

**Dance Camera West, 7th House Screenings at the Philosophical Research Society,
and Los Angeles Filmforum present
Filmforum 50, program 6:**

**Embodied Filmmaking:
8 Films by Shirley Clarke + Book Launch and Discussion**

**Sunday, January 25, 2026, 7:00 pm
At the Philosophical Research Society**

Los Angeles Filmforum is the city's longest running organization dedicated to weekly screenings of experimental film, documentaries, video art, and experimental animation. 2026 is our 51st year. www.lafilmforum.org

In person: Author Karen Pearlman, dancer-filmmaker Clare Schweitzer

As part of Dance Camera West, an evening of pioneering experimental filmmaker Shirley Clarke's dance films in celebration of Karen Pearlman's new book on her work: *Shirley Clarke: Thinking Through Movement*.

"I've realized that all my films are dance films. Every film of mine is dance. Every one. It's clear in the way I use the camera, my editing, my sense of rhythm. I learned so much from being a dancer. I could not have been as good a film-maker had I not danced." — Shirley Clarke, quoted in Karen Pearlman, *Thinking Through Movement* (Edinburgh University Press)

On the occasion of the publication of *Shirley Clarke: Thinking Through Movement* (2025; Edinburgh University Press), Dance Camera West, Los Angeles Filmforum, 7th House Screenings at The Philosophical Research Society, and Clare Schweitzer welcome writer/director Karen Pearlman, who will appear in person to discuss this book and present a screening of films by pioneering filmmaker Shirley Clarke.

Shirley Clarke (1919-1997) was a trained dancer who became a pioneer of independent and experimental film. Clarke's early work in dance film radically expanded the notion of onscreen choreography, first with explorations of the choreographic potential of camera and editing with filmic reworks of dance performance to highlighting the performative elements of the interaction of bodies, surfaces, space and light in films such as "Bridges Go Round" & "In Paris Parks." Clarke also challenged the structures of filmmaking away from the camera and co-founded the New York Film-Makers' Cooperative (with Jonas Mekas) and then the New York Film-Makers' Distribution Center (with Louis Bragante). In 1975, Shirley Clarke became a professor at UCLA, inspiring a younger generation of film artists to defy convention and make socially meaningful films.

Writer/Director Karen Pearlman's latest book, *Shirley Clarke: Thinking Through Movement* is the first film-philosophy book on filmmaker Shirley Clarke and the films she edited and directed. The book draws on film analysis, archival research, dance and film theory, and creative practice expertise, to think through Clarke's work as a dancer turned multi-award-winning editor and director of dance film, fiction, documentary, and video art. This account of Clarke's creative oeuvre offers the reader insight into a too long overlooked filmmaker and offers a novel method for analysis of films, filmmaking practices and cultures of film production.

Following the screening, Karen will join us to discuss the singular artistry of Clarke's choreographed cinema, in conversation with dancer-filmmaker Clare Schweitzer. Copies of *Shirley Clarke: Thinking Through Movement* will be available for purchase, with a book signing by the author to follow.

Special thanks to George Schmalz and Kino Lorber.

DANCE CAMERA WEST

Dance Camera West aims to foster ground-breaking creation of dance film, by supporting teaching, production, distribution of dance films. DCW presents an annual international festival held at renowned arts venues throughout Los Angeles, along with informative and educational events throughout the year, to bring dance off the stage and

onto the screen, utilizing the language of film to reach a wider audience. Visit Dance Camera West's website for full lineup, info, tickets, and passes for the DCW2026 Festival. <https://www.dancecamerawest.org/>

DCW creates spaces for learning, funding for production, and audiences and revenue for screening films. DCW is a community organization that believes in affordable access to the arts and thus keeps ticket prices affordable as well as offering free events.

Screening:

Dance in the Sun (1953, 16mm transferred to digital, b&w, 6:47) featuring choreographer/dancer Daniel Nagrin. Music: Ralph Gilbert. Screened at the Museum of Modern Art as the Best Dance Film of 1953.

24 Frames Per Second (1977, 16mm transferred to digital, color, 2:57) commissioned by the LACMA to complement an exhibit on Persian art

A Moment in Love (1956, 16mm trans to digital, color, 9:08), choreographed by Anna Sokolow

Skyscraper (1959, 35mm transferred to digital, b&w and color, 21:05), a documentary re-imagined as a musical. Made in collaboration with Willard Van Dyke, Irving Jacoby, Wheaton Galentine, and D.A. Pennebaker. Produced by Willard Van Dyke. Script: John White. Music: Teo Macero. Academy Award Nomination, 1960.

A Visual Diary (1980, video, color, sound, 6:06), featuring Choreographer-Performer Blondell Cummings. Music by George Lewis

In Paris Parks (1954 /2014, 16mm transferred to digital, color, 13:36) featuring Wendy Clarke at age 4

Butterfly (1967, 16mm trans to digital, color, 3:40), an anti-war protest film with Wendy Clark

Four Journeys into Mystic Time: One-2-3 (1978, 16mm film and video, color, 8:18), featuring former Bella Lewitsky dancer Lynda Davis and Clay Taliaferro. Choreography by Marion Scott

Los Angeles Filmforum screenings are supported by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture, the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles. We also depend on our members, ticket buyers, and individual donors.

Coming soon:

Feb 1 - Filmforum 50, program 7: Films by Stan Brakhage & Phil Solomon, music by Ulrich Krieger, Michael Pisano-Liu, Eyvind Kang, At 2220 Arts + Archives

Feb 8 – Step Across the Border, by Nicolas Humbert and Werner Penzel, with Fred Frith in person! At 2220 Arts + Archives

Feb 15 - Filmforum 50, program 8: Morgan Fisher, at 2220 Arts + Archives

Memberships available, \$40 Student \$75 Individual, \$125 Dual, or \$225 Silver Nitrate

Contact us at laforum@gmail.com.

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