



TheWallis

PRESS RELEASE

**International Film Series Featuring Artists from More Than 25 Countries
Launches on January 25, 2021**

films.dance

**Films.Dance Premieres a New Short Film Every Week
Free to the Community
January 25—May 3, 2021**

View Trailer Here:

[Films.Dance](#)

(Los Angeles, CA (January 11, 2021) — Two of Los Angeles’ foremost cultural organizations—the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts and the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts—have teamed up with Chicago’s Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater to launch **Films.Dance**, a groundbreaking new global free film series produced by and under the creative direction of LA-based Jacob Jonas The Company. Films.Dance is being made available to the public at no charge.

One of the most ambitious international dance film projects ever undertaken, Films.Dance engages more than 150 artists from 52 cities in 25 countries, culminating in 15 short films that have been shot during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through non-traditional collaborations across cultures and continents, and led by the vision of Jacob Jonas, the series connects the perspectives of diverse artists from a range of disciplines, dance genres, abilities, and experiences. Filmed in locations ranging from Amsterdam, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, and London, to Los Angeles, New York, Nigeria, and Spain—Films.Dance exists at the intersection of dance, music, fashion, and film.

“Our goals are to create a global arts community, to elevate the power of dance through non-traditional collaborations and to engage digital audiences in innovative ways,” said Jacob Jonas, Executive Producer of Films.Dance. “The diversity of the artists and their explorations has fostered new

ways of thinking and has allowed the formation of deep relationships across physical borders. I look forward to launching this series worldwide.”

Beginning January 25, 2021, and each Monday following for 15 weeks, one film will premiere for free at 9 a.m. PST on the Web at [Films.Dance](#), on [Instagram](#) on the @films.dance account, and the Films.Dance [Facebook page](#). A series of weekly conversations and engagement events is in development and will allow for deeper exploration of the series themes, creative process, and perspectives of collaborating artists.

The initiative is presented in partnership with Somewhere Magazine, and co-presented by the Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, and Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts/CSUN.

“Films.Dance is an extraordinary and ambitious project that comes at a unique time for our culture as we seek connection with others yet continue to remain apart,” said Thor Steingraber, Executive Director of The Soraya. “This presenting partnership—The Wallis, Chicago’s Harris Theater, and The Soraya—all working together to support LA’s own Jacob Jonas The Company is a most welcome first for us all. The Soraya stands at the forefront of diversity and innovation in the arts in Los Angeles, and Films.Dance continues our commitment to original online content that not only supports LA artists but also brings a focus to the global work of artists who have appeared on our stage including percussionist Antonio Sánchez and dancers Lloyd Knight and Xin Ying from Martha Graham Dance Company.”

“Jacob Jonas The Company has been carving out a unique place in the dance world landscape, since the company was formed just seven years ago,” said Paul Crewes, Artistic Director of The Wallis. “The Wallis has championed Jacob, his company and its forward trajectory for nearly as long, having showcased its work on both of our stages several times, co-presented a festival of dance on the end of Santa Monica Pier, as well as engaged him as our 2018-19 Company-in-Residence. With Films.Dance, The Company further pushes artistic boundaries, expanding its mission of tackling complex societal and environmental issues and addressing interpersonal relationships in a novel way that embraces, empowers, and uplifts dancers, choreographers, musicians, composers and filmmakers around the globe. The Wallis is proud to support this remarkable project and honored to be working alongside The Soraya and The Harris to present this work.”

“From the first conversation with the creative team, we were drawn to the project’s collaborative spirit and ambitious, global scope – things we embrace as a presenter,” said Lori Dimun, President and CEO of the Harris Theater. “Films.Dance has also allowed us to challenge our assumptions about how art is created and shared, and to establish new partnerships – our first with JJTC, the Soraya, and the Wallis. We are excited by the opportunity to think beyond our physical space, to be transported by the diverse collective of artists to the places they live and work, and to share these extraordinary films as a community that transcends genre, geography, and language.”

About Films.Dance

The project commences with the premiere of *Kaduna*. Self-taught dancers and brothers **Victory** and **Marvel Ebinum** explore familial bonds in their native Nigeria, set to original choreography by New York City-based **Vinson Fraley**, a member of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, featuring an original score by Los Angeles-based composer **Anibal Sandoval**, and co-directed by **Ridwan Adeniyi**, member of the Nigeria-based Critics Company, and **Jacob Jonas**.

A sampling of additional films includes:

- New York City Ballet principal dancer **Sara Mearns** performs new choreography by **Andrea Miller** (founder of GALLIM) at the East River Park Amphitheater in *Another Serious Dance Film* directed by **Ariel Schulman** and **Henry Joost** (directors of the new Netflix film *Project Power*, featuring Jamie Foxx) to an original score from five-time Grammy Award-winning composer **Antonio Sánchez**.
- **Gypsy Snider**, Co-Founder and Artistic Director of The 7 Fingers, choreographs an original work for **Li Kehua (Lico)**, dancer with BeijingDance/LDTX company, in *正念 Now* directed by Shanghai based **Robin Mahieux**, featuring original music composed by **Rosie Lowe**, singer, songwriter, producer, and multi-instrumentalist based in London.
- **Desmond Richardson**, Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Complexions Contemporary Ballet, dances a new work choreographed by **Jacob Jonas** in *Edging Normal*, directed by **Andre Bato**, with music co-composed by **Steve Hackman** and **Dave Koz**, nine-time Grammy Award-nominated saxophonist.
- 21 acrobats from around the world- from Australia to the United States to Russia- filmed their unique movement styles, which were then layered with animation to create *Plume*. Co-directed by **Francisco Cruz** and **Beren D'Amico**, the film features three-time Grammy Award-winning violinist **Hilary Hahn** performing an original score by **Gaelynn Lea**, an American folk singer, violinist, public speaker, and disability advocate from Duluth, Minnesota, with arrangement by **Steve Hackman**.
- Montreal-based filmmaker **Vincent René-Lortie** directs seven-year-old Krumper **Adeline Kerry Cruz** in *Sit Still*, featuring choreography by **Russell "Gutta" Ferguson** and an original score by **Brady Kendall** of Alaskan Tapes.

The full listing of films and trailer are available [here](#).

Photos are available [here](#).

Films.Dance

January 25 – May 3, 2021

[Films.Dance](#)

Produced by Jacob Jonas The Company

In Partnership with Somewhere Magazine

Co-presented by Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance,
Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, and
Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts

Films.Dance Team:

Executive Producer & Creative Director: Jacob Jonas; Produced by: Jacob Jonas The Company;
Producers: Jill Wilson, Emma Rosenzweig-Bock, Mathieu Wothke; Associate Producers, Dance: Joy
Isabella Brown, Francisco Cruz, Emily Kikta, Mike Tyus, Peter Walker, Rauf “Rubberlegz” Yasit;
Associate Producers, Music: Steve Hackman, Anibal Sandoval

Jacob Jonas The Company (JJTC) is a creative company that intersects dance across mediums to make original works and initiates nontraditional collaborations. JJTC consists of choreographers, content creators, creative thinkers, cultural researchers, educators, futurists, activists, and administrators. Our work engages diverse and untapped populations, increasing the visibility of dance as an art form in Los Angeles and globally through live performance and media landscapes. JJTC collaborates worldwide with practitioners, institutions, scientists, and technologists to support ambition and invention across artistic fields. The company hosts community events, educational classes and workshops in order to further deepen our relationships and intellectual exchanges with people around the world.

Somewhere is an online lifestyle magazine based in London with a focus on photography, fashion, film, travel and design.

About the Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance ([The Harris](#))

Opened in November 2003 in Millennium Park, the **Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater** was the first multi-use performance venue built in downtown Chicago since 1929. As Chicago’s home for music and dance, the Harris features the most diverse arts and culture offerings of any venue in the city, and is a distinctive model for artistic quality, collaboration, and making the performing arts relevant and accessible to the widest possible audience.

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts ([The Wallis](#))

The Wallis is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 300 dance, theater, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs since its doors opened in October 2013.

About the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts ([The Soraya](#))

Celebrating its 10th Anniversary in 2021, The Soraya has quickly become one of the cultural jewels of greater Los Angeles. Under the leadership of Executive Director Thor Steingraber, The Soraya continues to expand its programming and outstanding multidisciplinary performances both onstage and online. The mission of The Soraya is to present a wide variety of performances that not only includes new and original work from the Los Angeles region, but also work from around the world that appeal to all of LA’s rich and diverse communities.

FOLLOW FILMS.DANCE ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Instagram: @films.dance

Facebook: Facebook.com/globalfilmseries

FOLLOW JACOB JONAS THE COMPANY ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Instagram: @JacobJonasTheCompany

Facebook: Facebook.com/JacobJonasTheCompany
#JacobJonasTheCompany

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Films.Dance

January 25 – May 3, 2021

[Films.Dance](#)

January 25, 2021

KADUNA

Self-taught dancers and brothers Victory and Marvel Ebinum explore familial bonds against the landscape of their native Nigeria. With original choreography by New York City-based Vinson Fraley, a member of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, *Kaduna* features an original score by Los Angeles-based composer Anibal Sandoval, and is co-directed by Ridwan Adeniyi, member of the Nigeria-based Critics Company, and Jacob Jonas.

Directors: [Ridwan Adeniyi](#) + [Jacob Jonas](#)

Choreographer: [Vinson Fraley](#)

Featuring: [Ebinum Brothers](#)

Composer: [Anibal Sandoval](#)
Women Singing: Gbagyii Tribe
Cinematographer: [Raymond Yusuff](#)
Wardrobe: [Khadijah Yunusa](#)
Produced By: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

February 1, 2021

TOKE

Set in the urban metropolis of London, *Toke* is an intimate portrait of Danish-born dancer Toke Broni Strandby. An inspiring story about triumph, *Toke* is a celebration of the beautiful resilience of the human spirit. London-based award-winning filmmaker NONO and cinematographer Eira Wyn Jones captured Toke's unique story, set to an original score by Paulo Gallo and with an original costume by Japanese designer Kazuya Kojima.

Director: [NONO](#)
Choreographer: [Stuart Shugg](#)
Featuring: [Toke Broni Strandby](#)
Composer: [Paulo Gallo](#)
Cinematographer: [Eira Wyn Jones](#)
Costume Designed By: [Kazuya Kojima](#)
Produced by: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

February 8, 2021

PÁSSARO DISTANTE

When the pandemic hit, dancers Luís Fernando, Jovani Furlan, Luanna Gondim and Maitê Nunes reunited in their hometown of Joinville, Brazil and dance together as a shadow of one another, in a familiar yet alien place that allows for contemplative self-examination. Directed by Gabriela Mo and with cinematography by Larissa Zaidan, *Pássaro Distante* features original choreography by Cassi Abranches, choreographer for São Paulo Companhia de Dança and Grupo Corpo, and original music from Andrei Martinez Kozyreff, Ju Strassacapa and Malu Magri, members of Latin Grammy-nominated group, Francisco, El Hombre

Director: [Gabriela Mo](#)
Choreographer: [Cassi Abranches](#)
Featuring: [Luís Fernando](#), [Jovani Furlan](#), [Luanna Gondim](#), [Maitê Nunes](#)
Music Production: [Ju Strassacapa](#) + [Malu Magri](#)
Composer: Andrei Martinez Kozyreff
Cinematographer: [Larissa Zaidan](#)
Stylist: [Bru Fernandes](#)
Produced by: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

February 15, 2021

MATCH

Five choreographers, 46 dancers, 20 countries—*Match* is dance not bound by theater walls or limited by international borders. Dancers from the world's leading companies join together in *Match*; with original choreography by Emily Kikta (New York City Ballet), Jamar Roberts (Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater), Oliver Starpov (Royal Danish Ballet), Peter Walker (New York City Ballet) and Xin Ying (Martha Graham Dance Company).

Directors & Editors: [Peter Walker](#) & [Emily Kikta](#)
Choreographers: [Emily Kikta](#), [Jamar Roberts](#), [Oliver Starpov](#), [Peter Walker](#), [Xin Ying](#)

Composer: [Jay Wadley](#)

Featuring: Rocio Agüero, Marcel Anselmé, Edson Barbosa, Rishan Benjamin, Nardia Boodoo, Renan Cerdeiro, Adji Cissoko, Monike Cristina, Christopher D'Ariano, Patricia Delgado, Michaela DePrince, Naoya Ebe, Kiara Felder, Ruan Galdino, Angelica Generosa, James Gilmer, Stanley Glover, Alejandro Gonzalez, Dara Holmes, Michael Jackson Jr., Drew Jacoby, Emily Kikta, Lloyd Knight, Joseph Kudra, Christopher Kunzelmann, Chun-Wing Lam, Allister Madin, Oliver Marcus Starpov, Heather Ogden, Nancy Osbaldeston, Jamar Roberts, Robert Robinson, Emma Rosenzweig-Bock, Kanika Skye Carr, Gabrielle Sprauve, Eleftheria Stamou, Addie Tapp, Mike Tyus, Jon Vallejo, Tess Voelker, Peter Walker, Jill Wilson, Xin Ying, Patricia Zhou

Produced By: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

February 22, 2021

EDGING NORMAL

Desmond Richardson, Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Complexions Contemporary Ballet, dances a new work choreographed by Jacob Jonas. *Edging Normal* is a metaphorical tale of a man's struggle to shed his past in order to feel completely free. Directed by Andre Bato, *Edging Normal* features music co-composed by visionary Steve Hackman and jazz icon Dave Koz, a nine-time Grammy Award-nominated saxophonist.

Director: [Andre Bato](#)

Choreographer: [Jacob Jonas](#)

Featuring: [Desmond Richardson](#)

Composer: [Dave Koz](#) & [Steve Hackman](#)

Cinematographer: [Arseni Khachaturan](#)

Stylist: [Tracey Nicholson](#)

Produced by: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

March 1, 2021

正念 - NOW

Shanghai-based director Robin Mahieux focuses the lens on a young woman, Li Kehua (Lico), dancer with BeijingDance/LDTX company, as she awakens to the fullness of the present moment. Choreographed by Gypsy Snider, Co-Founder and Artistic Director of The 7 Fingers, and set to original music from Rosie Lowe, singer, songwriter, producer, and multi-instrumentalist based in London, 正念 – NOW steps into now, forsaking the past and mindfully moving into the future.

Director: [Robin Mahieux](#)

Choreographer: [Gypsy Snider](#)

Featuring: [Li Kehua \(Lico\)](#)

Composer: [Rosie Lowe](#)

Cinematographer: [Marcus Tang](#)

Produced by: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

March 8, 2021

DADU

Captured on Super 16 mm film and utilizing natural light, four dancers explore abstraction through the framing of movement set against the terrain of the Dutch hamlet of Spaarnwoude. Ian Robinson, former dancer with Israel's Batsheva Dance Company, directs Kele Roberson, Annika Verplancke, Jesse Callaert and Mikaela Kelly, members of Nederlands Dans Theater, with cinematography by Amsterdam-based Sam du Pon and music composed by Awir Leon, singer songwriter, producer and former dancer with Emanuel Gat Dance.

Director: [Ian Robinson](#)

Choreography in collaboration with dancers

Featuring: [Jesse Callaert](#), [Mikaela Kelly](#), [Kele Roberson](#), [Annika Verplancke](#)

Composer: [Awir Leon](#)

Cinematographer: [Sam du Pon](#)

Produced by: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

March 15, 2021

ANOTHER SERIOUS DANCE FILM

New York City Ballet principal dancer Sara Mearns performs tongue-in-cheek choreography by Andrea Miller, founder of GALLIM, at the East River Park Amphitheater in a witty short film directed by Ariel Schulman and Henry Joost, directors of the current Netflix film *Project Power*, to an original score from five-time Grammy Award-winning composer Antonio Sánchez.

Directors: [Ariel Schulman](#) + [Henry Joost](#)

Choreographer: [Andrea Miller](#)

Featuring: [Sara Mearns](#)

Composer: [Antonio Sánchez](#)

Cinematographer: [Paul Daley](#)

Wardrobe: [Prada](#)

Produced by: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

March 22, 2021

SAME SKY

Directed by Grammy-nominated director Andy Hines, *Same Sky* explores the world in front of us, the differences amongst ourselves, and a likeness we see in others. With music composed by Steve Hackman, *Same Sky* features the original choreography of Rauf "Rubberlegz" Yasit, a German break-dancer living in Los Angeles, and is performed by Jacob Jonas The Company members Joy Isabella Brown, Miguel Alejandro López, Mike Tyus and Jill Wilson.

Director: [Andy Hines](#)

Choreographer: [Rauf "Rubberlegz" Yasit](#)

Featuring: [Joy Isabella Brown](#), [Miguel Alejandro López](#), [Mike Tyus](#), [Jill Wilson](#)

Composed by: [Steve Hackman](#)

Cinematographer: [Frank Mobilio](#)

Wardrobe: [OAMC](#)

Produced by: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

March 29, 2021

SIT STILL

Alone in a vacant school, Montreal-based filmmaker Vincent René-Lortie directs seven-year-old Adeline Kerry Cruz on an intimate and exhaustive journey of self-expression. With choreography by Russell "Gutta" Ferguson, she navigates her emotions through the free and expressive street dance style Krump and to the original score by Brady Kendall of Alaskan Tapes.

Director: [Vincent René-Lortie](#)

Choreographer: [Russell "Gutta" Ferguson](#)

Featuring: [Adeline Kerry Cruz](#)

Composer: [Brady Kendall](#)

Cinematographer: [Alexandre Nour](#)

Wardrobe: [Geneviève Boiteau](#)

Produced by: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

April 5, 2021

GALOPE

New York City ballet principal dancer Gonzalo Garcia's energy is like a hundred thousand horses as he delves inside the earth, inside himself. Directed by Barcelona-based Nur Casadevall, it features original music from Alex Somers, composer for films including *Captain Fantastic* (2016), *Honey Boy* (2019) and *Miss Americana* (2020).

Director: [Nur Casadevall](#)

Featuring: [Gonzalo Garcia](#)

Composer: [Alex Somers](#)

Produced by: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

April 12, 2021

XENO

Xeno is the smallest measurable unit of human connection, typically exchanged between passing strangers—a flirtatious glance, a sympathetic nod, moments that are fleeting and random but still contain powerful emotional nutrients that can alleviate the symptoms of feeling alone. Mexico City-based choreographer and founder of contemporary dance company Nohbords, Diego Mur created an original work on Montreal-based circus-artists Natasha Patterson and Sabine van Rensburg. *Xeno* is directed by Amy J. Gardner, with cinematography by Kristof Brandl and original music by Berlin-based Alice Phoebe Lou and Thor Rixon.

Director: [Amy J. Gardner](#)

Choreographer: [Diego Mur](#) ([Nohbords](#))

Featuring: [Natasha Patterson](#) + [Sabine Van Rensburg](#)

Composer: [Alice Phoebe Lou](#) + [Thor Rixon](#)

Cinematographer: [Kristof Brandl](#)

Produced by: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

April 19, 2021

TORN

In this visual exploration of the expectations of manhood, three men fight for dominance while exposing the internal fight and dialogue with the self, embodied by the three protagonists. While each of them fights for dominance, they simultaneously expose their weaknesses, tearing each other down, lifting each other up and struggling to find support in moments of fading strength. Berlin-based director Torben Loth captures the original choreography of London-based Waddah Sinada, founder of FUBUNATION. The work is performed by Conal Finn Francis-Martin, Robert Robinson and Jamal Uhlmann, all dancers with State Ballet Hanover, and features an original sound design by Peter Duffy, original score by Pete Fraser and wardrobe by Chinese-born, London-based designer Feng Chen Wang.

Director: [Torben Loth](#)

Choreographer: [Waddah Sinada](#)

Featuring: [Conal Finn Francis-Martin](#), [Robert Robinson](#), [Jamal Uhlmann](#)

Sound Design: [Peter Duffy](#)

Score: [Pete Fraser](#)

Cinematographer: [Lasse Liebelt](#)

Wardrobe: [Feng Chen Wang](#)

Produced by: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

April 26, 2021

PLUME

21 acrobats from around the world, from Australia to the United States to Russia, performed and filmed their unique movement styles which were then layered with animation to create *Plume*. Despite clipped wings, the artists in *Plume* perform in full flight underscored by the brilliant music played by noted violinist Hillary Hahn. Co-directed by Francisco Cruz and Beren D'Amico, the film features an original score by Gaelynn Lea, an American folk singer, violinist, public speaker and disability advocate, with arrangement by Steve Hackman.

Directors & Editors: [Beren D'Amico](#) + [Francisco Cruz](#)

Animation: [Beren D'Amico](#)

Featuring: Tia Balacey, Kristián Mensa, Aurélien Oudot, Kevin Beverley, Joy Isabella Brown, Kaisha DW, Seirian Griffiths, Beren D'Amico, Luca 'Lazylegz' Patuelli, Nic Walton, Quentin Greco, Yvonne Smink, Brin Schoelkopf, Keaton Hentoff-Killian, Sadiqua Bynum, Francisco Cruz, Mathieu Forget, Daniel Liddiard, Chernih Denis, Louis Gift, Dominic Cruz

Composer: [Gaelynn Lea](#)

Arranged By: [Steve Hackman](#) + [Hilary Hahn](#)

Violin Performed By: [Hilary Hahn](#)

Produced By: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)

May 3, 2021

WEAKNESS OF THE FLESH

Los Angeles-based Jacob Jonas virtually co-directs with Ireland-based Kevin McGloughlin, intersecting dance and visual design. Performed by Jacob Jonas The Company's Emma Rosenzweig-Bock, *Weakness of the Flesh* features original music by Max Cooper, working at the intersection between electronic music, visual art, technology and science, the vocals of Hindustani Classical trained Samad Khan, and the cinematography of Shaun Boyte.

Directors: [Jacob Jonas](#) & [Kevin McGloughlin](#)

Choreographer: [Jacob Jonas](#)

Featuring: [Emma Rosenzweig-Bock](#)

Composer: [Max Cooper](#)

Vocalist: [Samad Kahn](#)

Cinematographer: [Shaun Boyte](#)

Produced by: [Jacob Jonas The Company](#)