

Contact Dance International Film Festival

The Toronto film festival Dances onto the Virtual Screen June 4 to 13, 2021

58 Films

from 26 Countries

in 7 Screenings

with 8 Workshops

TORONTO— The Contact Dance International Film Festival (CDIFF) returns for a fifth season, June 4 – 13, 2021, featuring 58 independent dance films from 26 countries. Produced by REASON d’etre dance productions, the festival highlights films featuring momentum-based dance created by some of the top creator/choreographers in Contact Dance Improvisation. The festival is a unique opportunity for both film and dance lovers to experience the joy, chaos and intimacy of human connection through physical movement. Prepare to be moved as dancers fly and bodies collide with force, grace and tenderness.

In previous years, the Festival has been held at a number of venues around Toronto. But this year, due to COVID the festival has moved online. The audience will be able to watch movies online and attend workshops via video conferencing.

The Festival kicks off on Friday, June 4 with *BEING* a mixed program of short dance films. There are four more mixed programs of short dance films *SKY*, *TOUCH*, *HOLDING PLACE*, and *HERE*. Several of the films in these programs explore how dancers have responded to COVID, and the intensification and illumination of race issues that have occurred in the past year. *Blood Harvest*, *Parcon Resilience*, and *My Disability Justice: The Dancer* in the *HERE* program are evocative illuminations and explorations of racism, created by IBOC dance artists. *HOLDING PLACE* examines COVID adaptations and reactions as Contact Dancers worldwide could no longer partake in their touch-based dance form.

There is a much-anticipated documentary on Toronto's iconic Dovercourt House by filmmaker Sarah Jones. The Dovercourt house is a historic building that over time without planning become a centre for both social dance and contemporary dance. Now at risk of closing as a dance centre, this film examines the community that it housed. The film also covers the building's inaccessibility due to its large staircase and lack of elevators.

According to Movement (A story in 10 chapters) is a full-length documentary created by Beatriz Mediavilla that is about French choreographer Thierry Thieû Niang, who toured in eastern Canada with Cinédanse to offer intergenerational workshops to non-dancers. *According to Movement* is a cinematic journey where thoughtful gesture merges into great human choreography. Subdivided into 10 chapters, the feature film is a poetic and playful reflection on the beauty of the everyday gestures that define us as living beings.

Tickets are \$10 for each individual screening and for workshops. An all-access pass that includes both screenings and workshops costs \$50 and a pass for all seven film screenings costs \$30.

Complete schedule and film descriptions: www.ContactdanceFilmFest.com

Tickets and Passes: <https://contactdancefilmfest.eventive.org/>

Festival Trailers: <https://youtu.be/53Y4sGKJnwg>

Press Downloads: <https://contactdancefilmfest.com/pressdownloads.html>

REASON d’etre dance productions is a not-for-profit charitable dance company founded in 2000 by Kathleen Rea. Since inception the company has produced six main stage performance evenings, provided over 50 dance workshops, founded and continues to produce weekly Dance Jams. In 2009 the company was nominated for three DORA awards for their production *Long Live*.

REASON d’etre dance productions

Kathleen Rea, Artistic Director

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