India, 19:24m

US Premiere

In *A Snake in the Grass*, a woman lives in a traditional rural village where a construction program of new houses is taking place. She meets a worker and will escape with him at the risk of creating jealousy in the village. The film struggles with the social yoke about marriage and the danger of a forbidden love in South India, the land of snakes.

CIMETRE

Jacob Bonkian, Djibril Ouattara, Clotilde Rullaud Nacoulma, 2024, France, 6:46m

New York Premiere

In the bustling heart of Bobo-Dioulasso's Saint-Étienne quarter, *CIMETRE* invites us into the six-metre social radius around a home—a space where tradition, modernity and community converge. From dawn's first stirrings to night's impassioned dances, this visual music-journey moves through a tapestry of artisans, merchants, children and dancers, capturing the collective pulse of everyday life turned poetic. A woman in red satin in a metal-tool garage, a dancer in white immersed in black ink — each image reveals the hidden beauty of the ordinary, and the tension of coexistence. With its fusion of rhythm, movement and frame, where sound and choreography breathe as one, *CIMETRE* asks: how can connection and compassion survive in an age of growing isolation? Transcending the format of a music video, it stands as both a love letter to the unseen beauty of everyday lives and a reminder that shared space, collective joy, and cultural memory are acts of quiet resistance.

Desire

Deny Ardianto, 2025, Indonesia, 8:28m

World Premiere

The human body is a living creature full of mysteries. Whether we realize it or not, humans often use their bodies to understand the world, convey their aspirations, and even function as instruments of political influence. Clad in a male body, Otniel Tasman felt he had succeeded in voicing his conscience through the art of Lengger, a traditional dance typical of Banyumas, Central Java, Indonesia, which is danced by men dressed as women. He represents his body as an open door, ready to accept all the consequences of the paradoxical world. He is prepared to live in the gray area between the traditions of masculinity and feminism, which he often calls "nyawiji", namely "when two entities become one". Through Lengger, Otniel Tasman reconstructs the relationship between performing arts, spirituality, and gender identity in understanding body elements and non-binary gender struggles through traditional, spiritual, and cultural approaches.

Hidden Steps

Kati Kallio & Laura Feodoroff, 2025, Finland, 13m

US Premiere

Laura is a Skolt Sámi woman who grew up outside the Sámi region. Through quadrille dance she reaches out to her unknown cultural heritage.

Loom Body

Jessica Nupen, 2025, South Africa, 5:28m

World Premiere

Woman and a machine, both creators of unexpected beauties and art. The labouring loom and the labouring body are trained, skilled, well-oiled, hard-working bodies of processing, churning, weaving and repeating. They work with maturity and learned precision and yet wear the marks of their crafts etched into their bodies.

Chair Deconstruction

Amanda Beane, 2024, USA, 8:52m

Chair Deconstruction, a two-part dance piece exploring the drama and comedy of communal healing, pairs filmmaker Amanda Beane with the San Francisco Bay Area street dance ensemble Embodiment Project.

De Profndis

Nina McNeely, 2024, USA, 3:43m

Performed by CLI Conservatory, *De Profndis* transforms classical religious imagery into movement. The dancers traverse themes of ascension, vitality, and mortality, finding beauty in each transition. Through love, innocence, and ritual, the piece reveals the profound connection between spirit and flesh.

FIVE BRAHMS WALTZES IN THE MANNER OF ISADORA DUNCAN

Grigory Dobrygin, 2025, United Kingdom, 9:43m

NY Premiere

Isadora Duncan was an American dancer and choreographer, largely considered as the mother of modern dance. Her free and fluid style broke with the conventions of ballet. When Frederick Ashton saw her dance in 1921, he was completely captivated. Inspired by Duncan's dances to Brahms Waltzes, Ashton created this ballet on Lynn Seymour, which has now been reimagined as a new film. "Drawing inspiration from Isadora's art and biography, and from Seymour's phenomenal interpretation, our vision was to create a cinematic experience that made the presence of the camera invisible and minimized the number of editing cuts, allowing the viewer to immerse themselves fully in the brilliance of Ashton's choreography. We sought to highlight the emotional depth and technical precision of the dance, letting Natalia Osipova's artistry speak for itself." – Grigory Dobrygin

RENDERING

Artur Miranda and Philipe Noguchi, 2024, Brazil, 13m

US Premiere

Between the skin that senses and the screen that demands, identity is written and rewritten in the space of the image. The body approaches the lens, searching for confirmation, but finds itself continuously reshaped by its reflection. Visibility is no longer free; it is formatted, mediated, curated. The film moves through this terrain where appearance becomes a form of labor, and where the act of showing oneself turns into a daily choreography of adjustment. *RENDERING* unfolds as an inquiry into how the body becomes visible under conditions of algorithmic self-exposure. The selfie emerges as a micro-choreography of the self: rehearsed, repeated, adjusted, filtered. The body moves closer in order to exist, and in that effort, it is continually molded. It is not about appearing more; it is about what still insists when everything has already been shown.

The Ballad of a Home

Keely Song and Robert Machoian, 2025, USA, 8:27m

New York Premiere

Conversations spoken and unspoken unfold over a family dinner. Within their fragile resolutions and tension, other opportunities for connections quietly slip away.

The Year of the Green Snake

ioulex, 2025, USA, 4:42m

US Premiere

Martha Graham Company's principal dancer Xin Ying embodies the spirit of the snake in a fluid metamorphosis. Drawing on themes of rebirth and reinvention, the dichotomy of repulsion and seduction, Ying's dance improvisations evoke the Snake-woman motif in Chinese folklore and the Sorceress Medea in Graham's "Cave of the Heart."

MMM**Joaquin Bear, 2024, USA, 9:39m**

An understudy covets the role of a star in a theatrical unraveling of suspense and unexpected.

DYAD**Katherine Helen Fisher, 2025, USA, 6:23m****World Premiere**

DYAD poetically explores the resilience and fragility of the human form set against the stark beauty of California's Mojave Desert towns. Directed by Katherine Helen Fisher with choreography by Allysen Hooks, the film follows two female dancers in evocative cycles of collision and symbiosis. Cinematographer Sinziana Velicescu emphasizes the aesthetics of emptiness and the disappearing sustainability of the landscape through minimalist visuals, sparse architecture, and expansive barren terrains. Meticulous editing and immersive sound design by John Walter, combined with Astrid Sonne's tightly driven score, heighten the film's meditation on vulnerability and ephemerality. Through metaphors of mitosis, *DYAD* subtly reflects humanity's impact on Earth's delicate ecosystems, offering a contemplative vision of connection and identity in the Anthropocene.

Água Viva**And Or Forever, year, USA, 5:20m****World Premiere**

A seductive duet subverts virtuosity and sexuality to capture the fleeting, poetic spark of life. Acclaimed choreographer Jodi Melnick and collaborator Maya Lee-Parritz expand upon the namesake title text written by Clarice Lispector.

ORIGINS**Drea Cooper, 2024, USA, 39:30m****New York Premiere**

ORIGINS is a cinematic odyssey into the heart and mind of world-renowned choreographer Alonzo King, offering an intimate look at his creative process and his profound belief in the limitless potential of the human spirit. Through his visionary company, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, dance becomes more than movement—it is a language of wisdom and transformation. With breathtaking artistry, King and his dancers break physical, emotional, and cultural barriers, revealing how movement transcends boundaries to create a universal connection. More than a film about dance, *ORIGINS* is a meditation on what it means to be human.

Carmen**Andrew Margetson, 2025, United Kingdom/Spain, 4:40m****New York Premiere**

Dressed in a tracksuit, a young woman walks through the backstreets of Sevilla into a housing project. This is Carmen Aviles, young superstar of flamenco. She delivers a stunning performance. Accompanied by a guitarist and two 'palmeras' Carmen performs a scintillating solo dance – her feet echoing round the courtyard.

In Stillness and in Motion**Sarah Niemann & Dominic Miller, 2024, USA, 5:31m****New York Premiere**

Amidst the fast paced rhythm of New York City, choreographer Olga Rabetskaya is forced to redefine her relationship with movement after a sudden dance-inflicted injury. In this short documentary, we delve into Olga's psychological and emotional world as she faces the discomfort of doing nothing — for the first time in her life. What does it mean to slow down? To be still? *In Stillness and in Motion* is a meditative reflection on movement, identity, and connection. The film explores how stillness can bring clarity, awaken creativity, and reconnect us to our bodies.

RISA

Kate Weare and Jack Flame Sorokin, 2024, USA, 20m

New York Premiere

In this film portrait we look intimately at renowned dancer and master-teacher, Risa Steinberg, in her New York City apartment as she reflects on her prolific and ongoing lifetime in the dance world.

We are Cumbia, We are Family

Xavier Diaz, 2025, USA, 10:05m

Colombian dancer and educator Karla Florez preserves her Colombian roots and culture through movement, storytelling and family. This documentary follows Karla as she passes down the rhythms of Cumbia to her daughters, students and community, keeping the heartbeat of Colombia alive far from home.

BOLERO.S (short version)

Mehdi Kerkouche, 2025, France, 4:15m

New York Premiere

Ravel's Bolero, thanks to its universality and contagious energy, transcends generations and cultures. Conceived for dance, it continues to inspire artists. Mehdi Kerkouche brings us his version of *BOLERO.S*, choreographed in keeping with his inclusive and visual universe.

FRAMES

Claire Marshall, 2025, Australia, 12:23m

US Premiere

Frames explores the surveillance, scrutiny, and framing of women in a post-feminist context as it works to disaggregate the coherent body so that a whole person (a woman) becomes dissected, fragmented into a composite of datasets. Including notions of peer-surveillance and self-surveillance, *Frames* also draws on notions of the 'Johari Window' (Luft and Ingham) insofar as: - What we know about ourselves that is known to others. - What we know about ourselves that is unknown to others. - What we do not know about ourselves that is known to others. - What we do not know about ourselves that is unknown to others. *Frames* is presented in a 1:1 aspect (square) ratio with four frame-like windows unfolding simultaneously within the larger frame in a multiple point-of-view structure. *Frames* features dancer Lucy Hood, cinematography by Jason Millhouse and Carolyn Hanlon, and is choreographed, directed, and edited by Claire Marshall.

SCRY

Paul Flè, 2025, France, 4:35m

New York Premiere

To scry is to divine the future through a looking-glass. Divination, a visual ritual often forbidden, deemed dangerous, and presumed feminine. This short film *SCRY* follows two women, cocooned in their private world as they perform a transformative rite. The women's demeanor begins stoic and measured, and little by little their restraint unravels under the pressure of conflicting power dynamics. Their composure fractures, boundaries blur. The women strain to remain connected, for they are ultimately two faces of the same Janus-bearing coin. The viewer witnesses their bodies intertwine and enmesh, until the line between self and other dissolves into ambiguity. *SCRY* is set in a 1926 Belgian Spiegeltent titled the "Magic Mirror," housed in the Musée des Arts Forains in Bercy, Paris. This symmetrical mahogany space, endowed with mirrored surfaces, serves as both vessel and echo of the film's central themes: the transformative potential of repetition, the power of union, and the perpetuity of ritual.

Spoken Movement Family Honour

Daniel Gurton, 2025, United Kingdom, 9:48m

New York Premiere

In a British-Ghanaian household bound by tradition and religion, a young girl lives under the oppressive control of her abusive father. At the family dinner table, heated arguments reveal the deep rift between them as they confront the scars of their shared history.

Stuck In The Middle

Aubyn Armstrong, 2025, USA, 4:25m

Stuck in the Middle is a nostalgic short dance film set in the early 1970s that follows four young girls stuck at home during a record-breaking heat wave. As boredom turns to creativity, they dance through their house with playful energy, transforming the ordinary into something extraordinary.

The Crossing

Mike Tyus, 2025, China, 13:55m

New York Premiere

At the meeting of four roads stands a house caught between worlds. Its halls echo with the last rites of mortals, each soul bound to a fragment of their ending. They circle endlessly, reliving the gestures that tether them to the living. The house itself is an altar, built from memory, shadow, and unfinished prayers. Here they wait, guardians and prisoners alike, until the gods decide their crossing.

the desire of a body toward the center of the earth

Tara Knight & Rebecca Salzer, 2025, USA, 6:25m

NY Premiere

Two dancers move toward connection while navigating the fundamental disorientation of being human.

ABOUT DANCE ON CAMERA

Founded in 1951, Dance On Camera is a not-for-profit with a mission to foster connections between the worlds of dance and film; to promote excellence in dance films; to support filmmakers working specifically with dance and help them develop and augment their skills; and to connect audiences with quality films focused on movement and dance, both new works and works from the historical canon.

We create opportunities for filmmakers, choreographers, dancers, and those who work across disciplines to interact in order to strengthen existing connections and create an environment where new ones can flourish. We present quality dance films publicly throughout the year through the Dance On Camera Festival, our website, and in more intimate public forums. We create educational opportunities where filmmakers can develop new skills and receive professional feedback on their work in process. We collaborate with strong partners to develop programming that highlights the full spectrum of movement in film.

The Dance On Camera Festival is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, and The Arnhold Foundation. For more information, please visit dancefilms.org.

ABOUT SYMPHONY SPACE

Symphony Space is a multi-disciplinary performing arts center where bold programming, presented in a uniquely warm and welcoming environment, forges indelible relationships between artists and audiences.

Symphony Space's fundamental mission is to connect art, ideas, and community through their performances and their commitment to literacy and education through the arts. Known for an array of ground-breaking programs, including Selected Shorts, their immersive Wall to Wall concerts, and their innovative Global Arts education initiative, Symphony Space presents a full slate of original, affordable (and free) programming within New York City and in communities throughout the country through tours, public radio broadcasts, podcasts, and virtual events. On their stages and in the classrooms they serve, Symphony Space fosters access to the arts through all the disciplines.

Symphony Space was founded in the belief that the arts bring people together, transcend barriers, and celebrate both our similarities and differences. Through adventurous and impactful performances, commissions, and conversations, Symphony Space continues to invigorate these guiding principles, harnessing the power of the arts to engage, inspire, and build community.

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