



Dance Film : Building 8

capturing space in time and expanding time in space

The architecture and spaces of Alameda Point stand testament to the Island's history. Now that development of the area has started in earnest those spaces will change. While we welcome the change, the much needed infrastructure upgrades, and opportunities for housing commerce, arts and innovation, we also want to document and celebrate these unique buildings and spaces as they are transformed.

Dance Film:Building 8 is about capturing a space in time and expanding time in a space. The three dance films will capture the haunting spaces of The General Storehouse as it awaits transformation. Three creative teams (choreographers and directors) will have an opportunity to discover the space, to be inspired and to draw out their own narrative, expanding our experience of time within the space in multiple directions.

Why now? Why Dance film?

Now, more than ever, people are turning to their screens for inspiration. Dance Film balances kinesthetic, narrative and rhythmic expression to draw audiences into alternate aesthetic realities. Central to this project is the idea of challenging three creative teams to work in the same space. Symbolic of the many new directions that the Point may take as it evolves and develops, these films will inspire audiences with 3 radically different visions of the echoing halls and magnificent spaces of Building 8.

THE TEAM

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Director: [Tara Pilbrow](#)

Tara founded the Animate Alameda Project in 2018 to promote and encourage dance in Alameda. She created Animate Dance Festival (2018, 2021) and Animate Shorts (2019, 2020) and is the driving force behind the 'Dance Film: Building 8' project. After 15 years of performing individually and with companies in France, UK, Argentina and Turkey, she moved to the States in 2016 and has been presenting curating and teaching dance in the Bay Area ever since. She is also the Vice President of West End Arts District.

FILM TWO - DANCE

Director: [Erin Brown Thomas](#)

Erin Brown Thomas is a dynamic director, writer, producer, and editor who's collaborated with heavyweight talent including Selena Gomez, Eminem, Tony Hale, Lena Dunham, Emmy Rossum, and Elisabeth Moss and tentpole companies such as HBO, Netflix, Refinery 29, A Casual Romance, MTV, Snapchat Originals, and Makeready. Her films have received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and have been curated by Vimeo.

Erin has directed over a dozen award-winning films which have screened in over 100 festivals worldwide, including 14 Oscar Qualifying events. Most recently, the dance film "But First" placed her as an Artist in Residence at Palm Springs International ShortFest. She was also selected to participate in the DGA's esteemed Commercial Directors Diversity Program.

Erin's screenplays have advanced at Sundance New Voices, the Academy's Nicholl Fellowship, Austin Film Fest, and Blue Cat Screenplay competition. Her pilot "Managing Life" was enacted via UCB's selective "Let's Table This" lab. Erin is currently in pre-production for her lauded original screenplay Italy '99.

Erin co-founded Salute Your Shorts Film Festival in 2017 with Becky Murdoch. Curation has deeply impacted her curiosity and voice as an artist.

FILM ONE - DANCE

Director: [Lindsay Gauthier](#)

San Francisco based filmmaker, Lindsay Gauthier, began her work as a professional dancer and photographer before moving into filmmaking. Her films have screened nationally and internationally, including in New York, Amsterdam, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Vancouver. She is the Creative Director at Rapt Productions in San Francisco where she directs, produces, and edits. She was recently selected as a recipient of a Creative Work Fund Grant to create a new dance film project, "Wild," with LandPaths and Fog Beast exploring our relationship to the planet through dance and narrative storytelling. Gauthier is also the Creative Producer of the San Francisco Dance Film Festival's Co-Laboratory project where she guides collaborations between professional filmmakers and choreographers to make short dance films.

FILM THREE - AERIAL ART

[VERSATILE ASSASSINS](#)

Versatile Assassins is a production company specializing in "aerial art films", a term the company has coined for stories told through aerial dance. Co-founded by filmmaker Erin Brown Thomas and performer Selkie Hom, the duo's films have screened in dozens of internationally recognized and esteemed film festivals and have garnered a rapidly growing following on YouTube with over sixty thousand subscribers as well as views in the seven millions.

Erin and Selkie bring a unique skillset to their passion. Erin's approach to film and capturing choreography is heavily influenced by her childhood competing as an elite gymnast. Similarly, Selkie has performed in various circuses over a decade, even with Cirque du Soleil. She is also a Hollywood stunt performer with credits in over seventy films and television shows, most notably doubling Yifei Liu in Disney's Mulan.

Erin and Selkie draw inspiration from screen dance films like Anima (P.T. Anderson) and stories with open interpretation that allow a viewer to imbue and extract meaning. Their pursuit and passion for excellence in their niche genre of film is driven by the desire to start important and nuanced conversations in a world that is too often screaming for attention from two sides of a divide. Thus, they seek to personalize their messages in a way that is not dictated, but guided, encouraging and cultivating shifts in perception that must begin with feeling.

PRODUCED BY : West End Arts District Project

West End Arts District was founded in 2015 as a community-led initiative to foster and celebrate the performing and visual arts in the West End of Alameda.

We believe that arts and culture are essential to nurturing a strong and vibrant community. Since launching our flagship annual event, Blues, Brews and BBQ, in 2015, we have expanded our programming to include a range of free arts and community-building events, including Animate Dance Festival, West End Night Market, outdoor art installations, and more.

Looking ahead, as the West End of Alameda continues to change and grow, we aim to serve as a resource for art innovation and programming that provides a sense of place and community for all, and to advocate for a vision of the West End as a regional destination for the arts.

West End Arts District was formally established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in February 2016.

WORK SAMPLES

[Lindsay Gauthier - SHOWREEL](#)

[Versatile Assassins - HUMAN, aerial art film](#)

[Erin Brown Thomas - BUT FIRST, dance film](#)